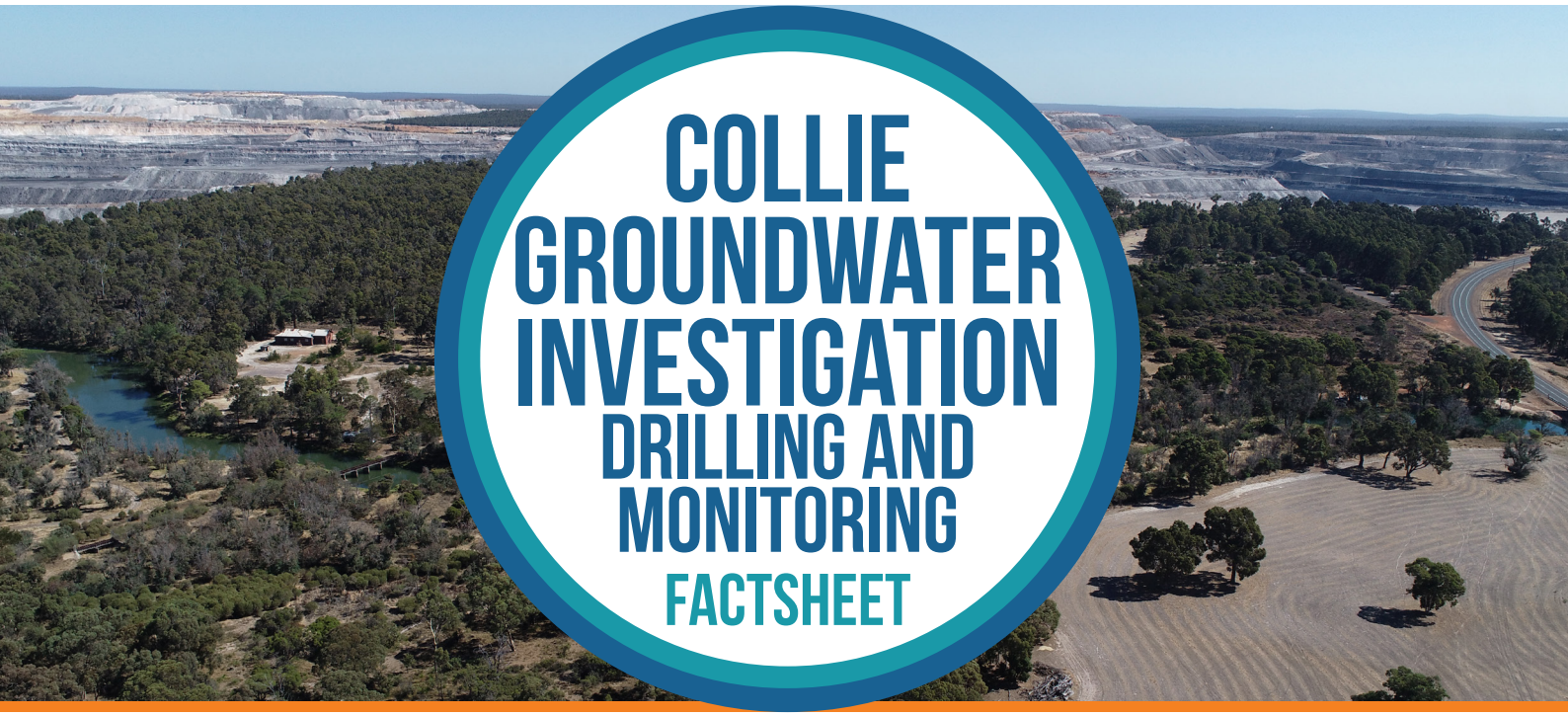
Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Water and Environmental Regulation**



COLLIE GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION
DRILLING AND MONITORING
FACTSHEET

What are we doing?

Between March and June 2026, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) will:

- drill up to 29 small monitoring bores across 14 sites
- set up three temporary river monitoring sites
- monitor rainfall and conduct infiltration tests to see how water moves into the ground
- take water samples and measure water levels and water quality over the next year

This information will help build a clearer picture of the Collie Basin and support future water planning.

Why is this work important?

Our team is collecting new information about water in the Collie Basin to help us understand:

- how underground water and river water are connected
- whether water quality is changing
- how to manage Collie's water resources for the future

Good information is essential for protecting local waterways, supporting the community, planning future land use, and assisting Collie's long-term transition as mining activities change.

The Collie Groundwater Investigation is part of the State Groundwater Investigation Program (SGIP) and was initiated following growing interest in groundwater availability in Collie.

Monitoring infrastructure details

- We will use a small, rubber tracked drilling rig designed to create minimal disturbance to the environment.
- Each site may have up to three narrow bores installed.
- Drilling will be carried out by BWE Waterwell Pty Ltd and overseen by DWER's hydrogeology specialists at GHD Pty Ltd.

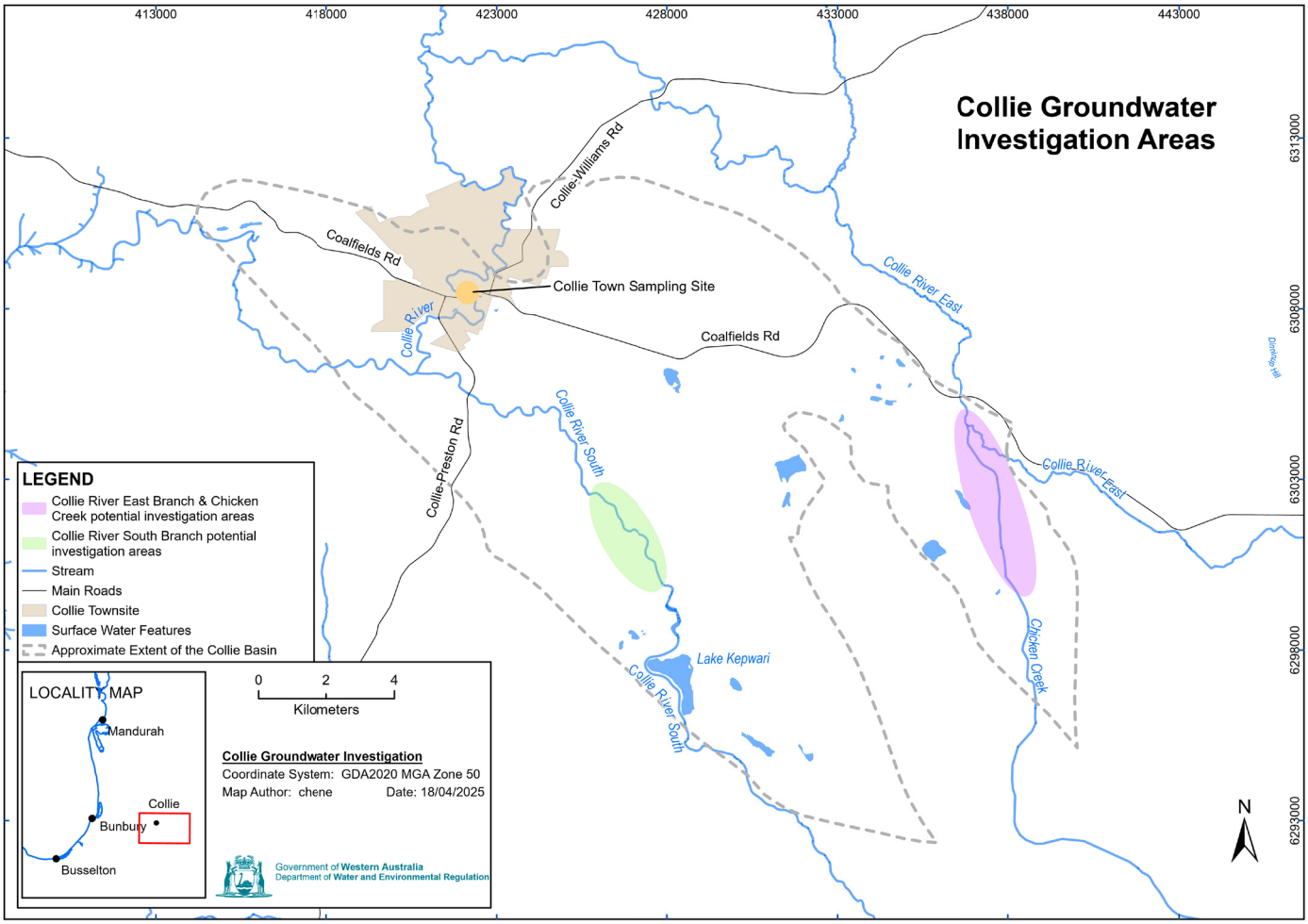
Images below show examples of the drill rig, bore setup, and temporary monitoring equipment.

Air-core drill rig planned to be used

Exemplary temporary rainwater infrastructure

Example bore completion

Exemplary surface infrastructure



Where the monitoring will take place

Monitoring sites will be set up near key local waterways, including:

- Collie River South Branch
- Collie River East Branch
- Chicken Creek

Monitoring bores and surface water sites will be installed on either side of the watercourses and river pools, specifically the Cardiff Town Pool, Duderling Pool, reaches of Chicken Creek, and selected groundwater expression points within the Collie townsite.

What happens after installation?

Once drilling is complete:

- Monitoring infrastructure will remain in place for at least one year.
- Samples will be analysed for key parameters.
- Data will be used to develop localised groundwater and surface water conceptual models
- Findings will inform future groundwater modelling and water allocation planning.
- Monitoring bore data will be made available via our Water Information Reporting portal.

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More information

To find out more about this project, visit our website:
www.wa.gov.au/service/natural-resources/water-resources/collie-groundwater-investigation
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