



# Every drop counts.

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

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

Our work will ensure the water future of all communities connected to the Margaret River Regional Water Supply Scheme – Margaret River, Cowaramup, Prevelly Beach and Gnarabup. As we upgrade the scheme over the next few years we will work closely with you to help all of us become more water efficient without impacting on our lifestyle. Our aim is to get your input to ensure the best water solutions for your community.

At the same time we will also upgrade the Margaret River wastewater treatment and reuse system to handle future growth.

## What is involved?

We plan to spend about \$100 million through the next five to eight years to upgrade the regional water supply scheme and the Margaret River wastewater management system. The work includes:

- 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
- An upgraded wastewater storage dam and new infrastructure to facilitate reuse opportunities

Also, we are asking all residents and businesses to help us reduce water use from now by getting involved in a very major water efficiency program.

## Why do we need a new water source?

The Margaret River Water Supply Scheme provides drinking water to Margaret River, Cowaramup, Prevelly Beach and Gnarabup.

Decreasing rainfall, high growth and the area's increasing popularity as a tourist destination has meant that 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 when required. However, land use in the river catchment is such that this source does not meet our long term water quality requirements.

To manage, we carry out stringent water quality monitoring and have recently built a new water treatment plant to ensure water quality from the river catchment remains of a high standard. Now, a long term solution is essential.

## What are some options?

Options considered included groundwater, surface water and desalination.

So far we have held discussions with the Augusta Margaret River Shire, landowners, regulators and other key stakeholders regarding various water supply options. We'll continue to consult with the community to help ensure we consider all important issues and address concerns.

## Is there a preferred option?

Yes. We believe the most sustainable long-term solution for the area's water supply is using groundwater from a bore into the South West Yarragadee aquifer, in conjunction with water from the existing Ten Mile Brook Dam.

Detailed investigations will be undertaken over the next 12 to 24 months to help us ensure this option is feasible and acceptable.

This work will include seeking input from the community, geotechnical investigations and flora and fauna surveys.

We will also need to obtain all relevant environmental and regulatory approvals. This will include developing comprehensive environmental management plans to ensure we minimise the impact on the environment and manage this proposed water source sustainably.





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## How can you help make Margaret River's water supply sustainable?

While more water is needed to meet the future needs of the Margaret River region, we can all help ensure this solution is sustainable by reducing the demand for water and maximising water re-use.

Many community members in the Margaret River area have already taken action in their homes and businesses to save water. Now, we want to help you become even more waterwise and we think that by working together we will all be successful.

Starting this year, we will work with your Shire and in your communities to introduce what will be one of the most innovative and comprehensive water efficiency programs yet undertaken in Western Australia. The program will involve one-to-one water use audits, installation of new water efficient appliances in many homes and a range of education programs to make it easy for you to become more waterwise.

We will also work closely with local schools and businesses to help these organisations conserve water. Education and marketing campaigns will be used to encourage tourists to save water and support the local community's waterwise efforts.

## How will our community's wastewater be managed in the future?

Planning is moving ahead to upgrade the Margaret River Wastewater Treatment Plant to ensure it has capacity to manage future wastewater flows as the town grows. This is essential to ensure your local environment and public health are protected.

All of the town's wastewater is currently re-used to irrigate a nearby woodlot. The Corporation, the Shire and other stakeholders have joined forces to explore other potential re-use opportunities.



## What happens now?

During the coming months, you may notice investigation work underway at the proposed bore, tank and treatment plant sites.

We will keep you informed as this work progresses. Results of the activities will be available through newsletters, advertising and community forums. Details of community forums will be advertised over the coming weeks.

We recently began rolling out our educational marketing campaign to remind tourists to save water. We will now contact you in your homes and businesses to discuss how you can become more waterwise.

If you have any queries in the meantime, 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](mailto:mick.irving@watercorporation.com.au)



## Proposed infrastructure changes

