



Media Statement

21 April 2009

Draft drinking water source protection plan for the Donnybrook Water Reserve

The Donnybrook community is invited to have a say in the development of a plan to ensure the continued availability of safe, good quality drinking water.

The Department of Water's Director of Water Resource Management, John Ruprecht said the *Draft Donnybrook water reserve drinking water source protection plan* was part of a strategy that aimed to protect drinking water sources throughout Western Australia.

"This is an important issue for the town and we want to be sure everyone has an opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process," Mr Ruprecht said.

"It's vital that the community understands where the water reserve is located, how it should be managed and how people can help protect it from existing and future contamination risks.

"Preparation of the plan has included input from the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Shire of Donnybrook - Balingup, local stakeholders and the Water Corporation."

Mr Ruprecht said the Water Corporation had prepared the *Donnybrook water source protection assessment in 2006*. The document outlined risks to water quality from land uses and activities to the Donnybrook water source. The draft drinking water source protection plan updated and replaced the drinking water source protection assessment.

"Donnybrook's drinking water comes from six Water Corporation production bores located in the proposed water reserve. These bores are vulnerable to contamination because they occur within a shallow unconfined aquifer.

"The plan:

- identifies land uses, activities and risks to water quality within the proposed water reserve, and recommends management strategies to address those risks
- makes recommendations to improve protection in the reserve to ensure a reliable, good quality water supply
- proposes priority classification areas to ensure an appropriate level of protection from incompatible land uses in the water reserve
- proposes well head protection zones to protect water quality around the production bores."



Mr Ruprecht said major recommendations of the plan included:

- Proclamation of the water reserve under the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* to enable by-laws to apply to protect water quality
- Incorporation of the Donnybrook Water Reserve as a special control area into the Shire of Donnybrook – Balingup's town planning scheme.
- Adoption of best management practices for existing and future land uses within the Donnybrook water reserve.

Mr Ruprecht said existing land uses and land planning decisions made within the water reserve boundary were not changed by the protection plan. The Department would work with landowners to see how best practice management could be implemented, and ensure the protection plan was used to guide future land use planning and decisions.

Copies can be obtained from the Department of Water on (08) 6364 7600 or by visiting our web site at www.water.wa.gov.au / Water management / publications / plans and assessments.

Comments on the plan can be made to the Department of Water until **2 June 2009**.

The Department of Water manages and regulates Western Australia's water resources in consultation with other government agencies, key water user groups and the community.

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