

Portland Basin

September 2013

Introduction

Southern Rural Water (SRW) is the water corporation responsible for administering and enforcing the Portland Basin Local Management Plan (LMP).

The purpose of the Portland Basin LMP 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; and
- Document any limits, including water use caps, permissible consumptive volumes or extraction limits that apply to the system.

Management objectives

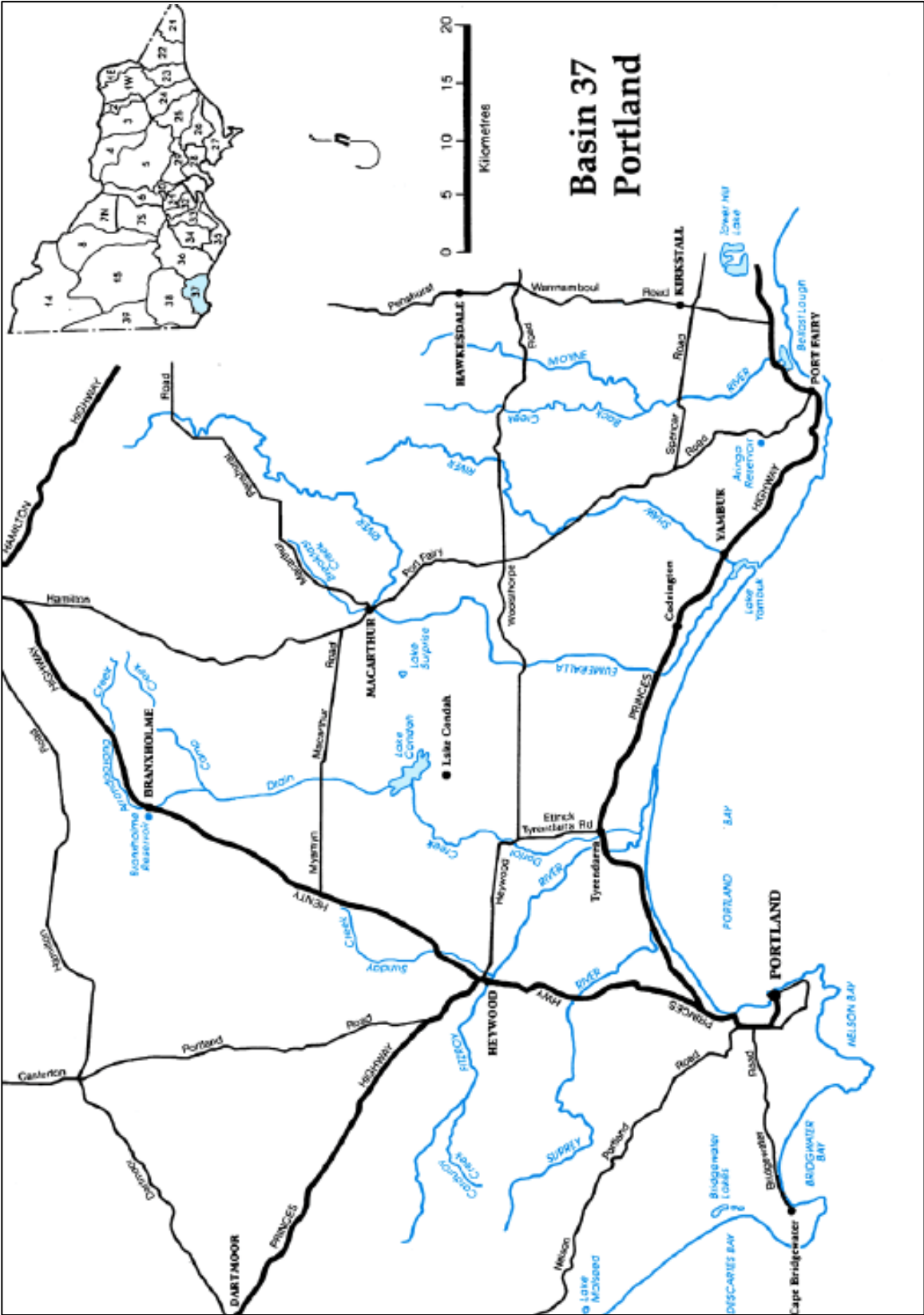
The objective of the LMP is to ensure the equitable sharing of water between users and the environment and the long-term sustainability of the resource.

Water systems covered

The LMP covers all the rivers and creeks located within the Portland Basin, which includes:

- Moyne River
- Eumeralla River
- Surrey River
- Fitzroy River
- Darlots Creek (Condah Drain)
- And all other Tributaries.

The Portland Basin is shown in the map below.



Catchment information

The Portland Basin encompasses the south-western coastal region of Victoria from east of Port Fairy to west of Portland and covers an area of 3,963Km². The Southern border is formed by the Southern ocean, into which many stream systems drain.

Water entitlements

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

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation* - direct	17	818.9
Irrigation - winterfill	7	191.4
Registration**	22	429.4
Domestic and Stock	21	52
Commercial / Industrial	4	14.4
Dairy	2	9.4
Total	72	1510.5

* Includes amalgamated D&S and Commercial licences

**Includes Dairy and Commercial licences

General rules

Licences in the Portland 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 Portland Basin are as follows:

New licences

- The Portland Basin is not fully allocated, so new licences can be issued.
- There is no permissible consumptive volume for the Portland Basin.

Metering

- Diversions are metered and licence holders must not use more than their licensed volume.
- Meters are installed on all active licences regardless of the volume except for the Darlots Creek (Condah Drain)
- Meters are read at least twice per year.
- Stock and domestic use is not metered

Restrictions

- Take and use licences allow for SRW to roster and restrict extraction during periods of low water availability. Restrictions will be applied by SRW 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 Portland Basin, unless otherwise stated in the system specific rules.

System specific rules

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

- Moyne River - refer to appendix 1
- Eumeralla River - refer to appendix 2
- Surrey River - refer to appendix 3
- Fitzroy River - refer to appendix 4
- Darlots Creek - refer to appendix 5

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 Primary Industries – Victorian Resources Online
- Victorian Water Accounts

Contact details

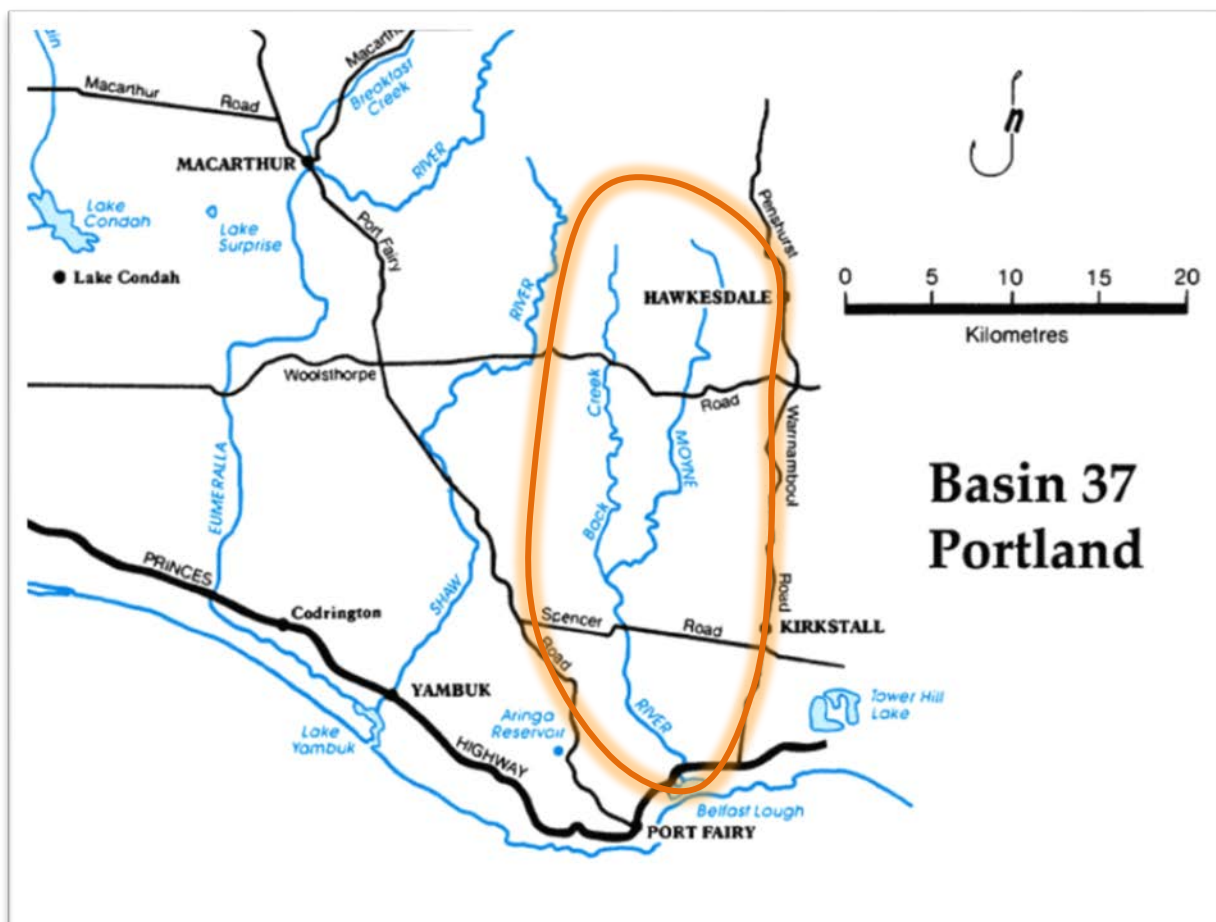
For general information call 1300 139 510 or visit www.srw.com.au

Appendix 1

Moyne River Rules

Area Description

These rules apply to all Moyne River licence holders.



Licences

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation - direct	0	0
Irrigation - winterfill	0	0
Registration	5	91.6
Domestic and Stock	0	0
Commercial / Industrial	0	0
Dairy	0	0
Total	5	91.6

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

Management of Licences

Southern Rural Water will ensure that each licensee is aware of their obligations in relation to this plan and their licence conditions. A copy of the licence including the following details shall be made available to each licensee on request.

- (a) Months, in any year, in which collecting of water in a dam or pumping water from a waterway is permitted; and
- (b) Maximum daily extraction rate; and
- (c) Maximum volume to be collected or extracted in any year; and
- (d) Other site specific conditions where necessary.

Rosters and restrictions

Southern Rural Water may, from time to time, prepare and implement total bans or restrictions or other arrangements for taking and using water in accordance with the requirements set out below in flow chart 1 and using trigger levels in table 1.

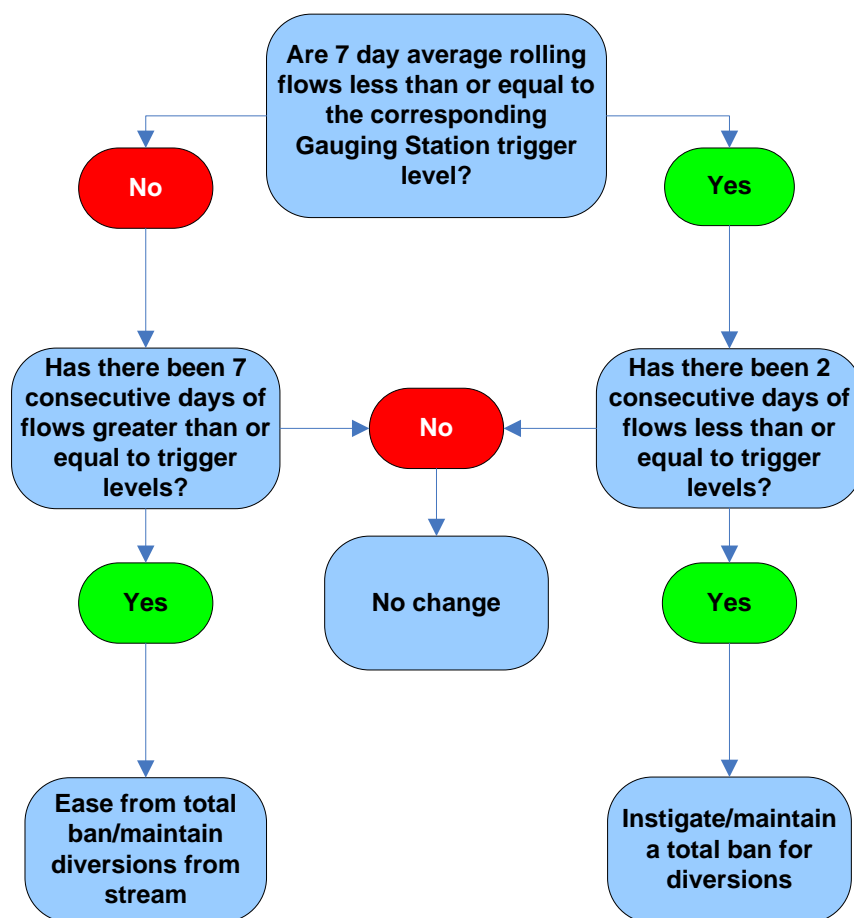
Restrictions do not include extraction for Stock and Domestic use.

Table 1.

Gauging Station	Summer Trigger Flow ML/day For all months	Winter Trigger Flow ML/day July – October (Inc)
Moyne River @ Toolong	<6	<6

Management is by visual inspection and liaison with customers. Customers will be notified when restrictions are imminent, which will include information on how to obtain updates on the restriction levels.

Flow Chart 1



Compliance Point

There is a surfacewater gauging station (Gauge Site No.237200) located on the Moyne River at Toolong. The flow levels can be obtained either by phone or by site inspection.

Southern Rural Water will:

- (a) Record the flows at the Moyne River @ Toolong (237200) gauging station; and
- (b) periodically inspect the condition of Moyne River @ Toolong (237200) gauging station; and
- (c) maintain the Moyne River @ Toolong (237200) gauging station in good condition.

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).

Consultation

Southern Rural Water liaises with the customers from the catchment as the need arises.

Review

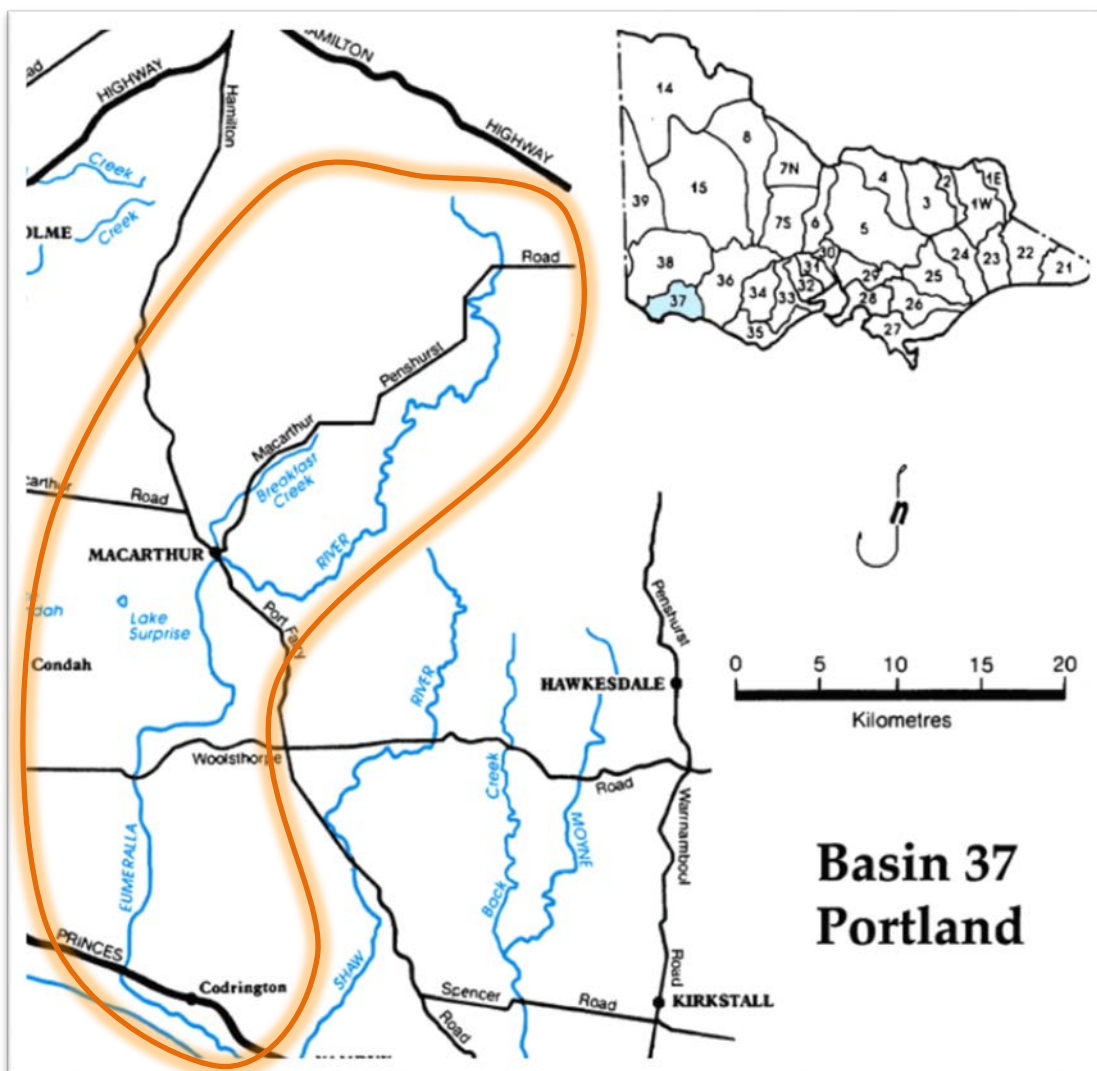
These rules will be reviewed every 5-years, unless an update is required sooner.

Appendix 2

Eumeralla River Rules

Area Description

These rules apply to all Eumeralla River licence holders.



Licences

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation - direct	3	63.5
Irrigation - winterfill	1	30
Registration**	0	0
Domestic and Stock	6	13.2

Commercial / Industrial	1	4.4
Dairy	0	0
Total	11	111.1

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

Management of Licences

Southern Rural Water will ensure that each licensee is aware of their obligations in relation to this plan and their licence conditions. A copy of the licence including the following details shall be made available to each licensee on request.

- (a) Months, in any year, in which collecting of water in a dam or pumping water from a waterway is permitted; and
- (b) Maximum daily extraction rate; and
- (c) Maximum volume to be collected or extracted in any year; and
- (d) Other site specific conditions where necessary.

Rosters and restrictions

Southern Rural Water may, from time to time, prepare and implement total bans or restrictions or other arrangements for taking and using water in accordance with the requirements set out below in flow chart 1 and using trigger levels in table 1.

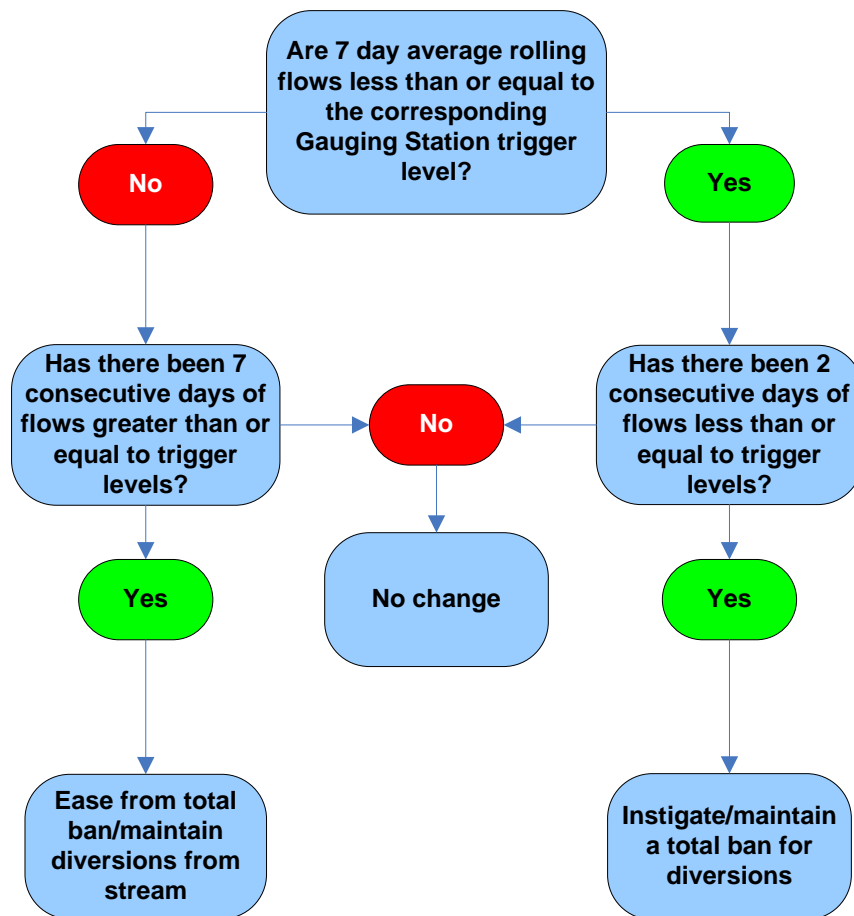
Restrictions do not include extraction for Stock and Domestic use.

Table 1.

Gauging Station	Summer Trigger Flow ML/day For all months	Winter Trigger Flow ML/day July – October (Inc)
Eumarella @ Codrington	<8	<8

Management is by visual inspection and liaison with customers. Customers will be notified when restrictions are imminent, which will include information on how to obtain updates on the restriction levels.

Flow Chart 1



Compliance Point

There is a surface water gauging station (Gauge Site No.237206) located on the Eumarella River at Codrington. The flow levels can be obtained either by phone or by site inspection

Southern Rural Water will:

- Record the flows on the Eumarella at Codrington (238206) gauging station; and
- periodically inspect the condition of the Codrington (238206) gauging station and
- maintain the Codrington (238206) gauging station in good condition;

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).

Consultation

Southern Rural Water liaises with the customers from the catchment as the need arises.

Review

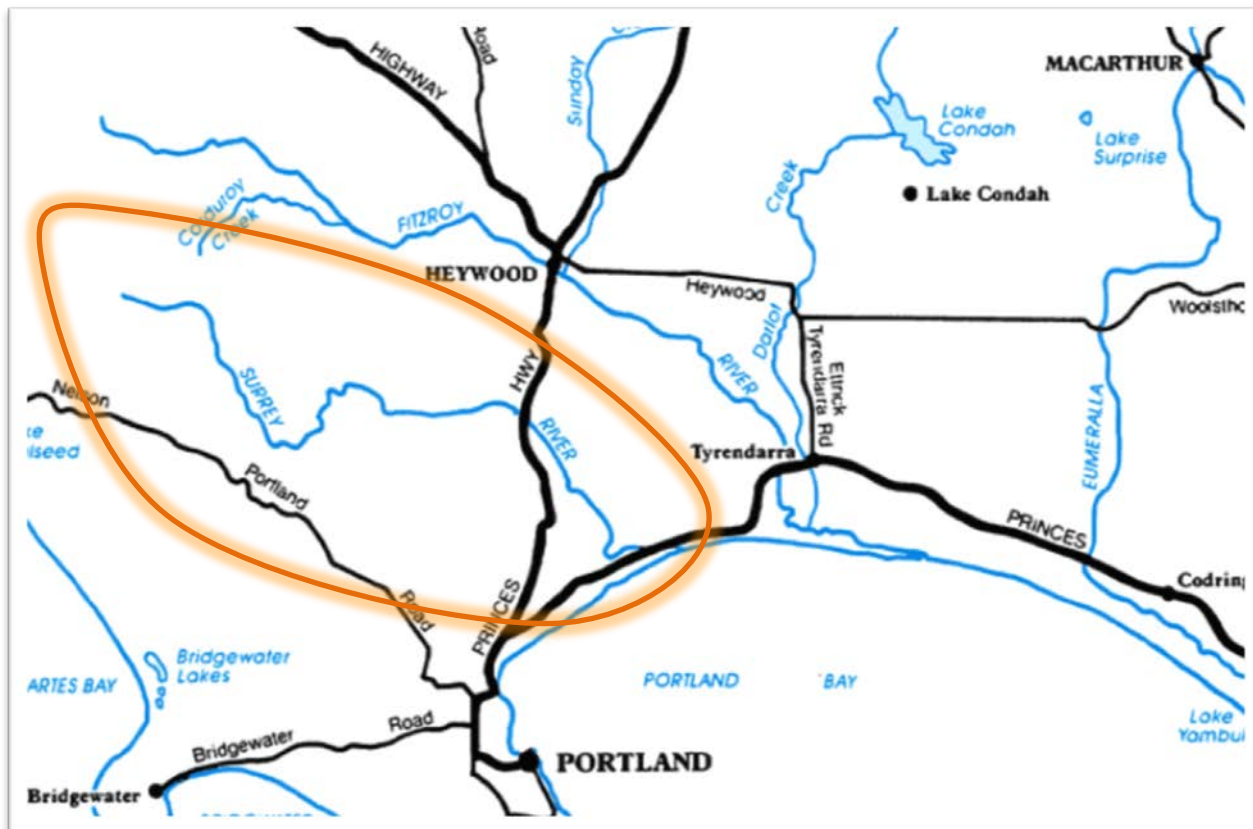
These rules will be reviewed every 5-years, unless an update is required sooner

Appendix 3

Surrey River Rules

Area Description

These rules apply to all Surrey River licence holders.



Licences

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation* - direct	0	0
Irrigation - winterfill	0	0
Registration**	0	0
Domestic and Stock	0	0
Commercial / Industrial	0	0
Dairy	0	0
Total	0	0

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

Management of Licences

Southern Rural Water will ensure that each licensee is aware of their obligations in relation to this plan and their licence conditions. A copy of the licence including the following details shall be made available to each licensee on request.

- (a) Months, in any year, in which collecting of water in a dam or pumping water from a waterway is permitted; and
- (b) Maximum daily extraction rate; and
- (c) Maximum volume to be collected or extracted in any year; and
- (d) Other site specific conditions where necessary.

Rosters and restrictions

Southern Rural Water may, from time to time, prepare and implement total bans or restrictions or other arrangements for taking and using water in accordance with the requirements set out below in flow chart 1 and using trigger levels in table 1.

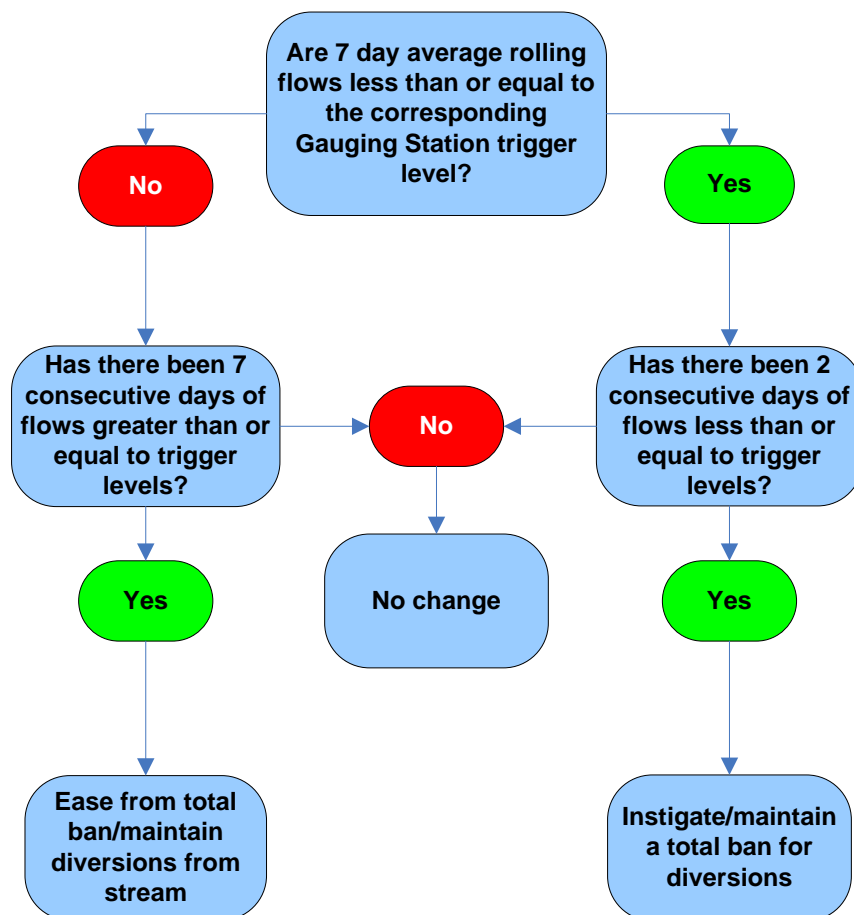
Restrictions do not include extraction for Stock and Domestic use.

Table 1.

Gauging Station	Summer Trigger Flow ML/day For all months	Winter Trigger Flow ML/day July – October (Inc)
Surrey River @ Heathmere	<2	<2

Management is by visual inspection and liaison with customers. Customers will be notified when restrictions are imminent, which will include information on how to obtain updates on the restriction levels.

Flow Chart 1



Compliance Point

There is a surfacewater gauging station (Gauge Site No.237207) located on the Surry River at Heathmere. The flow levels can be obtained either by phone or by site inspection

Southern Rural Water will:

- Periodically (Generally weekly) record the flows at the Surry River @ Heathmere (237207A) gauging station; and
- periodically inspect the condition of Surry River @ Heathmere (237207A) gauging station; and
- maintain the Surry River @ Heathmere (237207A) gauging station in good condition.

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).

Consultation

Southern Rural Water liaises with the customers from the catchment as the need arises.

Review

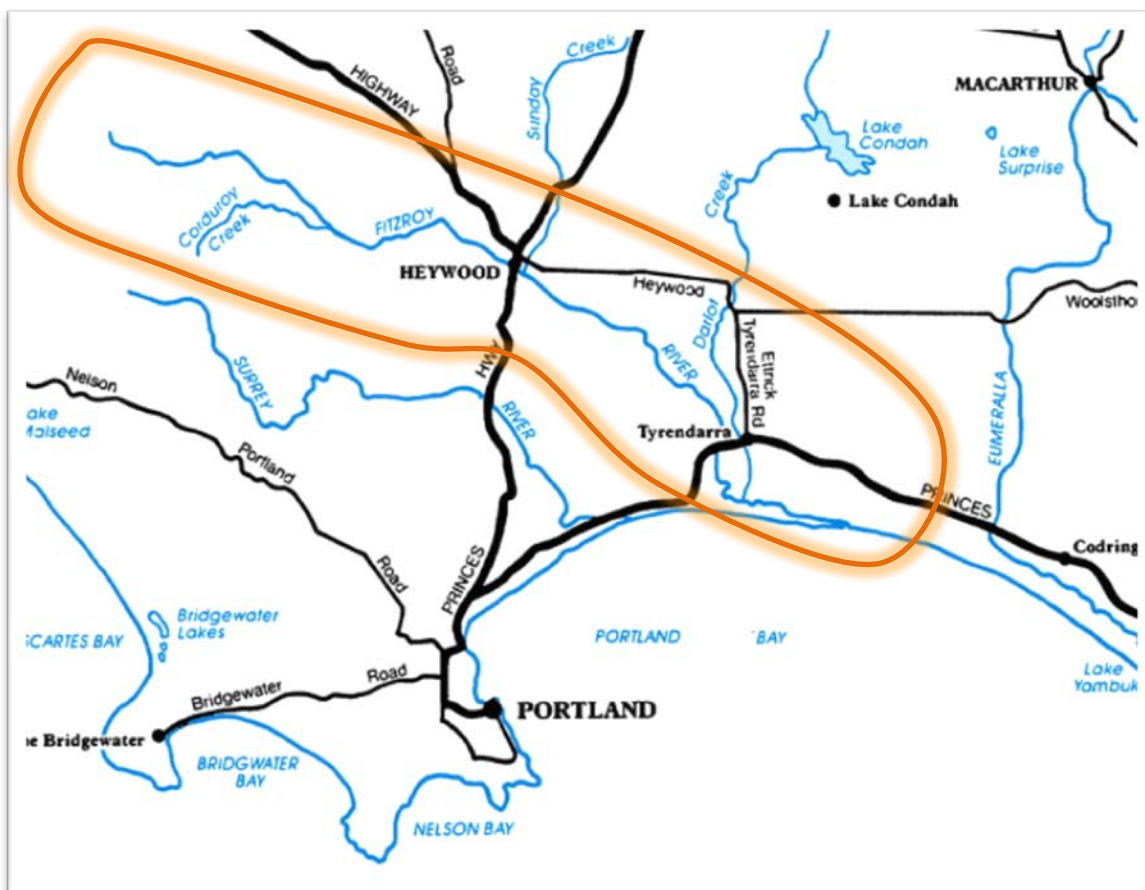
These rules will be reviewed every 5-years, unless an update is required sooner.

Appendix 4

Fitzroy River Rules

Area Description

These rules apply to all Fitzroy River licence holders.



Licences

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation - direct	1	37
Irrigation - winterfill	1	75
Registration**	4	124
Domestic and Stock	0	0
Commercial / Industrial	0	0
Dairy	0	0
Total	6	236

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

Management of Licences

Southern Rural Water will ensure that each licensee is aware of their obligations in relation to this plan and their licence conditions. A copy of the licence including the following details shall be made available to each licensee on request.

- (a) Months, in any year, in which collecting of water in a dam or pumping water from a waterway is permitted; and
- (b) Maximum daily extraction rate; and
- (c) Maximum volume to be collected or extracted in any year; and
- (d) Other site specific conditions where necessary.

Rosters and restrictions

Southern Rural Water may, from time to time, prepare and implement total bans or restrictions or other arrangements for taking and using water in accordance with the requirements set out below in flow chart 1 and using trigger levels in table 1.

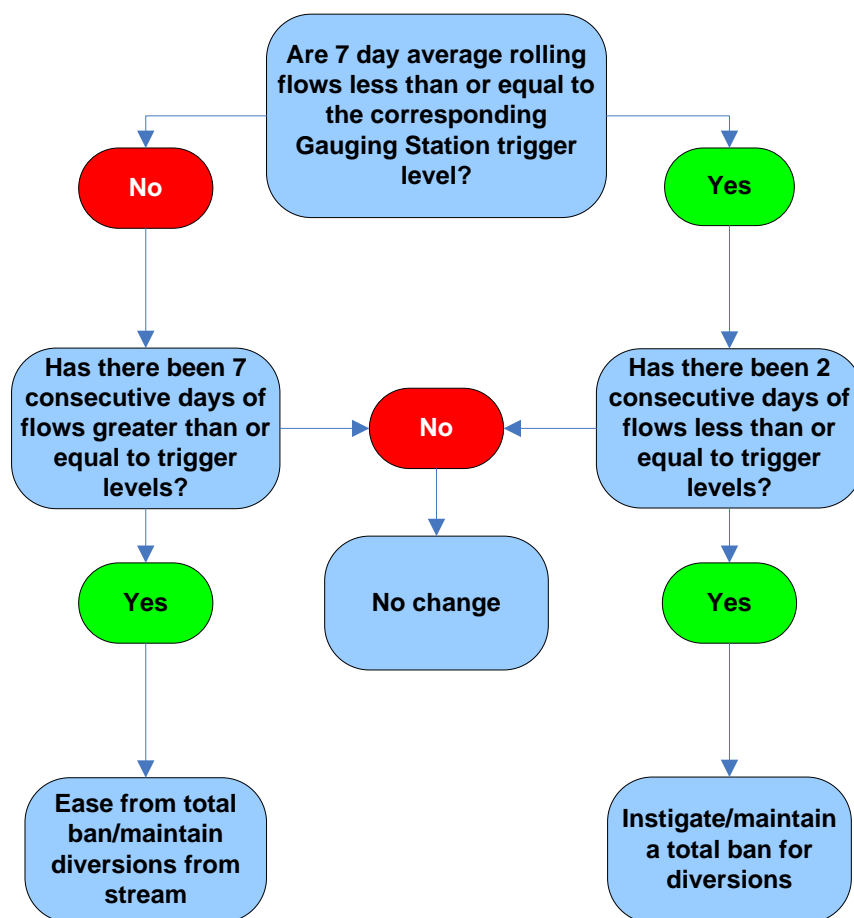
Restrictions do not include extraction for Stock and Domestic use.

Table 1.

Gauging Station	Summer Trigger Flow ML/day For all months	Winter Trigger Flow ML/day July – October (Inc)
Fitzroy River @ Heywood	<5	<5

Management is by visual inspection and liaison with customers. Customers will be notified when restrictions are imminent, which will include information on how to obtain updates on the restriction levels.

Flow Chart 1



Compliance Point

There is a surfacewater gauging station (Gauge Site No.237202) located on the Fitzroy River at Heywood. The flow levels can be obtained either by phone or by site inspection

Southern Rural Water will:

- Record the flows at the Fitzroy River @ Heywood(237202) gauging station; and
- Periodically inspect the condition of Fitzroy River @ Heywood(237202) gauging station; and
- Maintain the Fitzroy River @ Heywood(237202) gauging station in good condition

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).

Consultation

Southern Rural Water liaises with the customers from the catchment as the need arises.

Review

These rules will be reviewed every 5-years, unless an update is required sooner.

Appendix 5

Darlots Creek Rules

Area Description

These rules apply to all Darlots Creek licence holders.



Licences

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation* - direct	10	553
Irrigation - winterfill	1	4.2
Registration**	2	98.7
Domestic and Stock	6	13.2
Commercial / Industrial	0	0
Dairy	0	0
Total	19	669.1

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

Management of Licences

Southern Rural Water will ensure that each licensee is aware of their obligations in relation to this plan and their licence conditions. A copy of the licence including the following details shall be made available to each licensee on request.

- a) Months, in any year, in which collecting of water in a dam or pumping water from a waterway is permitted; and
- b) Maximum daily extraction rate; and
- c) Maximum volume to be collected or extracted in any year; and
- d) Restrictions and Roster management.
- e) Other site specific conditions where necessary.

Rosters and restrictions

Southern Rural Water may, from time to time, prepare and implement rosters or restrictions or other arrangements for taking and using water in accordance with the requirements set out below, using trigger levels in table 1.

Southern Rural Water (SRW) has adopted a roster system to assist in the delivery of a more equitable sharing of the water resource for all licence holders. The roster will indicate the Stage Level set for the stream, for that day.

A five-stage restriction roster will commence when the flow at the Darlot Creek gauging station at Homerton (237205) falls below 30ML's per day. This will reduce the diversions from the drains/streams outlined in table 1. Stages 2 to 5 are gradually implemented when the flows at Darlot Creek gauging station at Homerton fall below 30ML's. This roster means that the weirs can be used for that **24 hour period from 8.00 am on the day nominated on the roster, until 8.00 am the following morning**. The weirs must be running unrestricted from that time, until the next 24-hour period during which they can be operated. Each increase in restriction reduces the hours of diversion.

The restrictions are eased one stage at a time when the flows increase to 35 ML's at the Darlot Creek gauging station at Homerton after one complete cycle of the diversion roster period (approximately 2 weeks).

The restriction stages are:

- Stage 1 – Unrestricted diversion from drain from designated weirs.
- Stage 2 - 100% or 24 hr diversion from weirs on rostered day

Stage 3 - 50% or 12 hr diversion from weirs on rostered day
 Stage 4 - 25% or 6 hr diversion from weirs on rostered day
 Stage 5 - Irrigation ban.

Southern Rural Water will distribute information relating to the commencement of rosters and the requirements of licence holders to adhere to each roster stage as determined by SRW to all licence holders prior to enforcing stage 1.

Southern Rural Water will ensure that up to date information on restrictions and bans is provided in a timely and efficient manner. Generally through the use of a letter mailed out prior to the implementation of the restriction roster.

Table 1.

Gauging Station	Summer Trigger Flow ML/day For all months	Winter Trigger Flow ML/day July – October (Inc)
Darlot Creek G.S	<30	<30

Management is by visual inspection and liaison with customers. Customers will be notified when restrictions are imminent, which will include information on how to obtain updates on the restriction levels. These restrictions and rosters do not include extraction for stock and domestic.

Operation of weirs.

The operation of the licence holder’s diversion weirs (the insertion of boards) must run on parity with the weir directly north of Bloums Road (locally known as the main weir).

This will allow flows to pass downstream for stock and domestic users.

Compliance Point

There is a surfacewater gauging station (Gauge Site No.237205) located on the Darlots Creek at Homerton The flow levels can be obtained either by phone or by site inspection

Southern Rural Water will:

- (a) Record the flows of Darlots Creek@ Homerton (237205) gauging station; and

(b) periodically inspect the condition of Darlots Creek @ Homerton(237205) gauging station; and

(c) maintain Darlots Creek @ Homerton(237205) gauging station in good condition; and

Metering.

Meters have not been installed on Darlots Creek and its tributaries at this stage due to complexity.

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).

Consultation

Southern Rural Water liaises with the customers from the catchment as the need arises.

Review

These rules will be reviewed every 5-years, unless an update is required sooner.