

**“Any amount of
pumping lowers
groundwater in an
aquifer”**

-Regional Municipality
of Waterloo Special
Council Meeting
(ESS-WIM-26-007)
April 8, 2026

Wilmot farmer may get \$2,200 for loss of water

By Record Staff Writer

BADEN — The Region should pay about \$2,200 to a farmer whose well went dry in 1961, a special Waterloo Region committee recommended Thursday.

The decision was the first handed down by a liaison committee on Wilmot township water complaints about the effects of city wells.

The committee, made up of four regional politicians and three Wilmot representatives, was set up in August to honor

Regional Chairman Jack Young's promise of a fair hearing for longstanding complaints about water. The residents said pumping by the city was draining rural water supplies.

The committee heard the first four of 24 complaints filed so far at a meeting at the Woolwich township hall here.

Sangster Goettling of Trussler Road (the Kitchener-Wilmot boundary) said his 113-foot farm well went dry over 13 years ago when Kitch-

ener PUC began pumping the first of several rural Kitchener wells over a mile away from his farm.

Former Kitchener authorities said they couldn't prove his complaint was valid so they threw it out, Mr. Goettling said.

After listening to evidence from Jack Viirland of Stoney Creek, Ontario environment ministry ground-water evaluator, the committee accepted the complaint. The decision will be reported to regional

engineering committee and regional council for final approval.

Payment to cover the cost of redrilling was urged even though there was no provincial law protecting ground-water rights when Kitchener established wells in the area.

Mr. Goettling missed current protective measures by two months — his well went dry in February and the well water law came into effect at the end of March, 1961, Mr. Viirland explained.

The key to the decision was evidence that Mr. Goettling's complaint appeared "plausible."

Mr. Viirland said it appeared the underground water bed tapped by the city extended toward the Goettling farm. But in the early days of water control, they didn't have enough data for a definite conclusion, so the case was dropped.

But the opposite conclusion was offered for Wilfred Barnes of RR 2, Baden, a mile and a half in the opposite direction from the Mannheim wells. Drilling records showed the water bed didn't go into that direction, Mr. Viirland said.

Mr. Barnes said his 50-foot well, which provided a strong

supply in previous years, went dry the spring after the third Mannheim well went into operation in 1962. It cost \$1,500 to drill a new 90-foot well and that has dropped 18 inches a year ever since, he said.

Mr. Viirland said he could see no connection to city wells in the case of Mr. and Mrs. Raimund Broege on Regional Road 12 near Josephsburg. There are no city wells in the north part of the township.

However, the Region did drill test holes in the area and did a slight amount of test pumping last summer, said regional engineer D'Arcy Dutton.

Township committee members Eugene Strauss and Coun. Joe Stemmler were skeptical of the argument that

there is no connection. Six shallow wells close to the Josephsburg tests went dry this fall after the test pumping.

The committee had not been aware of some of the Josephsburg complaints.

Orville Good of RR 2, Baden, urged that a notice be sent to all township residents explaining that the Region was inviting complaints about water problems.

Mr. Straus said he heard of one Josephsburg problem by the grapevine. When he visited the home, he was directed to another home and by the end of the evening he had visited six neighbors with dry wells.

A complaint from Otto Konig, who lives on Bleam's Road a half-mile from two other city wells at Wilmot Centre, said his 294-foot drilled well suddenly went bad this fall after four years of good operation.

The water now contains a

PIXIES

IT'S NO WONDER
EVERYBODY WALKS
ALL OVER YOU,
MARVIN.

MM

heavy red iron content that discolors the bathtub in minutes.

They now take all their washing out to a laundromat.

The committee agreed to seek further reports on the Broege, Barnes and Konig complaints.

Residential Properties

Residential Properties

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'NO PRIOR CONSULTATION'

Wilmot Raps City For Drilling Wells

By Record Staff Writer

BADEN — Wilmot township council has taken exception to the methods employed by Kitchener to establish wells in the township.

Council Wednesday night endorsed a motion to Kitchener council protesting "in the strongest possible terms" the drilling of water wells in the township without prior consultation and with no guarantee of future water supplies, particularly on agricultural lands.

Copies of the motion are to be forwarded to Kitchener Water commission, the Waterloo Public Utilities Commission, the Ontario water resources commission, the Waterloo water board, the Waterloo county federation of agriculture and the Waterloo county council.

The motion came after Wilmot council, RR 2, had been complaining about the effect the wells may have on the area. He said Kitchener crews had been drilling wells and applying for permits

presently testing water from a well 124 feet deep that is producing 1,400 gallons of water a minute.

Most farmers' wells in that area are considerably less than 124 feet including his own which is only 50 feet deep.

"Is there any way the township can complain about this situation?" asked Mr. Cober who added that there are about five farms within the city limits that have been sold for speculative purposes and have not been tapped for water supplies.

Mr. Cober said he was speaking on behalf of himself and at least a half dozen other farmers in the area who were unable to attend the meeting.

He said the reduced water table in the area is a problem which is causing considerable financial loss to the farmers. He said the situation is a serious one and that the township should be doing something about it.

Wilmot Gets Backing In Fight Over Wells

Kitchener's search for water has angered Wilmot township farmers.

And the Waerloo County Federation of Agriculture unanimously supported Wilmot's protest Tuesday at its annual meeting.

The federation agreed to a resolution registering a strong protest to Kitchener for drilling wells in the township without prior consultation with the township council.

A further resolution was supported which will be sent to the Ontario Water Resources Commission making it mandatory for any municipality drilling a well to guarantee immediate and continuous water supply to rural residents within a five-mile radius of the well. The resolution also guaranteed that water tables would not be affected.

WATER TABLES DROPPED

Wilfrid ... a dairy farmer in Wilmot and a member of Wilmot Township council, said

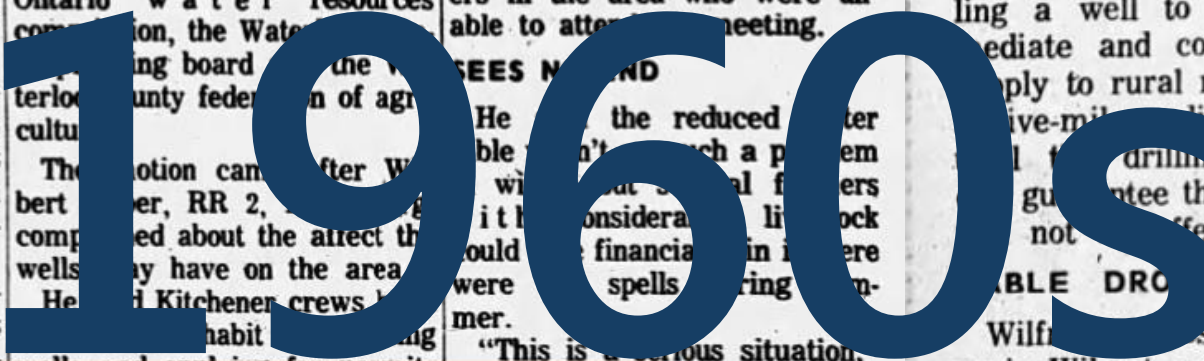
In other business, Lorne W. Snyder, president, said one of the highlights of the Ontario federation's activities this year was the importation of farm machinery from Britain to prove that tractors manufactured here could be bought in Britain at 40 per cent less than they cost in Ontario.

PRICES DROP

A later venture was the importation of fertilizer from the United States and I would urge you to make careful comparisons before you purchase fertilizer for next year's crops," he said.

"On the marketing scene this year, we have seen beef prices climb to a high in June only to make a sharp decline within a short period of time to level out with present prices similar to those of last year. Was it the threat of a boycott or was it the importation of cheaper beef that caused the decline?"

W. J. Knapp, chairman of



Committee blocks proposal to cut K-W U

By DON McCURDY
Record Staff Writer

A proposal by Waterloo Region chairman Jim Gray to reduce the amount of Wilmot Township water used by the Twin Cities was blocked Thursday by the regional engineering committee. A policy drafted by Gray said that the 1978 volumes pumped by the Region to supply Kitchener and Waterloo would not

no agreements should be made between the township and Region until all area councils consider the implications. "If we do this now, ... it may haunt us for years. I can't foresee the future, but five years from now we may need a pipeline and if it's delayed, we may need more water from the township," Barron said, attacking Gray for not giving committee members time to consider the

this." He said he will ask Kitchener staff to respond to Gray's list of recommendations. "We're sitting here as members of municipalities as well as the Region and certainly we should take a hard look at this on behalf of our municipalities. I don't think that is being too parochial," he said, asking that the report be temporarily shelved.

Waterloo Mayor Marjorie Carr, committee chairman, said local officials could discuss the proposals "informed by the committee considers it weeks. Wilmot Mayor Ralph Shantz said not sure if it's going to be accepted by Wilmot council as it is now." He was anxious to release the policy allowing his council to consider

No area immune in water for water, Gray tell guarantee

By JIM ROMAHN
Record Staff Writer

"None of the townships are immune" to the city demand

traditional water sources, farmers should be provided with an equal quantity and quality of water.

been made a reconstituted committee view rural complaints arising

By SHEILA HANNON
Record Staff Writer
ST. AGATHA — Not only quantity by quality of private

Farmers fear water shortage

By JIM ROMAHN
Record Staff Writer

Wilmot township farmers see lawn sprinklers in front of city homes through different eyes. They see a sinking water table in rural area, dried up wells because they cannot understand the waste of precious water on lawns and as used for lawns. "We were talking about lawns for the other day, and not one of us is a single farmer who water," Glenn Shantz said Tuesday. "I don't know how often you see monthly water bills for rural area."

want from the federation is its endorsement. But the federation, despite gentle urging from Shantz, was wary of the proposal and shelved a decision for a month until the directors can learn if there is a study with a \$1.6 million Ontario government grant recently announced for the Grand River watershed. Routhier will present his plan to the regional council on Thursday. What concerns the federation directors is that the conservation program may serve to cover from the region to continue to increase its use of water from rural area.

with it," and pressure the Region to take that ultimate step. Farmers favor a pipeline because it would end the draw of city water from the wells. Routhier said about 20 students are this summer to develop a slide set and audio tape and displays for shopping malls, all aimed at persuading the public to conserve. These materials should be used by the four present. One of the major concerns would be to select an urban area to contact and persuade owners, try to persuade them to conserve water. The results are to be used to determine an appropriate

uneasy feeling a feeling of among the people p — some concern future of a air own proper-Regional Chair- people gathered ght in the com- here to listen nd regional staff ained how they ire water supply a comprehen-

Rural dwellers line up for compensation as cities tap well

By HENNING TEGELBERG
Record Staff Writer

BADEN — Listening to the parade of rural residents with water complaints pass through the regional water liaison committee here is like attending criminal court. A long line-up of complainants and witnesses here Wednesday created very much of a court atmosphere. On trial, in a way, are the cities of Kitchener and Waterloo for drawing water from three districts in Wilmot Township — causing losses in rural wells and streams. Ultimately on trial are the 171,000 city dwellers who turn on their taps to get some of the water that flowed previously in the rural streams and wells.

Waterloo officials admit probably can never be refilled. There are complaints of dry wells and replacement wells so polluted with iron that they stain clothes and clog plumbing. And seven calves died in 1971 a week before Waterloo officials warned that the farm water supplied by the city was unfit. Wilmot Mayor Ralph Shantz said not sure if it's going to be accepted by Wilmot council as it is now." He was anxious to release the policy allowing his council to consider

complaints, the sentence is normally compensation by the Region, which eventually is charged back to regional taxpayers. Four cases from earlier hearings calling for \$1,000 in compensation have been approved by regional council. The Region inherited the dispute when it took over water supply in 1972. Chairman Jack Young suggested forming the liaison committee to settle old complaints after a rebellion by a group of township residents against regional plans to test for a new well field in the Josephsburg area of northeast Wilmot Township. Residents cited unsettled complaints of residents around the three previous well fields in their objection to further water taking. City wells were opened, beginning about 15 years ago, in the Manheim area, west of Waterloo along Earl's Road, and in the Manheim area, west of Waterloo along Earl's Road and into a stream on his and the neighboring farm of Garfield Cressman. The committee admitted a city well about 1 1/2 miles away near Manheim was probably responsible even though provincial water investigators said there was no conclusive proof.

Decisions are passed on to a higher court decision at the regional engineering committee and regional council. The committee Wednesday recommended: —Drilling a well to pump water into a pond on the farm of Ken Reiser and into a stream on his and the neighboring farm of Garfield Cressman. The committee admitted a city well about 1 1/2 miles away near Manheim was probably responsible even though provincial water investigators said there was no conclusive proof. —Free water from the Borden water line for the impoundment garage of Newton Gingrich on the eastern outskirts of Baden and a filtering system to take iron out of Borden well across the road. —Making an attempt to

—Payment of \$250 to Ronald Jacky of Earl's Road, half the estimate of his loss for the seven calves which died of bacteria in the water. —Repayment of a \$1,500 farm loan taken out by Mr. Jacky's mother to pay for 40 per cent of the cost of the replacement well. —Soaking a way to facts of Waterloo seven Josephsburg that died up temporarily. The test may be able because the main shafting off the pump had to be done, said regional water investigators said there was no conclusive proof existed.

Township councillor fails to have two wells shut off

causing a reduction in underground water supplies. A motion calling for a shut-off of two Kitchener wells southeast of Baden within an eight-year deadline never came to a vote at the regional water liaison committee meeting. Chairman Ian Melcham of Cambridge ruled it out of order on grounds that it didn't offer an immediate solution to the problem of a dry residential well that was under discussion. Regional officials have argued that once the wells reach

three township residents on the committee have argued several times that a shut-off of city supplies is the only long-term solution to rural water-supply interference. Coun. Stemmler issued figures were said were taken by the Region to show that the two city wells had dropped six and eight feet in two years. Other nearby wells were down five to seven feet, while the unused well to supply the municipal water lines in Baden had dropped only two feet. That well is more than

two miles away from the city supplies. Most of the drop occurred in the last nine months. The city wells were pumped over the winter for the first time this year. Meanwhile, three Waterloo wells west of the city have also been dropping, regional engineer D'Arcy Dutton told the committee. He said a report on the effects would be presented to a meeting next month. Regional officials have argued that once the wells reach

a stationary level there shouldn't be further side effects on other underground supplies in the area. However, since the wells and surrounding test wells are dropping, it means the wells are drawing water from an ever-widening circle of territory. The normal method to stop the decline would be to reduce the amount of pumping. But that may be a difficult problem, since Kitchener and Waterloo are reaching the limits of available water supply. Regional officials have argued that once the wells reach

Dry Farm Wells in Wilmot Blamed on City Pumping

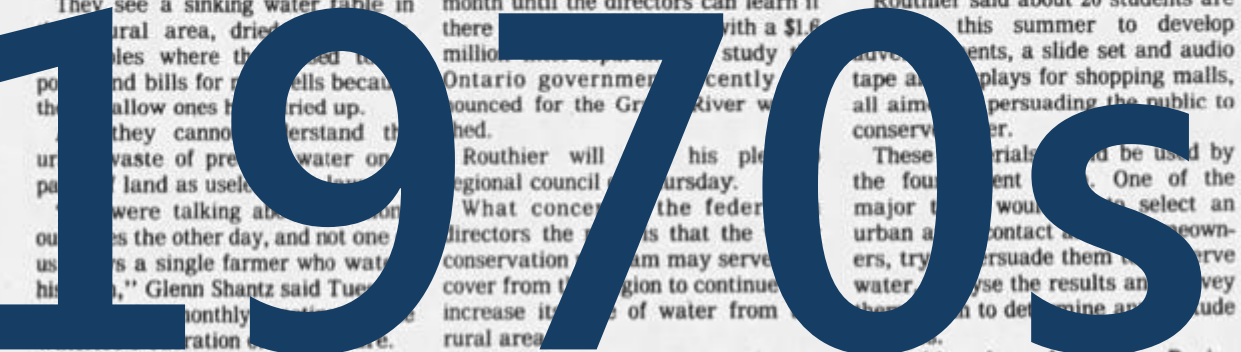
By BOB TROTTER
Record Farm Editor

Maybe Merrill Moore, the poet, was wrong when he said water has sunk more grievances than wine. Water is causing grievances in Wilmot Township. And the Ontario government has added its voice: Kitchener and Waterloo have serious water problems. Farmers in Wilmot Township are concerned. So far, the only assurance that has been given to the farmers is a promise from the Ontario water resources commission that a study is being conducted and the results will be assessed as soon as possible. Waterloo North MPP Edward Good has received a letter from K. E. Symons, director of the division of water resources, assuring him the farmers will be protected. An official is now in the town-

Shantz. He has a beautiful pond at his back door, stocked with trout. One week after the Kitchener test drop inch mes It mot pun buc tak It trok He lon is v " pun wal Wil COX B, OX nes " res shi Sci

few farms (farmers?) in Wilmot Township. "To be quite blunt about it, the \$1.6 million grant will have. He said the Region is pressing forward a decision on a long-range pipeline or reservoir supply, but the decision has been held up to await results of the Grand River flood inquiry. "We already have problems without any more," he said.

When faced earlier with the prospect of following the wishes of his constituents of his own conscience, Ritz said would be the most difficult decision of his political career. A decision on the future water-taking experiments was urgent. The Region is to issue a debenture for funds with



Seiling assures Wilmot on water pact

By Bob Burt
Record staff

Wilmot Mayor Lynn Myers said after the meeting that he would accept Seiling's assurances that the region

suggestion that a Wilmot representative be included in a committee to monitor the water taken from the

Wells could fail or be in for another hot explained.

Wilmot wells dry up, official wants action

MANNHEIM (Special) — The Trusler Road-Highland Road area of Wilmot Township just west of Kitchener resembles a desert with private wells drying up at an alarming rate, said Wilmot Township Coun. Dave Scherer. "Most of the shallow wells have dried up leaving homeowners with nowhere to turn but the township," he said, urging Wilmot to act quickly

1978 agreement amendment given in the meeting we want to amend the

Region plan for wells 'exasperates' Wilmot

By Marg Kasstan
Record staff

BADEN — The idea of lush, green lawns in Kitchener-Waterloo this summer has Wilmot Township homeowners, farmers and politicians red hot with frustration. "It's a feeling of total exasperation," Baden resident Pat Zehr said. Last fall Zehr presented the Waterloo Region with a petition with 1,177 signatures opposing its plan to extract an additional four-million gallons of water a day for emergency

"Suddenly, they have an oversupply of water?" Zehr asked. Zehr said she has talked to township residents whose wells are going dry and they need to preserve the water they have. If their water tables are down, rural folk may cancel a party because too many people would be using the toilet. City people don't think that way. "People in the country, we have a different concept of water than people in the city. We are more aware of it," she said.

Broken promise

Region taking too much water, Wilmot engineer says

NEW HAMBURG (Special) — Waterloo Region has broken a promise to hold its water taking from Wilmot Township to 1978 levels, township's engineer Bruce Cannon says. "After totalling pumpage records at all regional wells within Wilmot

Wilmot opposed to exporting its water

By Anne Kelly
RECORD CORRESPONDENT

While the agreement to limit water annu- r made l, Cant town- ast dec- region nt" ex- council BADEN.— Wilmot Township councillors reacted angrily Monday suggestion that drilling more well Wilmot might be an option for meeting the future water needs of Waterloo region's cities. New Dundee ward Coun. W Cober was livid over comments earlier in the day on a Kitchener radio talk show by Kitchener Coun. Tom Galloway. He said Galloway mentioned drilling more wells as one of three possibilities. "We went through that harassment and suffering in the 1970s," Cober said of farmers like himself, whose wells went dry and had to be replaced by region when it started taking water

that the water table in the St. Agatha area has dropped as much as 20 metres, forcing well diggers to drill down to the 50 metre mark. "Talk to the farmer or homeowner whose well has gone dry and tell him about how the region is going to have enough water to make lawns lush in Kitchener-Waterloo," he said, and the level of aggravation will be-

Wilmot well tests worry Myers

Widespread contamination turned up by random testing of private wells across Wilmot Township "is a matter of grave concern," township Mayor Lynn Myers said Wednesday. Myers said the problem is a concern across the region for both shallow and, to a lesser extent, deep wells. "First, at regional public works, and then today at the regional health and social services meeting, I heard in no uncertain terms that township residents are consuming water laden with nitrates and bacteria." Myers was speaking in an interview with the regional health committee approved scenario: to make deep drilled wells a complement to municipal services. The matter will go to regional council. The problem surfaced in September, when extensive studies found a high concentration of nitrates in private wells. Myers said the results indicate

"First, at regional public works, and then today at the regional health and social services meeting, I heard in no uncertain terms that township residents are consuming water laden with nitrates and bacteria."

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watching this region to see what is done. "(Contamination of shallow wells) is unique to this region," he said. "Other areas are grappling with the same problems." Hatton said other recommendations are likely to follow as the region continues to analyze test results, including those from water samples submitted by the public. In the meantime, the health unit will try to keep the public informed by distributing printed information in rural areas. "Fact sheets" will be distributed in such areas as protection of wells, sources of contamination, and causes of contamination. The random testing involves not only shallow wells, but deeper drilled wells. The implications, not only for individual homeowners, but for municipal system users, Myers said. "At this point, no one is aware of the extent of the pollution or the source, questions which cry out for answers." Myers said the shallow-well users to have

Region keeps water promise

BADEN (Special) — Waterloo Region is keeping its promise to hold water-taking from Wilmot Township to levels agreed upon in 1978, township public works chairman Hans Gross says. "While the region exceeded the annual 3.6-billion-gallon ceiling in 1990 by 12 per cent, 1991 pumpage figures show the dozen regional wells extracting amounts consistent with the terms of the gentleman's agreement," he said Wednesday. Gross said there have been occasions when particular wells, such as the Mannheim facility, have surpassed normal pumpage rates by as much as 176 per cent. Regional Chairman Ken Seiling said regional staff members are committed to the 1978 agreement with Wilmot. "Only in unusual unforeseen circumstances, such as a chemical spill involving the Grand River, will the region extract more water from the township, and then only for a short period of time," he said.

A model water-watcher

By Jeff Outhit, Record staff

WILMOT TOWNSHIP — Farmer Stewart Cressman does not use municipal water, but hopes to protect it. This year he's altered his planting to guard well K26 from

Green Region

Water drawn from K26 reflects farming practices from 30 years ago, Cressman has been told. "That's one of the concerns about groundwater, is that practices that we have today may not show up as a problem

WILMOT TOWNSHIP

Region to boost water-taking

BY BOB BURTT
Record staff

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over the last two years to inc

WATERLOO REGION

Regional growth puts pressure on water systems

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Farmers anxious

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sits on the region's public advisory committee

2000s

Public Engagement



REGION OF WATERLOO

PUBLIC NOTICES

WILMOT CENTRE MONITORING PROGRAM PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE

The Region of Waterloo recently prepared a Master Plan for Water Supply for the communities of Baden and New Hamburg. An important component of the Master Plan is the Wilmot Centre Monitoring Program, which will be of particular interest to the general public and stakeholders of the Wilmot Centre area.

An important part of the public consultation process for the Wilmot Centre Monitoring Program is the formation of a Public Liaison Committee (PLC). The PLC will be formed from a cross-section of stakeholder groups and the public at large.

The Region of Waterloo is seeking participants for this committee and interested persons are invited to contact Mr. K. Cober, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4J3; phone 519-575-4441; fax 519-575-4452; email ckarl@region.waterloo.on.ca for more information. Nominations should be received by the Region by March 14, 1997.

W.R. Pyatt
Commissioner of Engineering

2019

Waterloo Region

largest

municipality to

rely on

groundwater

**Path going
forward?**

“When the priorities of water use apply
Priorities of water use may be used to help resolve competing demands for water among existing water takings due to a shortage of water within an area. Competing demands for water may be short-term or long-term; a single, recurring or continuous event; and may occur over different spatial scales, resulting from factors including drought, limited natural water availability, or a high density or close proximity of water takings.”

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/guidance-support-priorities-water-use>

Priority 1 – Environment, drinking water, and
Farm animal production (equally)

Priority 2 - Agricultural

Priority 3 – Industrial and commercial and other

Priority 4 - Aesthetic

Priority 1 – Environment, drinking water, and Farm animal production (equally)

Environment

For example:

- protection of instream flows (stream, rivers) and water levels (lakes, aquifers) for the purposes of protecting aquatic ecosystems (including wetlands) and/or mitigating impacts of water quality degradation (including wastewater assimilation)
- environmental remediation, including the pumping and treating of contaminated groundwater for aquifer protection

Drinking Water

For example:

- private domestic supply (such as wells and surface water intakes) for ordinary household and farm purposes
- drinking water supplies for Indigenous communities
- municipal drinking water systems
- communal drinking water supplies, including residential developments, trailer parks, or campgrounds
- drinking water supply for institutions, such as:
 - schools
 - hospitals
 - colleges and universities

Farm animal production (animal welfare)

Including:

- direct watering of poultry and livestock
- aquaculture

Priority 2 - Agricultural

Irrigation (including frost protection) of agricultural crops and on-farm washing activities

Priority 3 – Industrial and commercial and other

For example:

- **aggregates**
- **brewing / soft drinks**
- **food manufacturing**
- **manufacturing**
- **mining**
- **power generation**
- **golf courses**
- **water bottling**
- **construction**
- **ski hills**

Priority 3 includes industrial and commercial uses, along with any other purposes of water use not captured in the Priority 1, Priority 2, or Priority 4 categories.

Priority 4 - Aesthetic

For example, uses for aesthetic purposes, such as:

- **landscaping**
- **landscaped features (such as an aesthetic fish pond)**