



Media Statement

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See what's planned for South West water in 2030

West Australians are being urged to review a visionary plan that will guide South West water management for the next 25 years.

Launching the Department of Water's draft ***South West regional water plan*** today, Director General, Kim Taylor said sustainable management of the region's water resources was essential for its future.

"The challenges we face from climate change and the consequences of human actions are many," Mr Taylor said.

"A clear, dynamic vision and careful planning can help the community to adapt to these challenges. Meeting future needs will require exploitation of non-traditional sources, and greater efficiency in water use in all sectors.

"All water resources including waterways and groundwater, and alternative water sources such as recycled water and desalinated sea water are encompassed in the plan.

"The region's groundwater and surface-water resources support the ecosystems and biodiversity that make it unique. They also provide drinking water to a growing population and allow agriculture, mining, industry, tourism and the like to thrive."

Mr Taylor said the plan would establish a vision for the region's water future to 2030 and strategies for how to get there, by implementing the policy objectives of the 2007 State water plan.

He said the plan in its strategic nature, looked at the overall regional values and needs, and would encompass and guide other water plans and actions for the region that were being developed, or currently exist.

"Examination and input into this draft is crucial to ensuring the final document is effective in reaching our 2030 water goals," Mr Taylor said.

"The draft has reached a key stage of its development following close consultation with the South West Water Forum - a stakeholder group representing environmental, industrial, agricultural, Indigenous, public water supply, local government, recreational and other interests in water management.

"Other contributors included the South West Development Commission, the South West Catchments Council and organisations representing the mining and minerals, plantation forestry, recreational fishing, tourism, land development, sport and recreation, and aquaculture sectors. The traditional stewardship ethic of the Nyungar people also contributed to this model for holistic, integrated water resource management."



Mr Taylor said the plan's proposed actions encompassed seven themes:

- The use and recycling of water
- Sustainable planning and management of water resources
- Protection of ecosystems, water quality and resources
- Investment in science, innovation and education
- Enhancement of the security of water for the environment and use
- Development of water resources for a vibrant economy
- Delivery of services for strong and healthy communities.

"The regional water plan will be reviewed every five years and updated every ten years to ensure that it continues to be relevant as environmental and climatic conditions change, communities grow and our scientific understanding expands," Mr Taylor said.

"I encourage you to read this draft regional water plan to reach a deeper understanding of the issues and the proposed solutions. The department will welcome your comments."

Comment can be made any time by email to southwestregionalplan@water.wa.gov.au.>. For more information or to obtain a copy of the draft South West regional water plan, please visit the Department of Water website at www.water.wa.gov.au or phone 08 63646761.

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