

Paaratte
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 Paaratte GMA. Minor administrative updates included.	April 2023

Contents

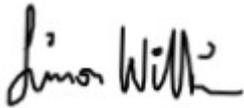
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Purpose of this document

This Local Management Plan documents the current management arrangements for the Paaratte groundwater management area (GMA). 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 Local Management Plan 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 long-term sustainability of the resource.



SIMON WILKINSON

General Manager Service Delivery

12 April 2023

Paaratte GMA Local Management Plan

Objective of the Local Management Plan

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

Area description

Paaratte GMA is shown below. The plan is lodged with the Central Plan Office, reference number LEGL./18-090. The Paaratte GMA is partially overlain by the South West Limestone GMA.

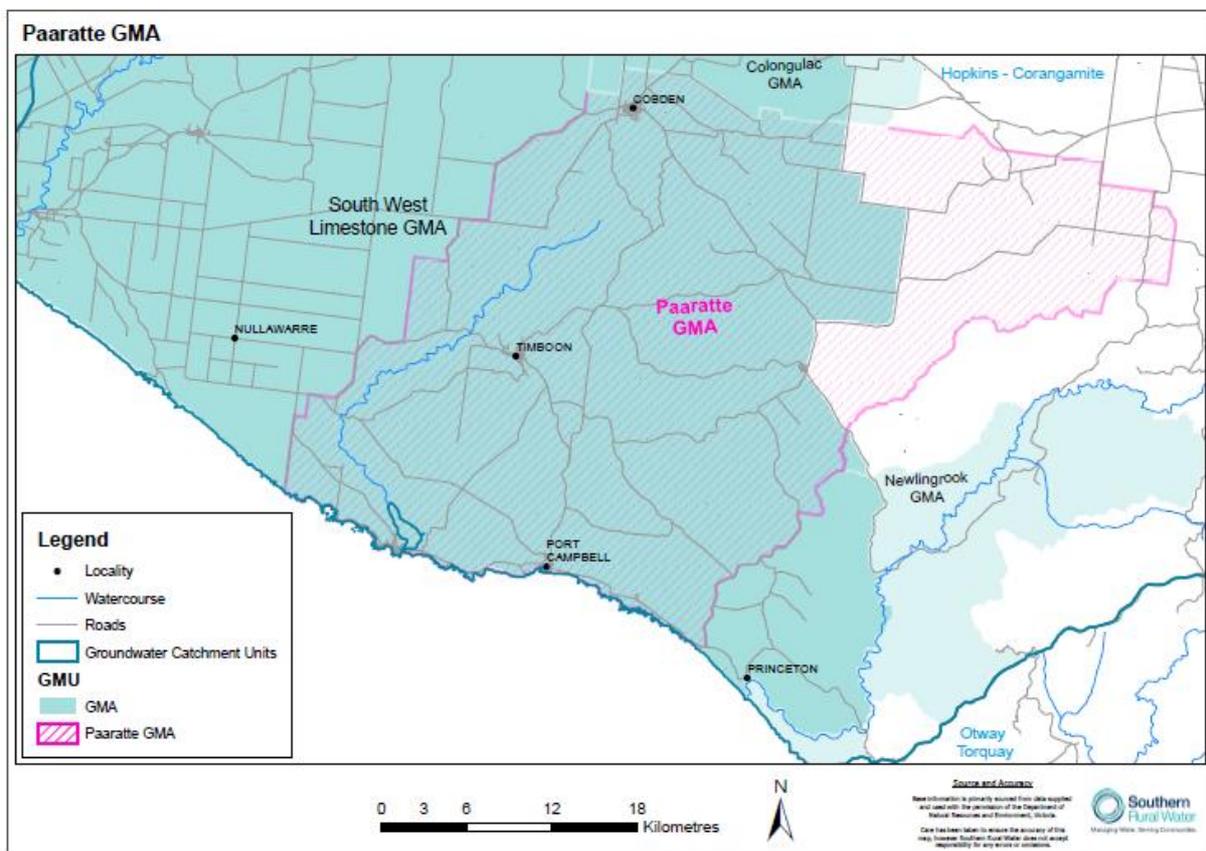


Figure 1: Map of Paaratte Groundwater Management Area

Permissible Consumptive Volume

A Permissible Consumptive Volume (PCV) currently applies to the Paaratte GMA. The PCV is a cap on the amount of groundwater allocated in this management unit. The PCV for Paaratte GMA is 4,606 ML/yr.

The extraction of groundwater for purposes other than domestic and stock use is authorised under a groundwater licence. There are 5 groundwater licences in the Paaratte GMA that

authorise a total of 3,192 ML¹. People have rights to take groundwater for domestic and stock use without a groundwater licence.

Approximately 70% of groundwater (3,179 ML) in the Paaratte GMA is licensed for urban usage. The remaining groundwater licenses are for irrigation and dairy use. Metered groundwater use is less than the total groundwater entitlements and varies each year according to the seasonal conditions.

Licence holders must not exceed their annual licence volumes.

The PCV applies to the area covered in Figure 1, for the Lower aquifer being:

- (i) a geographical area as shown by the Geographical Boundary on Sheets 1 and 2 (figures 2 and 3) of the Plan; and
- (ii) geological formations (which form the groundwater system) with upper and lower surfaces (upper and lower elevation boundaries) as shown by Contour Lines on Sheets 1 and 2 of the Plan respectively, where:

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- a) the upper boundary of the Paaratte Groundwater Management Area for any Point within the Geographical Boundary where a Point in sheet 1 of the Plan is located:
 - in an area coloured blue on the Plan, the upper boundary is the ground surface; or
 - on a Contour Line, the elevation of the upper boundary is the elevation of the Contour Line; or
 - within one encapsulating Contour Line or between a Contour Line and the Geographical Boundary of the area but not between two Contour Lines, the elevation of the upper boundary is the elevation of the Contour Line nearest to the Point; or
 - between two Contour Lines, the elevation of the upper boundary is determined by the Formula, (see below);
- b) The lower boundary of the Paaratte Groundwater Management Area for any Point within the Geographical Boundary where a Point in sheet 2 of the Plan is located:

¹ As of July 2020

- in an area coloured orange on the Plan, the lower boundary is unlimited in elevation; or
- on a Contour Line, the lower boundary is the elevation of the Contour Line; or
- within one encapsulating Contour Line or between a Contour Line and the Geographical Boundary but not between two Contour Lines, the elevation of the lower boundary is the elevation of the Contour Line nearest to the Point; or
- between two Contour Lines, the lower boundary is determined by the Formula, (see below).

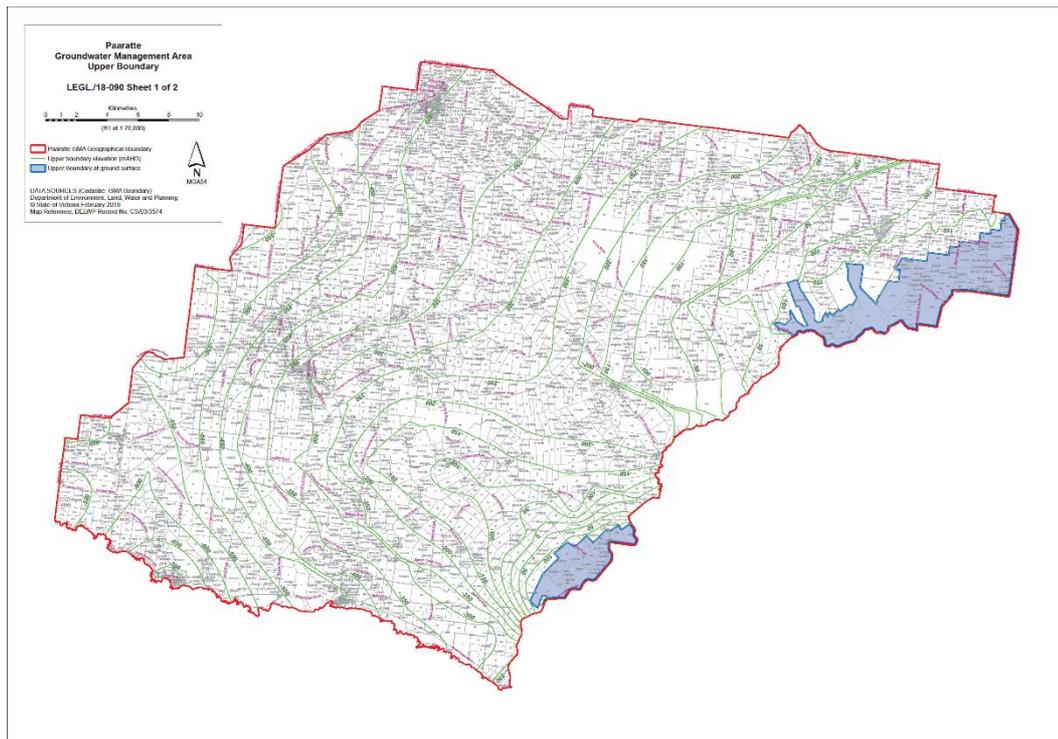


Figure 2: Sheet 1 - Paaratte Groundwater Management Area Upper Boundary

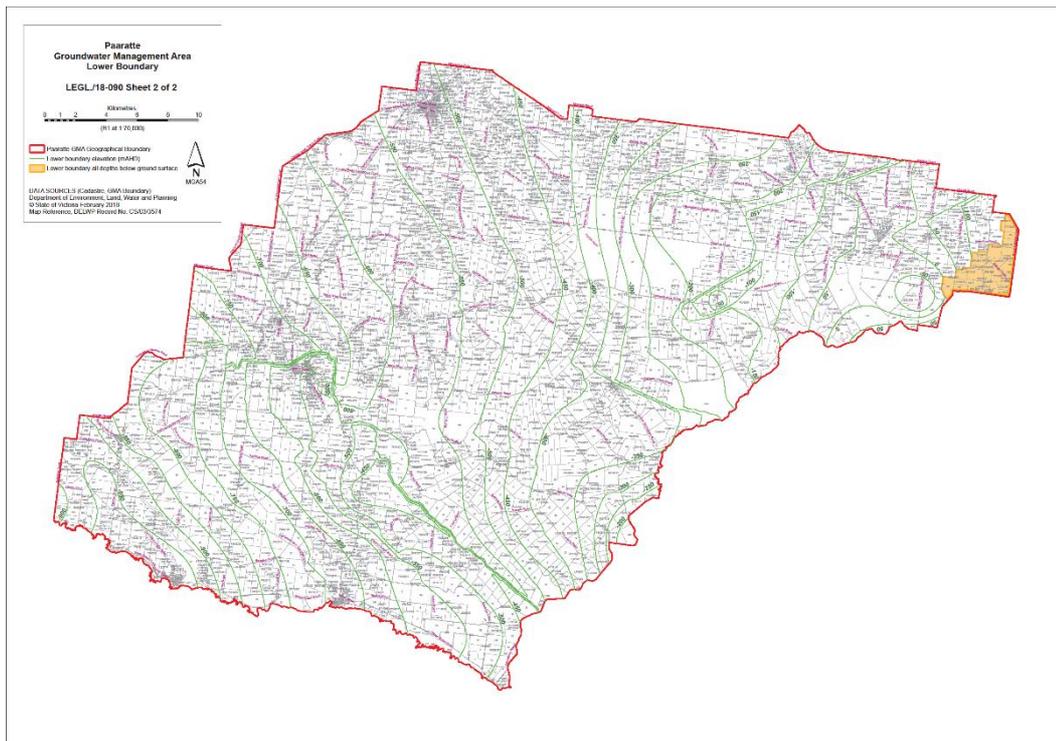


Figure 3: Sheet 2 - Paaratte Groundwater Management Area Lower Boundary

‘formula’ means $((((A - B) / L) \times S) + B)$ where: A = is the highest elevation of the Contour Line (in metres AHD) on the respective sheet of the Plan nearest to the Point; B = is the lowest elevation of the Contour Line (in metres AHD) on the respective sheet of the Plan nearest to the Point; L = is the shortest distance of a straight line (in metres) between the nearest highest and nearest lowest elevation Contour Lines on the respective sheet of the Plan and intersecting the Point; S = is the shortest distance of a straight line (in metres) between the nearest lowest elevation Contour Line on the respective sheet of the Plan and the Point;

Restrictions

The PCV determines the maximum volume of water that can be extracted from the Paaratte GMA; however, the local management plan does not place specific restrictions on taking groundwater.

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 thoroughly assess 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 Paaratte GMA:

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

New licences

New licences can be issued up to the PCV in accordance with the *Water Act 1989* and the 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

Southern Rural Water meters new and existing groundwater users with an annual volume greater than 20ML². 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 Local Management Plan, other than administrative changes or clarifications.

The Local Management Plan will be reviewed on an as needs basis.

² Except where metering is physically impractical, or where it is high risk from a health and safety perspective