



Why is Water Corporation talking to us about our future water supply?

Water Corporation undertakes long term planning for water supply schemes across Western Australia to cater for ongoing changes such as climate change, regulatory requirements and population growth.

In response to these changes and forecast increases in demand on our drinking water supplies, we are now investigating what water sources may be needed to maintain a reliable drinking water supply via the Lower Great Southern Towns Water Supply Scheme (LGSTWSS) into the future.

Where does Albany currently get its water?

The LGSTWSS supplies drinking water to Albany, Mount Barker, Kendenup and Narrikup and Denmark (as required) from local groundwater sources on the South Coast and surface water from Angove River near Two Peoples Bay, east of Albany.

Why do we need a new water source for the Lower Great Southern?

The existing water sources in the Albany area are being impacted by reduced groundwater allocation, reduced rainfall due to climate change, and increased demand due to a growing population.

What water source options are you investigating?

The options now being considered are:

- new groundwater sources in the vicinity of Albany
- local seawater desalination.

What areas are you investigating for new sources?

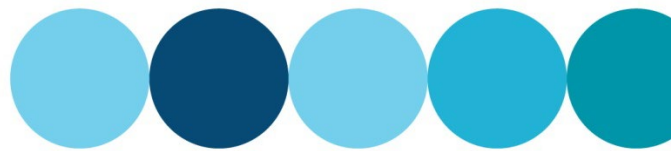
As part of an investigation into a groundwater source option, we are investigating the Manypeaks and Angove areas. These appear to be the most prospective areas from a hydrogeological point of view, and the most suitable due to their proximity to existing water infrastructure.

The Torndirrup area is being investigated for possible future seawater desalination infrastructure. The Big Grove, Little Grove and Goode Beach areas are also being investigated for future pipelines, as part of planning for a possible seawater desalination option. Based on initial planning, these areas appear to be the most suitable given their proximity to existing water infrastructure and the ocean. We always try to build new infrastructure such as pipelines in road reserves or Crown land where possible to minimise impact to private landowners and the environment.

How do you decide what areas are suitable for a new water source?

Before we determine the location of a preferred water source, we consider the following factors at a minimum:

- water quality
- drying climate patterns and rainfall / streamflow data



- environmental considerations including impact of drawing water on local ecosystems and construction impacts on existing flora and fauna habitats
- heritage and Native Title rights
- general community feedback
- impact on private landowners
- water treatment requirements
- amount of water we expect to draw from the source and;
- cost of supplying water to our customers including building the required infrastructure.

What work will be done to investigate the source options?

We are currently undertaking thorough modelling, research, engineering work and data analysis to determine the feasibility of water source options.

So far, we have completed environmental and Aboriginal heritage surveys, a ground based electromagnetic survey, and site assessments. We are also currently undertaking marine investigations for potential desalination locations.

How do you work with Department of Water and Environmental Regulation?

Water Corporation continues to work closely with Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) as we investigate options to secure long-term water supplies for the LGSTWSS, while managing the local groundwater system.

DWER is in the process of developing the Albany and hinterlands water allocation plan for public comment, which covers how groundwater and surface water will be managed and regulated in this area. This plan sets allocation limits about how much water can be licensed and how much water is left in the aquifer for the environment.

When will you decide what the future water source will be?

We are still in the early stages with a decision on preferred option/s expected in 2025 following a detailed analysis of data and results.

We will engage with DWER, other government agencies, stakeholders and the community before making decisions on future sources for the LGSTWSS.

How can I be involved?

We are committed to keeping the local community updated as we investigate the viability of sources and promote opportunities for community feedback.

You can sign up to stay up to date with this project at yoursay.watercorporation.com.au/qsrfuturesource

If you have questions at this time, please contact Water Corporation Community Engagement at Community.Engagement@watercorporation.com.au or 0437 853 241.