



Accelerating Pilbara Planning Program (APPP)

Delivering secure, transparent and climate resilient water planning for the Pilbara

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (the Department) is delivering a program of work to accelerate water planning in the Pilbara to support regional development and address the impacts of climate change. The Accelerating Pilbara Planning Program (APPP) will strengthen the quality and accessibility of water resource information, and provide greater certainty for communities, Traditional Owners, industry, and Government on water availability and future supply options under a changing climate.

Why this program matters for industry and communities

With a growing demand for water and a changing climate:

- We need to carefully manage rainfall-dependent water sources (such as groundwater) to ensure cultural, environmental and social values are sustainably managed especially when multiple dry years occur.
- Pilbara coastal towns, ports and proposed industrial development will require more water in the future than is available from local groundwater sources, and new sources need to be climate resilient.
- Water planners and decision-makers will need to consider how local and regional factors related to climate change and water abstraction may affect groundwater resources into the future.
- Better water monitoring, analysis and data access is essential to support transparent and timely decisions by government and industry and strengthen water security.



Program overview

Water planning outcomes: October 2025 to June 2027

A core focus of the APPP is water supply planning for Pilbara coastal towns and strategic industrial areas. This includes providing evidence-based advice on future water supply options and exploring the role of alternative sources such as seawater desalination in meeting future water demand.

Water supply planning outputs will include an update on the water supply and demand situation on the Pilbara coast and a strategic plan for integrating new water sources to meet the growing demand for water on the Pilbara coast.

This work will support timely and informed decisions by government, industry, and water service providers, guiding the transition toward a climate-resilient mix of water sources.

The department will also evaluate the Pilbara Groundwater Allocation Plan 2013 to assess if the plan remains adequate to manage water resources under increasingly variable climate conditions and growing water demand. Through this evaluation and by listening to Traditional Owners, industry and the community, we will identify what needs to change in the plan. We will also set priorities for guidance and decisions on allocation limits and licensing to improve groundwater management in the Pilbara.

Water allocation planning outputs will include:

- Evaluation of the Pilbara Groundwater Allocation Plan 2013 (by June 2026).
- Additional information and guidance on climate change and how it should be considered in water planning decisions in the Pilbara.
- Pilbara sub-regional hydrogeological fact sheets to support better decision-making on impacts to interconnected groundwater processes from multiple water users.
- Updated allocation limits for key water resources that support public water supplies.
- Priority updates to the Pilbara Groundwater Allocation Plan (2013), and recommendations for future work.

Measurement, monitoring and data outcomes: October 2025 to June 2029

To improve transparency and strengthen long-term water security, the APPP will expand and modernise the current groundwater monitoring program. This includes installing upgraded monitoring infrastructure, including telemetry systems at key sites. These enhancements will improve transparency and provide real-time groundwater level information to support water security and water resource knowledge across the Pilbara.

Additionally, the development of a public water dashboard will provide easier access to water level information, further strengthening community understanding and engagement.

Engagement and consultation

During the program we will engage and consult with targeted stakeholders, including from state and local government, Traditional Owner organisations and industries operating in the Pilbara. If you would like to be engaged or kept updated on our APPP work, please let us know.



Further information

An Accelerating Pilbara Planning Program webpage will be launched and updated throughout the program to provide stakeholders and Pilbara communities with information on key findings and outcomes.

For further information on the program or water management in the Pilbara, contact us using the details provided below.

Subject	Responsible area	Contact details
Enquiries concerning the Pilbara region	North West region, Karratha regional office	Phone 08 9144 0200 Email: karratha@dwer.wa.gov.au
General licensing enquiries	Business Support Unit (Water)	Phone 1800 508 885 Email: licence.enquiry@dwer.wa.gov.au
APPP water planning outcomes	Water Allocation Planning branch, Water Supply Planning branch	Email: pilbara.water@dwer.wa.gov.au

If you would like to receive updates about the progress of the Accelerating Pilbara Planning Program, please email pilbara.water@dwer.wa.gov.au to register your interest.