



Every drop counts.

Help us to ensure water for all, forever in Margaret River.

Update May 2010

The Water Corporation has exciting plans to secure Margaret River region's water and wastewater needs – and we invite you to join us in achieving water for all, forever.

Background

In February 2009, the Minister for Water Dr Graham Jacobs announced that more than \$100 million will be spent on water efficiency initiatives, and water and wastewater infrastructure in Margaret River and surrounding communities.

What is involved

Over the next five to eight years the Water Corporation will upgrade the regional water supply scheme and the Margaret River wastewater management system.

The work includes:

- The state's most comprehensive water efficiency program
- A new water source east of Margaret River
- A new water treatment plant
- A new storage tank
- New drinking water pump stations
- A pipeline to connect the new source to the existing water scheme
- Relocation of the existing tanks and pump stations in Wilmott Avenue near the centre of the Margaret River business district
- Upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant
- New infrastructure to facilitate reuse opportunities

Water efficiency

More than 1000 local residents have completed individual household water audits and a structured behavioural change program spanning nearly 12 months as part of the WaterSmart Margaret River program. A major retrofit program has seen water efficient showerheads, tap aerators and toilets fitted to nearly 600 local households at no cost to the owner.

We are now working with local, businesses, schools and the Shire to further reduce water use. Together, we are implementing a range of long term water efficiency measures, including a commercial retrofit program. Other water efficiency programs including Waterwise Councils, Waterwise Schools and Waterwise Developer Programs are also progressing well.

Preparing for the future

In addition to ongoing water efficiency programs, it is necessary to provide infrastructure improvements to prepare for future growth.

The Margaret River Water Supply Scheme provides drinking water to Margaret River, Cowaramup, Prevelly Beach and Gnarabup. Due to decreasing rainfall, high growth and the area's increasing popularity as a tourist destination, the scheme's primary water source, Ten Mile Brook Dam has not had enough water for peak demand periods in recent years.

Water from the Margaret River has been used to supplement supply temporarily, however land uses in the Margaret River catchment conflict with the Corporation's long term water quality expectations.

We undertake stringent water quality monitoring and have implemented treatment arrangements that ensure supplementation can provide a suitable short term solution. However a sustainable solution that meets long term water quality expectations is needed to cater for future growth.

Source investigations continue

To meet community demand we are proposing to access groundwater from a bore into the South West Yarragadee aquifer. The investigative drilling program that commenced last year is expected to continue for another six months. The results of these investigations will build on our knowledge about how groundwater interacts with local surface water systems. The data will help determine if water can be sustainably used and will be given to the regulator to support our application to access water that is set aside for public water use.

Meanwhile we are working with landowners to determine a suitable pipe route to deliver water to the community, and preliminary design work is under way for a future treatment plant.

Pipelines, tanks and treatment plant update

Preliminary planning has been undertaken to help determine a possible pipe route to link the proposed bore to the existing Margaret River Regional Water Supply Scheme. The Corporation's project team is liaising with local authorities, regulators and landowners as part of this work. Subject to approvals, construction of the pipeline will start at the end of 2011.

Design work is continuing for a 15 million litre storage tank and new water treatment plant. The existing elevated tanks at Willmot Avenue will be removed when the new tank and treatment plant are constructed in 2013.

Wastewater update

The Margaret River Wastewater Treatment Plant will need to be upgraded before 2014, to manage projected flows and cater for growth out to 2040. The upgrade will double the plant's treatment capacity.

Through the Shire's innovative recycling scheme, the town's treated wastewater flows be reused on school ovals, public open space and the golf course throughout summer. Any remaining summer flows will continue to be reused on woodlots at Long Road. We expect to apply treated wastewater to these woodlots during winter in future years, as this is a more sustainable solution than discharging it to local surface water systems, and sufficient winter storage is not feasible for future flows.

The Corporation is working with the Department of Environment and Conservation to ensure that this approach will not impact the environment. This environmental report will be available on our website once it is finalised.

Want more information?

If you have any queries or would like to make any comments or suggestions, please visit the Water Corporation website or contact Regional Communications Coordinator Mick Irving on Tel: 9791 0409 Mob: 0428 938 847 or email mick.irving@watercorporation.com.au