



Perth's groundwater story

Perth's average rainfall has declined by about 15 per cent since the mid-1970s due to climate change, and temperatures are predicted to increase. This means less rainfall runoff into dams, but also less water soaking into our aquifers.

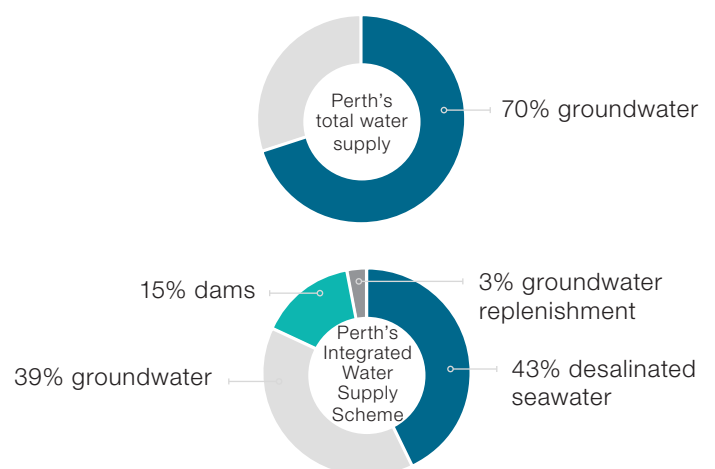
Groundwater plays an important role in Perth's total water supply

Groundwater is Perth's largest natural source of good-quality water that is easily accessible at a relatively low cost. Groundwater is accessed directly by thousands of water licence holders and over 100,000 households using garden bores. These water users typically abstract from the shallow aquifer – Perth's Superficial aquifer.

Just under half of Perth's drinking water also comes from groundwater. Water Corporation abstracts groundwater from the Gnangara and Jandakot groundwater systems via a network of over 150 bores that access the shallow and deeper aquifers (Leederville and Yarragadee aquifers). This is then treated to drinking water standards and supplied to households and businesses in Perth, the Goldfields and some parts of the South West through the Integrated Water Supply Scheme.

Perth's total water supply

About 70 per cent of all the water used across Perth and Mandurah comes from groundwater. This water is treated and used as drinking water; used to grow our local produce, water our gardens, parks, ovals and public spaces; and used for industry and manufacturing.



Perth's Integrated Water Supply Scheme

In the early 1900s, Perth's Integrated Water Supply Scheme (IWSS) sourced its water from dams that were full of water from rainfall runoff (streamflow). Water Corporation can no longer rely on rainfall runoff due to climate change. In 2019-20, water supplied by Perth's Integrated Water Supply Scheme was made up of 43 per cent desalinated water, 39 per cent groundwater, 15 per cent rainfall runoff into our dams (streamflow) and 3 per cent groundwater replenishment.

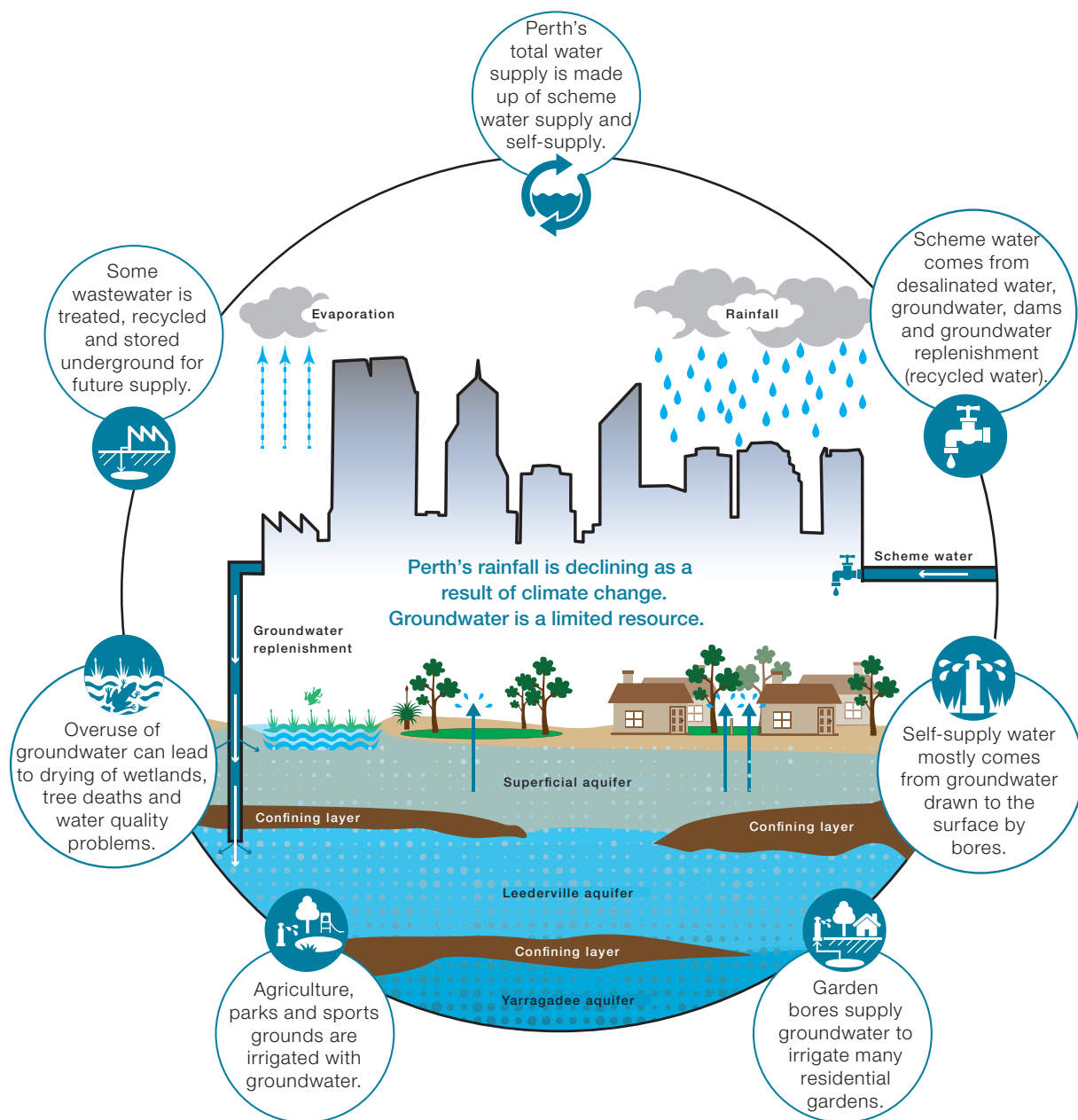
Groundwater use at home

Did you know that water from your kitchen tap or bathroom shower may contain groundwater? If you have a garden bore, you're also sharing Perth's precious groundwater.

Perth's natural environment

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.

Understanding Perth's groundwater story



Whether you use drinking water (scheme) or access water yourself, it is important that all water sources are used wisely.

Find out more

Perth's drinking water sources:

www.watercorporation.com.au/Our-water

Managing Perth's Gnamptarra groundwater system

gnamptarra.dwer.wa.gov.au



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