

The Water and Rivers Commission requires certain well construction standards to be met in order to prevent the mixing of water between aquifers and to protect each source.

As of January 1997 the Water and Rivers Commission has included a condition on all groundwater well licenses issued for the construction of new wells. This condition states that the well must be constructed by a driller possessing either a class 1, 2 or 3 Water Well Drillers Certificate issued by the Australian Drilling Industry Association (ADIA).

The land owner or driller should contact the Region to clarify requirements.

Water availability and licence applications

Information regarding groundwater availability and license application procedures for the Swan Groundwater Area can be obtained by contacting the Water and Rivers Commission's Swan Goldfields Agricultural Regional Office on 93620555.

Water requirement

It is a requirement that all proposed horticultural and agricultural projects that require a water allocation and wish to use artesian water, or are within a proclaimed area, must apply to the Water and Rivers Commission prior to commencement.

Applications may be refused

If an application is made for a licence in an area where groundwater availability is limited and / or there is a concern about contamination or saline water intrusion it is possible that the application may be refused, or limitations made on the amount of water allowed to be drawn. Applicants aggrieved of any decision regarding their application have a right of appeal to the Minister.

Please be patient with delays

With the need to refer licence applications for assessment, some delays may occur.

For further information please contact:



WATER AND RIVERS
COMMISSION

Swan Goldfields Agricultural Region

849 Albany Highway

VICTORIA PARK WA 6100

Telephone: 1800 063 490

ISSN: 1328-2034

Printed on Recycled Paper, March 2000



Tell us what you think of our publications at
<http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/public/feedback>



Swan Groundwater Area



WATER ADVICE No.12

MARCH 2000

ADVICE TO EXISTING AND INTENDING
LANDOWNERS REQUIRING GROUNDWATER



WATER AND RIVERS
COMMISSION

Managing a vital resource

The Water and Rivers Commission has the task of managing the State's groundwater- a vital supply of water which feeds most of our coastal wetlands and the metropolitan public water supply.

Within the Swan Groundwater Area about 1700 privately owned licensed wells tap into this resource.

A balanced and sensitive management program is in place to minimise the problems of declining water levels, increased salinity and reduced well production that have been experienced locally and in other parts of Australia.

The Water and Rivers Commission is taking preventative measures now. We need your co-operation to ensure this valuable resource continues to provide for future generations.

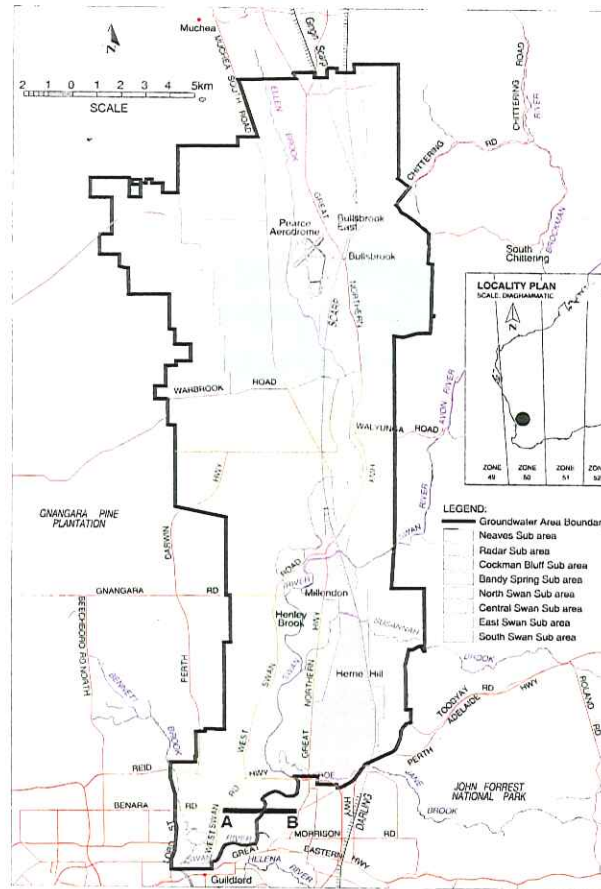
Swan Groundwater Area

On 26 September 1975, the Swan Groundwater Area was proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act, 1914* (see map opposite).

There are other proclaimed areas through out the state but it is only with the Swan Groundwater Area that this pamphlet is concerned. Please contact the Water and Rivers Commission if you require information on other areas.

Definition of a well

"Well" means a pit, excavation, shaft hole, well or other opening made or used for the purpose of drawing groundwater or used or constructed for the purpose of exploring for, investigating or monitoring groundwater levels and quality.



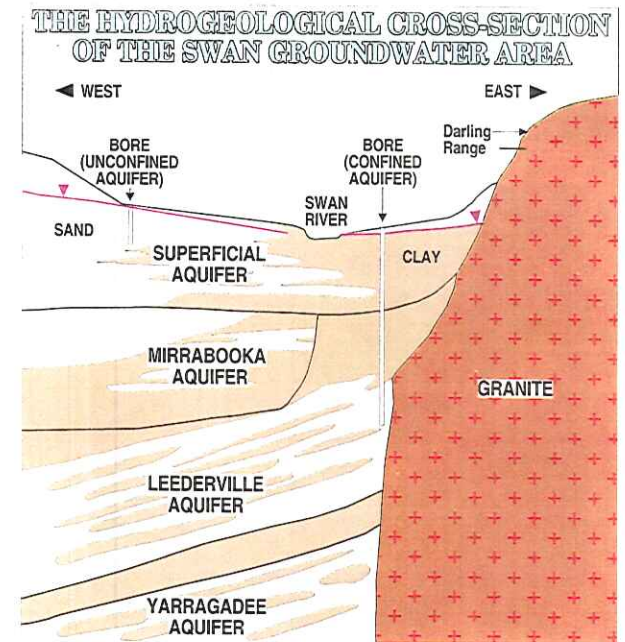
Swan Groundwater Area.

All wells must be licensed

The *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act* requires all wells to be licensed within proclaimed groundwater areas. Those intending to purchase properties within the Swan Groundwater Area are strongly advised to contact the Commission in relation to water availability and well licensing.

Estimates and application rates for different crop types are provided by Agriculture Western Australia and are used in determining licence allocations.

In some situations water meters may be necessary if a dispute arises over water requirements for certain areas of crop or the water falls within a limited water availability area.



Cross-section of the Swan Groundwater Area.

Well construction

Groundwater is contained within four major aquifers, each comprising a complex sequence of sand, silt and clay, and a mixture of these. When sinking wells, to identify beds of sand that may be suitable for groundwater abstraction, geophysical logging of wells in confined aquifer systems may be necessary as a condition of the licence.