

Exmouth water source planning

Project fact sheet – June 2025

With the impact of climate change and population growth, we are investigating options for a new water source for Exmouth. This new source will supplement Exmouth's existing groundwater supply.

We are planning for a secure and sustainable water supply for the future, with a focus on protecting the environmental value of the region. The water source options we are considering are:

- a new local **seawater desalination plant**
- new **groundwater** south of Exmouth.

Update on investigations

Aboriginal Heritage surveys of the new water source investigation areas were completed in May.

Stygofauna (underground aquatic fauna) surveys are also now complete. These surveys help us understand groundwater dependent ecosystems in the area.

We have started marine investigations including surveys of seabed habitats, and freshwater seeps (areas where underground freshwater from the land emerges from the seabed). The early results of these studies help us identify marine habitats like coral and seagrass. Other marine investigations will continue for at least a further 18 months.

We are analysing the results of our investigations and using engineering information and previous community and stakeholder feedback, to progress towards a decision on a preferred new water source for Exmouth.

Where does Exmouth's drinking water currently come from?

Water Corporation has water allocation licenses from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to draw water from a groundwater area around Exmouth.

The current water supply system extracts groundwater through a borefield. The borefield is carefully managed to prevent saltwater intrusion and sustain environmental conditions essential for groundwater-dependent ecosystems, particularly the stygofauna (underground aquatic fauna) habitats unique to the Cape Range Peninsula.

What are we doing to manage demand for water in Exmouth, as well as investigating new supply?

We've recently completed a roll-out of new smart water meters to all properties in Exmouth. Customers can now log in to their Water Corporation online account to view their water use and identify hidden leaks. This feature is especially helpful for holiday home or rental property owners who may not live in town.

We continue to work with high water users in Exmouth to manage demand and promote water efficiency.

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It's important to be waterwise as we work together to preserve our valuable resource. Simple changes can make a big difference. Search 'waterwise advice' on our website to find more ways to be waterwise.

How can I be involved?

We are committed to keeping the local community updated and providing opportunities for feedback.

Sign up for project updates by searching "Exmouth water source planning" in your preferred browser or scan the QR code.



If you have questions, please contact our team at Community.Engagement@watercorporation.com.au



Faults, emergencies and security – 13 13 75 (24 hours).

Seawater desalination investigation areas

