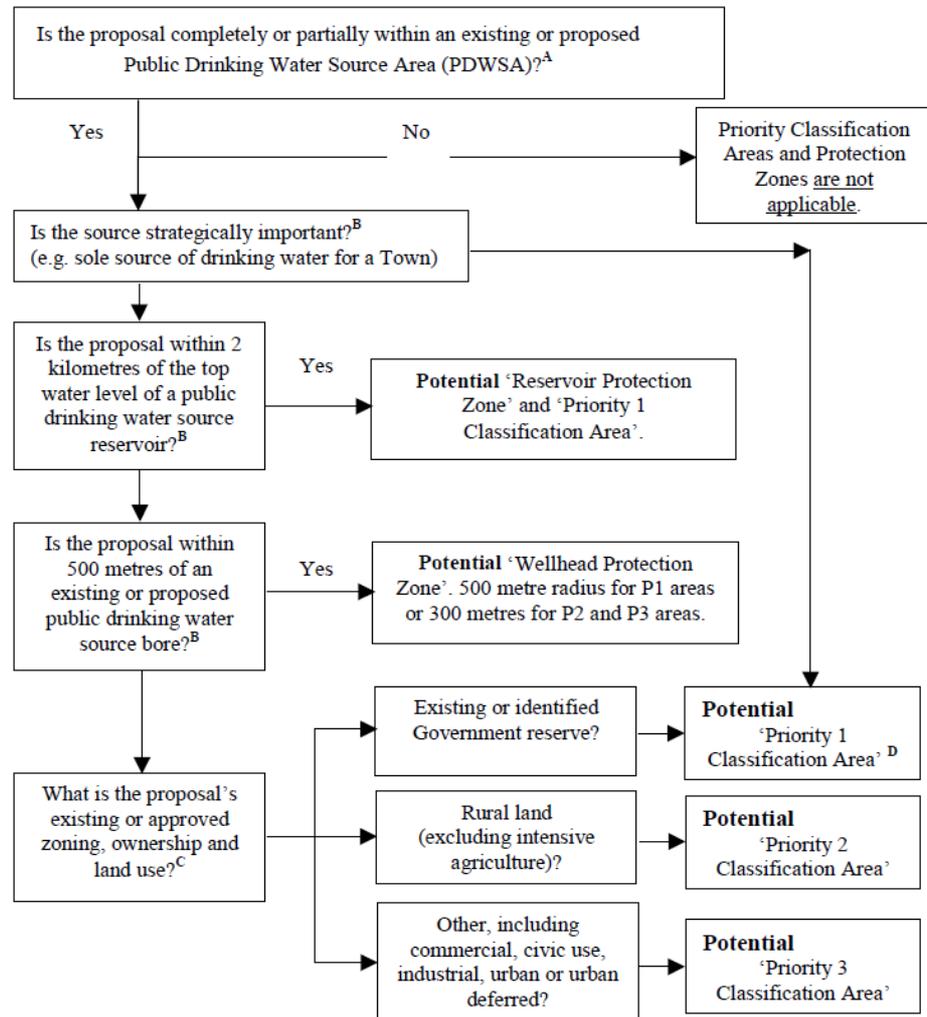


Guidance Note 2.4 : Planting in Public Drinking Water Source Areas



Use the following diagram to determine which Priority Area your planting project might fit into if it is within an existing or proposed Public Drinking Water Source Area. The diagram is from the Department of Water's Water Quality Protection Note, Land Use Compatibility in Public Drinking Water Source Areas, July 2004, (online at <http://www.water.wa.gov.au/PublicationStore/first/12441.pdf>) p4.

Diagram 1: Assessment of potential priority classification areas and protection zones



Legend

- The location of PDWSAs can be found in DoE's Drinking Water Source Protection Assessments and Plans or through your regional DoE office, Local Government office, Water Corporation or from the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.
- Strategically significant sources and potential contamination from land uses close to drinking water reservoirs or abstraction bores are considered first, due to these involving the highest risk of contamination reaching consumers.
- Current zoning or land use information is available from your Local Government office.
- Government land is protected to achieve the highest level of safety for drinking water in all parts of a catchment through a Priority 1 classification, wherever this is reasonable and practicable.

Disclaimer:

This Guidance Note does not constitute a legal or statutory document. Nor does it purport to provide any legal or financial advice. It is not exhaustive and is intended as general guidance only. Users should consult the more detailed disclaimer in the Oil Mallee code of Practice, which also applies to this Guidance Note.

Guidance Note 2.4: Planting in Public Drinking Water Source Areas

Priority Protection Areas

The Water and Rivers Commission has defined three levels of priority classification in “Water Quality Protection Note: Land Use Compatibility in Public Drinking Water Source Areas” (see diagram and notes above). Determination of the acceptable activity must occur before operations commence (assuming the planting is within a PDWSA).

The following description of the Priority Protection Areas is taken from the Department of Water, Water Quality Protection Note 36, Feb 2009, Protecting Public Drinking Water Source Areas (online at <http://www.water.wa.gov.au/PublicationStore/first/84602.pdf>), pp 9 -10:

“P1 source protection areas are defined to ensure that there is no degradation of the water source. P1 areas are declared over land where the provision of high quality public drinking water is the prime beneficial land use. P1 areas typically include land under public ownership. P1 areas are protected in accordance with the objective of risk avoidance.

P2 source protection areas are defined to ensure that there is no increased risk of pollution to the water source. P2 areas are declared over land where low intensity development (such as pasture and dry-land cropping) exists. Protection of public water supply sources is also a high priority relative to other land use values in these areas. P2 areas are protected in accordance with the objective of risk minimisation.

P3 source protection areas are defined where it is necessary to manage the risk of pollution to the water source, and where water supply sources need to co-exist with other existing land uses such as residential, commercial and light industrial developments. P3 areas generally include the requirement for use of best available environmental management practice and connection to deep sewerage. P3 areas are protected in accordance with the objective of risk management.”

Other Notes

The By-laws under the CAWS Acts enable the Water and Rivers Commission to control potentially polluting activities, to regulate land use, inspect premises and to take steps to prevent or clean up pollution in PDWSAs.

The application of chemicals, including fertiliser and pesticide in PDWSAs should be in accordance with Health Department, Water and Rivers Commission and Environmental Protection Authority policies and guidelines. The interpretation of policies and guidelines should be achieved in partnership between the relevant government agency and the Manager of the mallee crop.

If an area of mallees within a PDWSA is to be harvested and not re-established, a plan addressing subsequent land use activities (where the development of such activities is the responsibility of the mallee grower) should be developed in consultation with the Water and Rivers Commission. While reversion to the previous land use is acceptable, any changes to the use of the land prior to the establishment of the mallee crop should be compatible with water source objectives for that catchment.