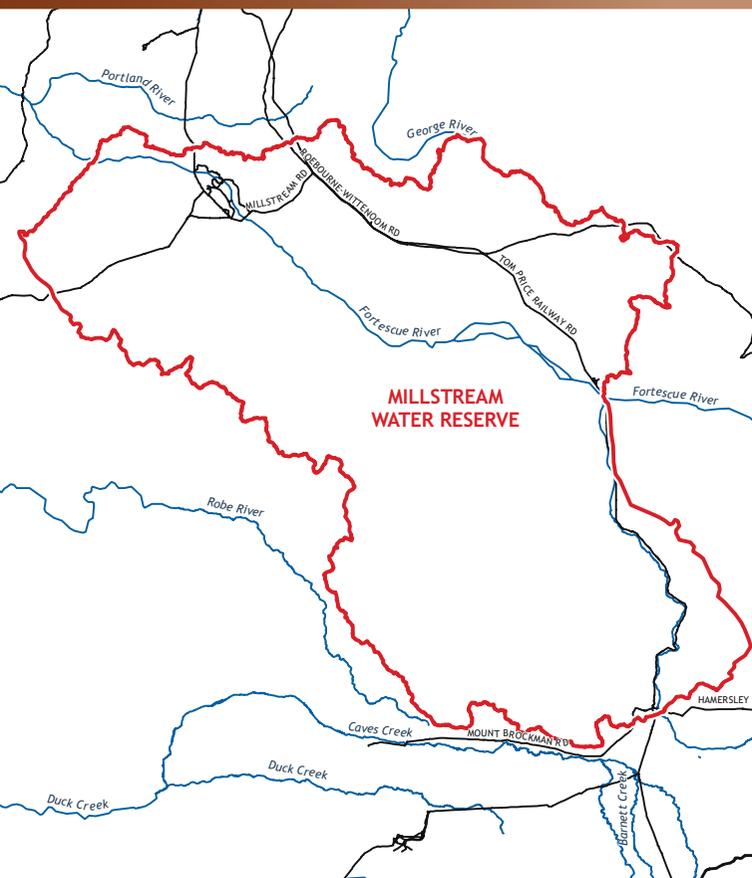


Where does the West Pilbara's drinking water come from?

The West Pilbara's drinking water partially comes from bores located at Millstream. 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 this source. The Millstream Water Reserve boundary has been determined based on the recharge area for the 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.

Where is the Millstream Water Reserve?



The plan to protect the West Pilbara's drinking water

The Department of Water has developed a drinking water source protection plan to protect the quality of water in the Millstream Water Reserve and to help ensure a reliable, safe, good quality drinking water supply. The *Millstream 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.

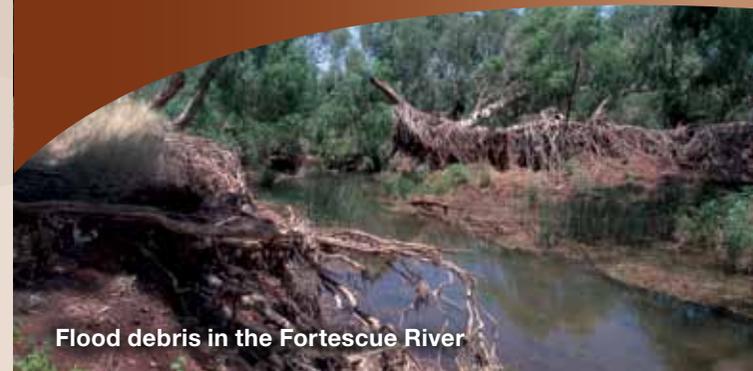
What are the risks to the Millstream's drinking water quality?

The main land uses in the Millstream Water Reserve are national park, pastoral leases and mineral exploration. Some of the water quality risks associated with these land uses are:

- pathogens from ablutions servicing the national park and associated management facilities and from body contact with pools in the water reserve
- hydrocarbons and other chemicals from storage and use at works depots.



Fuel storage tanks at the Water Corporation depot



Flood debris in the Fortescue River

How can we manage these water quality risks?

Recommended actions to help protect the West Pilbara's water supply include:

- to amend the Millstream Water Reserve under the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 (WA)*
- locate any new developments away from the parts of the water reserve most vulnerable to contamination, particularly the Millstream Dolomite
- leaseholders and managers to adopt best management practices in the water reserve
- increase signage to make people aware of the water reserve boundary and why it is important to protect the catchment.

What am I allowed to do in the catchment area?

All existing, approved land uses and activities are able to continue. We encourage land owners and operators 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 and the recommendations in the *Millstream Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan* and our *Water quality protection note no. 25: Land use compatibility in public drinking water source areas*.

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 reserve 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.



Chinderwarriner Pool

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 *Millstream Water Reserve 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>.

Perth
168 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000
Phone: 08 6364 7600
Fax: 08 6364 7601

Pilbara
Lot 4608 Cherratta Rd
Karratha WA 6714
Phone: 08 9144 2000
Fax: 08 9144 2610

7476 200 1010

www.water.wa.gov.au
Email: drinkingwater@water.wa.gov.au

© Department of Water 2010

This publication is available at our website or for those with special needs it can be made available in alternative formats such as audio, large print, or Braille.



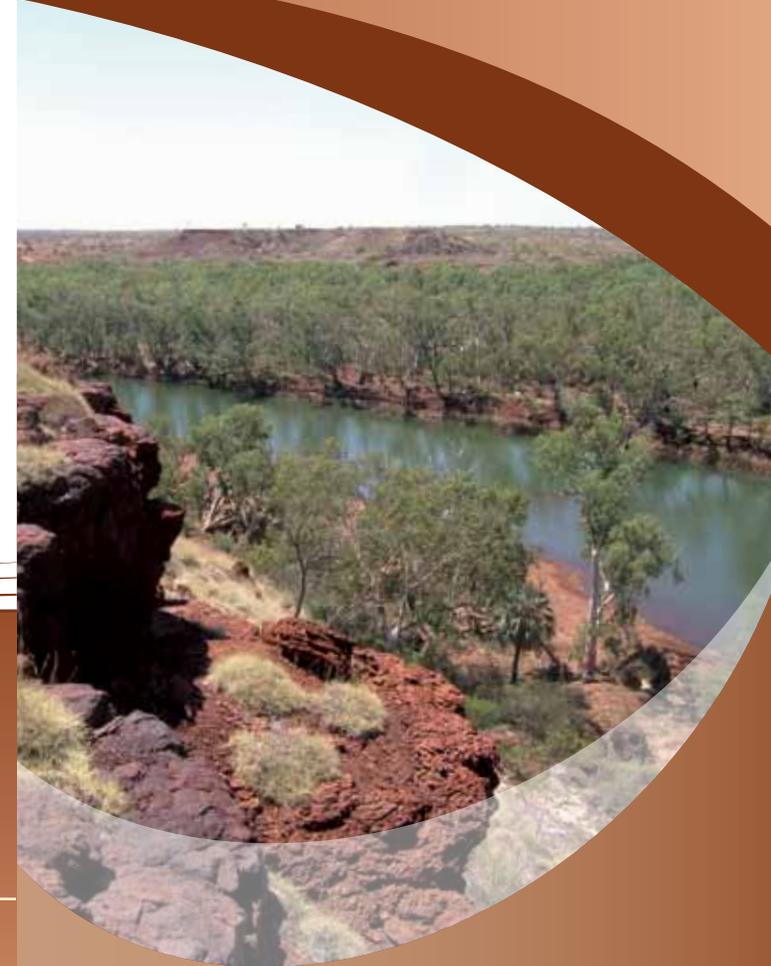
RECYCLED CONTENT



Government of Western Australia
Department of Water

Protecting the West Pilbara's drinking water

Millstream Water Reserve



Looking after all our water needs

October 2010