



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



Shire of Coorow

non-potable strategic community
water supplies plan

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For more information about this plan, contact Rural Water Planning on 1800 780 300.

Cover photograph: Maley Park Soak, Touche Road, Coorow Shire.

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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). It advises how to access non-potable water for emergency stock watering and firefighting purposes, including the facilities 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.

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

Rural water planning recognises the importance of preparing for these events to increase the opportunities for delivering an assured water supply to farmland communities in the dryland agricultural 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 safeguard dryland agricultural areas wherever possible against serious water deficiencies.

While landholder self-sufficiency must remain the primary objective, the rural water 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 to ensure that water is available for emergency livestock watering, firefighting and other farm needs. The CWSP program 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 Coorow 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 and essential farming purposes.

Vesting of the strategic dams and bores 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.

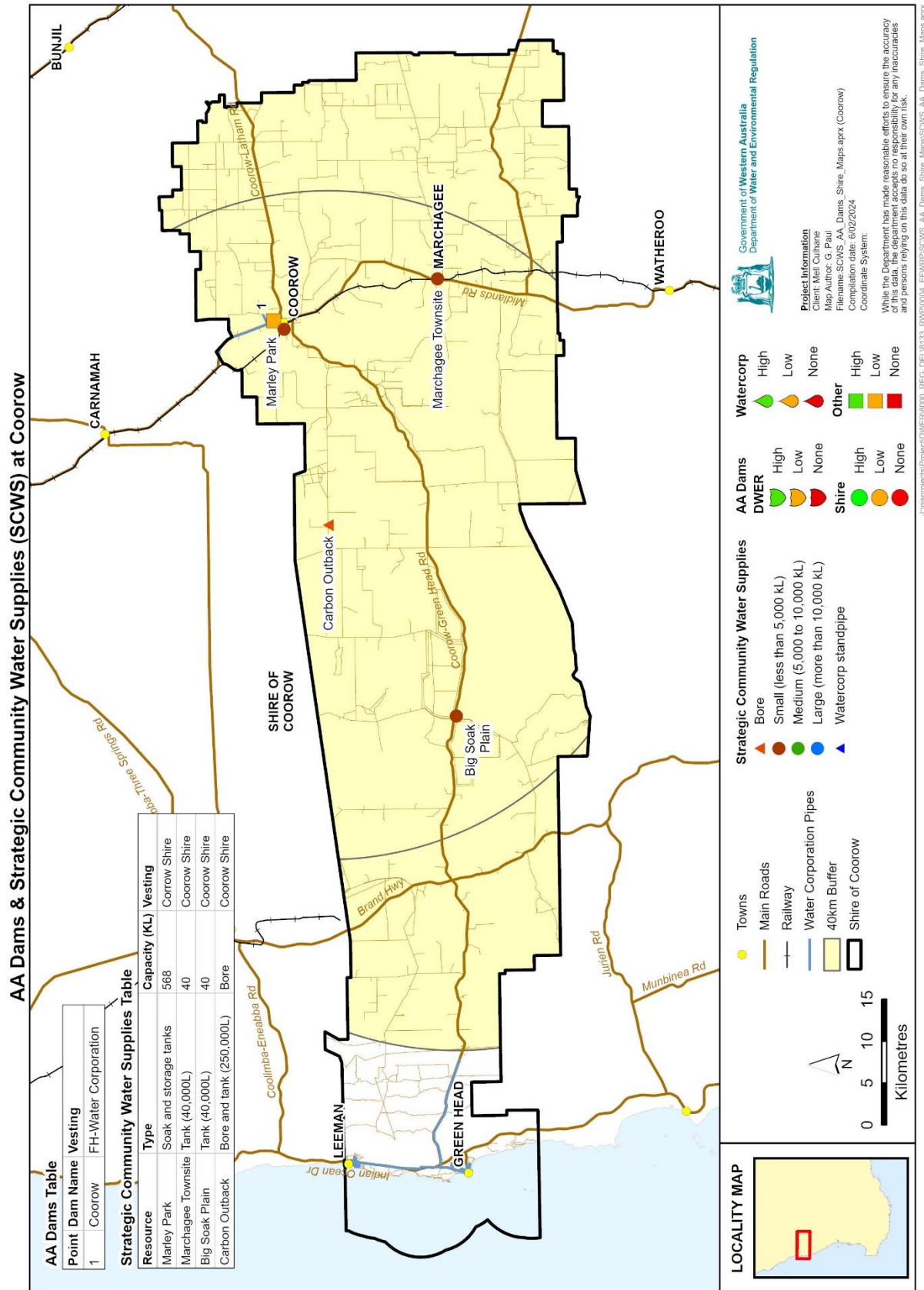
Each year, the department's rural water program undertakes works to maintain and upgrade sites vested with it, and sites in priority areas vulnerable to dry conditions.

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 is 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.

Figure 1 shows the location of the SCWS and AA dams in the Shire of Coorow, with symbols indicating the capacity, vesting and values of each site.

Shire of Coorow map



Strategic community water supply access

Overview of different fill points

Each SCWS 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), 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 tank storage, you will need to bring your own pump to extract water.

Swipe card systems

Swipe card systems are metered fill points that require a swipe card or fob from your shire to access the water supply. Contact your local LGA 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 swipe card access. The emergency access contact is the Manager Works and Services on 0428 521 103.

Farm bots

Some tanks across the state are fitted with farm bots, these regularly record the water level and feed this information into a website. You can access this website at app.farmbot.com.au (Login ID: **public.access** Password: **access1**) to view water tank levels for tanks fitted with farm bots and to identify if there are any in your LGA.

Below are examples of different fill points you may come across in your LGA.



Tank standard camlock fitting



Farm bot positioned on top of tank (where applicable)



Swipe card standpipe system



Tank, electric swipe card and pump for bore

Shire of Coorow SCWS sites

Site name	Location
Maley Park	<p>Soak location: Touche Road ~4.5 km south from Allen Road</p> <p>Storage tank location: Touche Road ~1.8 km west from North Street</p> <p>Maley Park tanks' location: Corner of Bothe Street and Long Street Maley Park recreation grounds</p>
Marchagee Townsite	North end of Marchagee town site, east side of Midland Road
Big Soak Plain	<p>Coorow-Green Head Road</p> <p>~400 m east of Tootbardie Road, access via track to communications tower</p>
Carbon Outback	<p>Launer Road</p> <p>~2.8 km east of Brand Mudge Road</p>

Description of community water supplies

Maley Park



Aerial view Maley Park tanks



Location map



Maley Park soak located Touche Road



Touche Road tank and solar pump



Leech drain location at soak



Maley Park tanks

Maley Park site description

Vesting	Shire of Coorow
Purpose	For reticulating the sports ground only, not accessible by the public. Could be used for firefighting during emergencies.
Associated reserve	14446
Catchment type	Soak

Location and coordinates

Soak location: Touche Road ~4.5 km south from Allen Road

Storage tank location: Touche Road ~1.8 km west from North Street

Maley Park tanks' location: Corner of Bothe Street and Long Street Maley Park recreation grounds

Location of Maley Park tanks

Latitude	-29.8827
Longitude	116.0147
Eastings	404855.1206
Northings	6693808.3916

Water supply and access

Structure type	Soak and storage tanks
Tank storage	2 x 251 kL tanks (Maley Park) 1 x 367 kL (Touche Road)
Standpipe Y/N	No
Pump Y/N	Yes, solar pump for transferring water to storage tank (Touche Road)
Heavy vehicle access	No
Turnaround area	No
Supply comments	Water collected at soak is transferred via a 30 m leach drain system and collected in drainage tanks (367 kL). Solar pump refills tank when required. Water is gravity fed to two existing storage tanks to the west of Maley Park.
Emergency supply contact	Manager Works and Services on 0428 521 103

Marchagee Townsite



Aerial view Marchagee Townsite



Location map



Marchagee Townsite tank



Tank setback from road

Marchagee Townsite site description

Vesting	Shire of Coorow
Purpose	Emergency firefighting use.
Associated Reserve	A1750 Lot 31
Catchment type	Water carted from Coorow

Location and coordinates

Location: North end of Marchagee townsite, east side of Midland Road

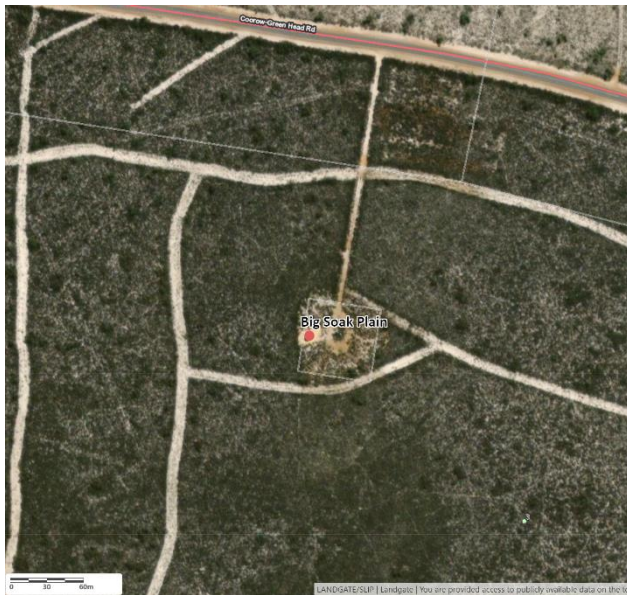
Location of Marchagee Townsite

Latitude	-30.04851
Longitude	116.07572
Eastings	410896.780
Northings	6675479.433

Water supply and access

Structure type	Storage tanks
Tank storage	40,000 L
Standpipe Y/N	No
Pump Y/N	No
Heavy vehicle access	Yes
Turnaround area	Yes
Supply comments	2 inch camlock connections
Emergency supply contact	Manager Works and Services on 0428 521 103

Big Soak Plain



Aerial view Big Soak Plain tank



Location map



Big Soak Plain tank



Access track to Communications tower and tank

Big Soak Plain site description

Vesting	Shire of Coorow
Purpose	Emergency firefighting purposes
Associated Reserve	Lot 11568
Catchment type	Water carted in from Coorow

Location and coordinates

Location: Coorow-Green Head Rd ~400 m east of Tootbardie Road. Access via track to communications tower.

Location of Big Soak Plain

Latitude	-30.06406
Longitude	115.53312
Eastings	358606.022
Northings	6673209.381

Water supply and access

Structure type	Storage tanks
Tank storage	40,000 L
Standpipe Y/N	No
Pump Y/N	No
Heavy vehicle access	Yes
Turnaround area	Yes
Supply comments	2 inch camlock connections
Emergency supply contact	Manager Works and Services on 0428 521 103

A wide-angle photograph of a dirt road leading to a corrugated metal building in a dry, open landscape under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The road is made of reddish-brown earth and shows tire tracks. The building is long and rectangular, made of corrugated metal, with a smaller yellow structure attached to its right side. The surrounding area is flat and covered with dry grass and sparse shrubs. The sky is bright blue with many white, fluffy clouds.

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Carbon Outback site description

Vesting	Shire of Coorow
Purpose	Emergency firefighting purposes
Associated Reserve	Lot 2207
Catchment type	Bore

Location and coordinates

Location: Launer Rd ~2.8 kms east of Brand Mudge Road

Location of Carbon Outback

Latitude	-29.92815
Longitude	115.77155
Eastings	381428.988
Northings	6688541.930

Water supply and access

Structure type	Bore and storage tank
Tank storage	250,000 L
Standpipe Y/N	No
Pump Y/N	No
Heavy vehicle access	Yes
Turnaround area	Yes
Supply comments	2 inch camlock connections
Emergency supply contact	Manager Works and Services on 0428 521 103

Appendices

Appendix A — Maley Park community water supply program project component layout

SHIRE OF COOROW—MALEY PARK COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM
PROJECT COMPONENT LAYOUT



Glossary

Camlock	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), and 80 mm (3 inch) as a standard. At some sites a 100 mm (4 inch) camlock has been included for firefighting purposes.
Catchment types	<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>
Farm bot	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 app.farmbot.com.au (Login ID: public.access Password: access1) to see water tank levels for tanks fitted with farm bots.
Fill point	Location where a water supply can be accessed from using camlock fittings either via standpipe, swipe card system, tank or bore.
Non-potable	Water not suitable for human consumption.
Solar pump	A pump powered via solar energy that pumps water from one location to another (e.g. from dam to dam or from dam to tank).
Staff gauges	A marker measuring tool positioned at surveyed depths in a dam to indicate water levels.
Standpipe	A pipe overhead, on a plinth or raised off the ground to provide a fill point for water supply.
Swipe card	A metered fill point requiring a card to be swiped to start pumping system. Contact the LGA for further information.
Vesting	Person or governing agency with responsibility for managing land.



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