



## Jurien groundwater area allocation plan draft for public comment: *frequently asked questions*

Described below are some questions that are frequently asked in relation to the *Jurien groundwater area allocation plan* draft for public comment (the plan) and our responses.

FAQ		Our response
The plan	Why has the department developed the plan?	The plan provides an update on how we licence, allocate and manage the groundwater resources of the Jurien groundwater area (Figure 1), replacing <i>Managing the water resources of Jurien groundwater area WA – Interim sub-regional allocation strategy</i> published in 2002. The plan promotes good water management and provides a transparent decision-making process.
	How will we know if the plan is effective?	Each year the department will assess the effectiveness of the plan by publicly reporting against the plan objectives in an annual evaluation statement. We will report on the progress of actions in the plan and report against performance indicators. See Table 1 of the plan (Section 2) for a full list of the performance indicators.
	When and how long will the plan apply for?	The plan will come into effect from the date that the final plan is released and will be valid until it is revised or is replaced by a statutory water allocation plan. See Chapter 6 of the plan for more information.
Licensing process	What is the licensing process?	We assess licence applications in accordance with section 7 (2) of the <i>Rights in Waters and Irrigation Act, 1914</i> on a first-in-first served basis. Figure 2 below outlines the licensing assessment process we use. The department requires certain information from applicants to assist in the timely assessment of licence applications. For further information, see the plan or our website < <a href="http://www.water.wa.gov.au">www.water.wa.gov.au</a> >.
	Is there a cap on the amount of water I can apply for?	We have removed the cap that applied in <i>Managing the water resources of Jurien groundwater area WA – Interim sub-regional allocation strategy</i> . There is no maximum amount that you can apply for up to the allocation limit.

FAQ		Our response
Licensing process	Is my licence secure or will it be taken off me?	<p>Your licence is secure as long as you are consistently using the full amount allocated to you and are compliant with the terms and conditions of the licence.</p> <p>If the department identifies that you haven't consistently been using the water allocated to you, we may recoup the volume of unused water from your licence. This will usually become available for others to apply for. We will advertise water availability when considered necessary.</p> <p>For more information refer to policy group 3.5 in the plan or our <i>Statewide policy 11 – Management of unused water entitlements 2003</i>.</p>
	How do I know if trading is open in an area and what is the process for trading?	Trading can occur at any time. Once a groundwater resource is 100 per cent allocated, water is only available from that resource through trading. For more information on trading see policy group 9 (Section 4.2) in the plan.
	What else is changing that I may need to be aware of?	<p>All new groundwater licences <math>\geq 50\,000</math> kL/yr will be subject to a condition requiring the licensee to install a meter and measure water use (refer to policy group 3.7 of the plan).</p> <p>Applicants may be required to submit a project description document (refer to policy group 3.3 and Appendix E of the plan).</p> <p>We may request applicants to complete a public consultation process depending on the nature of the application (refer to policy group 3.3 and Appendix C of the plan).</p> <p>Developments proposing to dewater will be required to submit a dewatering management plan. Refer to policy group 6.5 and Appendix F of the plan.</p>
Groundwater availability	How much can be taken from the aquifer sustainably?	<p>We set allocation limits to ensure that water use levels are sustainable (see Section 3 of plan and Table 1 below). To set allocation limits, we considered information including the sustainable yield of the groundwater resource, environmental information and current and future water use (see our report <i>Allocation limit review for the Jurien and Arrowsmith groundwater areas</i>).</p> <p>The department may revise allocation limits in the future. If the department revises allocation limits, we will report them in the annual evaluation statement, and advertise them.</p>
	How much water is available for future licensing?	Please refer to Table 1 below or contact our Midwest Regional office for up-to-date information. Also see Chapter 3 (Table 2) of the plan.
	Will water be moved out of the region?	If we receive an application to physically move water (through piping) from where the water is sourced we will consider the environmental, economic, cultural and social impacts at the source and the receiving location as part of the decision-making process. For more information refer to policy group 6.3 in Table 3 of the plan.

FAQ		Our response
Groundwater availability	Will there be any more water made available through future studies?	<p>The department reviewed allocation limits for resources in the Jurien groundwater area as part of developing the plan. Please refer to <i>Review of the Jurien and Arrowsmith groundwater allocation limits</i>, 2009 for further information.</p> <p>The review took into account the potential impact from climate change, revised public water supply reserves and exempt usage. Although the allocation limits did not increase there is more available for licensing as a result of our review of the public water supply reserves.</p> <p>As part of implementing the plan, the department is committed to undertaking additional hydrogeological investigations in the area to further define groundwater availability (refer to Action 1 in Table 6 of the plan).</p>
	Has the department taken climate change into account when setting allocation limits and issuing licences?	<p>Yes. We reviewed allocation limits for the Jurien groundwater area as part of developing the plan. The review took into account the potential impacts of climate change and exempt usage. Please refer to our report <i>Review of the Jurien and Arrowsmith groundwater allocation limits</i>, 2009. This report details the methodology and assumptions used to set the allocation limits.</p>
Environment	Is the environment protected?	<p>We are protecting the environment by setting lower allocation limits in environmentally sensitive areas. Impacts to the environment are also considered as part of the 7 (2) assessment we do for all licence applications. Where necessary we also require that licensees monitor the impacts of their operations and provide this information to us (refer to policy group 4 in the plan).</p>
	What is a GDE?	<p>GDE stands for groundwater dependent ecosystems, which are ecosystems that rely on groundwater for their existence and health.</p>
	How will the effects of groundwater abstraction be managed near a GDE?	<p>We have developed a guideline for applicants to help them determine how their proposed water abstraction may impact on a GDE. Refer to Appendix D of the plan for further information. We are also committed to undertaking additional investigations of GDE and their water requirements as part of implementing this plan (see Action 2, Table 6 of the plan).</p>
Social	How will the cultural and social heritage values associated with groundwater be protected?	<p>We consider the potential impacts of groundwater abstraction on social and cultural values as part of the 7 (2) assessment process for all licence applications. We have committed to undertaking further investigations into the social and cultural values of groundwater-dependent ecosystems as part of the plan (refer to Action 3).</p>

FAQ		Our response
Economic	Are particular projects or industries favoured over others for licensing?	<p>The department only reserves water for future public drinking water supplies. We assess all other commercial uses of water on a first-in-first served basis, to avoid special treatment for particular projects or industries.</p> <p>When required to submit additional information, applicants must submit this information within a specific time frame according to <i>Statewide policy 17 – Timely submission of required further information 2007</i>, to enable the department to continue to assess their application. This ensures that licence assessments are not held up by the first-in first-served approach.</p>
Public water supply	Does the plan ensure that local communities have future public water supplies?	We have reserved water across different aquifers in the Jurien groundwater area to ensure water is available for local communities in the future. See Section 3, Table 2 of the plan for more details.
	How far into the future will current reserves for public drinking water last?	We have reserved enough groundwater to meet projected public water supply demands to 2030. These reserves were reviewed as part of developing this plan. We will review these reserved allocations every five years or earlier (Action 6 in the plan). We have factored the use of water for domestic supply in rural areas into the allocation limits.
	Can reserved public drinking water be accessed for other uses temporarily?	Yes, in special cases the department may allow water reserved for future public supply to be allocated for short-term use for other purposes. See policy group 7, Table 3 in the plan for more information.

## Further information or clarification

Refer to the plan, visit our website <[www.water.wa.gov.au/allocation planning](http://www.water.wa.gov.au/allocation_planning)> or contact:

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# Jurien groundwater area allocation plan draft for public comment: *water availability*

**Table 1** Groundwater allocation limits and available water (kL/yr)

Resource		Allocation limit <sup>1</sup> kL/yr	Licensed entitlements <sup>2</sup> kL/yr	Reserved (public water supply) kL/yr	Reserved (staged developments) kL/yr	Estimated exempt use kL/yr	Water available for new use <sup>3</sup>
Subarea	Aquifer						
Badgingarra	Cattamarra	400 000	154 800	0	0	0	Yes
	Leederville– Parmelia	N/A (300 000)	0	0	0	0	Unknown
	Otorowiri	N/A (100 000)	0	0	0	0	Unknown
	Yarragadee	27 500 000	1 413 333	0	0	940 000	Yes
Cervantes	Cattamarra	N/A (100 000)	0	0	0	0	Unknown
	Eneabba	N/A (600 000)	0	0	0	0	Unknown
	Lesueur	3 000 000	0	2 450 000	0	550 000	No
	Superficial	30 000 000	3 313 090	3 000 000	0	280 000	Yes
Dinner Hill	Leederville– Parmelia	12 600 000	9 899 230	1 500 000	56 270	0	Limited
	Mirrabooka	N/A (500 000)	0	0	0	0	Unknown
	Otorowiri	N/A (100 000)	0	0	0	0	Unknown
	Surficial	N/A (1 000 000)	20 000	0	0	530 000	Unknown
Nambung	Cattamarra	1 600 000	0	0	0	0	Yes
	Eneabba	N/A (300 000)	0	0	0	0	Unknown
	Lesueur	2 700 000	0	0	0	0	Yes
	Superficial	4 000 000	2 700 000	0	0	370 000	Limited
	Yarragadee	8 800 000	2 500 000	0	0	0	Yes

Resource		Allocation limit <sup>1</sup> kL/yr	Licensed entitlements <sup>2</sup> kL/yr	Reserved (public water supply) kL/yr	Reserved (staged developments) kL/yr	Estimated exempt use kL/yr	Water available for new use <sup>3</sup>
Subarea	Aquifer						
Watheroo	Leederville– Parmelia	100 000	0	0	0	90 000	Limited
	Surficial	N/A (300 000)	150 000	35 000	0	0	Unknown
	Fractured rock	N/A (600 000)	0	0	0	270 000	Unknown
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>94 600 000</b>	<b>20 150 453</b>	<b>7 035 000</b>	<b>56 270</b>	<b>3 030 000</b>	

1. We have set allocation limits listed as N/A (estimated amount available in brackets). However, any application that is submitted to access these aquifers will require a detailed hydrogeological investigation before we can allocate water. Contact the Midwest Gascoyne Regional office in Geraldton for more information.
2. Licensed entitlements are current as of June 2009. The calculation of exempt use is detailed in *Allocation limit review for the Arrowsmith and Jurien groundwater areas*, DoW 2009b.
3. The amount of water available is the allocation limit minus licensed entitlements, reserved water and exempt use. It is current for June 2009. Any further allocations will reduce the amount of water available. Please refer to the department's licensing system or contact the department for an update on water availability.

**Volumes:**

1000 litres (L) = 1 kilolitre (kL)

1 000 000 L = 1 Megalitre (ML)

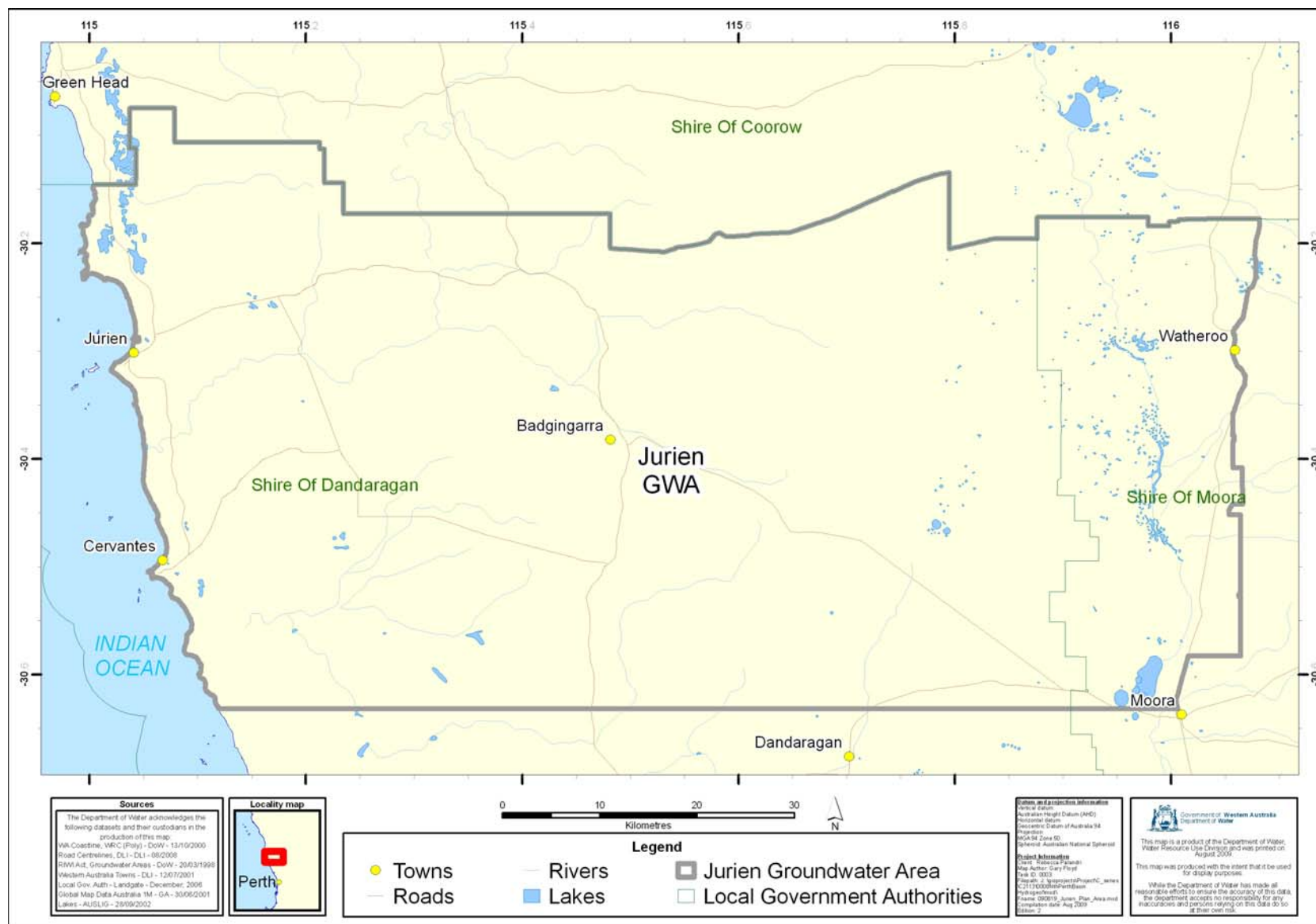
1 000 000 000 L = 1 Gigalitre (GL)

1000 kL = 1 ML

1 000 000 kL = 1 GL

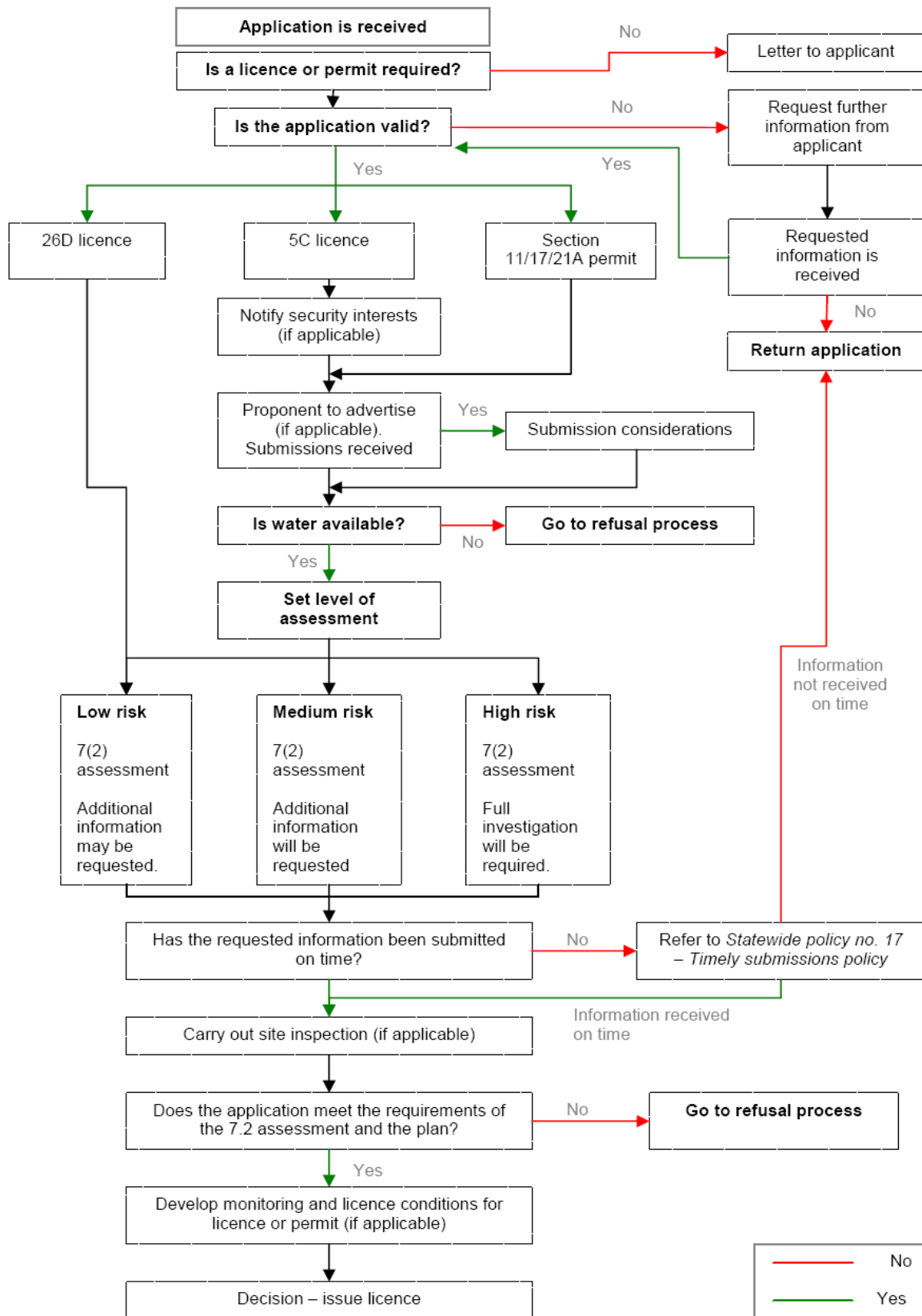
1000 ML = 1 GL





**Figure 1** The Jurien groundwater area and subareas.

## Jurien groundwater area allocation plan draft for public comment: *licensing process flowchart*



**Figure 2** General licensing process flowchart