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

We're working for Western Australia.

Groundwater is a precious and shared resource

Groundwater supports Perth's wetlands, ecosystems and green corridors. These natural ecosystems and green spaces reduce urban heat and help Perth to remain the liveable, vibrant and green city we know and love.

We all need to use groundwater wisely to help secure Perth's water future

Groundwater plays an important role in Perth's natural environment by supporting wetlands, lakes and vegetation.

Perth residents with a garden bore use groundwater to water their gardens.

Groundwater is used by farms and horticulturists for growing local produce.

Groundwater is used by the Water Corporation to supply about 40 per cent of Perth's drinking water as part of the Integrated Water Supply Scheme.

Groundwater is used by local governments and schools to irrigate nearly all parks, play spaces, gardens and sporting fields in Perth.

The Waterwise Perth action plan has a target of a 10 per cent reduction in the amount of groundwater we use, as part of helping to transition Perth to becoming a leading waterwise city by 2030. The action plan calls on everyone in the community to play a role, including government, businesses, industry, local governments and households.

Garden bore use

Garden bores are an important water supply for many households to irrigate small gardens. They help to reduce the demand for highly treated scheme water and, when used responsibly, they can help distribute the take of groundwater to reduce impacts on water levels. However, there are now a lot of bores and they are not always used sparingly. Just as we use water inside the home wisely, groundwater should also be used wisely to conserve it for future generations.

Using your bore wisely by staying within sprinkler rosters, understanding your gardening water requirements and avoiding overuse can help to secure a sustainable supply of groundwater for everyone.

Overuse of groundwater can result in a system out of balance

When bores draw water faster than groundwater is recharged by rainfall, groundwater levels can drop. This can have a serious impact on Perth's lakes, wetlands, parks and bushland.

Falling groundwater levels can also lead to water quality problems, including acid sulphate soils and saltwater intrusion.

Loch McNess, near Yanchep WA

Climate change combined with groundwater abstraction is having a measurable and visible impact on the water balance of Perth's groundwater system and its associated environmental values, including wetlands, caves, lakes and bushland. This is significantly affecting the long-term sustainability of Perth's groundwater as a natural, good-quality source of water for Perth.

To ensure groundwater continues to provide a long-term, natural and low-cost source of water for Perth and continue to support Perth's natural environment, we must adjust our water use down to match the impacts of climate change.

WATER WISE PERTH action plan