



Media Statement

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Have a say to protect Nabawa's drinking water source

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

Department of Water, Director of Water Resource Management, John Ruprecht said the *Nabawa Water Reserve Draft 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 of Nabawa 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 how this water reserve works, how it should be managed and how they can help protect it from existing and future contamination risks.

"The draft plan, prepared in consultation with landowners, the Shire of Chapman Valley and the Water Corporation, outlines the location of the drinking water reserve, existing and future usage of the water source and potential sources of contamination."

Nabawa's drinking water supply comes from three production bores within the Nabawa Water Reserve. This reserve was proclaimed in 1990 under the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* for the purpose of protecting the public drinking water source from potential contamination. The water reserve extends over an area of about 1.4 square kilometres.

The draft protection plan will be available for public comment over the next six weeks. The plan:

- identifies potential drinking water quality contamination risks from land use activities;
- recommends strategies to manage potential risks while recognising the rights of landowners to continue approved established land use;
- makes recommendations to improve protection in the reserve to ensure good quality water supply in the long term;
- proposes wellhead protection zones be proclaimed around the production bores; and
- proposes priority classifications to ensure an appropriate level of protection of the water source.

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

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