



## Water quality protection note no. 3

January 2016

# Using water quality protection notes

## What does the Department of Water do?

The Department of Water is the custodian of Western Australia's water resources and the primary advisor to the Government of Western Australia on water services. Our purpose is to support the state's community, economy and the environment by managing water sustainably to achieve our vision of water for now and the future.

## What are water quality protection notes?

Water quality protection notes (WQPNs) are the Department of Water's recommendations on how land uses and activities can be carried out to ensure water quality contamination risks are avoided, minimised or managed.

WQPN no. 25: *Land use compatibility tables for public drinking water source areas* describes appropriate land uses and activities within areas that are used to supply drinking water to the public. Each water quality protection note topic is linked to a land use or activity within the table.

All of our WQPNs fall under the Strategic policy: *Protecting public drinking water source areas in Western Australia*. The strategic policy is available [www.water.wa.gov.au](http://www.water.wa.gov.au) > publications > search.

## Standard information and appendices

Standard information that is relevant to all WQPNs is progressively being removed from the appendices of individual WQPN topics and published separately. This reduces the length of WQPNs and allows standard information to be updated independently of the topics. These are available [www.water.wa.gov.au](http://www.water.wa.gov.au) > publications > search:

- WQPN no. 3: *Using water quality protection notes* (this note)
- WQPN no. 4: *Sensitive water resources*
- WQPN no. 8: *Further reading*
- WQPN no. 14: *Statutory approvals*
- WQPN no. 18: *Information required for Department of Water to assess a proposed development or activity.*

## Limitations

WQPNs provide a general guide on how to minimise or manage water quality contamination risks. They are based on reviews of scientific literature, relevant policy and guidelines from Western Australia, Australia and around the world, our experience with similar land uses and activities within Western Australia and our professional knowledge. WQPNs shall not be used as the Department of Water's policy position, unless confirmed in writing.

Recommendations in our WQPNs do not override any statutory obligation or government policy. Decision-making and regulatory agencies should not use WQPNs in place of site-specific development conditions that have been based on a valid risk assessment.

If a conflict arises between a WQPN's recommendations and a proposed land use or activity, proponents may propose alternative practical solutions to protect water quality that are site-specific i.e. suited to local conditions. The proposal should be consulted with the Department of Water and the decision-making or regulatory authority. The outcome should not result in a greater water quality contamination risk than would apply if the WQPN's recommendations were used.

Changes in circumstances may occur after a WQPN has been published, which may affect the accuracy of the information presented. For example, a government agency might change names or release a new policy that is relevant to the WQPN topic. For this reason, we cannot give assurance as to the accuracy, validity, currency or completeness of any information contained in our WQPNs, but endeavour to keep them as up-to-date as circumstances allow.

## Updates

WQPNs are updated from time-to-time as new information is received, industry/activity standards change and resources permit. We aim to regularly enhance them so they are as useful as possible to help protect the quality of Western Australia's precious water resources. Current versions are available [www.water.wa.gov.au](http://www.water.wa.gov.au) > publications > search.

### Disclaimer

This document has been published by the Department of Water. Any representation, statement, opinion or advice expressed or implied in this publication is made in good faith and on the basis that the Department of Water and its employees are not liable for any damage or loss whatsoever which may occur as a result of action taken or not taken, as the case may be in respect of any representation, statement, opinion or advice referred to herein. Professional advice should be obtained before applying the information contained in this document to particular circumstances.

This publication is available at our website or for those with special needs it can be made available in alternative formats such as audio, large print, or Braille.

### Department of Water

168 St Georges Terrace  
Perth Western Australia 6000

Telephone: +61 6364 7600  
Facsimile: +61 6364 7601

Email: [waterquality@water.wa.gov.au](mailto:waterquality@water.wa.gov.au)  
National Relay Service 13 36 77

[www.water.wa.gov.au](http://www.water.wa.gov.au)