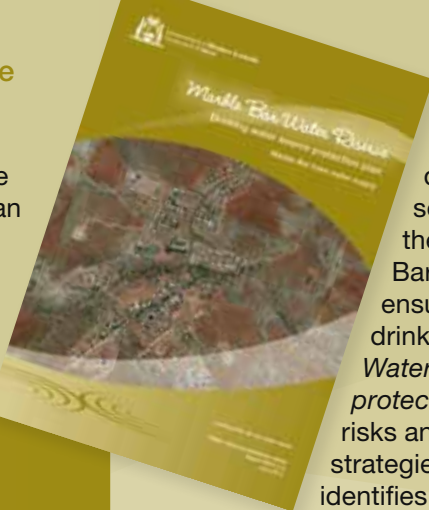
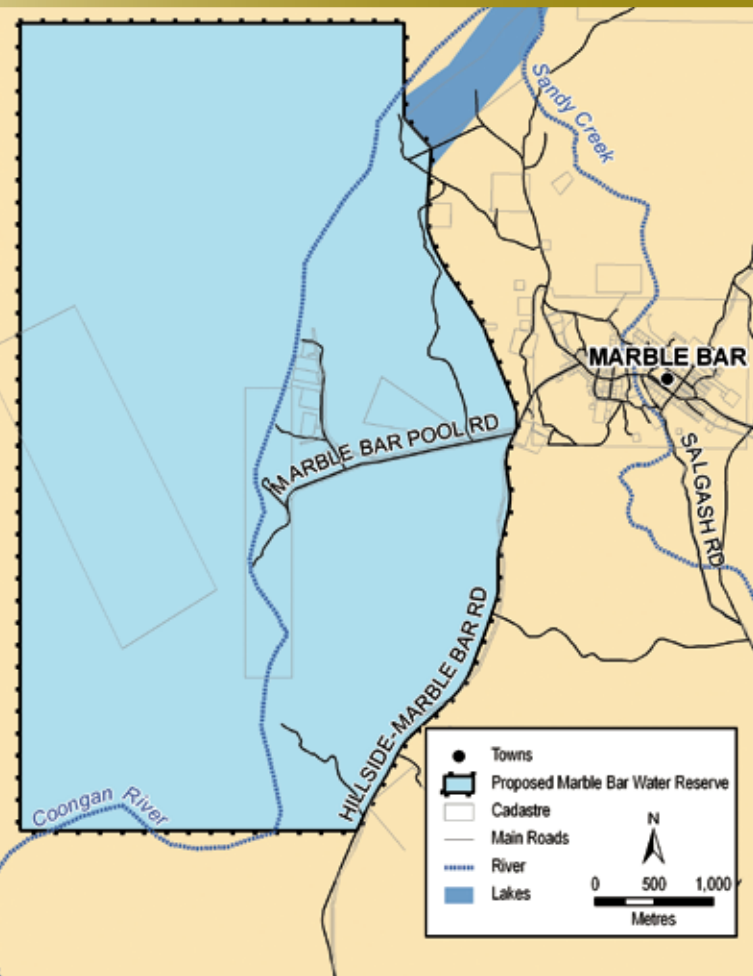


## Where does Marble Bar's drinking water come from?

Marble Bar's drinking water comes from four bores located 2-3 km west of the town and adjacent to the Coongan River. The bores draw groundwater from an unconfined aquifer. As there is no confining layer of impermeable rock or soil between the water source and the land uses above it, contaminants are able to infiltrate into this source. The purpose of the Marble Bar Water Reserve is to identify important recharge areas for the bores. A recharge area is the land over which water infiltrates into the ground to replenish the aquifer.

## Where is the Marble Bar Water Reserve?



## The plan to protect Marble Bar's drinking water

The Department of Water has developed a drinking water source protection plan to protect the quality of water in the Marble Bar Water Reserve and to help ensure a reliable, safe, good quality drinking water supply. The *Marble Bar Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan* discusses water quality risks and recommends management strategies to address them. It also identifies priority areas and protection zones, which help guide decisions on what land uses and activities should occur in the water reserve to protect water quality.

## What are the risks to the town's drinking water quality?

The Marble Bar Water Reserve consists of crown land used for a range of purposes including crown lease (for mainly residential purposes) and recreation (including a rifle range and Marble Bar Pool).

Some of the water quality risks associated with these land uses and activities are:

- pathogen, nutrient and chemical contamination from residential land uses
- pathogen and heavy metal contamination from recreational land uses
- hydrocarbon contamination from leaks or spills from fuel storage areas.



Water storage tank

## How can we manage these water quality risks?

Recommended actions to help protect Marble Bar's water supply include:

- amend the boundary of the water reserve under the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 (WA)*
- incorporate this boundary and priority areas in the Shire of East Pilbara's planning scheme
- adopt best management practices for all land uses and activities within the water reserve
- Department of Water to continue to liaise with Department of Regional Development and Lands on lease conditions for the crown leases
- Horizon Power to consider extending the Marble Bar town power supply to Garden Road
- install signs to make people aware of the reserve.

## What am I allowed to do in the water reserve?

All existing, approved land uses and activities are able to continue. We encourage land owners and managers to adopt best management practices to protect the quality of this important drinking water source.

We have a range of publications that provide advice on best management practices. See [Want to know more?](#) on the back of this brochure.

New developments, or expansion of existing land uses or activities will need to consider the priority areas, protection zones and recommendations in the *Marble Bar Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan* and our *Water quality protection note no. 25: Land use compatibility in public drinking water source areas*.



Production bore compound

## Working together to protect drinking water

Drinking water source protection plans are developed by the Department of Water in consultation with local communities, state and local government agencies, water service providers (such as the Water Corporation) and other interested stakeholders.

The support we receive from stakeholders through the development and implementation of these plans greatly assists in ensuring the availability of reliable, safe, good quality drinking water now and in the future. Ultimately, the quality of water provided to consumers depends on everyone working together to keep the water source clean.

There are over 150 drinking water sources in WA. We have completed around 100 drinking water source protection plans for these sources, so far.

## Want to know more?

Further information can be found at <http://www.water.wa.gov.au> then select > Publications > Find a publication > Series browse and click on:

- Water resource protection plans for a copy of the *Marble Bar Water Reserve Area drinking water source protection plan*
- *Water quality awareness, Water quality protection guidelines* or *Water quality protection notes* for information on best management practices to help protect water quality.

Alternatively, contact us if you would like information to be mailed to you.

To find out more about how we protect drinking water, visit <http://drinkingwater.water.wa.gov.au>.



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Water

## Protecting Marble Bar's drinking water

Marble Bar Water Reserve



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Looking after all our water needs

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