



# Private Property Rights & Resources

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## WATER ALLOCATION PLANNING WA

The Department of Water has released a report entitled a "Guide to Water Allocation WA". These allocation plans set out how much water can be licensed for abstraction and how much water is left in the system and are developed in areas where 30% or more of the allocation limit is already committed.

In the management areas that are over allocated, part of the plan will include pathways to return to a set level of allocation. There is no reference in the report as to how the department intends to achieve this. There is also a lack of information in regard to the formula used to calculate environmental water.

Environmental water is not included in the allocation limit. This is because it is left in the system and considered a non consumptive use. For further information contact PGA.

## ENVIRONMENTAL APPEALS

A ministerial taskforce submitted a report drafted by the Law Society, Environment, Town Planning and Local Government committee recommending that Environmental appeals be taken away from the Environmental Minister and handed to the State Administrative Tribunal.

The proposal would see the Minister removed from having the final say on Environmental appeals and the tribunal (SAT) given the final decision making power.

This was supported by the WA Law Society and the Chamber of Commerce but rejected by The Conservation Council of WA and The Chamber of Minerals and Energy.

A report in the West Australian paper suggested that the Government had rejected the plan.

WA is the only State that does not support a totally independent process for Environmental appeals

## DRYANDRA WOODLANDS – MANAGEMENT PLAN

The single biggest remnant bush land area in the central western Wheat belt has received official protection after Environment Minister Bill Marmion signed off on a dedicated management plan.

Dryandra Woodland is located 160km south-east of Perth in the Shire of Narrogin covering more than 28,000 hectares. The Woodland comprises of 17 vegetation "islands" within cleared farmlands. One of the observations of the plan is the recognition that animal movements between the vegetation reserves is necessary for access to food, shelter and breeding sites and that movements of fauna between these vegetation blocks is restricted by fenced and cleared farmland. This can be resolved by establishing corridors between remnant woodlands.

The WA Planning Commissions "Wheat-belt Land use Planning Strategy" also refers to establishing fauna corridors and buffer zones around reserved vegetation zones which was opposed in a submission lodged by the committee.

The management plan will enable the Forest Products Commission to continue to enter into long-term production contracts for the management, harvesting and sale of plantation mallet from within Dryandra Woodlands..

Contracts for 8,500 hectares of Mallet will be harvested in the first rotation. This plan was prepared by DEC on behalf of the Conservation Commission. A draft plan is available at: [www.dec.wa.gov.au/dryandra.pdf](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/dryandra.pdf)

## NATIONAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The NRM Regional Leaders Group of WA has released a document entitled "The Future of NRM in WA:.. This group operates as an independent, non government body representing the six regional NRM organizations in WA. The group aims to create an overarching WA Regional Investment Strategy by combining the six existing regional strategies to create a West Australian wide vision that incorporates the commitments from all six regional plans.

The NRM Leaders group comprises of non-executive Chairpersons of the six recognized Western Australian NRM organizations and their respective responsibilities. A NRMRLG part time independent Executive Officer is appointed to progress the key initiatives of the group

A funding model has been established that relies on each of the six Regional NRM organizations to contribute equally towards the costs of meeting administrative and Executive Officer costs.

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