



Exemption

Amendment to the exemption for the Shire of Murchison for the provision of a water supply service

In accordance with section 7 of the *Water Services Act 2012*, the Hon Mia Davies MLA, Minister for Water, has amended an exemption from the application of section 5(1) of the Act for a water supply service provided by the Shire of Murchison (the Shire).

The amendment came into effect on 18 December 2014.

The exempted service is a water supply service provided to the Murchison Settlement (located 669 kilometres north of Perth). The settlement has a population of around 20 people. Water is sourced from two bores and supplied to the settlement.

The exemption applies subject to the condition that the water supply service is provided for non-potable use only.

The exemption is valid for an indefinite period.

Summary of reasons for the decision

The exemption is not contrary to the public interest. It is considered that--

- The regulatory burden imposed by licencing would be significant, given the remote location and small scale of the Shire's service.
- The risk of the Shire abusing its monopoly power is low.
- The public health aspects of the service are regulated under the *Health Act 1911*.

This exemption amends an earlier exemption for water supply services by the Shire gazetted on 28 March 2012. The amendment to the exemption is required due to the decision by the Shire to provide the water supply as a non-potable supply only, and not for potable use. The conditions underlying the original exemption notice are therefore no longer valid.