

Otway Coast Basin

January 2014

Introduction

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

The purpose of the Otway Coast 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

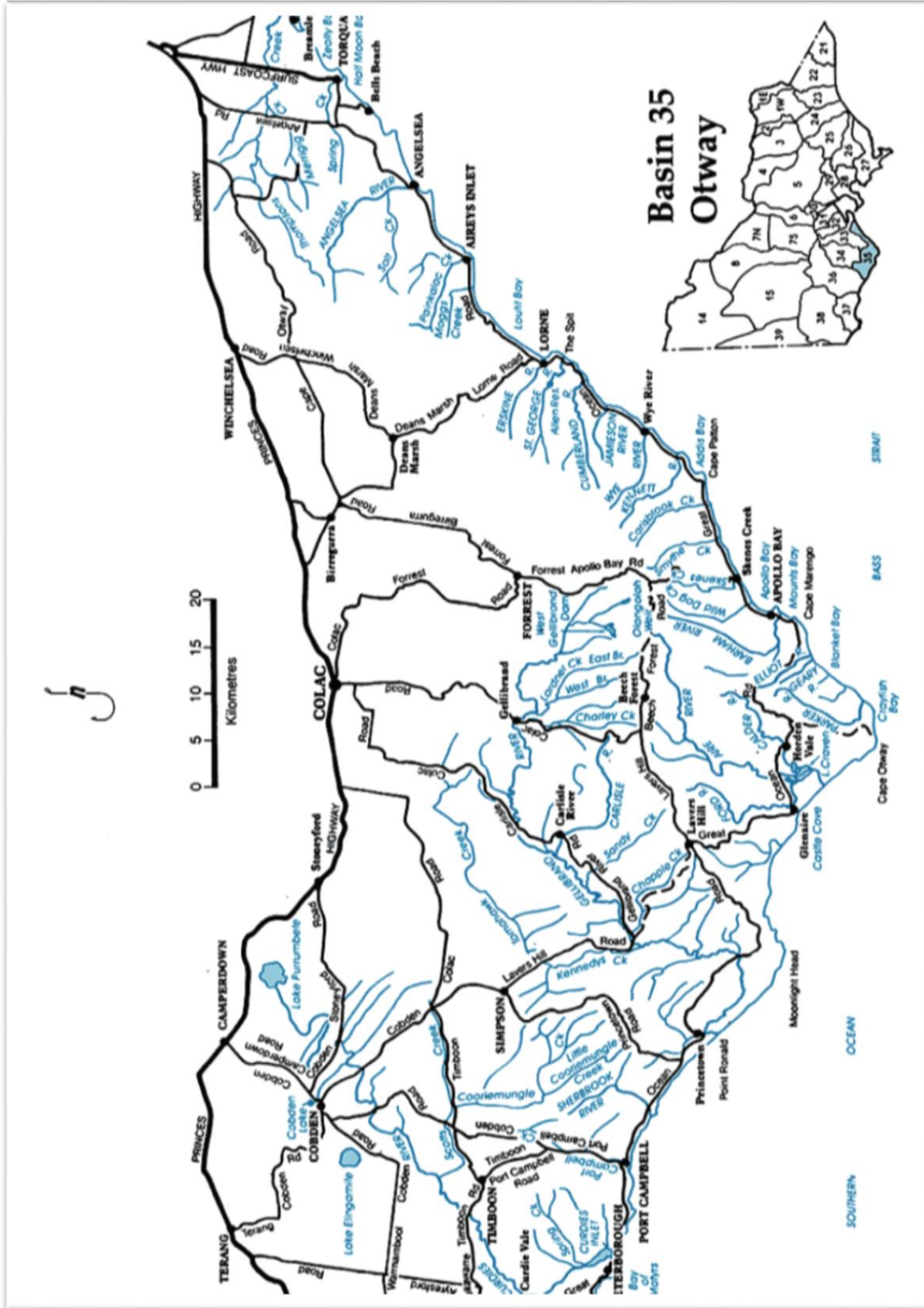
The objective of the Local Management Plan is to ensure the equitable sharing of water between users and the environment and the long-term sustainability of the resource.

Water system covered

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

- Gellibrand River and minor tributaries
- Carlisle River
- Arkins Creek
- Kennedys Creek
- Rusty Creek
- Loves Creek
- Lardner Creek
- Charlies Creek
- Chapple Creek
- Curdies River
- Scotts Creek
- Lake Purumbete

The Otway Coast Basin is shown in the map below.



Catchment information

The headwaters of the Curdies River are Lake Purrumbete, which is south east of the township of Camperdown. The river then flows to the east of Cobden and continues south passing west of Timboon and reaching the sea at Peterborough. Lake Purrumbete and the Curdies River are vital fisheries for recreational anglers with numerous native species calling the lake and river home. The river and lakes of the area are also popular with recreational users including water-skiing, canoeing and fishing

The Curdies River is an integral part of the Otway Plains Bioregion; the river is used as a biological corridor for wildlife. The Curdies River has no urban water authorities extracting water for town supply. The river is fed by some minor creek and streams such as Scotts Creek, Bostocks Creek, Limestone Creek, Abeckets Creek and Mosquito Creek.

The Gellibrand River is the largest stream in the Western portion of the Otway Ranges. The Gellibrand River and its tributaries are home to 12 species of native freshwater fish, of which 6 species are considered rare or threatened.

The Gellibrand River has large urban water Bulk Entitlements, supplying town water from Colac to Warrnambool. The two urban authorities take water from three points, Wannon Water use Arkins Creek, Gellibrand River downstream of the confluence with the Carlisle River and Gellibrand River upstream from its confluence with Kennedys Creek. The water taken from these points are fed into the towns of Carlisle River, Simpson, Cobden, Camperdown, Lismore, Derrinallum, Terang, Noorat, Glenormiston, Allansford and the city of Warrnambool.

Barwon Water supply the city of Colac and surrounding areas from the Gellibrand River via two weirs/storages which are the West Gellibrand Reservoir and Olangolah Reservoir. Both these storages are linked via a pipe that delivers water to basins south of Colac.

Water entitlements and use

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation* - direct	68	3,022.0
Irrigation - winterfill	34	1,969.6
Registration**	383	7,776.8
Domestic and Stock	67	150.6
Commercial / Industrial	20	174.4
Urban water supply	2	783.0

Dairy	109	626.4
Total	684	14,507.8

* Includes amalgamated D&S and Commercial licences

**Includes Dairy and Commercial licence

General rules

Licences in the Otway Coast 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 Otway Coast Basin are as follows:

New licences

- The PCV for the Otway Coast Basin that contains the Gellibrand River is 59,000 ML's
- The Otway Coast Basin is not fully allocated under the Sustainable Diversion Limits (SDL), so new winterfill licences can be issued in accordance with the SDL process.

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 only be for one year 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 issued to the buyer is 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 Otway Coast Basin, unless otherwise stated in the system specific rules.

System specific rules

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

- Curdies River – refer Appendix 1
- Gellibrand River – refer 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.

Contact details

For general information call or visit

1300 139 510

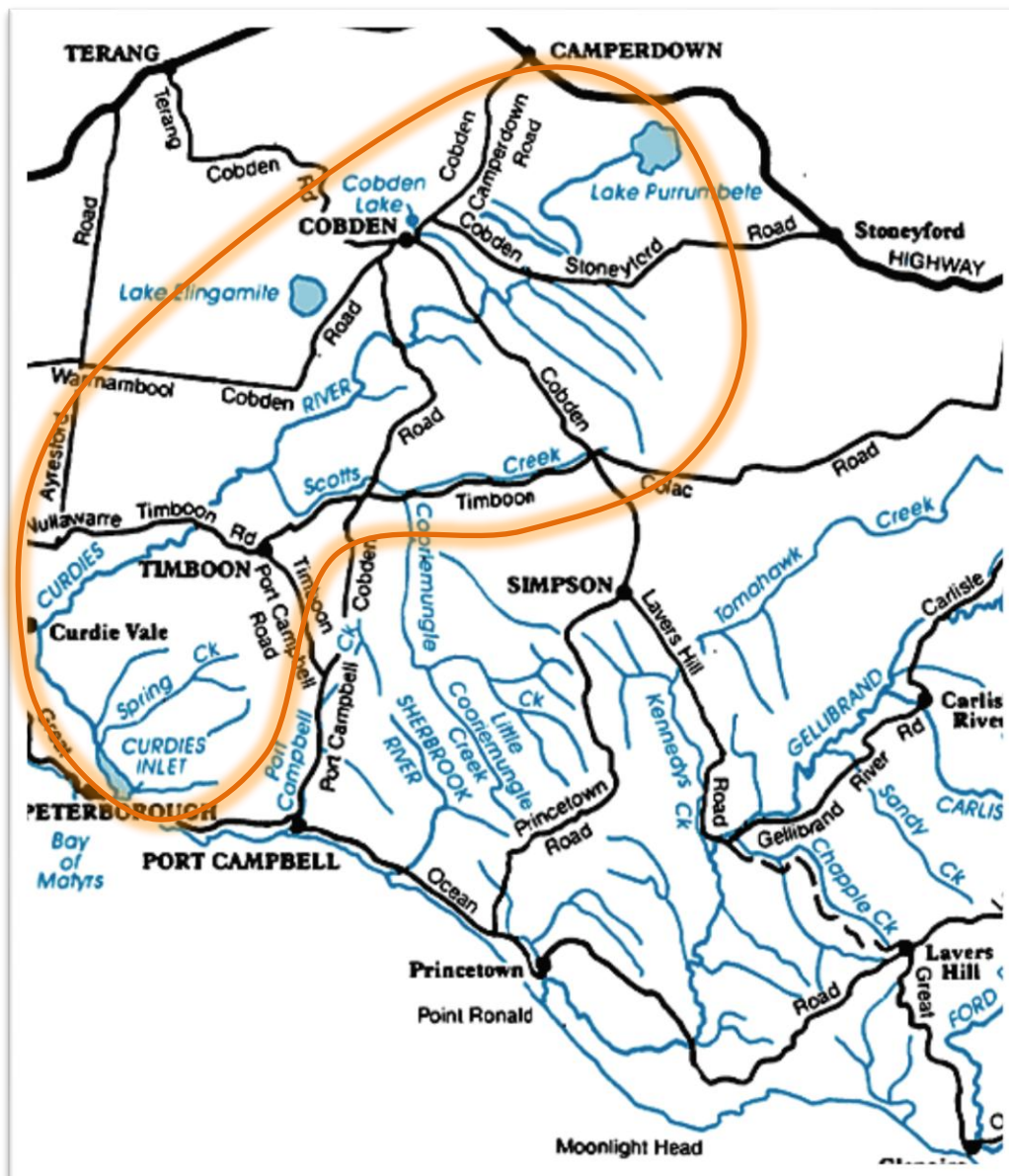
www.srw.com.au

Appendix 1

Curdies River Rules

Area Description

These rules apply to all Curdies River irrigation licence holders, as shown below.



Licences

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation* - direct	13	617.00
Irrigation - winterfill	12	777.2
Registration**	163	3,341.3
Domestic and Stock	6	13.2

Commercial / Industrial	1	32.1
Dairy	36	219.4
Total	149	2,877.2

* 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

The Curdies River has a restriction system for irrigation once flows fall below 3.70 ML/day as recorded at the Trestle Bridge gauging station just out of the township of Timboon. Once the river flows falls below this trigger, a total ban on all irrigation is imposed to ensure adequate flow is available for the environment and stock and domestic users.

Each irrigator is verbally informed (usually by phone) to stop irrigation as well as in writing by a Southern Rural Water officer. Once the flows at the Trestle Bridge gauging station are greater than 3.70 ML’s/day for seven consecutive days, the restrictions are lifted.

Compliance Point

There is a surfacewater gauging station (Gauge Site 235203B) located just upstream of the Trestle Bridge outside the town of Timboon, (Locality – Curdies).

The flow levels can be obtained either by text using a mobile phone or by a site inspection.

Transfers

- a) Temporary transfers of a licence or part of a licence can only be for one year and conclude at the end of the water season (30 June).
- b) 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 issued to the buyer is a winterfill licence.
- c) 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

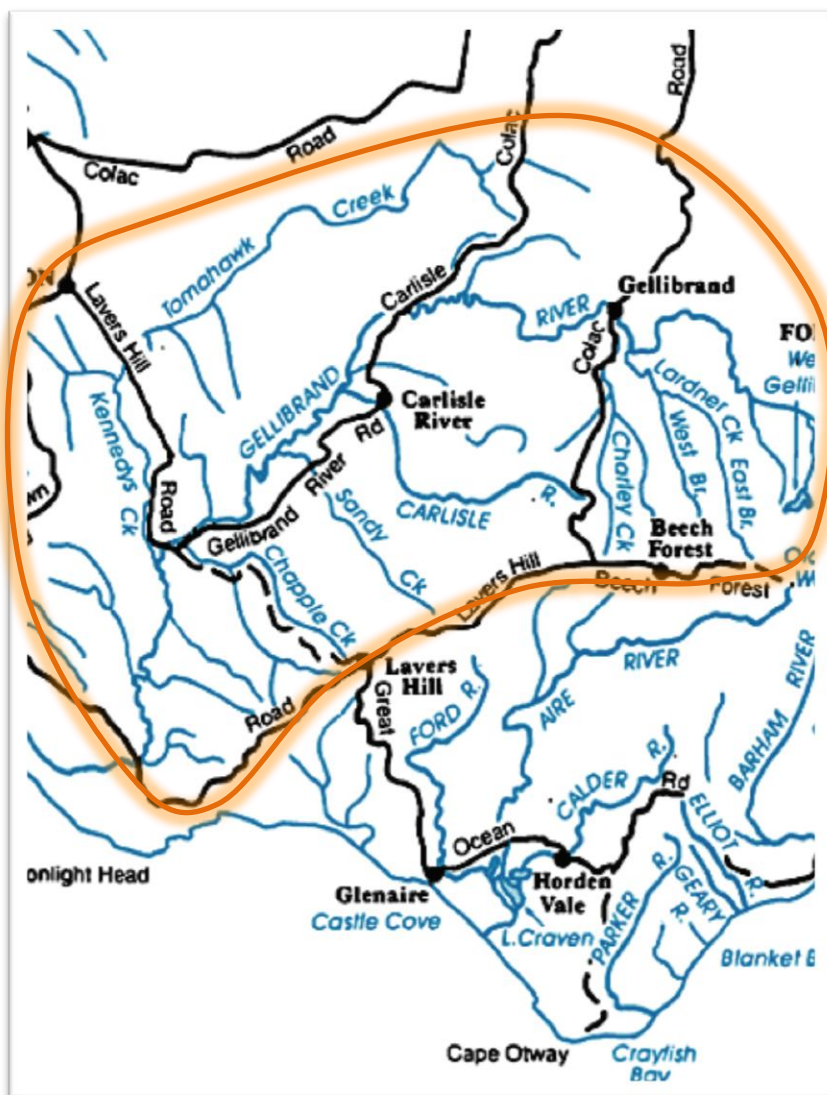
These rules will be reviewed every five years, unless an update is required sooner.

Appendix 2

Gellibrand River Rules

Area Description

These rules apply to all Gellibrand River irrigation licence holders, as shown below.



Licences

Licence Type	Number of Licences	Volume (ML)
Irrigation - Direct Pumping	32	1736.6
Irrigation - winterfill	11	439.6
Registration**	99	2354.7
Domestic and Stock	29	66.8
Commercial / Industrial	2	5.7
Dairy	36	169.3
Total	209	4772.7

Management of Licences

For management of direct pumping licences, the Gellibrand River is divided into three zones:

- *Zone 1 – Below North Otway Pump Station (NOPS)*
- *Zone 2 – Upstream of North Otway Pump Station (excluding Carlisle River)*
- *Zone 3 – Carlisle River*

In the breakdown of zones there are 12 active licence holders taking water for consumptive uses. Zone 1 has three active licences, zone 2 has six active licences and zone 3 has three active licences.

During times of low flow each zone has its own roster and restrictions. These were formulated in 2006 with consultation between Southern Rural Water and the licence holders

Each zone has two trigger levels ensuring that there is enough water for stock and domestic use and the environment. There is both a daily flow requirement and a 7 day rolling average.

Each zone has a five stage roster and restriction. Accordingly each zone has its own trigger level. The levels are based on irrigation rates of 40mm per hectare. Each zone operates on the same percentages for diversion rates.

- Stage 1 Restriction - 100% of maximum diversion rate. Restrictions on Sporadic Licences
- Stage 2 Restriction - 75% of maximum diversion rate. Or 2 out of 3 days
- Stage 3 Restriction - 50% of maximum diversion rate. Every second day
- Stage 4 Restriction - 25% of maximum diversion rate. Every third day
- Stage 5 Restriction - 0% of maximum diversion rate. Total ban

Zone 1 (below NOPS)

Trigger Level		Passing Flow	Stage	
Daily	7-day avg	Daily		
17.5 ML/d	22.5ML/d	15 MI/d	1	40mm/Ha/wk –1/7th per day
12.5 ML/d	17.5ML/d	12.5 MI/d	2	2 out of 3 days
10 ML/d	15 ML/d	10 MI/d	3	Every second day

7.5 ML/d	12.5 ML/d	7.5 ML/d	4	Every third day
5 ML/d	10 ML/d	5 ML/d	5	Ban
Winterfill		350 ML/d	5	Ban

Zone 2 (upstream NOPS (excluding Carlisle))

Trigger Level		Passing Flow	Stage	
Daily	7-day avg	Daily		
22.5 ML/d	27.5ML/d	20 ML/d	1	40mm/Ha/wk –1/7th per day
17.5 ML/d	22.5ML/d	17.5 ML/d	2	2 out of 3 days
15 ML/d	20 ML/d	15 ML/d	3	Every second day
12.5 ML/d	17.5 ML/d	12.5 ML/d	4	Every third day
5 ML/d	15 ML/d	5 ML/d	5	Ban
Winterfill		350 ML/d	5	Ban

Zone 3 (Carlisle River)

Trigger Level		Passing Flow	Stage	
Daily	7-day avg	Daily		
6.6 ML/d	8.1 ML/d	5.6 ML/d	1	40mm/Ha/wk –1/7th per day
5.6 ML/d	6.6 ML/d	5.6 ML/d	2	2 out of 3 days
5.6 ML/d	6.6 ML/d	5.6 ML/d	3	Every second day
5.6 ML/d	6.6 ML/d	5.6 ML/d	4	Every third day
5.6 ML/d	6.1 ML/d	5.6 ML/d	5	Ban
Winterfill		80 ML/d	5	Ban

Initial restrictions will be imposed when flow has decreased to either trigger level (daily or 7 day rolling average) for implementation of stage 1. Subsequent roster increases will be introduced when either subsequent trigger levels are reached.

Easing of restrictions will be implemented when the combined current and stage +1 Target passing flow trigger levels over two consecutive days are reached. For example, a stage 5 to stage 4 easing would require an increase in flow as follows:

- Zone 1 12.5 ML/d daily (5 + 7.5 ML's/day)
- Zone 2 17.5 ML/d daily (5 + 12.5 ML's/day)
- Zone 3 11.2 ML/d daily (5.6 + 5.6 ML's/day)

Complete lifting of restrictions will occur when the recommended winter fill trigger levels are reached (350ML/d at gauging station 235277 (Bunkers Hill) for zones 1 & 2 and 80ML/d at gauging station 235200 (Carlisle River) for zone 3*

*An alternative to this is to lift direct pumping restriction stage 1 when for 28 consecutive days the daily instantaneous flow recorded has exceeded the 7-day average trigger required to reach stage 1 from stage 2 (10.1ML/d for zone 3, 32.5ML/d for zone 2 and 27.5ML/d for zone 1). This can be considered an indication that flows are likely to remain high for some time. This is more cumbersome and input intensive, but will allow for lifting of restrictions earlier.

Compliance Points

Southern Rural Water currently manages the Gellibrand River using the following Gauging Stations;

- Bunkers Hill (235277) for zones 1 & 2
- Carlisle River (235200) for zone 3*

Transfers

- Temporary transfers of a licence or part of a licence can only be for one year 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
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Consultation

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Review

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