



## *Media Statement*

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**April 17, 2008**

### **Community invited to have say on Bolganup water protection**

The Porongurup community is invited to have its say on a drinking water source protection plan aimed at ensuring safe, good quality drinking water for potential public water supply in the future.

The plan is part of a state-wide strategy being implemented by the Department of Water that identifies and protects drinking water sources throughout the state.

The Draft Bolganup Creek Catchment Area Drinking Water Source Protection Plan (DWSPP) was prepared by the department in consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders from the local community, government and commerce.

The Bolganup Creek Catchment Area, proclaimed in 1959, is located on Bolganup Creek, about 40 kilometres north of Albany and 20 kilometres east of Mount Barker, within the Shire of Plantagenet.

Department of Water's Director of Water Resource Management, John Ruprecht, said the Bolganup Dam currently supplied non-potable water for the Porongurup Township and farmlands.

"It may be used at short notice in the future, to supplement the Lower Great Southern Town Water Supply Scheme," Mr Ruprecht said.

"The drying climate in the South West is a particular consideration in this regard.

"Meanwhile, the Porongurup community is encouraged to have its say about its drinking water sources.

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

"It's important the community understands how this catchment works and how it should be managed so that they can help protect it from existing and future contamination risks."

The draft protection plan identifies potential drinking water quality contamination risks from land use activities; and recommends strategies to manage potential risks whilst recognising the rights of landowners to continue approved established land use.

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



Department of Water  
Government of Western Australia

Mr Ruprecht said about 90 stakeholders were sent letters advising of the department's DWSPP process, the proposed amendments to the Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) and priority classification to ensure an appropriate level of protection of the water source

The stakeholders included surrounding farms and businesses, tourism operators and wineries, the Friends of the Porongurups, Shire of Plantagenet, Water Corporation, Departments of Planning and Infrastructure and Environment and Conservation, South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and Conservation Commission.

The proposed boundary would exclude freehold farmland from the future Bolganup Creek Catchment Area.

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

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