

Water for the future – planning our region’s growth

As Busselton’s community continues to grow, so too does the pressure on our water services. By the end of this decade, we will need to provide significantly more water than we do today.



BUSSELTON WATER



Inland infrastructure – key to our water future

Busselton’s continued growth and our future drinking water supply relies on the development of new inland infrastructure – a new water treatment plant and inland bore network capable of meeting demand for the next 50 years and beyond.

Work is now underway for a new water treatment plant (known as Plant 8) and new bore (Bore 22) to secure our region’s water future.

This new infrastructure will be located further inland, on a four-hectare site approximately five kilometres from the coast. This existing Busselton Water site is located on Neville Hyder Drive, near Vasse Highway and opposite the Busselton-Margaret River Airport.



In the long term, our traditional coastal bore network is unsustainable due to the impacts of climate change. Our coastal bores will be impacted by saltwater intrusion, making the water too salty to extract for drinking water.

The way we manage our water in Busselton must evolve. It is clear that our water supply is becoming increasingly fragile and innovation is key to ensuring our water security.

But managing our region’s future water supply is complex. We must balance the needs of today’s community with demand, growth and climate change impacts of the future.

Did you know?

A new inland bore will not only produce its own water for our community, but also reduce abstraction from our existing coastal bores – allowing them to have a longer life.

Benefits of new infrastructure

There are many benefits of a new inland bore and treatment plant beyond 'future-proofing' drinking water supply.

- ✔ The site for the new plant is on substantially higher ground than other Busselton Water treatment plants, so the new storage tanks at the plant will allow **gravity supply to our customers during power outages**. The existing system relies on pumping the water to customers, which is ineffective during an extreme loss of power.
- ✔ The new plant will provide more storage capacity – with a production capacity of 900 L/s (77 ML/day) at ultimate design. This will enable **water supply to continue during periods of unplanned repairs**.
- ✔ The design of the new plant provides the opportunity to incorporate and **optimise renewable energy**.
- ✔ The new plant will offer **best practice occupational health and safety** for our team.

The new bore and treatment plant is just one way Busselton Water is ensuring #WaterForTomorrow. Water conservation and waterwise behaviour by our community will always be the lynchpin in preserving water supplies, coupled with sound decision-making in operations and infrastructure development, including the adoption of innovative approaches.



The way forward

With increasing population growth, seasonal tourism demand, and climate variability placing pressure on local water resources, Busselton Water has developed an Integrated Water Services Plan (IWSP) that is strategic, forward-looking and provides a structured and adaptive response to ensure a sustainable, efficient, and environmentally responsible water future. The alternative water options presented in the IWSP are now being considered and will continue to be investigated in the future.