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# State Planning Policy 2.9 Water

December 2025

Prepared under Part 3 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005* by the  
Western Australian Planning Commission

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Published by the  
Western Australian Planning Commission  
Gordon Stephenson House  
140 William Street  
Perth WA 6000

Locked Bag 2506  
Perth WA 6001

Publication date: 16 December 2025  
Operational date: 18 December 2025

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## 1 CITATION

This is a State Planning Policy prepared under Part 3 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. It may be cited as State Planning Policy 2.9 Water.

This policy, in accordance with Part 3 of the Planning and Development (State Planning Policies) Regulations 2024, repeals the following State Planning Policies:

1. *State Planning Policy 2.1 Peel-Harvey Coastal Plain Catchment*
2. *State Planning Policy 2.2 Gnangara Groundwater Protection*
3. *State Planning Policy 2.3 Jandakot Groundwater Protection*
4. *State Planning Policy 2.7 Public Drinking Water Source Policy*
5. *State Planning Policy 2.9 Water Resources*
6. *State Planning Policy 2.10 Swan-Canning River System*
7. *Draft State Planning Policy 2.9 Planning for Water*

This policy replaces the following policies and guidelines:

1. *Better Urban Water Management*
2. *Government Sewerage Policy*
3. *Government Sewerage Policy Explanatory Guidelines*.

Where there are inconsistencies between this policy and the flood measures in Section 5.2 of the State Planning Policy 3.4 Natural Hazards and Disasters, this policy prevails.

## 2 POLICY INTENT

To ensure that planning and development considers all water matters and delivers the outcomes in section 6 of the policy.

## 3 WATER IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Water is a basic requirement of life. The health and wellbeing of the community, environment and economy are dependent on water that is of sufficient quantity and quality. Groundwater, surface water, desalinated and recycled water support a wide range of ecological values and human use values such as drinking water, irrigation of public open spaces, amenity, recreation, tourism, agriculture, fishing, aquaculture, mining, industry, and cultural heritage.

Western Australia's water resources are vulnerable and subject to increasing pressure from factors that can affect the quality and quantity of water, as well as the values that depend on it. Climate change in Western Australia has already resulted in changes to rainfall patterns, increased temperatures and sea level rise, which in turn have impacted the reliability and quality of our water resources. For example, decreased rainfall in the South West Land Division is resulting in lower recharge to groundwater and surface water flows into waterways and reservoirs.

Land use change and development required to support a growing population can impact water resources through changes to hydrological regimes, ecological health, contamination, water demand, salinisation and eutrophication.

Planning plays an important role in responding to the pressures on water resources. This includes ensuring future development is located adequately, serviced with appropriate wastewater, stormwater and groundwater management infrastructure and contributes towards the management of water quality and quantity, ecological health and the social and cultural values of water resources.

Future development will need to be supported by drinking and non-drinking water supplies from a range of sources, including surface water, groundwater, desalinated seawater, treated wastewater, stormwater and rainwater, and should be suited to the required purpose (that is 'fit-for-purpose').

For the foreseeable future, surface water and groundwater will continue to be the most cost-effective source of high-quality public drinking water. The protection of public drinking water source areas is essential to safeguard public health and retain these strategically important supply resources. The State Government has adopted an integrated land use and water resource management approach to protect public drinking water supplies, with an emphasis on the prevention of risks to water quality.

Development and water resource management are interrelated and need to be assessed and delivered in an integrated manner. Integrated water resource management is essential for the sustainable growth of our state. It provides an opportunity to respond to the pressures on water resources and enhance the values that depend on them. This includes improving the amenity, liveability and economic viability of our cities, towns and rural areas.



Integrated water resource management requires a whole-of-government approach. It involves a range of water, environmental, planning, health and economic legislation, policies and processes.

## 4 APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY

This policy and its guidelines outline how water resource management should be integrated into planning processes. For detailed guidance on the implementation and application of this policy, the policy is to be considered in conjunction with the policy mapping and the Water Guidelines (Guidelines).

This policy and its Guidelines apply to the preparation and assessment of proposals in relation to water matters, including regional and sub-regional frameworks, region and local planning schemes and scheme amendments, local planning policies, planning strategies, precinct plans, activity centre plans, structure plans, subdivision applications and development applications across Western Australia.

This policy applies only to proposals prepared and assessed under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. This policy is not intended to apply to a proposal for a single house on a single lot unless a significant water resource matter has been identified for the lot within a local planning scheme (e.g. sections 7.3, 7.5 and 7.7 of this policy).

The policy mapping includes:

- Public drinking water source areas
- Peel Harvey coastal plain catchment

- Swan Canning river system
- Sensitive water resource areas

The policy mapping is available online and can be viewed at [www.dplh.wa.gov.au](http://www.dplh.wa.gov.au).

## 5 POLICY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are to:

- 5.1 Protect and improve the environmental and the social, cultural and economic values of the state's water resources.
- 5.2 Protect public health and the long-term supply of good quality and affordable drinking water.
- 5.3 Manage the risk of flooding to people, property and infrastructure.
- 5.4 Ensure the secure and sustainable supply, use, disposal and re-use of water resources.
- 5.5 Ensure future development is resilient to the water-related impacts of climate change.
- 5.6 Minimise future costs and protect public health by ensuring that appropriate wastewater infrastructure is provided.

## 6 POLICY OUTCOMES

The outcomes listed below specify the role of planning and development in contributing to the overall objectives of this policy. Due to the interrelated nature of water resources, each outcome may contribute to multiple objectives. The outcomes should be achieved through compliance with the policy measures. The outcomes may also provide a basis for policy evaluation.

### *Environmental, social and cultural values*

- 6.1 Planning and development maintains or enhances water quality and hydrological regimes to protect public health and support healthy ecosystems through the:
  - i. protection of sensitive water resources and other important environments;
  - ii. protection of existing vegetation and/or restoration of cleared or degraded vegetation, preferably with endemic species;
  - iii. appropriate siting and management of land uses; and
  - iv. maintenance of natural flows in waterways, groundwater levels and inundation of wetlands to sustain aquatic and terrestrial habitats through the delivery of appropriate stormwater and groundwater management systems.
- 6.2 Waterways and wetlands have adequate foreshore areas and wetland buffers to protect, manage and conserve water quality, native vegetation, aquatic and riparian habitats, ecological linkages and associated biodiversity values.



- 6.3 Aboriginal heritage values in relation to water resources are identified and protected consistent with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.
- 6.4 Historic heritage values in relation to water resources are protected consistent with the *Heritage Act 2018*.
- 6.5 Planning and development maintains and enhances public access to water resources where appropriate.
- 6.6 Planning and development enhances amenity and sense of place associated with water resources, which in turn protect public health and increase resilience of the community.

#### ***Riverine flooding***

- 6.7 Planning and development in and around flood-prone land:
  - i. does not introduce unacceptable risk to people, property or infrastructure;
  - ii. does not impede the movement of or increase floodwater (upstream or downstream) in flood events; and
  - iii. reduces, where possible, the impact of flooding on people, property and infrastructure.

#### ***Water use and infrastructure***

- 6.8 Water demand is minimised through water sensitive design, and the efficient use and reuse of water.
- 6.9 Development has access and contributes to secure, fit-for-purpose, sustainable and climate-resilient water supplies. Where practical, this involves recycled water and/or other fit-for-purpose water sources.

- 6.10 Development connects to or provides for reticulated sewerage to protect public health, amenity and the environment, and to minimise financial burden to future communities.
- 6.11 Onsite wastewater disposal is provided only in limited circumstances, where reticulated sewerage is not a viable option and where the associated risks are appropriately managed without compromising public health and the environment.
- 6.12 The construction of dams, crossings and rural drains does not adversely affect the environment, visual amenity, public health or other users (upstream or downstream) of the water resource.
- 6.13 Safe, resilient and effective stormwater and groundwater management systems adopt water sensitive design approaches to protect and enhance amenity, public health and environmental values.

#### ***Public drinking water source protection***

- 6.14 Planning and development in public drinking water source areas maximises the long-term protection and management of water quality and quantity for public drinking water supply.

## **7 POLICY MEASURES**

### **7.1 General measures**

- a) All relevant water-related matters should be considered at the earliest possible stage of the planning process and all subsequent stages in accordance with the Guidelines.
- b) Proposals are to be accompanied by sufficient information in accordance with the Guidelines, which specify instances where a Water Management Report is required and what it must contain.
- c) Proposals and supporting information should be referred to relevant agencies and licensed water service providers in accordance with the Guidelines.
- d) Proposals should consider water resource-related issues associated with climate change.
- e) Planning decisions (except development applications) should consider cumulative impacts on water resources. Where the cumulative impact is considered significantly detrimental, the proposal should not be supported.

### **7.2 Environmental, social and cultural values**

#### ***Wetlands and waterways***

Proposals should, in accordance with the Guidelines:

- a) identify wetlands and their buffers and waterways and their foreshore areas and/or reserves;
- b) facilitate the transfer of wetlands and their buffers and waterways and their foreshore areas to public ownership, where appropriate;

- c) retain and/or restore vegetation important for the long-term health of water resources within wetlands and their buffers, waterways and their foreshore areas, preferably using endemic species to restore vegetation;
- d) where possible, maintain and restore ecological linkages;
- e) identify appropriate measures to protect public health from mosquito-borne diseases;
- f) identify and protect sensitive water resources;
- g) where possible, protect and enhance vegetation within sensitive water resource areas, in particular endemic species; and
- h) ensure land uses with the potential to significantly alter the hydrological regime are managed to protect water resources and associated ecological values and other important environments.

### Water quality

Proposals should, in accordance with the Guidelines:

- i) minimise export of nutrient and all other contaminants, including sediment, entering water resources;
- j) avoid adverse effects on the natural and built environment and/or human health when undertaking subdivision and development of land containing acid sulfate soils or contaminated sites;
- k) be located on land where nutrient export to sensitive water resources can be effectively managed, when they involve:

- *agriculture - intensive* (particularly annual horticulture)
- *animal husbandry* – intensive
- *animal establishments or rural pursuits* involving stocking rates that exceed recommended stocking rates

Flexibility to this measure may be applied, in accordance with the Guidelines, where the proposal is located within priority agricultural land. In areas where nutrient export cannot be effectively managed, closed agricultural systems are encouraged; and

- l) demonstrate that infrastructure and site management practices are in place to manage nutrient and all other contaminants, including sediment, particularly within sensitive water resource areas and public drinking water source areas, and adjacent to other important environments.

Local planning schemes and local planning policies should, in accordance with the Guidelines:

- m) include site-specific measures to prevent and/or manage the potential impacts on water quality and protect water resources.

### Social

Proposals should, in accordance with the Guidelines:

- n) maintain or enhance safe public access to water resources, except where at the detriment of ecosystem health and/or public drinking water source protection; and
- o) maximise opportunities for water in the landscape to enhance amenity, sense of place, liveability and contribute to urban greening and mitigation of urban heat.



### Cultural

Proposals should, in accordance with the Guidelines:

- p) identify Aboriginal heritage and use best endeavours to protect, avoid or minimise harm consistent with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*; and
- q) identify, conserve and protect historic heritage places and values.

### 7.3 Riverine flooding

The following measures apply to flood-prone areas dominated by riverine processes. Pluvial flooding, which occurs when an extreme rainfall event creates a flood independent of an overflowing water body, is addressed in the Stormwater and groundwater sub-section of section 7.4 Infrastructure and supply. Coastal storm surge and other inundation associated with water bodies dominated by tidal processes is to be addressed in accordance with *State Planning Policy 2.6 State Coastal Planning*. Where there are inconsistencies between this policy and the flood measures in Section 5.2 of *State Planning Policy 3.4 Natural Hazards and Disasters*, this policy prevails.

Proposals should, in accordance with the Guidelines:

- a) identify flood-prone areas;
- b) not rezone, subdivide or propose additional development that intensifies land use within a defined floodway;
- c) maintain the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters;



- d) incorporate a minimum habitable finished floor level of 0.5 metre above the expected one per cent annual exceedance probability flood event (or alternative height above the defined flood event as defined in an endorsed floodplain development strategy);
- e) consider the flood risk management principles when replacing existing development within a floodway; and
- f) be informed by advice from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, if flooding is likely and no flood mapping exists.

## 7.4 Infrastructure and supply

Flooding dominated by riverine processes is addressed in section 7.3 Riverine flooding.

### Water demand and supply

Proposals should, in accordance with the Guidelines:

- a) minimise future water demand by ensuring that development is designed to conserve and use water efficiently; and
- b) demonstrate secure, sustainable and fit-for-purpose drinking and non-drinking water supply for domestic consumption, public open space irrigation and industry. This should include consideration of future rainfall projections that incorporate climate change and, where a licence is required, within water allocation limits.

### Dams, crossings and rural drains

Proposals should, in accordance with the Guidelines:

- c) demonstrate that the dam, crossing or rural drain does not result in unacceptable on-site or off-site impacts.

Local planning schemes and/or local planning policies should, in accordance with the Guidelines:

- d) specify instances where the construction of dams, crossings and rural drains is exempt from development approval; and
- e) outline development requirements for dams, crossings and rural drains in response to local conditions.

### Stormwater and groundwater

Proposals should, in accordance with the Guidelines:

- f) ensure stormwater and groundwater (including pluvial floodwaters) management systems are designed and constructed in accordance with the *Decision process for stormwater management in Western Australia*, *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Australia*, the *Australian Rainfall and Runoff Guidelines*, and the *Water Resource Considerations when Controlling Groundwater Levels in Urban Development*, and
- g) in consultation with the relevant water management agency and/or infrastructure manager(s), provide for the retention, detention, conveyance and treatment (where required) of stormwater and manage groundwater inundation, including treatment of

groundwater discharges, while also protecting and enhancing environmental functionality, local amenity and liveability; and

- h) In the early stages of the planning process, ensure that:
  - i. sufficient land is set aside for stormwater and groundwater management; and
  - ii. water sensitive design is part of the integrated water management system.

### Wastewater

- i) Proposals are required to connect to or provide for reticulated sewerage where:
  - i. deemed reasonable;
  - ii. required on planning grounds; or
  - iii. the decision maker determines that the absence of reticulated sewerage will pose an unacceptable risk to public health, the environment or water resources.

Refer to the Guidelines for details on the assessment of these criteria;

- j) Proposals for on-site wastewater disposal<sup>1</sup> may be considered where the decision-maker is satisfied that:
  - i. reticulated sewerage is not required in accordance with measure 7.4 i) of this policy;
  - ii. each lot can accommodate on-site wastewater disposal in accordance with *AS/NZS 1547 On-site domestic wastewater management* where relevant;

<sup>1</sup> On-site disposal of trade waste to be managed in accordance with an industry regulation approval under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, where relevant.





- iii. the site requirements for on-site wastewater disposal outlined in the Guidelines can be met; and
- iv. development will be serviced by an appropriate on-site wastewater system, which will manage risk to the environment and public health where relevant.
- k) Proposals are, in accordance with the guidelines, encouraged to incorporate the beneficial use and reuse of wastewater; and
- l) local planning schemes should, in accordance with the Guidelines, require the provision of reticulated sewerage where appropriate.

## 7.5 Specific area measures: Public drinking water source areas

In addition to all other measures contained in this policy, the following policy measures apply to public drinking water source areas constituted under the *Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act 1909* or the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (identified on the policy map of *Public Drinking Water Source Areas*). They may also be used for guidance within non-constituted drinking water source areas such as remote communities, mine sites and catchments identified as future public drinking water source areas.

The protection of public drinking water source areas and other sources of public drinking water should not be compromised. There is a presumption against development or land uses that pose an increased risk to public drinking water source areas.

Proposals should, in accordance with the Guidelines:

- a) be consistent with *Water Quality Protection Note No.25: Land use compatibility tables for public drinking water source areas*. Proposals inconsistent with this document should not be supported;
- b) identify public drinking water source area boundaries, priority areas, wellhead protection zones, reservoir protection zones and water off-take points (that is, reservoirs and abstraction bores);
- c) include measures to address risk to the drinking water resource. These measures should be incorporated into a Water Management Report where required;
- d) provide for connection to reticulated sewerage for all urban and industrial subdivisions;
- e) where practical, maintain or increase native vegetation coverage to protect water quality; and
- f) be referred to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the relevant licensed water service provider for advice, prior to making a determination on:
  - i. regional and sub-regional frameworks, region and local planning schemes and scheme amendments, planning strategies, precinct plans, activity centre plans and structure plans;
  - ii. subdivision applications inconsistent with *Water Quality Protection Note No.25: Land use compatibility tables for public drinking water source areas*; and
  - iii. development applications involving a use class listed as 'incompatible', 'compatible with conditions', or not identified in *Water Quality Protection Note No.25: Land use compatibility tables for public drinking water source areas*.

The Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) and corresponding local planning schemes should, in accordance with the Guidelines:

- g) include Priority 1 areas within the Water Catchment reservation;
- h) include Priority 2 areas within the 'Rural-Water Protection' zone (or equivalent);
- i) identify Priority 3\* areas as Special Control Area (or equivalent) in the local planning scheme; and
- j) include provisions in the local planning scheme for Priority 3 areas.

Region schemes and local planning schemes outside the MRS area should, in accordance with the Guidelines:

- k) assign zones and reserves which reflect the intent of the public drinking water source area priority and facilitate compatible land uses; and
- l) identify and protect public drinking water source areas (Priority 1, 2 and 3) as Special Control Areas.

Planning decisions involving the intensification of land uses in Priority 1 and 2 areas should be based on the following and in accordance with the Guidelines:

- m) there is a general presumption against the intensification of land uses;
- n) proposals will be considered only where the land is located in the MRS area and has been identified for development in the manner proposed through a strategic planning document prepared by the WAPC, such as a sub-regional planning framework or sub-regional structure plan; and





- o) planning decisions should give due regard to the detailed assessment of the associated risk to the drinking water source. Criteria to inform this assessment are provided in the Guidelines.

Justification is to be provided in the instance a Special Control Area is not proposed. Justification should address elements such as the size of the public drinking water source area, the site context and whether other sources of water are available.

## 7.6 Specific area measures: Peel-Harvey coastal plain catchment

In addition to all other measures contained in this policy, specifically 7.2 water quality, the following measures apply to planning proposals in the Peel-Harvey coastal plain catchment (identified on the policy map of *Peel-Harvey Coastal Plain Catchment*).

Proposals should, in accordance with the Guidelines:

- a) have regard to the water quality objectives contained in *Environmental Protection (Peel Inlet – Harvey Estuary) Policy 1992* for the Peel Harvey estuarine system;
- b) protect remnant vegetation and maintain or increase deep-rooted perennial vegetation coverage to improve water quality;
- c) protect and revegetate waterways and drains with endemic plant species to improve the values to the Peel-Harvey estuarine system and/or manage discharge into or from rural drains to reduce nutrient export; and
- d) manage nutrient export when they involve:
  - agriculture – intensive
  - animal husbandry – intensive

- animal establishments or rural pursuits that exceed recommended stocking rates

In this regard:

- the use of closed agricultural systems is encouraged;
- there is a presumption against non-closed agricultural systems on sites with low or very low capability land for the intended land use or sites prone to nutrient export; and
- in all other instances, applicants should demonstrate that nutrient export will be managed within acceptable levels.

Region and local planning schemes and local planning policies, should in accordance with the Guidelines:

- e) identify the Peel-Harvey coastal plain catchment in scheme maps; and
- f) include specific provisions in scheme text to protect water resources.

## 7.7 Specific area measures: Swan Canning river system

In addition to all other measures contained in this policy, the following measures apply to planning proposals within the Swan Canning river system, which are wholly or partially within, abut the water or land of the Swan Canning Development Control Area (DCA) or are, in the opinion of the WAPC, likely to affect the waters of the DCA.

The Swan Canning river system refers to the catchment areas of the Swan, Canning, Helena, Southern and Avon (to Moondyne Brook) rivers. The DCA was established in the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* (both

areas are identified on the policy map of *Swan Canning River System*).

Proposals should, in accordance with the Guidelines:

- a) maintain and enhance the ecological and hydrological functions of the river system, and demonstrate detrimental impacts have been prevented;
- b) demonstrate a benefit to the community and a functional need to be located within the river and/or foreshore reserves, where the proposal is located on public land;
- c) maintain and enhance public access to and along the rivers and its foreshores, including through the establishment of foreshore reserves;
- d) consider the importance of the river as a strategic water transport network for commercial and recreational use;
- e) maintain and enhance the natural landscape character and sense of place of the river system;
- f) maintain and enhance views of the Swan Canning river system from public places;
- g) Identify Whadjuk Noongar Aboriginal heritage and use best endeavours to protect, avoid or minimise harm consistent with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*;
- h) protect, maintain or increase vegetation coverage (preferably with endemic species); and
- i) maintain or establish ecological and public open space linkages to the Swan Canning river system for wildlife habitat and movement and natural water flows.



## 8 DEFINITIONS

**Agriculture – intensive:** has the same meaning as the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*.

**Animal husbandry – intensive:** has the same meaning as the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*.

**Closed agricultural system:** a system of intensive agricultural production or animal husbandry where there is zero or minimal discharge of nutrient-rich liquid or solids or non-nutrient contaminants to the immediate environment. Nutrient-enriched liquid and solids waste and non-nutrient contaminants are removed from the property and disposed in an environmentally safe manner.

**Crossing:** a structure or works such as a ford or low-level crossing, culvert, causeway or bridge to allow a waterway to be crossed from one waterway bank to another by a track, road, pipeline or railway.

**Dam:** any artificial structure, barrier or levee, whether temporary or permanent, which does or could impound, divert or control water, silt, debris or liquid-borne materials, together with its appurtenant (associated) works.

**Ecological linkages:** a series of (contiguous and non-contiguous) patches which, by virtue of their proximity to each other, act as stepping stones of habitat that facilitate the maintenance of ecological process and the movement of organisms within, and across, a landscape.

**Flood prone area:** Land susceptible to inundation by the probable maximum flood event. Generally used interchangeably with floodplain.

**Floodplain:** the area inundated in a flood event on a waterway, which may include the floodway and flood fringe areas. For land planning purposes, the one per cent (1 in 100) Annual Exceedance Probability flood event is typically adopted.

**Floodway:** the area of land that would be affected by river flooding in a one percent (one in 100) Annual Exceedance Probability flood event for a waterway. This area is generally a high flood risk area where floodwaters are flowing fast and deep.

**Flood fringe:** the area of land that would be affected by river flooding in a one percent (one in 100) Annual Exceedance Probability flood event but not designated as floodway.

**Foreshore area:** the land that adjoins or directly influences a waterway. It is the area of transition between the edge of the waterway channel and the farthest extent of riparian vegetation, the floodplain and riverine landforms; or a negotiated area endorsed by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (and on the advice of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions where it relates to the Swan Canning Development Control Area).

**Foreshore reserve:** all or part of a foreshore area publicly owned and vested with a local government or State Government department. It may be reserved under a planning scheme, for purposes such as foreshore protection or foreshore protection and public recreation.

**Guidelines:** refers to *Water Guidelines*.

**Groundwater:** the area of an aquifer in which all pores and fractures are saturated with water. Also known as water in the phreatic zone.

**On-site wastewater disposal:** disposal of wastewater within the boundaries of the freehold lot or survey strata within which the wastewater was generated.

**On-site wastewater system:** a wastewater treatment and disposal or reuse system that receives, treats and applies wastewater to a land application area within the boundaries of the freehold lot or survey strata within which wastewater was generated.

**Priority agricultural land:** has the same meaning as *State Planning Policy 2.5 Rural Planning*.

**Priority areas:** Priority 1, 2, 3 and 3\* areas assigned by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to guide land use and management decisions in public drinking water source areas, in accordance with *Water Quality Protection Note No.25: Land use compatibility tables for public drinking water source areas*.

**Protection zones:** Wellhead protection zones and reservoir protection zones that surround drinking water off-take points assigned by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, in accordance with *Water Quality Protection Note No.25: Land use compatibility tables for public drinking water source areas*.

**Public drinking water source area:** underground water pollution control areas, catchment areas and water reserves constituted under the *Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act 1909* or the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947*.

**Public health:** has the same meaning as *Public Health Act 2016*.

**Reticulated sewerage:** a network of sewers and associated wastewater treatment plant managed by a sewerage service provider.



**Rural drain:** is an artificial or constructed system of structures used to move and manage groundwater or surface water in a rural landscape or catchment.

**Sensitive water resource areas:** areas where development has the potential to affect water-dependent ecosystems, natural waterways and estuaries, wetlands and selected coastal inlets and embayment, which have been recognised at either the State or National level as having high ecological, social, cultural and/or economic values and are sensitive to contamination associated with land use and development. They include:

- estuary catchments on the Swan and Scott Coastal Plains;
- land that drains to and is within 2km of Irwin Inlet, Wilson Inlet, Torbay Inlet, Manarup Lagoon, Lake Powell, Princess Royal Harbour and Oyster Harbour;
- land that drains to and is within 2km of the estuarine areas of the following: Dampier Creek (Broome), Hill River, Irwin River (Mid West), Margaret River (South West), Murchison River, Hardy Inlet, Chapman River, Walpole-Nornalup Inlet, Wellstead Estuary and Greenough River;
- land that drains to and is within 2km of the following coastal embayments: Cockburn Sound, Coral Bay, Cowaramup Bay, Flinders Bay, Geographe Bay, Jurien Bay, Koombana Bay, Mangles Bay, Peaceful Bay, Roebuck Bay, Shark Bay (south of the northern tip of Peron Peninsula) and Warnbro Sound;
- land that drains to and is within 1km of other estuarine areas, except for portions approved by Government for uses such as ports;

- within 1km up groundwater gradient and 250m down groundwater gradient of a significant wetland; or where the groundwater gradient is unknown or seasonably variable within one kilometre of the significant wetland;
- habitats of specially protected water-dependent fauna and the area within 1km of groundwater-dependent threatened ecological communities and groundwater dependent priority ecological communities; and
- wild rivers catchments.

Site-specific assessments undertaken during the planning process may identify additional significant water resources.

The sensitive water resource area boundaries are identified on the policy map of *Sensitive Water Resource Areas* and may be refined through higher resolution mapping in accordance with the definition provided above.

**Sewage:** any kind of sewage, faecal matter or urine, and any waste composed wholly or in part of liquid.

**Significant wetland:** include Ramsar Wetlands and those listed in the Australian Government's Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia; wetlands categorised as Conservation Category in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Swan Coastal Plain wetlands dataset, wetlands listed in the South Coast Significant Wetlands dataset, other endorsed wetland dataset and other wetlands identified for protection during the land planning process.

**Stormwater:** water that flows over ground surfaces and in natural streams and drains, as a direct result of rainfall over a catchment. Stormwater consists of rainfall runoff and any material (soluble and insoluble) mobilised in its path of flow.

**Trade waste<sup>2</sup>:** any wastewater, discharged from a business or industry, aside from that which comes from staff amenities or office facilities.

**Wastewater:** sewage, not including stormwater, surface water or ground water of a type ordinarily drained from land as part of the provision of a drainage service. This includes trade waste.

**Water management report:** is a document that addresses all water-related matters relevant to a planning proposal to demonstrate the appropriate protection, management and use of water resources commensurate with the level of risk to and from water resources from the planning activity.

**Water resources:** includes watercourses, waterways and their estuaries, inlets and floodplains, wetlands, groundwater, surface water, stormwater and drainage. A water resource includes all aspects of the water resource, including water, organisms and other components and ecosystems that contribute to the physical condition and ecological health of the water resource.

**Water service provider:** a person or entity providing water services under and in accordance with the *Water Service Act 2012*.

<sup>2</sup> On-site disposal of trade waste to be managed in accordance with an industry regulation approval under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, where relevant.



**Waterway:** any river, creek, stream or brook, including its foreshore area or reserve, floodplain, estuary and inlet. This includes systems that flow permanently, for part of the year or occasionally; and parts of the waterway that have been artificially modified.

**Wetland:** an area of seasonally, intermittently or permanently waterlogged or inundated land, whether natural or otherwise, and includes a lake, swamp, marsh, spring, dampland and sumplands.

**Wetland buffer:** an area of terrestrial land immediately surrounding a wetland that provides spatial separation between the wetland and adjacent land use(s).