



Moe
Groundwater Management Area
Local Management Plan
Version 1

April 2023

Version Control

Version	Change summary	Date
1	Removed from previous Catchment Statement and presented as a standalone Local Management Plan for Moe GMA	April 2023

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Purpose of this document

This Local Management Plan (LMP) documents the current management arrangements for the Moe GMA and the Shady Creek and Moe Swamp Trading Zones. The objective of the plan is to ensure the equitable sharing and long-term sustainability of the groundwater resource.

The plan aims to clearly and simply explain how groundwater is managed in this area, this includes information on the boundaries and depth of the management area, the cap on total annual groundwater licensed volume, how groundwater licences can be accessed (via a trade of entitlement), and the metering requirements.

The LMP will be reviewed on an as-needs basis. The aim of future reviews will be to improve existing management and where possible to make management less complex, while ensuring equitable sharing and the long-term sustainability of the resource.



SIMON WILKINSON

General Manager Service Delivery

12 April 2023

Moe GMA and Moe Swamp Trading Zone Local Management Plan

Objective of the Local Management Plan

The objective of the LMP is to make sure that the groundwater resources in the Moe Groundwater Management Area (GMA) are managed in an equitable and sustainable manner.

Area description

Moe GMA is shown below. The plan is lodged with the Central Plan Office, reference number LEGL./04-146.

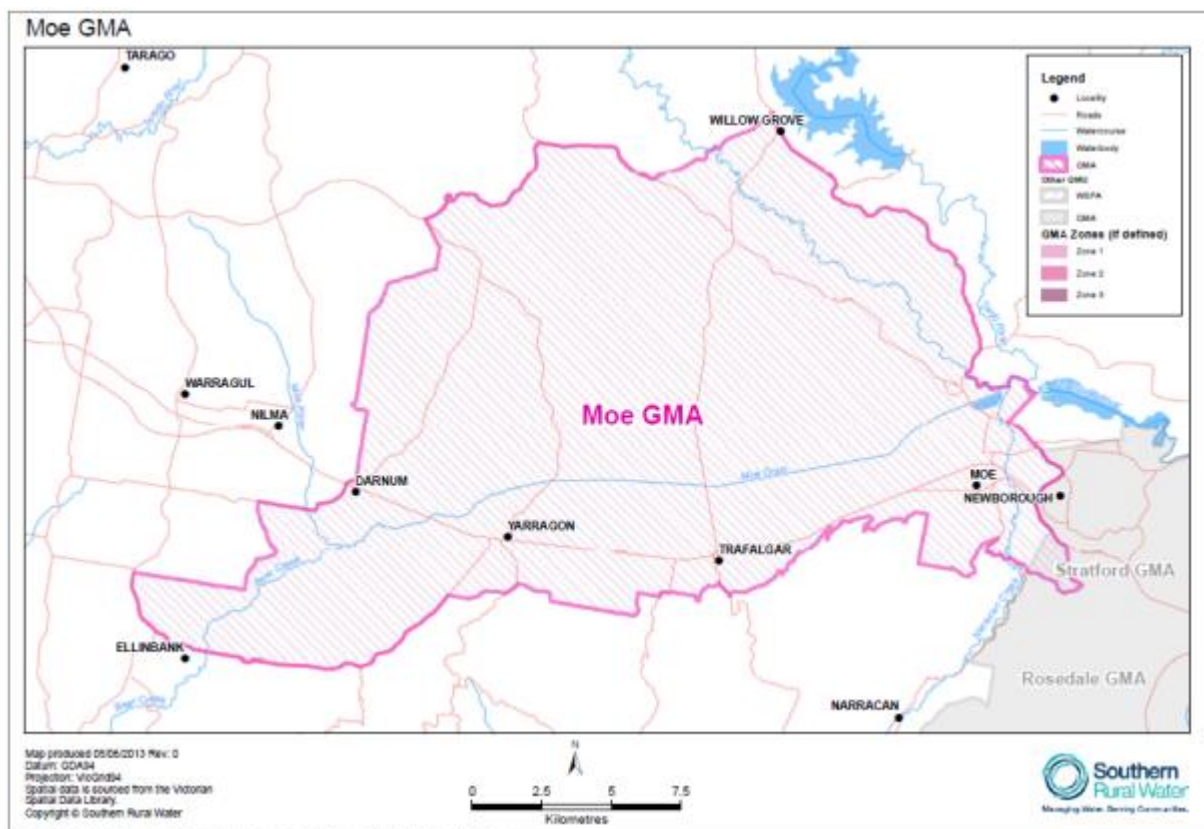


Figure 1: Map of Moe Groundwater Management Area.

Permissible Consumptive Volume

A Permissible Consumptive Volume (PCV) currently applies to the Moe GMA. The PCV is a cap on the amount of groundwater allocated in this management unit. The PCV for Moe GMA is 8,200 ML/yr.

The PCV applies to the area covered in Figure 1, for all formations below 25m from the surface.

Water entitlements

The extraction of groundwater for purposes other than domestic and stock use is authorised under a groundwater licence. People have rights to take groundwater for domestic and stock use without a groundwater licence.

Annual summary information on licence numbers, total entitlement volume and groundwater levels can be found in the relevant Southern Rural Water (SRW) Local Water Report on the SRW website.

Licence holders must not take more than their annual licence volumes.

Restrictions

The PCV determines the maximum volume of water that can be extracted from the Moe GMA. Additionally, the local management plan places specific limits and trading rules on groundwater entitlement in the Shady Creek and Moe Swamp Basin zones (figure 2). These additional rules are described at the end of this plan.

If necessary, SRW is able to temporarily qualify rights to groundwater under section 33AAA of the *Water Act 1989* if a water shortage occurs - for example, if regional drawdown is affecting access to groundwater by users.

Groundwater licences also allow SRW to restrict extraction if required - for example, to minimise the effect of extraction from specific sites if there is a significant impact on nearby users or the aquifer. If restrictions are necessary, SRW will notify licence holders in advance.

Trading

In considering an application to transfer a licence temporarily or permanently, SRW must undertake a thorough assessment of the application. An application to transfer a licence is not automatically approved. In deciding whether or not to approve an application, SRW must consider section 40 of the Act, including:

- Availability of water now and in the future;
- Adverse effects that an approval may have on existing users, on waterways and aquifers and on the environment; and
- Existing and projected water quality in the GMA.

When an application is made, SRW will assess whether groundwater extractions at the new site will cause adverse and material interference to any nearby groundwater user. If interference is likely, SRW may set transfer conditions to minimise interference, or it may refuse the application. Approval of an application to transfer may be subject to technical assessments to determine bore interference and impact on surface water bodies.

In the Moe GMA:

- Permanent transfers are permitted
- Temporary transfers are permitted for a period of up to five years

Additional rules have been developed for trading due to the development of some “hot spots” where bore interference has occurred and the effects that pumping may have on stream flows. These relate to the Thorpdale Volcanics aquifer and the unconfined aquifers within and adjacent to the Moe GMA. Two zones have been created to manage these impacts: the Shady Creek Zone and the Moe Swamp Basin Zone. See below for rules which apply in these zones.

New licences

New licences can be issued up to the PCV and in accordance with policies for managing take and use licences. The availability of any unallocated entitlement will be determined in accordance with State Policy on unallocated water.

Metering

SRW meters new and existing groundwater users with an annual volume greater than 20ML¹. This allows SRW to keep track of how much water is being used and enables licence holders to keep within their allocated volume.

The meters are supplied by SRW, and the licence holder is responsible for paying the full cost of the meter and initial installation. The meter remains the property of SRW and SRW is responsible for maintenance and replacement.

Meters are read at least twice per year.

Consultation

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

The LMP will be reviewed on an as-needs basis.

¹ Except where metering is physically impractical, or where it is high risk from a health and safety perspective

Shady Creek and Moe Swamp Basin Trading Zones

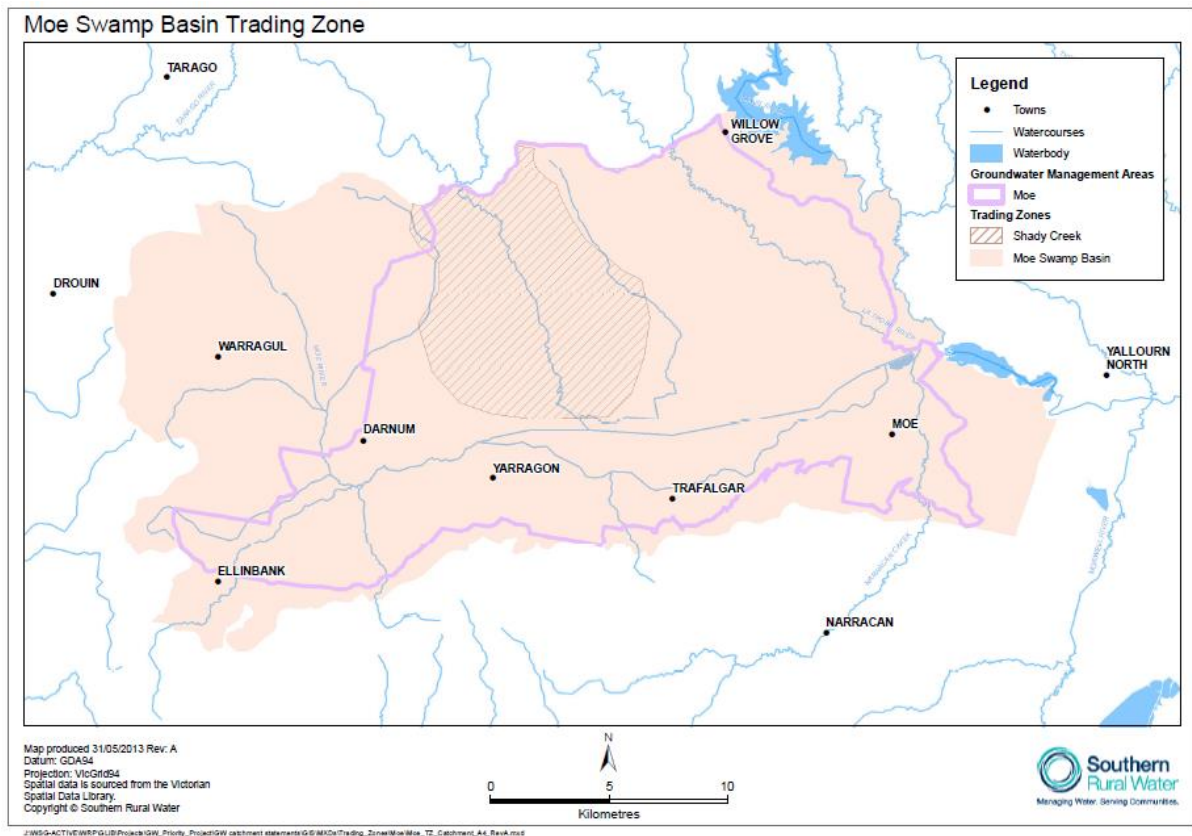


Figure 2. Shady Creek and Moe Swamp Basin Trading Zones

The following transfer rules apply to these two zones covering the Moe GMA and the unconfined and confined aquifers within the Moe Swamp Basin trading zone, and Shady Creek Trading Zone. These zones apply to all depths.

- Transfers are permitted from the Shady Creek Trading Zone into the Moe Swamp Basin Trading Zone
- No transfers are permitted into the Shady Creek Trading Zone
- Transfers are permitted from the unconfined aquifer in the Moe Swamp Basin zone into the confined aquifers² of the Moe GMA, excepting the Shady Creek Trading Zone

² For further information on the definition of unconfined and confined aquifers in the Moe Basin please contact the groundwater team at SRW