



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



# Shire of Westonia

Non-potable strategic community  
water supplies plan

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March 2024

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### **Acknowledgements**

Throughout the development of this Strategic Community Water Supply plan a number of people from the Rural Water Planning section in the Department of Water and Environment Regulation (the department) were involved:

Sherrie Anderson, Rosie Bell, Tracy Calvert, Mell Culhane, Elizabeth Tanner, Sandy Turton-Parkinson and Renae Thorpe.

The department would also like to thank the Shire of Westonia and the Water Corporation for their advice, support and assistance during the preparation of this plan.

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Cover photograph: Egg Rock Catchment, Shire of Westonia

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## Summary

Water supply planning is essential in rural areas and requires collaboration, involvement and participation from all stakeholders, including farmland communities, local government authorities (LGAs) and State Government agencies as part of an integrated approach to sustainable water supply for the future.

This plan provides information for the shire and farmers on the location of strategic community water supplies (SCWS) and how to access non-potable water for emergency stock watering and firefighting purposes, including what facilities are available at each site.

## Introduction

Over the past 40 years recurrent water supply problems have affected the dryland agricultural region. Emerging climate changes are likely to increase the occurrences of low rainfall years, resulting in water shortages and restrictions in rural communities.

Facing long-term water security challenges, farmers are encouraged to proactively develop and maintain on-farm water infrastructure to better prepare for dry periods.

Rural water planning recognises the importance to prepare for these events and increase the opportunities to deliver an assured water supply to farmland communities in the dryland agriculture areas of Western Australia (WA).

SCWS planning is one of the key roles of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (the department's) rural water program. The aim is to ensure dryland agricultural areas are safeguarded wherever possible against serious water deficiencies.

While landholder self-sufficiency must remain the primary objective, the rural water planning program recognises the importance of emergency off-farm water supplies to farming communities. It also builds on the SCWS network across the dryland agricultural area through the community water supplies partnership (CWSP) program and the agricultural areas (AA) dam works program.

Both programs establish and improve non-potable water supplies with an aim to ensure water is available for emergency livestock watering and firefighting. The CWSP program also aims to reduce reliance on potable scheme water supplies for non-potable needs and to increase water availability for public amenities such as sportsgrounds.

This SCWS plan has been compiled for the Shire of Westonia to provide a clear description of each of the SCWS in the shire available for firefighting purposes, and to farmers and farming communities in times of emergency.

## Strategic community water supplies and agricultural area dams

A network of SCWS has been developed across WA's dryland agricultural areas to provide an important source of non-potable water for farming and firefighting needs.

These supplies are for emergency use in times when low rainfall causes on-farm supplies to become depleted and farmers need to travel to access water for livestock.

Vesting of the strategic dams, tanks, bores and other assets in each LGA varies, with some sites owned by government agencies (including the department), Water Corporation, the LGA itself, or by private entities where an agreement has been made to allow access.

It is important that these water supplies are carefully managed to ensure water is available during times of emergency.

The department keeps in regular contact with rural communities to monitor the condition of SCWS and identify and address any maintenance issues.

Each year, the department's rural water program undertakes works to maintain and upgrade sites vested with it and sites in priority areas vulnerable to dry conditions.

AA dams have been developed since the early 1990s to provide water and support the growth of farming in the dryland agricultural area. There are about 480 of the original 681 AA dams that range from high value to no value in terms of their condition and serviceability.

SCWS are a subset of the AA dams that are reliable, in good to excellent repair and retain a high value. The department uses LGA maps to determine which sites are worth upgrading and to identify priority areas to develop new SCWS.

The following map (Figure 1) shows the location of the strategic community supplies and AA dams in the Shire of Westonia, with symbols indicating the capacity, vesting and values of each site.

# Shire of Westonia map

AA Dams & Strategic Community Water Supplies (SCWS) at Westonia

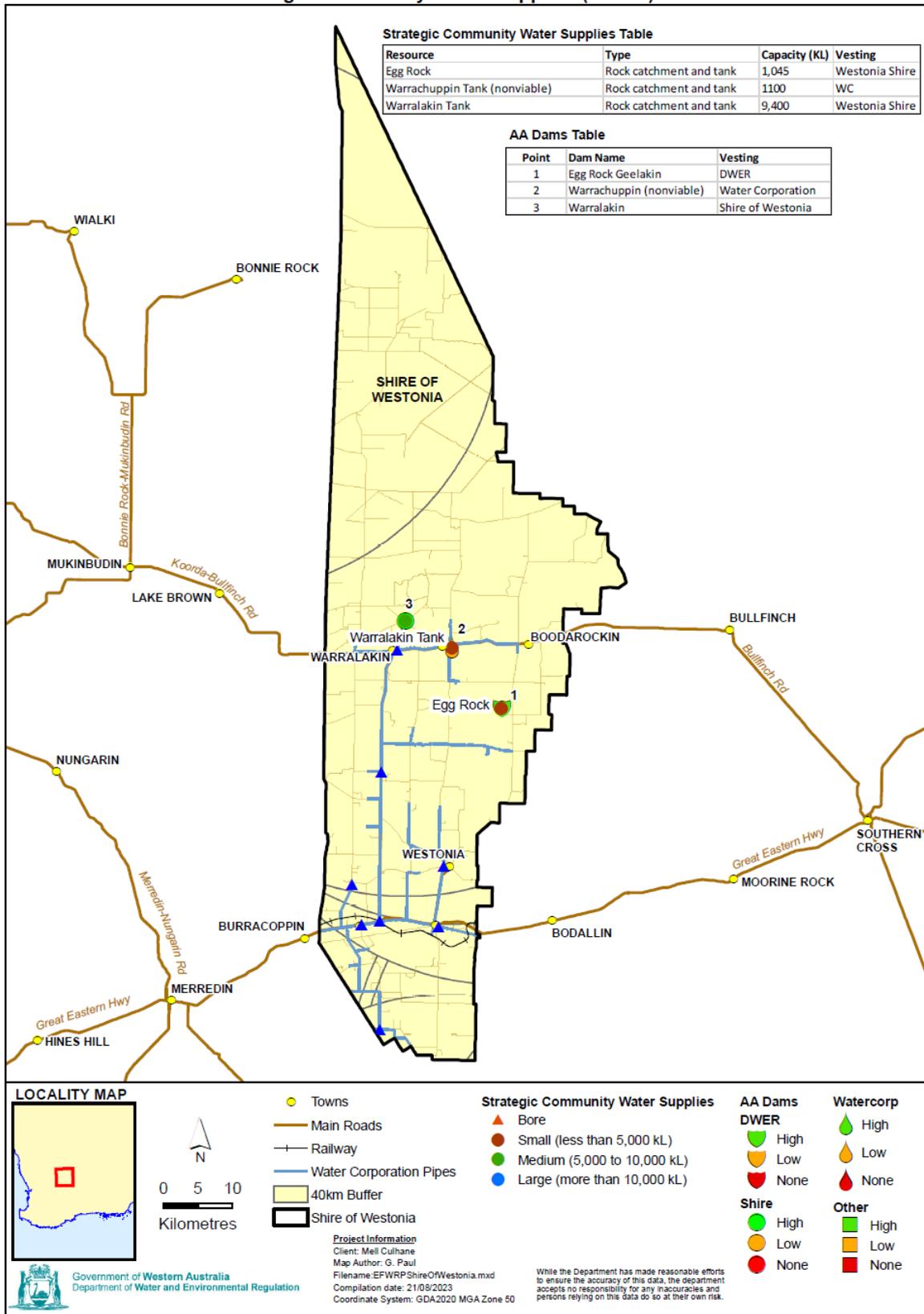


Figure 1 – Location of strategic community water supplies (at 21 August 2023)

# Strategic community water supply access

## Overview of different fill points

Each strategic community water supply will have a fill point to allow access to water supply for agricultural purposes. Each fill point will have a camlock fitting. Standard sizes of camlocks include 50 mm (2 inch) and an 80 mm (3 inch) fitting and in some cases a 100 mm (4 inch) connection is fitted for firefighting purposes. These camlock fittings will be available where there is a tank, standpipe, swipe card system or bore fill point. When accessing water directly from dams without a tank storage, you will need to bring your own pump to extract water.

## Swipe card systems

Swipe card systems are metered fill points requiring a swipe card or fob from your shire to access the water supply. Contact your local shire office to obtain a swipe card to access these water supplies.

During emergencies such as bushfires, the shire can switch the swipe card system to allow access without a swipe card. All local fire appliances have swipe card access. The emergency access contacts are Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Bill Price on 0427 467 063 or Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO) Frank Corsini on 0429 467 042.

## Farm bots

Some tanks are fitted with farm bots, which regularly record the water level and feed this information into a website. You can access this website at [app.farmbot.com.au](http://app.farmbot.com.au) (Login ID: **public.access** Password: **access1**) to view water tank levels for tanks fitted with farm bots.

Below are examples of different fill points you may come across in the shire.



*Tank standard camlock fitting*



*Farm bot on top of tank*



*Swipe card standpipe system*



*Tank, electric swipe card and pump for bore*

## Shire of Westonia SCWS sites

Site name	Location
Egg Rock	Egg Rock Road <i>~2.4 km from Boodarockin Road</i>
Warrachuppin tank <b>Currently non-viable</b>	Warrachuppin Road <i>~500 m from Koorda-Bullfinch Road</i>
Warralakin tank	English Road <i>off Warralakin North Road</i>

# Description of community water supplies

## Egg Rock



*Aerial view of Egg Rock*



*Location map*



*Tank at Egg Rock (December 2023)*



*Couplings (October 2021)*



*Tank gauge*



*Sump collection to tank*

## Egg Rock site description

Vesting	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Purpose	Strategic community water supply for agricultural purposes, including emergency stock and firefighting water
Associated reserve	19361
AA dam #	432
Catchment type	Rock and earth
Catchment area (ha)	~21 ha

### Location and coordinates

#### Location: Egg Rock Road ~2.4 km from Boodarockin Road

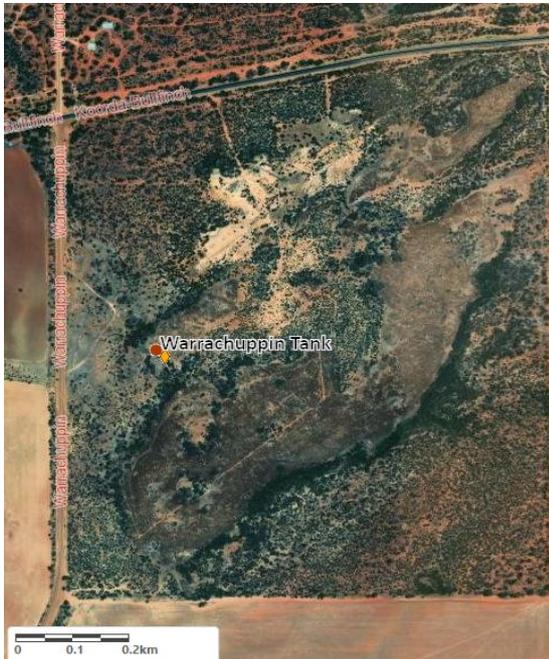
Latitude	-31.093722
Longitude	118.772159
Eastings	669028.020232
Northings	6558660.988250

### Water supply and access

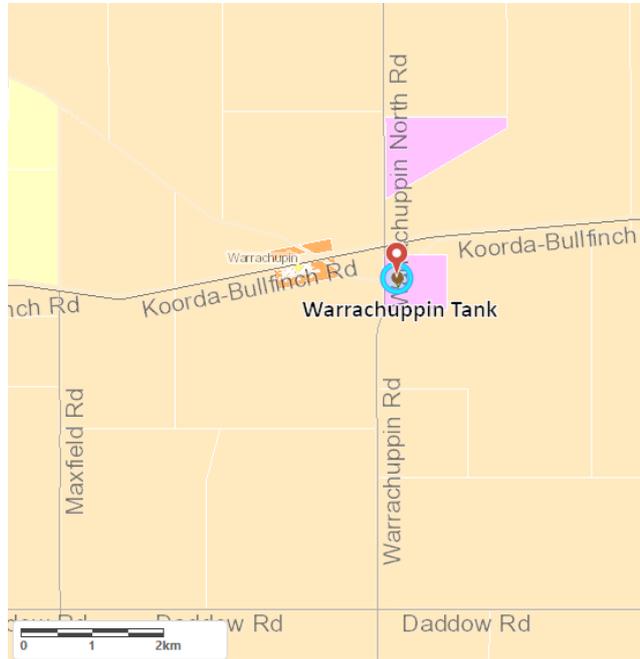
Structure type	Rock catchment and tank
Tank storage	1,045 kL
Camlock couplings	Situated on tank, 3-inch male camlock fittings
Standpipe Y/N	No
Pump Y/N	No
Heavy vehicle access	Yes
Turnaround area	Yes
Emergency access contacts	CEO 0427 467 063 or CBFCO 0429 467 042

# Description of community water supplies

## Warrachuppin tank (currently non-viable 2023)



*Aerial view of Warrachuppin*



*Location map*



*Warrachuppin tank (March 2012)*



*Sump (March 2012)*



*Rock catchment (March 2012)*



*Standpipe (March 2012)*

## Warrachuppin tank site description

Vesting	Water Corporation/Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage currently being transferred to the Shire of Westonia
Purpose	Strategic community water supply for agricultural purposes, including emergency stock and firefighting water
Associated reserve	2168
AA dam #	440
Catchment type	Rock catchment
Catchment area (ha)	~22 ha

### Location and coordinates

#### Location: Warrachuppin Road ~500 m from Koorda-Bullfinch Road

Latitude	-31.015815914
Longitude	118.695528958
Eastings	661849.912164
Northings	6567411.071130

### Water supply and access

Structure type	Rock catchment and tank (nonviable)
Tank capacity	1,100 kL
Standpipe Y/N	Yes
Pump Y/N	No
Heavy vehicle access	Yes, for standpipe
Turnaround area	Yes, for standpipe
Supply comment	Please note access track and tank are in poor condition.
Emergency access contacts	CEO 0427 467 063 or CBFCA 0429 467 042

# Description of community water supplies

## Warralakin tank



*Aerial view of Warralakin*



*Location map*



*Warralakin tank and rock catchment*



*Warralakin catchment*



*Warralakin tank*



*Warralakin sump (all pictures February 2013)*



*Couplings*

## Warralakin tank site description

Vesting	Shire of Westonia
Purpose	Strategic community water supply for agricultural purposes, including emergency stock and firefighting water
Associated reserve	1378
AA dam #	450
Catchment type	Rock catchment
Catchment area (ha)	~29 ha

### Location and coordinates

#### Location: English Road, off Warralakin North Road

Latitude	-30.980711698
Longitude	118.625105085
Eastings	655183.454067
Northings	6571402.657750

### Water supply and access

Structure type	Tank and rock catchment
Tank storage	9,400 kL
Standpipe Y/N	No
Pump Y/N	No
Heavy vehicle access	Yes
Turnaround area	Yes
Emergency access contacts	CEO 0427 467 063 or CBFCO 0429 467 042

## Glossary

<b>Camlock</b>	A male hose coupling fixed for connection of a water hose. Camlocks can be attached to fill points such as tanks, or standpipes to allow access to water supply. Camlock sizes vary from site to site and generally include 50 mm (2 inch), 80 mm (3 inch) as a standard. At some sites a 100 mm (4 inch) camlock has been included for firefighting purposes.
<b>Catchment types</b>	<p>Earth – land cleared, cambered, and compacted to provide a catchment area for surface water.</p> <p>Bitumen – catchment lined with bitumen to allow capture of surface water.</p> <p>Rock catchment – rock that slopes, has containment walls to capture surface water to a storage source (e.g. a tank or a concrete dam).</p> <p>Bore – a drilled casing that accesses ground water to provide a water supply.</p> <p>CBH – water is captured from CBH grain silo storage facility and stored in a dam or tank.</p>
<b>Fill point</b>	Location where a water supply can be accessed from using camlock fittings either via standpipe, swipe card system, tank or bore.
<b>Farm bot</b>	A device fitted to some tanks to regularly record the water level and feed this information into a website. You can access this website at <a href="http://app.farmbot.com.au">app.farmbot.com.au</a> (Login ID: <b>public.access</b> Password: <b>access1</b> ) to see water tank levels for tanks fitted with farm bots.
<b>Non-potable</b>	Water not suitable for human consumption.
<b>Solar pump</b>	A pump powered through solar that pumps water from one location to another (e.g. from dam to dam or from dam to tank).
<b>Staff gauges</b>	A marker measuring tool positioned at surveyed depths in a dam to indicate water levels.
<b>Standpipe</b>	A pipe overhead, on a plinth or raised off the ground to provide a fill point for water supply.
<b>Swipe card</b>	A metered fill point requiring a card to be swiped to start pumping system. Contact the LGA for further information.
<b>Vesting</b>	Person or governing agency with responsibility for managing land.

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