

East Gippsland Basin

July 2013

Introduction

Southern Rural Water is the water corporation responsible for administering and enforcing the East Gippsland Basin Local Management Plan.

The purpose of the East Gippsland Basin Local Management Plan is to:

- document the management objectives for the system
- explain to licence holders (and the broader community) the specific management objectives and arrangements for their water resource and the rules that apply to them as users of that resource
- clarify water sharing arrangements for all users and the environment, including environmental flow requirements
- document any limits, including water use caps, permissible consumptive volumes or extraction limits that apply to the system.

Management objectives

The objective of the Local Management Plan is to ensure the equitable sharing of water between users and the environment and the long-term sustainability of the resource.

Water system covered

The Local Management Plan covers all the rivers and creeks located within the East Gippsland Basin (within Victoria), which includes:

- Bemm River
- Cann River
- Genoa River

Catchment information

The East Gippsland Basin covers a total area of 604,000 hectares (ha), of which 150,000 ha (25%) is in New South Wales. The long term average annual stream flow of the basin totals 714,000 megalitres (ML). The main rivers in the basin are the Bemm, Cann, Thurra, Wingan and Genoa, all of which flow south or south-east into coastal inlets or lagoons, before entering the sea.

The Far East catchment is predominantly public land with small townships and little freehold land. The public land areas in this catchment include Cape Conran Coastal Park, Bemm River Scenic Reserve, Errinundra National Park, Lind National Park, Cooperacambra National Park and Croajingalong National Park.

The Bemm River is listed as a Heritage River for the presence of rainforest, significant habitat, native fish diversity and the connection to Sydenham Inlet. The Upper Genoa River is also listed as a Heritage River based on the geological/geomorphological significance of the Genoa River gorge, scenic landscapes and sites of botanical significance.

Water entitlements and use

Licence allocations in the East Gippsland Basin include the Bemm, Errinundra, Cann, Thurra, Genoa and Staggs Rivers; Tonghi, Walkers, Maramingo and Genoa Creeks.

More detailed information can be located in the Victorian Water Register.

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation* - direct	12	600
Irrigation – winter-fill	1	15
Registration**	6	176.1
Domestic and Stock	11	33.8
Commercial / Industrial	3	5.4
Dairy	2	5.6
Total	35	835.9

* Includes amalgamated D&S licences

**Includes Dairy and Commercial licences

General rules

Licences in the East Gippsland Basin are managed in accordance with the Water Act 1989 and Policies for Managing Take and Use Licences. A copy of these policies can be found at: <http://waterregister.vic.gov.au/Public/TakeAndUseLicences.aspx>

The general rules for licences in the East Gippsland Basin are as follows:

New licences

- The Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy 2011 identified that water is available in Far East Gippsland Catchments for allocation on a winterfill basis. 500 ML is available across each of the Cann and Genoa river catchments. Also up to

500 ML may be available in other Far East Gippsland catchments. This water is available for allocation. Southern Rural Water will ensure that the water is allocated equitably and in accordance with state law and policy.

A copy of the Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy can be found at:

<http://www.water.vic.gov.au/initiatives/sws/gippsland>

Metering

- Diversions are metered and licence holders must not use more than their licensed volume.
- Meters are installed on all active licences of 10 ML or greater or all new licences regardless of the volume.
- Meters are read at least twice per year.

Restrictions

- Take and use licences allow for Southern Rural Water to roster and restrict extraction during periods of low water availability. Restrictions will be applied by Southern Rural Water as required. Notifications will be provided to licence holders in advance of their implementation.

Transfers

- Temporary transfers of a licence (or part of a licence) can be for up to 5 years, and conclude at the end of the water season (30 June).
- Permanent or temporary transfers of a direct stream (all-year licence) may only be approved if:
 - the licence will be transferred to a downstream user, or
 - the licence is issued to the buyer as a winterfill licence
- A winterfill licence cannot be transferred to be a direct stream (all-year licence).

Renewals

- Licences are renewed in accordance with the Water Act 1989 and Policies for Managing Take and Use Licences.

The general rules apply to all licences in the East Gippsland Basin, unless otherwise stated in the system specific rules.

System specific rules

Some systems within the East Gippsland Basin require more specific management rules that address rostering, restrictions and trade. In the East Gippsland Basin specific rules exist for the following systems:

- Cann River - refer to appendix 1

Annual reporting

SRW produces Local Water Reports for each river basin. These reports include information on licences, water use and seasonal conditions. A copy is sent to each licence holder each year.

Consultation and review

SRW will consult with licence holders and relevant stakeholders before making changes to the Local Management Plan, other than administrative changes or clarifications.

The Local Management Plan will be reviewed every 5 years, unless an update is required sooner.

References

- Department of Environment and Primary Industries – Victorian Resources Online
http://vro.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/egregqn.nsf/pages/eg_water
- Victorian Water Accounts
<http://www.water.vic.gov.au/monitoring/accounts>

Contact details

For general information call 1300 139 510 or visit www.srw.com.au

Additional information

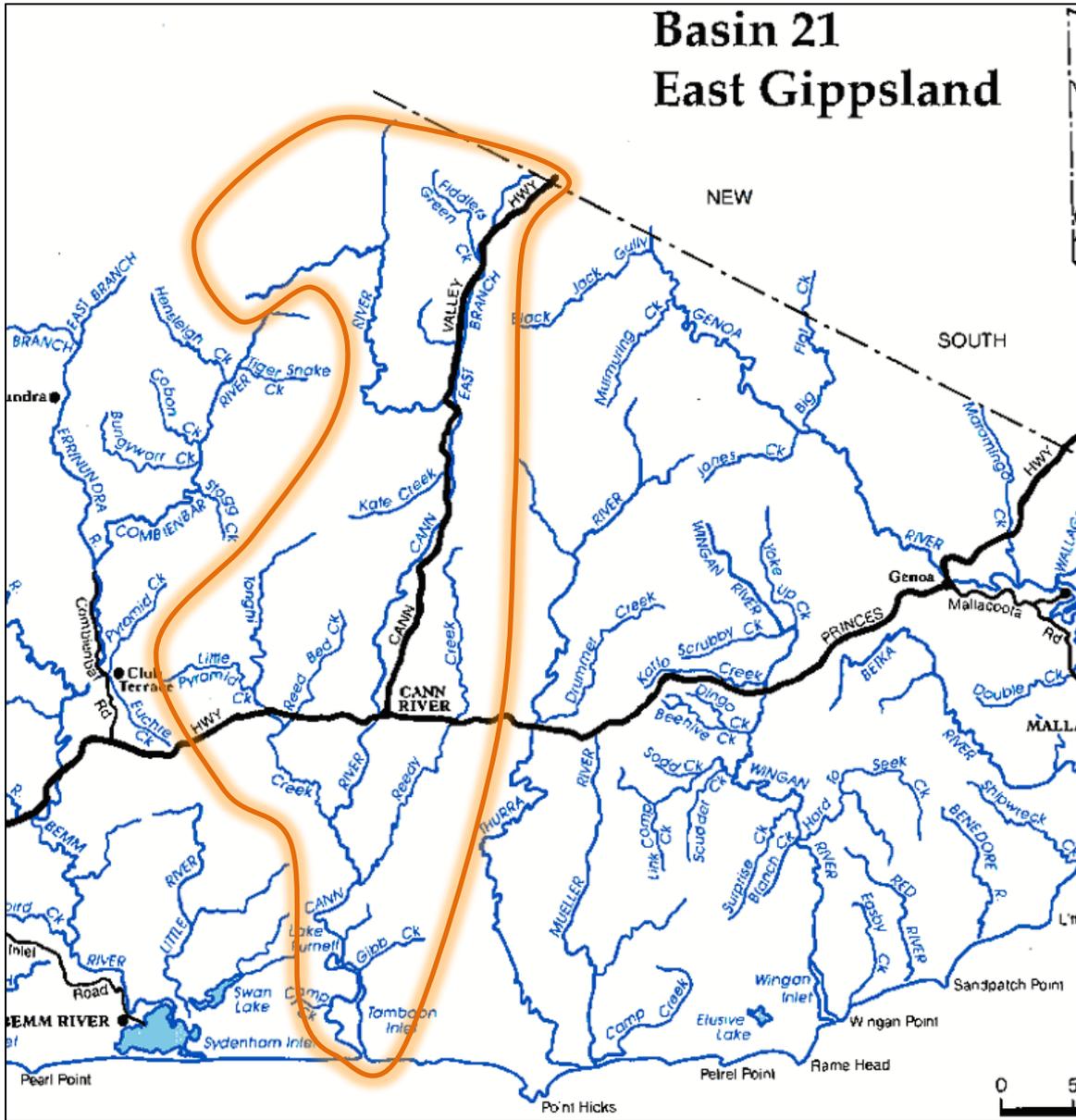
East Gippsland Water has Bulk Entitlements at the Bemm, Cann and Betka Rivers. Contact East Gippsland Water or refer to its website for further information on management and compliance rules.

Appendix 1

Cann River Rules

Area Description

These rules apply to all Cann River irrigation licence holders downstream of the Weeragua Gauge Site, as shown below.



Licences

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation – Direct Pumping	6	387

More detailed information can be located in the Victorian Water Register.

Management of Licences

Restriction triggers for each stage of restriction.

Restriction Stages	Trigger value for introduction of next stage of restriction	Percentage Reduction
Ban	<4 ML per day	100%

A simple roster applies during low flow periods due to the low number of active licences on the Cann River. Demand is reduced to one irrigation system at a time to ensure passing flow requirements. There can be multiple seasons without restriction.

Management is by customer liaison, site inspection and reference to the gauge site near the East Gippsland Water off take (McKinnons).

Compliance Point

Gauge Site No.221224 Cann River at Cann River (McKinnons).

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- Temporary transfers of a licence (or part of a licence) can be for up to 5 years, and conclude at the end of the water season (30 June).
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 - the licence will be transferred to a downstream user, or
 - the licence is issued to the buyer as a winterfill licence
- A winterfill licence cannot be transferred to be a direct stream (all-year licence).

Consultation

Southern Rural Water liaises with customers from the catchment. Meetings are held as the need arises. The purpose of the meetings is to inform of policy changes and to consult on management practices in the local area.

Review

These rules will be reviewed every five years, unless an update is required sooner.