



# Accelerating Pilbara Planning Program (APPP)

## Managing water on Country

Water is central to Country, culture, health and future generations.

The State Government funded Accelerating Pilbara Planning Program is improving how water is managed in the Pilbara.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (the Department) is working to provide greater certainty about the future availability and management of water resources across the Pilbara under a changing climate.

## Your knowledge matters

We want to:

- Build shared understanding of water resources and how they are managed.
- Increase Traditional Owner's participation in water planning by improving their understanding of water planning and regulatory processes.
- Strengthen incorporation of Traditional Owner knowledge into the Department's water planning process.
- Support Traditional Owners in caring for Country, now and into the future.



[www.surveymonkey.com/r/DYPSS2W](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DYPSS2W)



Complete the survey to share your priorities and concerns about water on Country in the Pilbara.



## How the program will be delivered

### Stage 1 – Looking at groundwater response to recent water use and climate in target resources (by June 2026)

We are looking at how effective the Pilbara Groundwater Allocation Plan (2013) has been at helping protect groundwater and guide water use as rainfall and temperature have changed and demand for water has increased. The findings from this review will determine which aspects of the plan need revision to improve water management (stage 2).

### Stage 2 – Improving water management (by June 2027)

Based on what we have heard from Traditional Owners, industry and the community, along with the findings from stage 1, we will focus on priority issues that can be progressed within the life of this program. To improve how groundwater is allocated and managed, we will develop Pilbara specific guidance on how climate change should be considered when making groundwater decisions and improving information to support assessments where there are multiple users of the same groundwater resource. We will also develop recommendations for future updates to the Pilbara Groundwater Allocation Plan, or whether a new approach is needed.

A core focus of the program is coordinating water supply planning for Pilbara coast towns and strategic industrial areas. This work includes providing advice on future water supply options to balance with the sustainable use of groundwater resources. To support this work, we may also review the allocation limits for some of the target resources assessed in stage 1.

### What this means for Prescribed Bodies Corporate

Prescribed Bodies Corporate will have opportunities to:

- share your observations and understanding of how Country is responding to climate change and water use.
- provide input into developing tools and guidance that support Aboriginal participation in water management.
- help shape how Prescribed Bodies Corporate are involved when proponents apply for new or renewed water licences.

### Stage 3 – Better monitoring and access to information (by June 2029)

We are expanding groundwater monitoring across the Pilbara, including installing telemetry devices on monitoring bores to provide live groundwater level information to the public. If monitoring bores or wetlands are on your Country, and you are interested in them being monitored we can discuss:

- Installing telemetry devices onto groundwater monitoring bores and possibly some wetlands to monitor how they are responding to climate and water use.
- How monitoring can be carried out respectfully on Country.
- Opportunities for rangers to work alongside our teams and build awareness of our monitoring practices.

This stage will also deliver a public ‘water dashboard’, making water level information easily accessible through a dedicated webpage.

### What this means for Prescribed Bodies Corporate

- Influence what groundwater and wetland monitoring is done on your Country.
- Participate in monitoring on-Country.

## How can Prescribed Bodies Corporate be involved?

### Now

---

Complete the survey to share your priorities and concerns about water on Country in the Pilbara.

### May to June 2026

---

Read the key findings from the Pilbara Groundwater Allocation Plan evaluation when it is published (stage 1).

Participate in the [Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation Native Title Forums](#) this April, which will focus on water rights, access and allocations. This is an opportunity to share your views on water management on Country. These forums are not facilitated or hosted by the Department but may be of interest to you or your organisation.

### April 2026 to April 2027

---

Participate in our water management workshops with opportunities to:

- Learn how water is allocated, licensed and managed.
- Help develop practical capacity building tools that support strong Aboriginal decision-making in water planning.
- Share your observations and data on changes to water on Country and how water is being managed.
- Work with us to develop better monitoring and protection of cultural water places

These workshops will be supported by the Pilbara Ranger Network.

### June – December 2026

---

- Be involved in discussions and share your concerns on how water management decisions may affect your Country.
- Inform us on how PBCs would like to have a say in water licensing decisions.
- Please complete the survey to indicate if your PBC would like to have follow-up discussions with the Department.

### June 2026 – December 2026

---

Discuss options for:

- Monitoring of bores or wetlands located on Country.
- Installing telemetry at these sites.
- Ranger participation in monitoring activities.



www.surveymonkey.com/r/DYPSS2W

**Survey questions will take about 15 minutes to complete**

We have heard from Aboriginal People that you have observed permanent wetlands or waterholes drying out and have concerns about how groundwater abstraction and the climate is impacting on cultural and ecological values.

This survey is one way for Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) to share priorities and concerns about water on Country and let us know if you want to engage further.

Your responses will help inform future stages of the Accelerating Pilbara Water Planning Program. Your feedback now and in future discussions will help us understand what is most important to you and how Aboriginal perspectives can be better reflected in water planning and management.

## Survey questions

You can complete the survey online through the QR code or link. If you prefer to complete a paper version, return the completed survey below to [pilbara.water@dwer.wa.gov.au](mailto:pilbara.water@dwer.wa.gov.au).

**Which PBC are you representing?**

---

---

---

**Are there any water-related topics that you are interested in learning more about such as:**

- how the climate is changing and how it might impact on cultural water places and ecosystems
- how monitoring is used to manage impacts to Country
- what is water allocation planning and how is it done
- how a water licence is assessed and issued
- Other (please describe)

---

---

---

**What types of water information would be most useful for your PBC to access? (Select all that apply)**

- Groundwater levels
- Wetland level
- River flow
- Yearly climate information
- Water licensing and allocation information
- Plain-language explanations of water planning
- Climate change information (projecting future conditions)
- Other (please specify)

---

---

---

**If monitoring bores or wetlands are on your Country, are you interested in the Department checking to see if they can be put on the monitoring program?**

- Yes
- Possibly
- No
- Other (please specify)

---

---

---

This does not commit your PBC or the Department to any activity and conversations would occur before any work is considered.

**Are there any cultural or practical considerations we should be aware of if water monitoring is proposed on your Country?**

- Yes (please specify)

---

---

---

- No

**Are there any words, concepts or parts of water planning in the flyer that are unclear or need to be explained better?**

Please let us know so we can improve how information is explained.

---

---

---

**Would you like the Department to contact your PBC for follow up discussions (select all that apply)?**

- to learn more about how water is allocated and managed.
- about working with us to develop cultural indicators to manage impacts to cultural sites from water management activities.
- about working with us to shape how Prescribed Bodies Corporate can be involved when proponents apply for new or renewed water licences.
- Other (please specify)

---

---

---

- No

**If yes, please provide a contact name, role and how you would like to be contacted.**

---

---

---