

Barwon Basin Local Management Plan

December 2016

Introduction

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

The purpose of the Barwon 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 system covered

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

- Barwon River and tributaries including
 - Pennyroyal Creek
 - Birregurra Creek
 - Boundary Creek
 - Retreat Creek
- Leigh River/Yarrowee Creek and tributaries including
 - Williamsons Creek

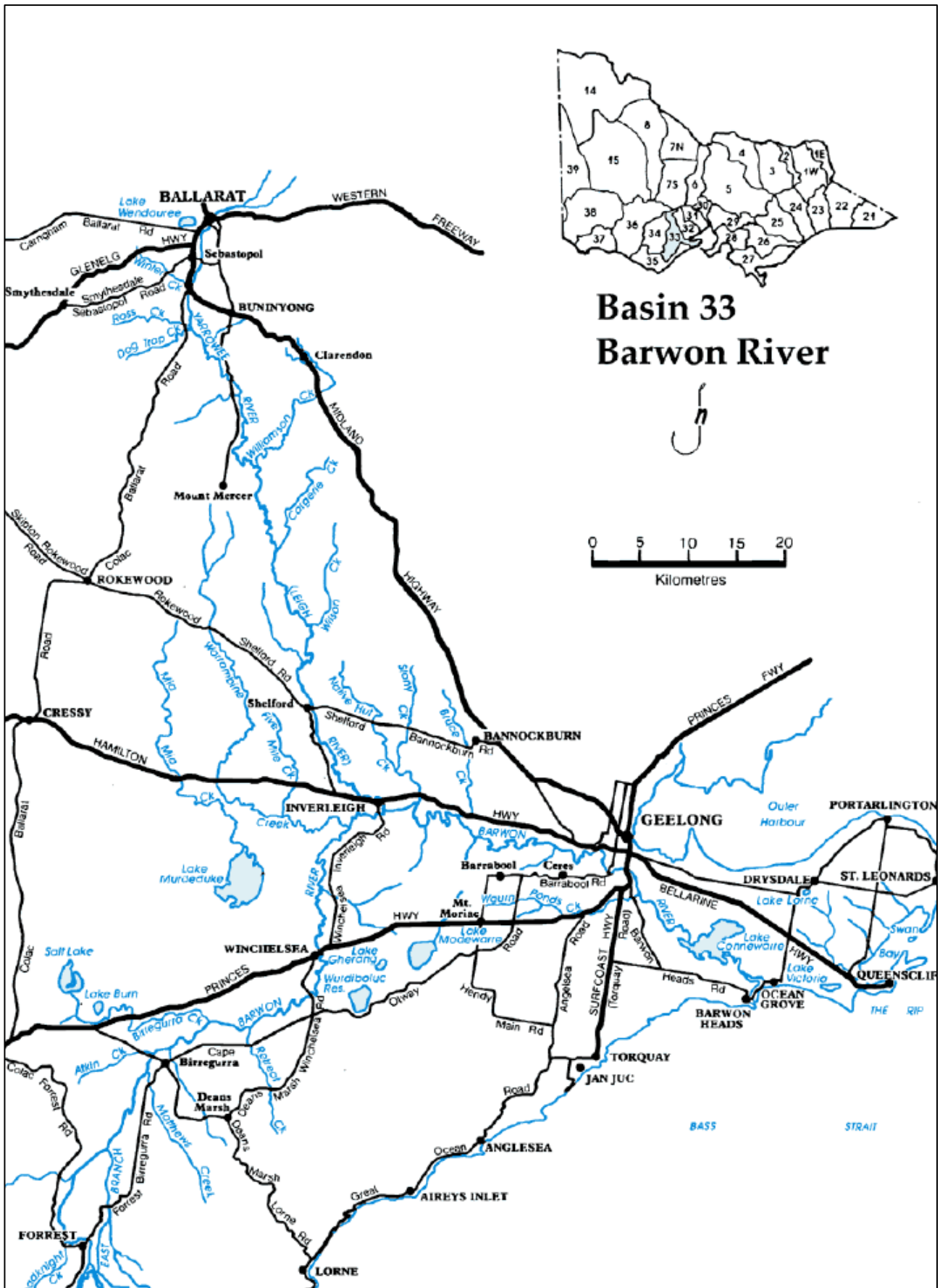
Approval



Craig Parker, General Manager Groundwater & Rivers

13 January 2017

The Barwon River Basin is shown in the map below.



Catchment information

The Barwon River rises in the Otway Ranges and flows close to the townships of Forrest, Birregurra, Winchelsea, and Inverleigh before flowing through Geelong and joining the coast at Barwon Heads. The Leigh River/Yarrowee Creek, a major tributary, rises near Ballarat and joins the Barwon River at Inverleigh. Two other tributaries, Birregurra and Boundary Creeks, flow into the Barwon from the western part of the catchment.

The Barwon River Catchment covers an area of approximately 8,590 km² and incorporates the Otways to the west, the Brisbane Ranges to the north and the Bellarine Peninsula in the lower reaches. The catchment comprises intensively farmed agricultural land as well as areas of pristine native forests set aside in National Parks.

Water entitlements and use

Licence allocations in the Barwon Basin, which includes Penny Royal Creek, Birregurra Creek, Boundary Creek, Leigh River, Yarrowee Creek and Williamsons Creek. (Moorabool River is dealt with in a separate LMP.)

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

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation - direct	54	2,172.4
Irrigation – winterfill	46	2,288.2
Registration	284	8,872.1
Domestic and Stock	11	25.3
Commercial / Industrial	12	245.0
Dairy	9	62.3
Total	416	13,665.3

General rules

Licences in the Barwon Basin (Including the Leigh River) 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 Barwon Basin are as follows:

New licences

- The Barwon Basin is fully allocated, so no new licences can be issued.
- The permissible consumptive volume for the Barwon Basin is 60,791.0 ML.

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 or upon request.

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) are permitted for up to 5 years, and conclude at the end of the water season (30 June).
- Permanent transfers are permitted.
- 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 Barwon River Basin, unless otherwise stated in the system specific rules.

System specific rules

Some systems within the Barwon River Basin require more specific management rules that address rostering, restrictions and trade:

- Barwon River (includes the Leigh/Yarrowee River) – refer Appendix 1

Annual reporting

Southern Rural Water 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.

Contact details

For general information call or visit

1300 139 510

www.srw.com.au

Roster Hotline

1300 656 020

Appendix 1

Barwon River Rules

Area Description

These rules apply to all licence holders on the Barwon River and tributaries, including the Leigh River/Yarrowee Creek.

Licences

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation - direct	308	10,691.7
Irrigation - winterfill	46	2,288.2
Commercial / Industrial	25	468.6
Dairy	26	191.5
Total	405	13,640

Management of Licences

Southern Rural Water may, from time to time, implement rosters and restrictions on the take and use of water in accordance with the flow chart below (flow chart 1) and the trigger levels in table 2.

Southern Rural Water has adopted a message bank system to assist in the delivery of a more equitable allocation of the water resource for all licence holders. The Message Bank will indicate the Stage Level set for reaches/zones along the river, for that day. The 1300 656 020 (Message Bank) telephone number must be called to determine the stage level for each reach of the river, prior to any diversion on any given day.

The classification of river zones referred to on the Message Bank is as follows:

Barwon River - Zone A	Catchment upstream of gauging station at Ricketts Marsh
Barwon River - Zone B	Catchment upstream of Leigh & Barwon River confluence.
Barwon River - Zone C	Catchment downstream of Leigh & Barwon River confluence.
Leigh River/Yarrowee Creek	Leigh River as an entire catchment.

A five stage restriction roster will be commenced when the flow at any of the gauging stations meet the corresponding trigger levels using a seven day rolling average of flows. (See Flow Chart 1.)

Southern Rural Water will ensure that up to date information on restrictions and bans is provided in a timely and efficient manner, which will generally be through the use of the message-bank service.

Southern Rural Water Field Officers regularly visit gauging stations to ensure telemetric recordings are accurate.

Table 1 - Restriction Stages:

Stage 1	100% of licensed daily maximum extraction rate as per licence.
Stage 2	75% of licensed daily maximum extraction rate as per licence.
Stage 3	50% of licensed daily maximum extraction rate as per licence.
Stage 4	25% of licensed daily maximum extraction rate as per licence.
Stage 5	Irrigation ban.

Flow Chart 1 – Restriction rules

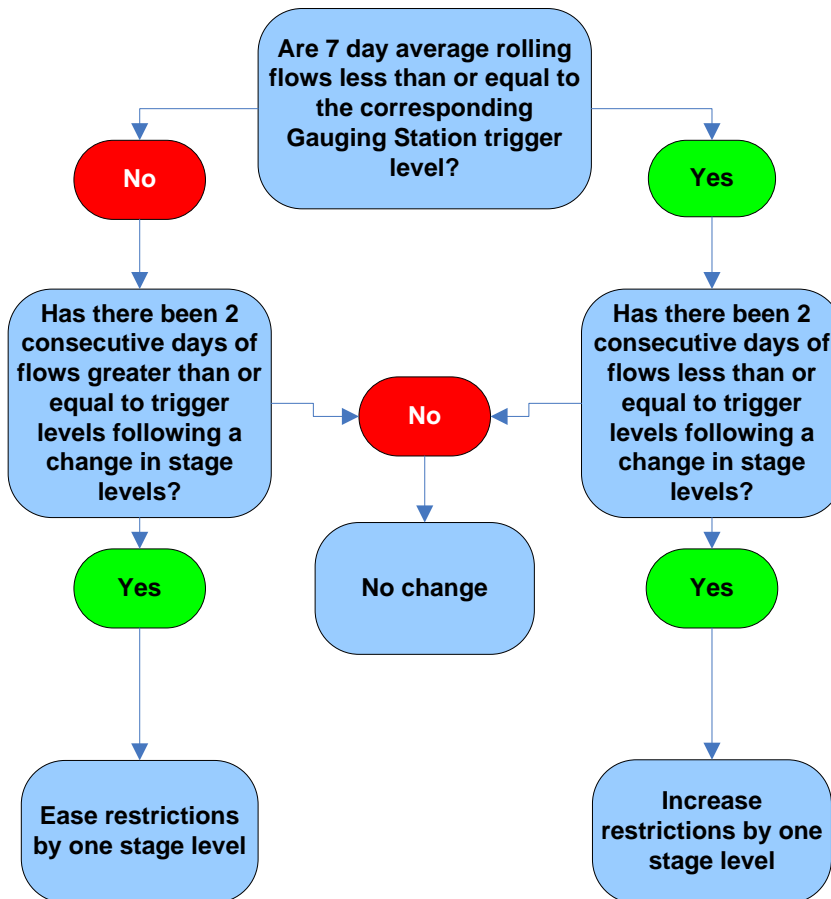


Table 2 – Trigger Levels

Gauging Station	Summer Trigger Flow ML/day For all months	Winter Trigger Flow ML/day May – October (Inc.)
Conns Lane	<8	<8
Inverleigh	<5	<10
Pollocksford	<5	<25
Shelford	<5	<10
Mt Mercer	<5	<10

Compliance Points

- Conns Lane Gauging Station 233224A
- Inverleigh Gauging Station 233218
- Pollocksford Gauging Station 233200
- Shelford Gauging Station 233248
- Mt Mercer Gauging Station 233215

Transfers

- Temporary transfers of a licence (or part of a licence) are permitted for up to 5 years, and conclude at the end of the water season (30 June).
- Permanent transfers are permitted.
- 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 issued to the buyer is a winterfill licence.
- A winterfill licence cannot be transferred to be a direct stream (all-year licence).
- Approval of an upstream trade of an all-year licence under the Sustainable Diversion Limits for winter-fill licensing can only occur if it is converted to become a winterfill licence and;-
 - a) The adverse effect on winter flows will be outweighed by the beneficial effect on summer flows, and this assessment is agreed to by the relevant CMA
 - b) There will be no undue adverse impacts on other water users.

Consultation

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

Review

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