

Moorabool River Basin Local Management Plan May 2014

Introduction

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

The purpose of the Moorabool River 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

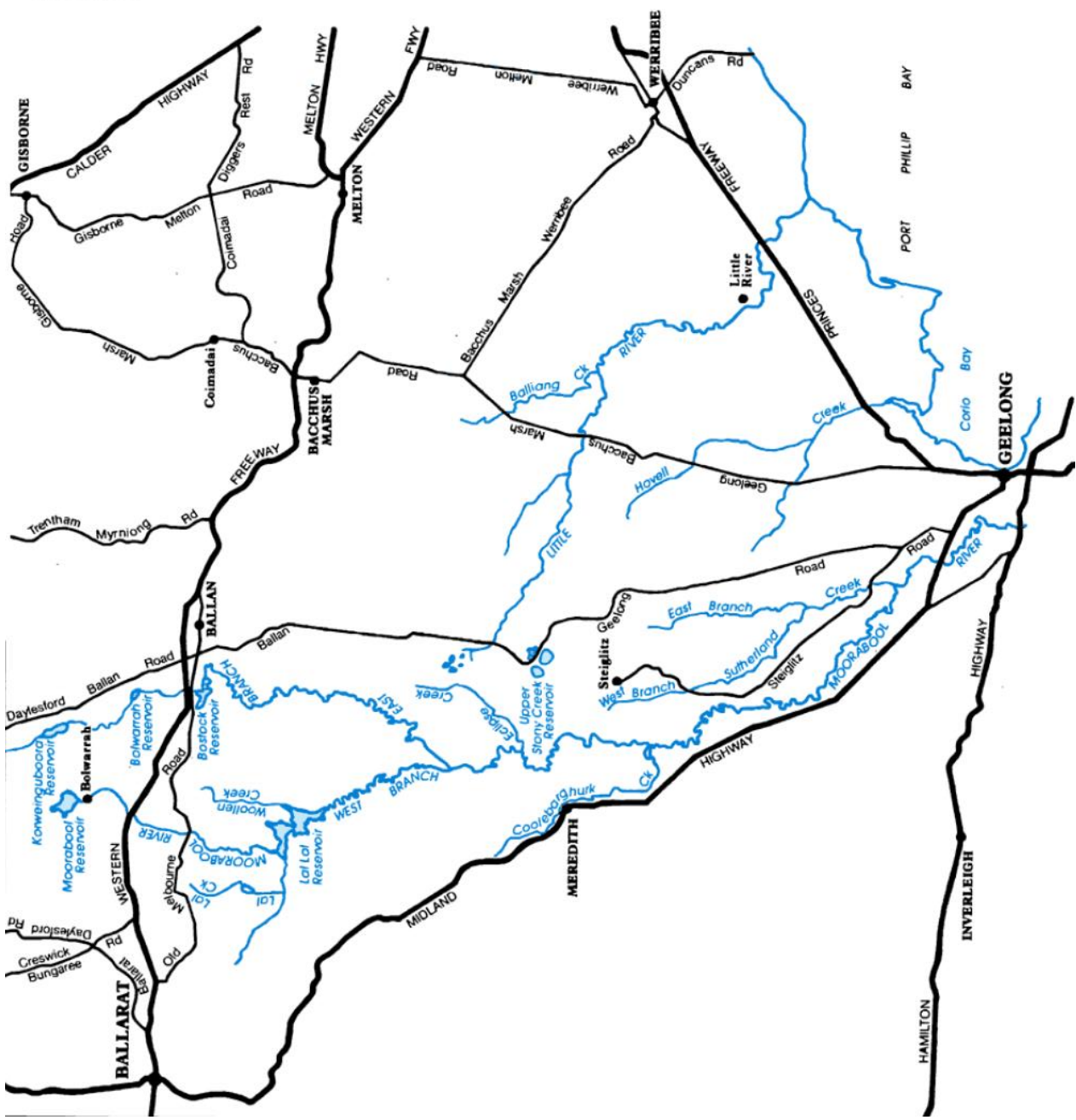
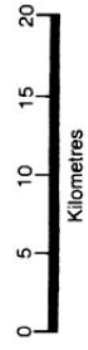
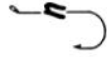
The Local Management Plan covers all the unregulated rivers and creeks located within the Moorabool River Basin, which includes:

Moorabool River – above Lal Lal Reservoir		Moorabool River – below Lal Lal Reservoir	Other
Devils Creek Musk Creek Frawleys Creek Kennedys Creek Mahers Creek Carlsons Creek Slaters Creek Black Creek Whiskey Creek	Moorabool River West Branch Granite Creek Ring Creek Spring Creek Two Mile Creek Greens Creek Pound Creek Woollen Creek Lal Lal Creek	Moorabool River West Branch Moorabool River East Branch Paddock Creek Eclipse Creek Bungal Creek Coolebarghurk Creek Sutherlands Creek Primrose Creek	Moorabool River Balliang Creek Hovell Creek Little River Cowies Creek

The Moorabool River Basin is shown in the map below.



Basin 32 Moorabool River



Catchment information

The Moorabool River (Basin 32) flows commence predominantly in the Central Highlands as groundwater fed waterways. The Moorabool has many significant attributes including, scenic natural and agricultural landscapes, cultural Indigenous heritage sites, native fish and fauna habitat and significant urban water storages

The Moorabool River Basin has a total area of 2234sq kilometres terminating and therefore combining with the Barwon River Basin at a confluence near Geelong.

A significant break in flow occurs at the Lal Lal Reservoir storage also known as Bungal Dam for Bulk entitlements shared by Barwon Water, Central Highlands Water (CHW) and the Environment

Above Lal Lal Reservoir, urban water harvesting is solely managed by CHW operated weirs and reservoirs including Moorabool, Wilsons and Beales Reservoirs and the Whiskey Creek weir whilst below Lal Lal Reservoir the bulk entitlements are entirely managed by Barwon Water operated weirs and diversions.

Effectively 'Above Lal Lal Reservoir' is a separate system to 'Below Lal Lal Reservoir' whereby releases from spills, gravity transfers, or Corangamite CMA managed environmental flows, connects water from the highlands to the compliance gauge site at Batesford.

A number of reservoirs supplying Geelong and surrounding townships are located in the upper Moorabool river system. The Korweinguboorra, Bostock and Stony Creek Reservoirs make up the East Moorabool system, while Lal Lal Reservoir, south of Ballarat, is the main storage on the West Moorabool River. Lal Lal Reservoir is jointly managed by Barwon Water and Central Highlands Water, with Barwon Water allowed one third of its water. Water from the Moorabool catchments is filtered, disinfected and fluoridated at the Moorabool Water Treatment Plant at She Oaks.

Water entitlements and use

Licence allocations in the Moorabool River Basin (other than Bulk Entitlements) are shown below. More detailed information can be located in the Victorian Water Register.

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation* - direct	67	3668.4
Irrigation - winterfill	15	167.5
Registration***	52	1247.7
Domestic and Stock	106	247.2
Commercial / Industrial	5	79.1
Dairy	4	8.1
Total	249	5418

* Includes amalgamated Dairy and Domestic & Stock licences

**Includes Dairy, Domestic & Stock, Industrial/Commercial licences

***Includes Industrial/Commercial licences

General rules

Licences in the Moorabool River 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 Moorabool River Basin are as follows:

New licences

- The Moorabool River Basin is fully allocated, so no new licences can be issued.
- The permissible consumptive volume for the Moorabool River Basin is 46,427ML

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) 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 Moorabool River Basin, unless otherwise stated in the system specific rules.

System specific rules

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

- Moorabool below Lal Lal Reservoir - refer to appendix 1
- Moorabool above Lal Lal Reservoir - refer to appendix 2

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.

References

- www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/learning/water-supply/geelong. Moorabool River System

Contact details

For general information call or visit

1300 139 510

www.srw.com.au

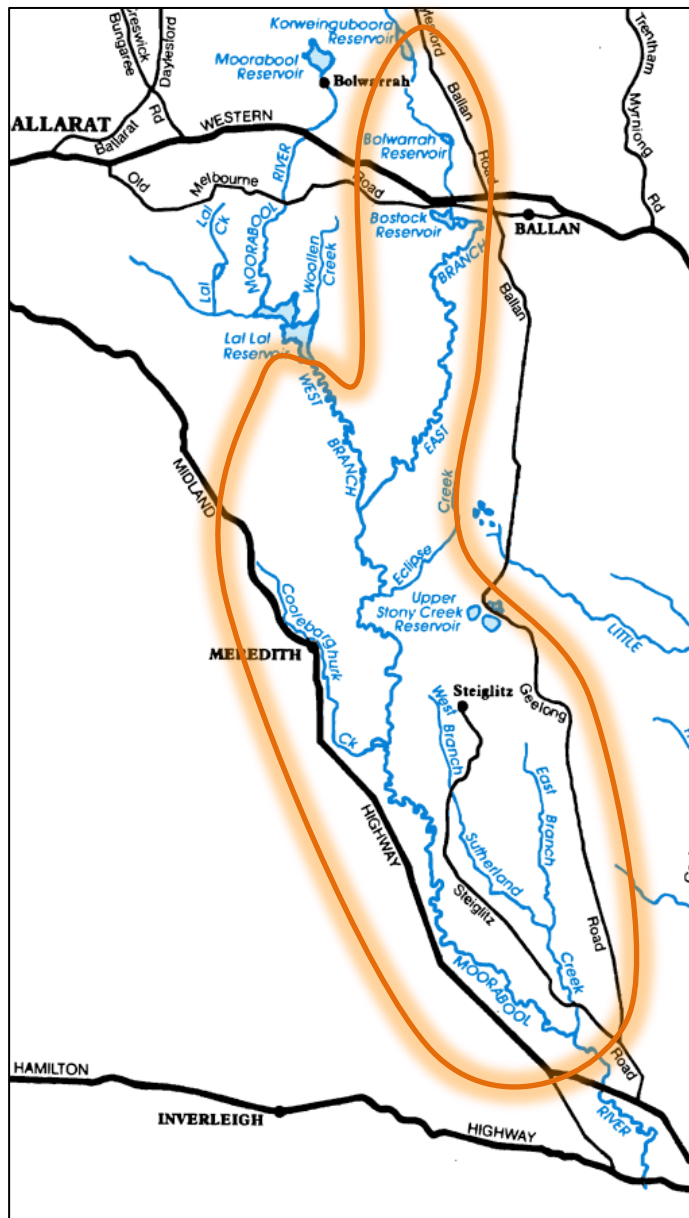
Roster Hotline

1300 656 020

Appendix 1 Moorabool River Rules Below Lal Lal Reservoir

Area Description

These rules apply to all Moorabool irrigation licence holders upstream of the Batesford gauge.



Licences

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation* - direct	16	380
Irrigation - winterfill	28	1037.6
Registration**	0	0
Domestic and Stock	4	11
Commercial / Industrial	1	4
Dairy	0	0
Total	109	1786.1

* Includes amalgamated D&S and Commercial licences

**Includes Dairy and Commercial licences

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

Management of Licences

There is a five stage roster in place, which is detailed in the table below.

Restriction Level	Trigger Flow ML/day at Batesford gauging station For all months	Allocation (% of maximum daily extraction rate as specified on licence)
Stage 1	12<10	100
Stage 2	10<8	75
Stage 3	8<6	50
Stage 4	6<4	25
Stage 5	<2	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
- Southern Rural Water will ease roster stages (generally one stage at a time) once higher trigger flows are determined by SRW to be sustainable and have allowed a flush to pass through the system.

- For winter-fill diversions to take place after the commencement of the winter-fill period, flows at Batesford gauging station must have reached a level of not less than 12 ML's per day.

Compliance Point

Two surface water gauging stations are utilised in the basin below Lal Lal Reservoir for management of restrictions.

- Morrison gauge 232204 upstream of Meredith has a predictive role of pulse flows and falling flows which affect availability to users for up to a day before being measured at Batesford.
- Batesford gauge 232202 is the Moorabool Basin compliance site from which trigger flows are set for levels of restriction on use up stream.

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
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Consultation and Review

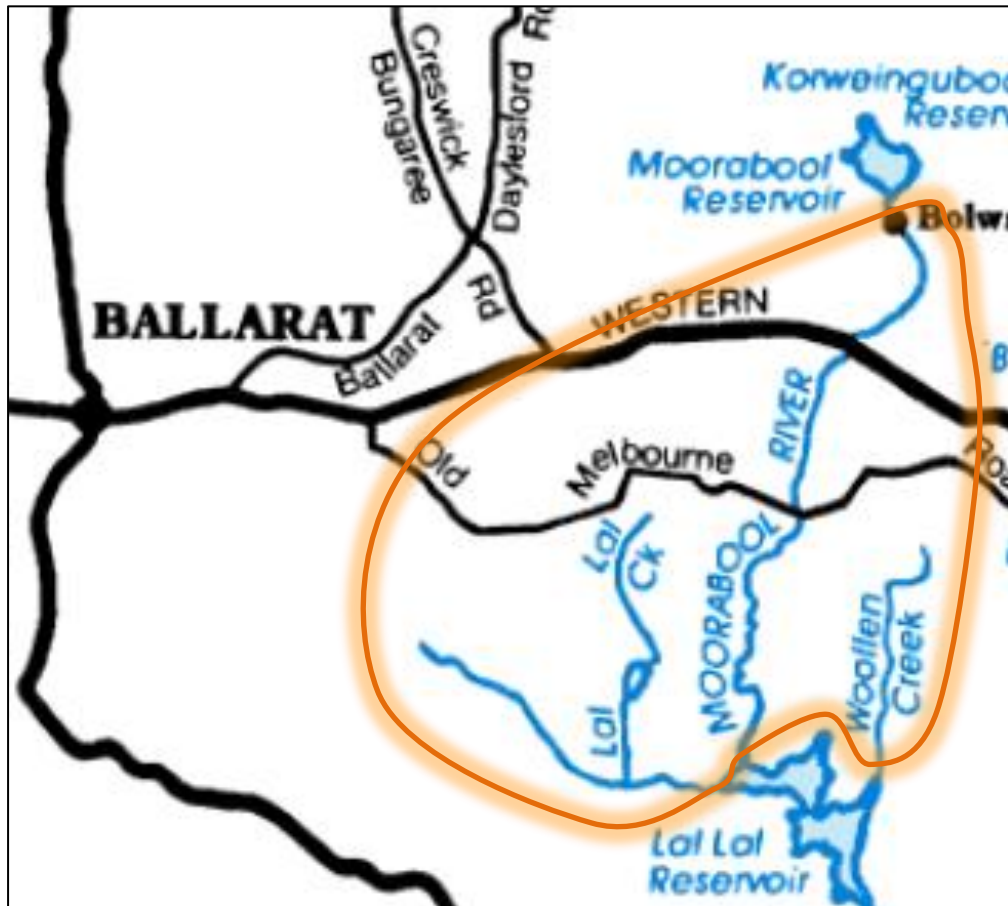
SRW will consult with licence holders and relevant stakeholders before making changes to the Local Management Plan, other than administrative changes or clarifications.

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

Appendix 1 Moorabool River Rules Above Lal Lal Reservoir

Area Description

These rules apply to all Moorabool irrigation licence holders upstream of the Lal Lal Reservoir.



Licences

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation* - direct	48	514.6
Irrigation - winterfill	19	675.9
Registration**	0	0
Domestic and Stock	19	41.8
Commercial / Industrial	9	160.2
Dairy	0	0
Total	95	1392.5

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

Management of Licences

Restriction triggers for each stage of restriction are shown in the table below.

Restriction Level	Trigger Flow ML/day at Batesford gauging station For all months	Allocation <i>(% of maximum daily extraction rate as specified on licence)</i>
Stage 1	12<10	100
Stage 2	10<8	100
Stage 3	8<6	100
Stage 4	6<4	75
Stage 5	<2	50

A simple roster applies to irrigators on this system. Only two of the three active licence holders can irrigate at any one time for specified periods.

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.

Due to the relatively low irrigation use and reliable flows, rosters are likely to be implemented only in very rare events. A review of the roster and its implementation may

be required if there is a need to invoke restrictions based on groundwater monitoring results.

Compliance Point

Batesford surface water gauge 232202 located at Batesford on the Midland Highway

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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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