



Recreation within public drinking water source areas on
Crown land - policy implementation 2012 - 2017

Discussion paper for draft updated policy

June 2018

Recreation within public drinking water source areas on Crown land - policy implementation 2012-2017

Discussion paper for draft updated policy

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

June 2018

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
168 St Georges Terrace
Perth Western Australia 6000
Telephone +61 8 6364 7000
Facsimile +61 8 6364 7001
National Relay Service 13 36 77
www.dwer.wa.gov.au

© Government of Western Australia

June 2018

This work is copyright. You may download, display, print and reproduce this material in unaltered form only (retaining this notice) for your personal, non-commercial use or use within your organisation. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, all other rights are reserved. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

Acknowledgements

This policy has been prepared by the Water Source Protection Planning team of the Science and Planning Directorate of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

For more information about this report, contact

Water Source Protection Planning on +61 8 6364 7000 or policy13@dwer.wa.gov.au

Disclaimer

This document has been published by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Any representation, statement, opinion or advice expressed or implied in this publication is made in good faith and on the basis that the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and its employees are not liable for any damage or loss whatsoever which may occur as a result of action taken or not taken, as the case may be in respect of any representation, statement, opinion or advice referred to herein. Professional advice should be obtained before applying the information contained in this document to particular circumstances.

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

Contents

Preface	iv
How to comment.....	v
1 Background	1
1.1 Policy review (2012-2017)	2
1.2 Draft updated policy 2018.....	2
2 Assessment of events and facilities 2012–2017	15
2.1 Existing approved 2012 recreation.....	15
2.2 New recreation.....	15
Shortened forms	18
Glossary	18
References	23

Tables

Table 1	Issues raised during implementation of Policy 13, 2012–2017.....	4
Table 2	Recreation proposals supported 2012–2017.....	15

Preface

This 2018 review of Operational policy 13 proposes adopting improvements made over the last five years to the policy's administration. It also proposes some changes for new recreation opportunities in the outer catchment of groundwater public drinking water source areas (PDWSA). The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation will work with recreators, the public and local and state government to achieve the best outcome for drinking water protection and recreation.

This review has the benefit of five years' implementation of the policy through an Interagency Collaborative Working Group (IACWG) formed in 2010 to help address recreation and PDWSA matters. The IACWG is comprised of representatives from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (previously Water), Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (previously Sport and Recreation), Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (previously Parks and Wildlife), Department of Health and the Water Corporation.

A parliamentary inquiry into recreation within public drinking water source areas was conducted by the Standing Committee on Public Administration in 2010. Their recommendations and findings are contained in Report 11 – *Recreation activities within public drinking water source areas*. The committee compared Western Australia with the rest of the world in terms of access to drinking water catchments, and found that *'the reality is that in Western Australia we take very much a middle-ground approach'*.

Over the past five years, the IACWG has improved the implementation of this policy, reflecting a balance between water quality protection and benefits for local communities and recreators. This has resulted in support for some additional land-based recreation within PDWSAs.

It is important to appreciate that this review will not reconsider the pros and cons of recreation in PDWSAs because the Parliamentary Committee's findings and recommendations are still relevant and continue to reflect the information and science on water quality risks in PDWSAs.

Policy 13 was first consulted and published in 2003, and has been subject to continuous improvement leading to the 2012 update, the 2018 draft updated policy and this discussion paper.

How to comment

We welcome your help with this policy review and are seeking your input. To help you provide input, we have prepared this discussion paper and a draft updated policy. You will also have the opportunity to attend a public workshop during the consultation period.

When you write your comments, please list them against the discussion paper or draft updated policy's page number so we can see what section you are referring to. It would also be useful if you could provide copies or references of any information to support your comments. If you would like your submission or identity to be kept confidential, please tell us by writing 'confidential' on the top of each page. Send your submission to:

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Water Source Protection Planning

Locked Bag 33 Cloisters Square

Perth Western Australia 6850

or

policy13@dwer.wa.gov.au

Please send your comments by 5pm, 3 August 2018.

If you wish to obtain a copy of this discussion paper or the draft updated policy, please visit our website www.dwer.wa.gov.au.

If you have any questions about this discussion paper or the draft updated policy, please contact the Water Source Protection Planning branch on policy13@dwer.wa.gov.au or on +61 8 6364 6889.

We will consider all submissions and consult with the Interagency Collaborative Working Group when we prepare the final policy.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

1 Background

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) Operational policy 13: *Recreation within public drinking water source areas on Crown land (2012)* is designed to protect water quality by managing recreation in public drinking water source areas (PDWSA).

Recreation provides the opportunity for people to obtain social, physical and mental health benefits and it also provides economic benefit to communities, local and state governments. In recognition of this, as well as the historical use of these areas, many of the state's PDWSAs already accommodate land-based recreational activities, providing a balance between the public health benefits of recreation and drinking water protection.

Policy 13 provides for some land-based recreation to occur in outer catchments of PDWSAs consistent with existing legislation and policy. It recommends that new or enhanced recreation is located outside of PDWSAs. Where this is not feasible, recreation proposals have been considered under a recreation assessment procedure and guidelines developed by the IACWG.

The IACWG employs a whole-of-government approach and a collaborative and adaptive process to plan and manage recreation within PDWSAs and outside these areas in recreation dams, while complying with national and state drinking water quality management guidelines and policies.

In 2010, to support increased recreation and tourism outside PDWSAs, the Parliamentary Committee recommended that 11 PDWSAs be investigated for abolition or by-law removal of restrictions on recreation. As these catchments were no longer needed for supplying drinking water, all 11 have now been abolished or had their by-laws removed:

- Bancell Brook Catchment Area
- Bickley Brook Catchment Area
- Boddington Dam Catchment Area
- Brunswick Catchment Area
- Dirk Brook Water Reserve
- Gooralong Brook Water Reserve
- Harvey Dam Catchment Area
- Mullalyup Water Reserve
- Murray River Water Reserve
- Padbury Reservoir Catchment Area
- Wellington Dam Catchment Area.

In addition, a further four have also been abolished or had their by-laws removed since 2012:

- Deep River Water Reserve
- Kent River Water Reserve
- Scotsdale Brook Water Reserve
- Warren River Water Reserve.

Please see Appendix A, Figure A3 in the draft updated policy.

The above-listed catchments should be considered for new recreation events and facilities. In two of these, government has already improved recreational facilities and increased recreational capacity. Over \$4 million was spent in the Wellington Dam Catchment Area and about \$5.5 million was spent in the Murray River Water Reserve within Lane Poole Reserve. Recreational facilities have also been developed in other areas close by, such as in Logue Brook Dam where about \$3.3 million has been spent.

1.1 Policy review (2012-2017)

Since 2012, government has been implementing Policy 13 in more than 120 PDWSAs across Western Australia, with the assistance of the IACWG. The different experiences and views of working group members has resulted in a better outcome for both recreation and drinking water source protection.

Table 1 of this discussion paper shows the issues that have been raised during the implementation of the policy from 2012 to 2017. It describes how these issues have been resolved, or proposes how they will be resolved in the draft updated policy.

Table 2 of this discussion paper shows the new recreation proposals that were supported between 2012 and 2017. These proposals were assessed on a case-by-case basis and submitted to the Minister for Water for noting.

1.2 Draft updated policy 2018

We have prepared a draft updated policy, for consideration by recreators, the community and state and local government, which is based on the input from the IACWG and stakeholders since 2012. We have made a number of proposed changes from the 2012 version:

- incorporated changes resulting from implementation issues (as described in Table 1 within this discussion paper)
- included assessment procedures and flowcharts for proposed recreation events and facilities
- updated wording, formatting and administrative information
- made the wording easier to read and understand

- combined the recreation activity compatibility tables into one table
- included information from Report 11 (in response to issues that have been raised)
- added more information in Appendix B about risk-based management approaches for drinking water catchments
- included information about the *Water Services Act 2012* and *Australian drinking water guidelines*
- inserted more definitions and explained existing ones to clarify how the policy is implemented
- added information about the implementation of Policy 13 and the development of recreation in Western Australia, including work undertaken by the IACWG
- included further information about the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Policy statement 18 on recreation management.

Table 1 *Issues raised during implementation of Policy 13, 2012–2017*

No.	Issue	Proposed policy 13 change, details and comments
1	<p>There was a need for a formalised, consistent, recreation event assessment procedure under the policy.</p>	<p>The IACWG developed a recreation event assessment procedure in December 2012, which has proven useful for the assessment of proposals.</p> <p>We have updated the procedure to apply to proposals for recreation facilities (not just events), and included it within the draft updated policy. We believe it will continue to help ensure consistent assessment of proposals.</p> <p>Please see section 2.5, Table 3 and flowcharts in the draft updated policy.</p>
2	<p>Special recognition was required for the iconic Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun Track for new events consistent with government priorities.</p>	<p>The recreation event assessment procedure (see above) supports new events on the Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun Track within current capacity (i.e. no additional facilities required within PDWSAs on Crown land) to be supported by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.</p> <p>Approval of these events is still subject to existing event assessment and approval processes.</p> <p>This recognition has been included in the draft updated policy to ensure consistent assessment of proposals. Please see section 2.5, Table 3 and flowcharts in the draft updated policy.</p> <p>Policy 13 (2012) already recognised the Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun Track as iconic trails.</p>

No.	Issue	Proposed policy 13 change, details and comments
3	Some stakeholders have asked for more information on the costs of water treatment.	The draft updated policy includes information about the costs of water treatment (see Appendix B).
4	Recreation proposals have not always considered the right issues for water quality and public health.	<p>To address this, in 2016 the department and the IACWG agreed on a guideline which says recreation proposals need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider alternative locations outside PDWSAs b) apply best practice management for water quality and public health c) incorporate drinking water source education and awareness initiatives. <p>Consideration of alternative sites outside PDWSAs should always be assessed to determine if other sites are available and feasible and findings should be submitted as a written report.</p> <p>This guideline is consistent with the recreation assessment procedure and current recreation application forms and is already being used to assess proposals.</p> <p>In the draft updated policy, we have included recognition of this guideline via additional information, standard conditions and added Appendix E which gives an example of education material that can be used for recreation proposals.</p>

No.	Issue	Proposed policy 13 change, details and comments
5	Individual recreation activity levels have increased due to growing popularity of some activities and population growth.	<p>The draft updated policy explains that while it is recognised that the number of individuals undertaking recreation activities is likely to increase, that recreation will be limited, by locating new events and facilities outside of PDWSAs.</p> <p>The emphasis on retaining 2012 levels of recreation is explained in section 2.5 of the draft updated policy.</p> <p>2012 was chosen because that is when the Parliamentary Committee recommended “<i>no increase in the amount of current recreational activity in the outer catchments of public drinking water source areas.</i>” (see Recommendation 1 of Report 11).</p>

No.	Issue	Proposed policy 13 change, details and comments
6	<p>Recreation proposals in the outer catchment of groundwater sources have lower water quality risks than proposals within wellhead protection zones and surface water sources.</p>	<p>To address this, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the IACWG agreed on a guideline which recognises that the water quality and public health risks of events and facilities in groundwater sources are lower than in surface water sources. This is because groundwater sources have an additional soil filtering barrier (apart from when the source is highly karstic or fractured, where a higher risk would apply).</p> <p>The guideline says that recreation proposals in groundwater-based PDWSAs outside wellhead protection zones will be assessed on a case-by-case basis that considers this lower risk.</p> <p>Recognition of this guideline has been included in the draft updated policy to ensure consistent assessment of proposals. Please see section 2.5, Table 3 and flowcharts in the draft updated policy.</p> <p>Such assessments would need to consider higher risk circumstances such as sole supplies (i.e. the only source available to a community) and sources that are particularly vulnerable to contamination (i.e. unconfined aquifers and shallow bore fields).</p>
7	<p>There have been issues interpreting the compatibility tables – some readers were unsure if they also apply to proposed events or facilities.</p>	<p>Table 2 in the draft updated policy defines what types of recreation activities are supported for individuals to undertake within PDWSAs. This support only applies to individuals and small groups (less than 25 - That are not organised recreational events.). Supported activities in this table does not include support for new events or facilities of the same type of activity.</p> <p>The draft updated policy includes a footnote for Table 2 to explain this: <i>“That are not organised recreational events. This table does not apply to the compatibility of proposed events or facilities.”</i></p>

No.	Issue	Proposed policy 13 change, details and comments
8	<p>Some new recreation events (after 2012) that have been supported by the Minister for Water occur in the same location and capacity each year. Ongoing approval has been proposed instead of the annual noting currently required by the Minister for Water.</p>	<p>Under the updated policy, we want to allow for recurring events to be supported on an ongoing basis in the same way as existing 2012 events, rather than requiring ministerial noting as a new event each year, when the event has not changed significantly. To be considered an ongoing existing event, these recurring events must occur in the same place, at the same time of year, with no significant changes to capacity and numbers, and the justification for holding the event within a PDWSA remains.</p> <p>Approval is still subject to existing assessment and approval processes – the event will be assessed and conditions applied via the same process for existing approved events 2012 events, but ministerial noting will not be required.</p> <p>We have allowed for this situation in Table 3 of the draft updated policy, noting that <i>“Approval is still subject to existing assessment and approval processes. If approved, conditions may be applied.”</i></p>
9	<p>In consideration of land management processes, Policy 13 doesn't apply to 'sealed bitumen roads' and their road reserves. However this exemption only applies outside reservoir protection zones and where no associated facilities are proposed on Crown land.</p>	<p>The draft updated policy states Policy 13 doesn't apply to 'sealed bitumen roads' and their road reserves within PDWSA on Crown land, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy still applies to other public roads (e.g. unsealed roads). • This exemption does not apply to road rallies. • The policy still applies within reservoir protection zones. <p>Please refer to section 2.5.4 and the glossary of the draft updated policy.</p>

No.	Issue	Proposed policy 13 change, details and comments
10	<p>Recreation proposals aligned with strategic state and local government recreation plans or strategies can be recognised by the policy.</p>	<p>Strategic planning for recreation, in the form of state or local government recreation plans or strategies, achieves a public benefit. In some cases, new recreation is planned in PDWSAs and is given government priority.</p> <p>The draft updated policy can support these types of recreation proposals that may otherwise be considered incompatible, provided that the proposal does not introduce an unacceptable risk to water quality and public health. However, such proposals still require support from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and noting by the Minister for Water.</p> <p>Note that recreation activity management plans are not be considered to be strategic government plans. However, government can consider their content in recreation assessments.</p> <p>Strategic planning in PDWSA often meets a public benefit while accepting increased water quality risks as part of a greater government priority.</p> <p>This has been clarified in Table 3 of the draft updated policy.</p>
11	<p>There have been issues interpreting the compatibility tables – some readers were unsure if they also apply to proposed events or facilities.</p>	<p>Table 2 in the draft updated policy defines what types of recreation activities are supported for individuals to undertake within PDWSAs. This support only applies to individuals and small groups (less than 25 - That are not organised recreational events.). Supported activities in this table does not include support for new events or facilities of the same type of activity.</p> <p>The draft updated policy includes a footnote for Table 2 to explain this: <i>“That are not organised recreational events. This table does not apply to the compatibility of proposed events or facilities.”</i></p>

No.	Issue	Proposed policy 13 change, details and comments
12	<p>There have been issues with interpreting the compatibility of off-road driving in the policy.</p> <p>There have been issues with licensed (off-road) motor bikes riding on gravel roads that are not gazetted 'public roads'.</p>	<p>The draft updated policy clarifies that off-road driving (both licensed and unlicensed vehicles) should only occur in approved, designated areas.</p> <p>The following wording has been added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under off-road driving: <i>'(both licensed and unlicensed vehicles)'</i> • under outer catchment area off-road driving: <i>'incompatible except on legally designated off-road tracks or areas and gazetted public roads'.</i> <p>Off-road driving has been clarified as incompatible for all motorised vehicles (including motorbikes, trail bikes and quad bikes). It does not matter if the vehicles are licensed or unlicensed. The exception is when off-road driving occurs in existing, legally designated tracks and areas.</p> <p>Under the <i>Road Traffic Act 1974</i>, all vehicles using public roads require registration unless operating within a gazetted off-road vehicle area, in which case they require off-road vehicle registration.</p> <p>The draft updated policy now clarifies that 'public roads' does not include tracks or trails for the purpose of fire control, mining, forestry or infrastructure access/maintenance. See the glossary of the updated draft policy for the definition of 'public roads'. Driving of licensed vehicles on 'public roads' is not subject to Policy 13.</p>

No.	Issue	Proposed policy 13 change, details and comments
13	There are issues regarding the compatibility of off-road mountain biking in outer catchment areas as this activity forms illegal trails.	<p>The draft updated policy has clarified that mountain bike riding is only supported in outer catchments in approved, designated areas or on approved, designated tracks/trails. The compatibility tables have been updated as such (see Table 2 of the draft updated policy).</p> <p>An approved, designated facility is one that has been published in a government management plan or that can be shown to be existing approved and managed through other government documentation and evidence.</p>
14	There have been interpretation issues with the compatibility tables – some recreation types are only supported ‘in designated areas’ and this was not clear.	<p>The current policy only says within ‘designated areas’ in the activity column, but the draft updated policy also adds this wording also into the compatibility column of Table 2. This will help clarify the activities that are only compatible if they occur in approved designated areas.</p>
15	Users of the policy have raised the need to consider certain recreation facilities as an ‘area’.	<p>The draft updated policy clarifies that approved recreation facilities can be an ‘area’ rather than just specified tracks or trails, and includes considerations for where facilities are managed as a ‘designated area’.</p> <p>The definition for this type of designated area is: <i>an existing, approved recreation facility that is defined in a government management plan or shown to be existing approved and managed through other government documentation and evidence as a defined area (rather than individually defined tracks or trails) i.e. gazetted off-road driving areas.</i></p>

No.	Issue	Proposed policy 13 change, details and comments
16	Some stakeholders have asked for more information on the costs of water treatment.	The draft updated policy includes information about the costs of water treatment (see Appendix B).
17	There are new types of recreational activities that were not prominent in 2012 and therefore not previously included in the compatibility tables.	<p>The draft updated policy includes these new activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trail running – proposed to have the same compatibility as bush walking • drone flying – proposed to have a new compatibility • paragliding / powered parachuting (motorised or non-motorised) – proposed as incompatible. <p>Please see Table 2 of the draft updated policy for the compatibility of these activities in the different types and areas of PDWSAs.</p> <p>We recognise that the number of individuals undertaking recreation activities in the outer catchment of PDWSAs is likely to increase due to population growth. However this does not mean that new or enhanced facilities or events should be developed in PDWSAs to meet this demand. All new proposals will be assessed through the recreation assessment procedure, which is included in the draft updated policy.</p>
18	The inclusion of rally events in the compatibility tables for individual activities has been confusing.	<p>Table 2 of the draft updated policy has been updated to say that rallying is an incompatible activity in PDWSAs.</p> <p>A footnote remains, stating that events approved up to September 2012 (there are three events) will continue to be supported provided there are no significant changes. We encourage opportunities to move these events outside PDWSAs.</p>

No.	Issue	Proposed policy 13 change, details and comments
19	Users of the policy have questioned if 'periodic events' (i.e. events that were held at a frequency less than annually before 2012) are considered to be 'existing at September 2012' or 'historic'.	<p>The draft updated policy defines 'periodic' and 'historic' events in the glossary and section 2.5.3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic events are held on at regular intervals. To be considered 'existing', evidence needs to be provided that the events were approved to occur on a regular basis within PDWSA (more than three times), at any consistent interval prior to September 2012 (i.e. every five years, bi-annually). • Events that have not been held consistently within PDWSAs (i.e. less than three times) at set intervals will be considered 'historic' events (i.e. not as 'existing').
20	Implementation of the policy has supported rotational events (i.e. events that rotate location) at September 2012 levels.	<p>The draft updated policy defines 'rotational' events in the glossary and section 2.5.3:</p> <p>Rotational events require variation in location (i.e. orienteering or rogaining where familiar settings are detrimental to the activity). These are supported to continue to rotate location within PDWSAs provided they do not increase in number of events or capacity from September 2012 levels.</p>
21	The definition of public roads has been clarified in the policy.	The draft updated policy clarifies that 'Public roads' does not include tracks or trails for the purpose of fire control, mining, forestry or infrastructure access/maintenance.
22	Questions have been raised about the policy's assessment process.	The draft updated policy includes how the assessment of recreation proposals occurs via the IACWG recreation assessment procedure. Please refer to Table 3 of the draft updated policy.

No.	Issue	Proposed policy 13 change, details and comments
23	Some stakeholders have said Policy 13 is a 'lock out' policy.	<p>This opinion was considered by the Standing Committee on Public Administration during the 2010 parliamentary inquiry. Its report stated:</p> <p><i>“Contrary to opinion expressed in the majority of submissions, Statewide Policy 13 does not lock people out of public drinking water source areas, rather it restricts incompatible activities and provides for passive, land-based recreation as well as a small number of events subject to rigorous assessment and conditional approval. Previous application of Statewide Policy 13 has raised an expectation that approvals based on past custom and practice will be granted. In order to protect public drinking water source areas, any future conditional approval applications should be limited.”</i></p> <p>No change proposed.</p>
24	Some stakeholders have claimed there are no alternative locations for recreation.	<p>The Parliamentary Committee found that this was not the case. Additionally, now 15 PDWSAs have been abolished or have had their by-laws removed to make more areas available for recreation. A map of these is included in Appendix A (Figure A3) of the draft updated policy.</p> <p>No change proposed.</p>
25	Some stakeholders have said the policy does not use risk assessment for recreation proposals.	<p>The Parliamentary Committee found that the current risk assessment approach based on <u>preventing</u> risks was the right way to implement Policy 13 and to protect water quality and public health. This approach is consistent with the World Health Organization and the <i>Australian drinking water guidelines</i>.</p> <p>The committee's Report 11 recommended that all future reviews of policy 13 should be based on the imperative of source protection and guided by the precautionary principle.</p> <p>No change proposed.</p>

2 Assessment of events and facilities 2012-2017

2.1 Existing approved 2012 recreation

Since Operational policy 13 was published in 2012, existing approved events and facilities have continued to be supported.

The Water Corporation have advised that the number of existing approved events that have continued to occur in PDWSAs since 2012 has not exceeded 20 events per year.

2.2 New recreation

Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun Track events

The IACWG's recreation event assessment procedure (2012) provided for new events on the Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun Track that were 'within capacity' (i.e. no additional facilities within PDWSAs on Crown land required). Since 2012, we have supported five new events on the Munda Biddi Trail or Bibbulmun Track within capacity, noting that some of these are held annually.

Minister noted events and facilities

A number of recreation proposals, in addition to September 2012 existing approved recreation were supported in the last five years. These proposals were assessed on a case-by-case basis, and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation submitted them to the Minister for Water for noting (see Table 2 of this discussion paper).

Table 2: Recreation proposals supported 2012–2017

Recreation proposal	Reasons why it was supported
Munda Biddi Epic 1000, 2013	The purpose of the event was to celebrate the completion of the Munda Biddi Trail (approved before Policy 13 was released in 2012) therefore it could not be held elsewhere.
Mount Gunjin Trail and Luvín Shovels Trail opening events, 2013	The trails were approved before Policy 13 was released in 2012, and the events celebrated the opening of these trails therefore they could not be held elsewhere.
Mountain bike events within the Kalamunda Mountain bike area (two to four events per annum from 2013 to 2017).	Event numbers were within what was considered to be normal daily usage of the area. During events the tracks were restricted to participants therefore there was no increase in usage of the area due the event. No additional facilities were required on Crown land.

Recreation proposal	Reasons why it was supported
Harewood Forest Horse Trail, 2015	Consultation with stakeholders proved that the horse trail had been approved by government prior to September 2012, but that it had not yet been gazetted due to complications in the process.
Great Adventure Challenge, 2016	This event was mostly consistent with the IACWG's recreation event assessment procedure as it was within existing capacity on the Munda Bididi Trail and Bibbulmun Track, with no additional facilities required. It was sent for Ministerial noting because a 2 km section of fire track was used to access the Munda Bididi Trail from a parking area.
Millstream Water Reserve, recreation facilities at Miliyanha and Stargazers, 2016	The proposal mostly involved the replacement of outdated facilities and did not increase their capacity. Construction of new camping facilities at Miliyanha and Stargazers were supported because of an offset that maintained September 2012 levels at Millstream – camping sites at Crossing Pool were closed in 2013.
Forsyth Mill XCO Mountain bike event, 2016	This event was considered a 'historical event' because it had not occurred since 2010. However, it was supported due to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • previous use of the site for annual events up to ~2011 • infrastructure expenditure at the site specifically for the events • prescribed burning activity that was planned for other alternative sites • the need to use other locations (such as Forsyth Mill) while the prescribed burning work was undertaken. The IACWG noted that agreed definitions for 'historic' and 'rotational' events needed to be developed to improve proposal assessment processes (see Table 1 of this discussion paper).

Recreation proposal	Reasons why it was supported
Rottnest run and swim, 2017	<p>This event was supported due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the track was restricted to participants only and therefore it was not an increase above normal daily usage• all additional facilities were located outside the PDWSA• limited alternative sites were available (regular beach bays connected by land trails were required to enable participants to have short swim/run intervals).

Shortened forms

ADWG	<i>Australian drinking water guidelines</i>
PDWSA	public drinking water source area
RPZ	reservoir protection zone
WHPZ	wellhead protection zone

Glossary

Abolished	To abolish/ repeal a PDWSA means to remove the government's legal constitution of the PDWSA, under the <i>Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909 (WA)</i> or the <i>Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 (WA)</i> . See deproclaim.
Aquifer	A geological formation or group or formations able to receive, store and transmit significant quantities of water.
Australian drinking water guidelines	The <i>National water quality management strategy: Australian drinking water guidelines 6, 2011 - Version 3.4 Updated October 2017</i> (ADWG; NHMRC & NRMCC 2011) outlines acceptable criteria for the quality of drinking water in Australia (see <i>References</i>).
Barrier	An obstacle or obstruction that is a preventative measure. In terms of drinking water, barriers can include catchment management and source water protection; detention in protected reservoirs or storages; extraction management; coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation and filtration; disinfection; protection and maintenance of the distribution system.
Bore field	A group of bores to monitor or withdraw groundwater.
Catchment	The area of land from which rainfall run-off contributes to a single watercourse, wetland or aquifer. This term is also sometimes used to describe the recharge area of a groundwater source.
Catchment area	An area constituted under the <i>Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947</i> or the <i>Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act 1909</i> for the purposes of protecting a drinking water supply.

Constitute	Define the boundaries of any catchment area or water reserve by Order in Council under the <i>Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947</i> or by Proclamation under <i>the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909</i> .
Contamination	A substance present at concentrations exceeding background levels that presents – or has the potential to present – a risk of harm to human health, the environment, water resources or any environmental value.
Crown land	Refers to all land except alienated land (includes reserved and leased Crown land, land owned or vested in government agencies, tidal waters, reclaimed land, river beds and lakes).
Deproclaim	The legal term for deproclaim is to abolish or repeal. To abolish/repeal a PDWSA means to remove the government’s legal proclamation of the PDWSA, under the <i>Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909 (WA)</i> or the <i>Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 (WA)</i> .
Designated sites	Designated sites are areas that have been approved by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, or the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, for a specific purpose in an approved management plan or shown to be existing approved designated site through other government documentation and evidence. Those management plans must be consistent with Policy 13. They are managed in accordance with water quality protection principles, such as regular maintenance, toilet provisions and routine surveillance.
Drinking water	Water suitable to be consumed by humans. Primarily intended for human consumption, but can have other uses.
Existing recreation	‘Existing’ recreation is defined as events and facilities that were approved, built and/or regularly occurring as at September 2012. To continue to be considered as ‘existing’, facilities and events can be maintained and upgraded but their capacity cannot increased.
Fractured rock aquifer	An aquifer where groundwater is present in the fractures, joints, solution cavities, bedding planes and zones of rocks. Fractured rock aquifers are highly susceptible to contamination from land uses when aquifers crop-out or sub-crop close to the land surface.

Gazette	Publication within the government Gazette of Western Australia of the Order in Council or Proclamation defining the boundaries of any catchment area or water reserve.
Historical event	Events that have not been held consistently within PDWSAs (i.e. less than three times) at set intervals will be considered 'historic' events (i.e. not as 'existing').
Karst Topography	Geologic region typified by the effects of solution of rocks by water. Rock types most likely to be affected are limestone, dolomite, gypsum and salt beds. Features produced are caverns, collapse features on the surface (sink holes), underground rivers and zones of lost circulation for well drillers.
New event or facility	An event or facility that was not existing and approved as of September 2012. 'Existing' facilities and events that have increased capacity or participants may be assessed as new.
Off road driving	Driving in a vehicle other than on public roads (e.g. driving on a fire access track would be considered off road driving).
Periodic events	Periodic events are held on at regular intervals. To be considered 'existing', evidence needs to be provided that the events were approved to occur on a regular basis within PDWSA (more than three times), at any consistent interval prior to September 2012 (i.e. every five years, bi-annually).
Public drinking water source area	The area from which water is captured to supply drinking water. It includes all underground water pollution control areas, catchment areas and water reserves constituted under the <i>Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act 1909</i> or the <i>Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947</i> .
Public road	'Public roads' are cleared and graded roads, with an unsealed, gravel or bitumen/cement surface, that are subject to regular maintenance. 'Public roads' do not include tracks or trails for the purposes of fire control, mining, forestry or infrastructure access/maintenance because public access may not be allowed on these roads. Please note that signs or barriers (e.g. gates) can limit or prohibit access on any roads (including 'public roads' or 'sealed bitumen roads'). Where these signs or barriers exist, that road is no longer considered to be available for public use.

Recharge area	An area through which water from a groundwater catchment percolates to replenish (recharge) an aquifer. An unconfined aquifer is recharged by rainfall throughout its distribution. Confined aquifers are recharged in specific areas where water leaks from overlying aquifers, or where the aquifer rises to meet the surface.
Recreation	A wide range of leisure, pastime or entertainment pursuits, including bushwalking, orienteering, swimming, boating, fishing, camping, horse-riding and four-wheel driving. It also includes group outings and commercial activities, such as camel trails, llama walks and car rallies.
Recreational facility	A built installation, building or form that provides a particular service to enable a recreational activity i.e. camp sites, car parks, check points, food and drink services, toilets, tracks or trails including built or temporary modifications.
Recreation area	Recreation facilities may be considered as an 'area' (e.g. rather than an individual track or trail) if that is how they are currently managed or should best be managed. This will be subject to an IACWG case-by-case assessment. These 'areas' must be defined in a government management plan (e.g. a gazetted off-road driving area). However, there is flexibility to be able to accept 'areas' that can demonstrate existing approvals through other government documentation and evidence.
Reservoir	A dam, tank, pond or lake that captures water from a surface catchment to create a water supply source.
Reservoir protection zone	<p>A buffer measured from the high water mark of a drinking water reservoir, and inclusive of the reservoir (usually 2 km). This is referred to as a prohibited zone under the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act By-laws 1981.</p> <p>The RPZ does not extend outside the boundary of the proclaimed PDWSA (i.e. downstream of a PDWSA dam wall). The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation noted in its advice to the Standing Committee on Public Administration that, 'at times (such as in small catchments or where key physical boundaries can be substituted) the two kilometre boundary is not a practical size and to address this matter the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation will ask for the boundary in any new legislation to be set at two kilometres or other distance approved by the Minister for Water during the publicly consulted drinking water source protection plan process.'</p>

Rotational event	Rotational events require variation in location (i.e. orienteering or rogaining where familiar settings are detrimental to the activity). These are supported to continue to rotate location within PDWSAs provided they do not increase in number of events or capacity from September 2012 levels.
Sealed bitumen road	<p>A 'sealed bitumen road' is a sealed bitumen road and includes the area either side of the bitumen, gazetted as road reserve.</p> <p>A sealed road must also be defined by proclamation and included as a sealed road on the Main Roads WA Road information Mapping System. These roads are available for public viewing on the Main Roads WA Road information Mapping System under Road Hierarchy available online at www.mainroads.wa.gov.au.</p>
Sole supply	The only source of drinking water for a given town or community. These sources are important to protect as there are no other current options to supply drinking water for that location.
Treatment	Application of techniques such as settlement, filtration and chlorination to render water suitable for specific purposes, including drinking and discharge to the environment.
Unconfined aquifer	An aquifer where the upper boundary is the watertable and therefore is in contact with the atmosphere through the pore spaces in the unsaturated zone. Typically (but not always) it is the shallowest aquifer at a given location.
Vehicle	Any receptacle, or means of transport, in which something is carried or conveyed, or travels, propelled by any means, other than animal or human power.
Water reserve	An area constituted under the <i>Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947</i> or the <i>Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act 1909</i> for the purposes of protecting a drinking water supply.
Water quality	Collective term for the physical, aesthetic, chemical and biological properties of water.
Wellhead protection zone	Usually declared around wellheads in public drinking water source areas to protect the groundwater from immediate contamination risks.

References

- Department of Water & Department of Health 2008, *Risks from pathogenic micro-organisms in public drinking water source areas*, Government of Western Australia, Perth, available www.dwer.wa.gov.au.
- Government of Western Australia 1909, *Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act*, State Law Publisher, Perth, available www.slp.wa.gov.au.
- 1947, *Country Areas Water Supply Act*, State Law Publisher, Perth, available www.slp.wa.gov.au
- Standing Committee on Public Administration 2010, *Report 11: Recreation activities within public drinking water source areas*, Legislative Council, Perth, available www.parliament.wa.gov.au.
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) & Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council (NRMMC) 2011, *National water quality management strategy: Australian drinking water guidelines 6, Version 3.4 Updated October 2017*, Australian Government, Canberra, available www.nhmrc.gov.au.
- World Health Organization 2011, *Guidelines for drinking-water quality*, 4th edn, World Health Organization, Geneva, available www.who.int/.

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Level 4, 168 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA
Phone: 08 6364 7600
Fax: 08 6364 7601
National Relay Service 13 36 77
dwer.wa.gov.au