



Gingin groundwater allocation plan newsletter 2

This is the second newsletter to support the review and update of the *2002 Interim Gingin groundwater allocation plan*. I hope that the newsletters are useful in keeping you informed.

In this edition, we cover:

- an update on the department's dry season response
- an introduction to the Swan Avon regional office – your local contact
- the completion of a recent Gingin Brook flow survey.

Many of you have been speaking to me about the effects the dry season has already had in many parts of the Gingin groundwater plan area. I hope that this newsletter will help inform you on the changing rainfall pattern in the area. It also highlights what you can all do to help manage the water resources during this time by self-regulating demand and ensuring water is used efficiently.

The recent release of the *Gingin surface water allocation plan 2011* considered the inability of some users to abstract their full entitlement due to decreasing permanent flow in some watercourses and extended periods of no flow or low stream flows. To improve reliability of supply and maintain minimum environmental flows, allocation limits for surface water were set at or below the volume of current licensed entitlements.

Assistance on dry season concerns is available from our Dry Season Response line on 1800 464 956, and on our [website](#).

Don Cummins
Regional Manager

To register for upcoming public forums, propose an issue you would like to see covered in an upcoming newsletter, or for more information on the planning process, please contact the Department of Water's Allocation Planning section at allocation.planning@water.wa.gov.au.

For an electronic copy of this newsletter and all Gingin reports, visit our Gingin groundwater allocation plan [webpage](#) at www.water.wa.gov.au.

Dry season response 2010-11

Large tracts of the western and southern part of WA have had the driest winter on record. As a local example of the reduction seen last year, Gingin town site recorded only 214.4 mm of winter rainfall compared to an average of 405.2 mm since 1889. This is the second driest winter on record for this site, with only the year 1914 recording lower winter rainfall.

This low rainfall has implications for everyone, including licensed and unlicensed groundwater and surface water users in the Gingin groundwater plan area, and the Gingin environment. Areas in the Gingin groundwater plan area have already been affected as a result of this low rainfall. The yield of some bores screened in the shallow superficial aquifer has significantly reduced or ceased due to a decline in the water table.

The department is taking a proactive approach in responding to the dry season throughout WA. Information on the department's dry season activities, and dry season related FAQ's, can be found on our [website](#) or via our Dry Season Response line on 1800 464 956.

Preparing for a dry season ahead

The department is advising self suppliers (persons not served by the scheme water system and who obtain their own supply from rainfall tanks, bores or dams) to prepare for the challenges of the summer ahead. Low rainfall has left many self suppliers in a position where they will need to carefully manage their water supplies for both domestic and livestock uses.

Some issues self suppliers may wish to consider are:

- Do you have enough closed storage?
- Have you made arrangements with carters?
- Have you got a current fire plan?
- Have you prepared a destocking prioritisation plan?
- Have you considered maintenance or preparation activities that may assist you?

If you are affected

- If you are a self supplier in a rural region, help and advice on managing supply change is available through our Rural Water Planning branch on freecall 1800 780 300. For commercial farms in eligible areas, rebates are available. Some maintenance activities can be of assistance, such as air lifting bores to improve production and treating algae in dams. It is important to maximise the use of the water you have through efficient water use. Information on conserving water in a rural setting is available on the [Water Efficiency](#) and [Recycling](#) pages of our website.
- Further assistance and information is available through your local shire and the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) who provide farming advice and assistance on a range of dry season concerns. Your local shire can advise on access to local standpipes or other emergency water supplies that are available to you.

The Swan Avon Regional office: Your local connection

The Swan Avon Region includes the Perth metropolitan area and extends north to Lancelin, and east to include the Avon River Basin and the Goldfields Region.

The region has approximately 60 staff managed by Regional Manager Don Cummins. Offices are located at Victoria Park, Northam (Avon District) and Welshpool (Measurement). You are likely to see staff from all of these offices in the Gingin area talking to landholders, undertaking surveys and measuring water.

The team from the Victoria Park office manages water use for the Swan Coastal Plain and Goldfields through:

- water quantity management, groundwater and surface water planning, licensing, and compliance and enforcement
- integrating water management into land use planning
- drinking water source protection.

Staff members at the Northam office provide services to the Avon district by:

- working in partnership with community groups, landowners and land managers to facilitate on ground works to protect and restore waterways
- providing advice and input into local government planning approval processes to ensure waterways are protected and enhanced wherever possible.

The team at the Welshpool office provides water measurement services to the entire region, including surface and groundwater data collection and monitoring activities.

In future editions of the newsletter we will introduce some of our key regional staff members. In the interim, please call the Victoria Park office on 6250 8000 with any enquiries and we will direct you to the right person.

Gingin Brook flow survey completed

During May, in response to community enquiries regarding possible alteration to flow patterns in Gingin Brook, officers from Swan Avon office visited sites along the western margins of the Gingin Brook. The area surveyed extended from Brand Highway west to Gingin Brook Road. Numerous properties were visited and the flows in the north, middle and south branches of the brook were investigated.

Reasonable flow was noted underneath the Brand Highway in both the north and middle branches. The north and middle branches split at a riffle (located approx 500 metres west of the Brand Highway). From this point the south branch of the brook had the greatest flow. The higher level of flow in the south branch was noted in all properties visited in the western section of the survey area. Flow currently ceases in all three branches before reaching Gingin Brook Road.

No impediments to flow were noted in our investigation, however, the department will continue to respond to any complaints received and will be revisiting areas of interest during the winter period to determine flow rates. We would like to thank all the landowners who provided access to their properties as part of the survey. For more information, please contact Brian Giltay on 6250 8009.