

Mt Emu Creek

1. Catchment and purpose

These rules apply to the entire Mt Emu Creek catchment, including its tributaries, to the confluence with the Hopkins River.

The purpose of these rules is to define how rosters and restrictions will operate in the catchment, along with general licensing principles.

2. Definitions

The Act	The <i>Water Act 1989</i>
All-year licence	A licence to take and use water during any month of the year either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) “direct” from a waterway(b) from a dam, spring or soak(c) from a dam, spring or soak recognized by a farm dam registration
Average stream flow	The mean daily average stream flow calculated over any consecutive seven day period.
Registration licence	A licence issued under section 51(1A) of the Act.
SRW	Southern Rural Water.
Winter-fill licence	A licence issues to take water from a waterway or dam during a winter-fill period (between 1 July and 31 October in any year, unless stated in the conditions of earlier licences).

3. Licence allocation limit

Licence allocation limits define the maximum volume that licenses may be transferred into, or held within, the catchment. Four allocations are set:

- **Mt Emu Creek River Basin limit** - No further allocations will be issued in the Mt Emu Creek or any of its tributaries except those licences issued under section 51(1A) of the Act, or for domestic and stock use.
- **Catchment allocation limit** - A maximum allocation of 816.3 ML may be held within the catchment under all licence types (combined allocation of all year and winter-fill licences). This does not include allocations that have been transferred from amended licences issued under section 51(1A) of the Act.
- **All year licence allocation limit** - A maximum allocation of 656.2 ML may be held under all year licences. This does not include allocations that have been transferred from amended licences issued under section 51(1A) of the Act.
- **Winter-Fill allocation limit** - A maximum allocation of 160.1 ML may be held under winter-fill licences. This does not include allocations that have been transferred from amended licences issued under section 51(1A) of the Act.

4. Rosters and restrictions

Southern Rural Water may implement rosters, restrictions or other arrangements using trigger levels in table 1.

A five-stage restriction roster will start when the flow at the Ayreford Bridge gauging station falls below 10 MLs per day. Sporadic converted licenses will not be able to be used at this stage. Stages 2 – 4 are gradually implemented when the flows at Ayreford Bridge Gauging Station fall below 7 ML/day. The restrictions are eased one stage at a time when the flows increase to 9 ML/day at the Ayreford Bridge Gauging Station.

The restriction stages are:

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.

Table 1

Gauging Station	Summer Trigger Flow ML/day For all months	Winter Trigger Flow ML/day July – October (Inc)
Ayreford Bridge G.S.	<10	<10

5. Customer communication

Southern Rural Water will distribute information to licence holders before starting stage 1.

Daily information on stages is available by phoning our hotline on 1300 365 607. Licence holders must call the hotline to work out stage levels before diverting any water.

More information

For more information contact **1300 139 510**.