

Working together to protect drinking water

Drinking water source protection documents 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 the *Sandstone Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan* will greatly assist in ensuring the ongoing availability of reliable, safe, good quality drinking water sources now and in the future. Ultimately, the quality of water provided to consumers depends on everyone working together to keep the water reserve clean.

There are 134 drinking water sources in Western Australia servicing towns and cities. We have completed 119 drinking water source protection reports to date for these sources. We will continue to prepare, implement and review these drinking water source protection reports, consistent with the *Australian drinking water guidelines 6, 2004* to protect public health.

Want to know more?

If you would like a copy of the *Sandstone Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan* go to www.water.wa.gov.au > Publications > Find a publication > Series browse > Water resource protection plans.

To read about best management practices to help protect water quality, go to www.water.wa.gov.au > Publications > Find a publication > Series browse > Water quality protection guidelines, water quality protection notes, water quality awareness brochures and information sheets.

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



Government of Western Australia
Department of Water

Protecting Sandstone's drinking water

Sandstone Water Reserve



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Bore compound

Looking after all our water needs

December 2011

Where does Sandstone's drinking water come from?

Sandstone's drinking water comes from four bores located within the Sandstone Water Reserve. These bores draw groundwater from a semi-confined aquifer. As there is only a semi-confining layer of impermeable rock or soil present between the water source and the land uses above it, contaminants can infiltrate this water source from inappropriate land uses on the surface. The Sandstone boundary has been determined based on the recharge area for the production bores and consideration of surrounding land uses and ownership. A recharge area is the land over which water infiltrates into the ground to replenish the aquifer.



The plan to protect Sandstone's drinking water

The Department of Water has developed a drinking water source protection plan to protect the quality of water in the Sandstone Water Reserve and to help ensure a reliable, safe, good quality drinking water supply. The *Sandstone Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan* was completed in 2011 and it discusses water quality risks and recommends management strategies to address them. It also identifies a priority area and protection zones, which guide land use planning and development decisions in the water reserve to protect water quality.

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

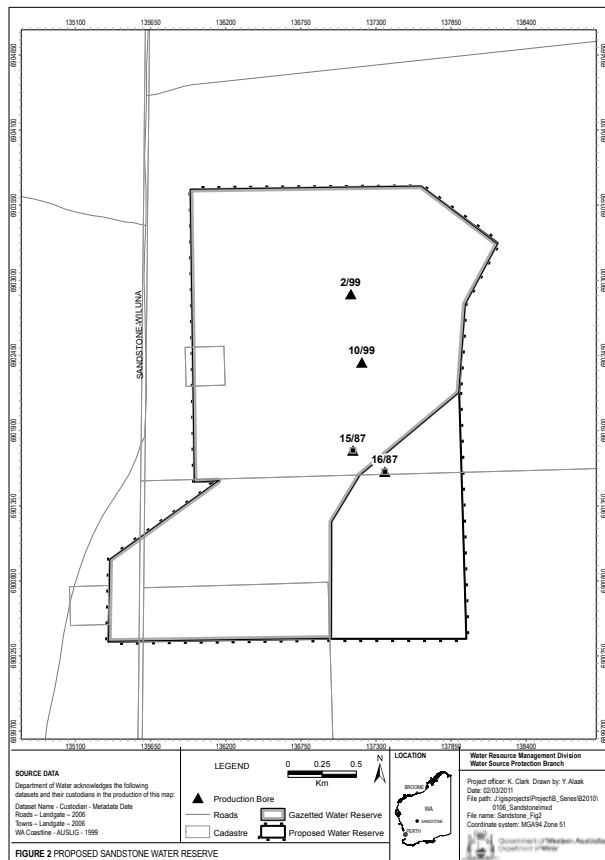
The main land uses in the Sandstone Water Reserve are crown leases (pastoral lease) and crown reserves. Some of the water quality risks associated with these land uses are:

- pathogens and nutrients from people and animal waste
- hydrocarbons from vehicles via spills and leaks of fuel.



Sandstone storage tanks

Where is the Sandstone Water Reserve?



How can we manage these water quality risks?

Recommended actions to help protect Sandstone's water supply include:

- proclaiming the Sandstone Water Reserve under the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947*
- incorporating the Sandstone Water Reserve boundary into the Shire of Sandstone's local planning scheme
- promoting best management practices in the pastoral lease
- signage to make people aware of the water reserve boundary and why it is important to protect it.

What am I allowed to do in the water reserves?

Existing, approved land uses and activities can 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 *Sandstone Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan* and our Water quality protection note no. 25: *Land use compatibility in public drinking water source areas*.



Evidence of camping