



Sale
Water Supply Protection 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 Sale WSPA. Minor administrative updates included.	April 2023

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Purpose of this document

This Local Management Plan documents the current management arrangements for the Sale Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA). 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

Sale WSPA Local Management Plan

Statutory Management Plan

There is no statutory management plan for groundwater resources in this area.

Objective of the Local Management Plan

The objective of the Local Management Plan is to make sure that the groundwater resources in the Sale Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA) are managed in an equitable and sustainable manner.

Area description and sub zones

Sale WSPA includes a sub zone referred to as the Clydebank Restricted Trading Zone. The Sale WSPA plan is lodged with the Central Plan Office, reference number LEGL./01-88.

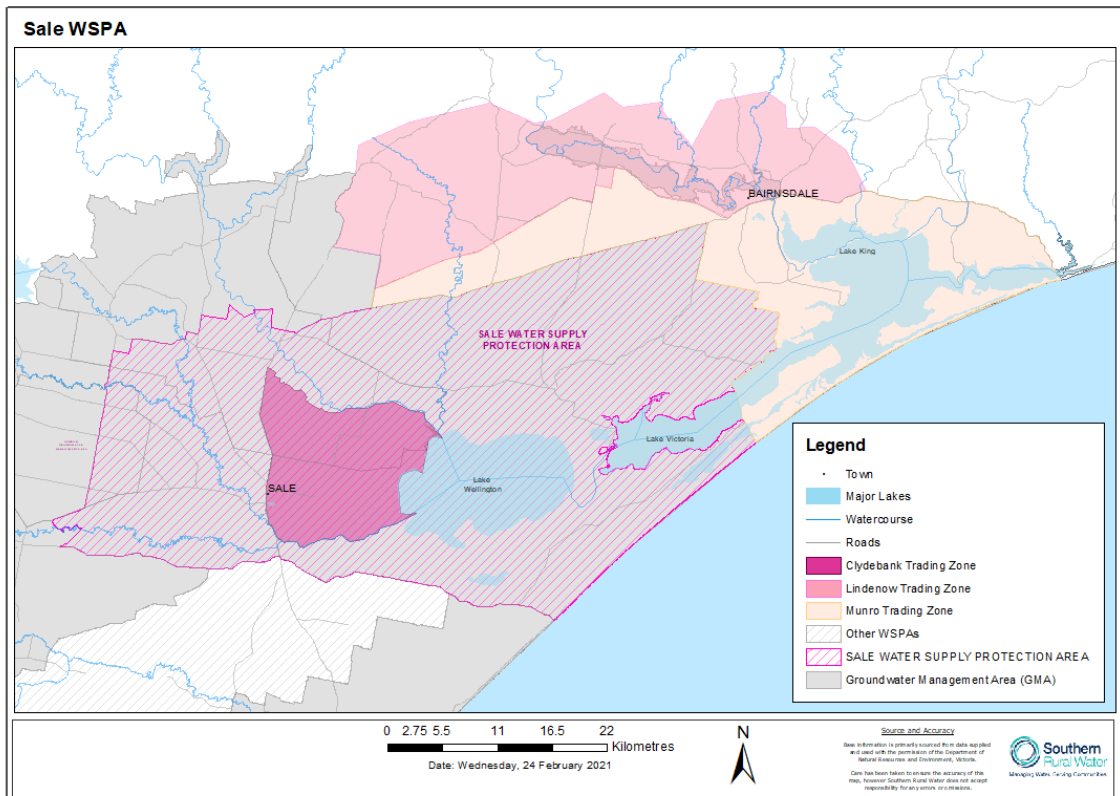


Figure 1: Map of the Sale Water Supply Protection Area

Permissible Consumptive Volume

A Permissible Consumptive Volume (PCV) currently applies to the Sale WSPA. The PCV is a cap on the amount of groundwater allocated in this management unit. The PCV applies to the area covered in Figure 1 and includes all formations from 25 metres to 200 metres below the surface. The PCV is set at 21,238 ML/yr.

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.

The majority of groundwater licensed in the Sale WSPA is for irrigation purposes. Groundwater is also used by Gippsland Water to supply Sale township. Metered groundwater use is less than the total groundwater entitlements and varies each year according to the seasonal conditions.

Annual summary information on licence numbers, total entitlement volume and groundwater levels can be found in the relevant 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 Sale WSPA; 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.

New licences

New groundwater licences (additional entitlement) will not be issued in the Sale WSPA because this may adversely impact on the sustainability of the groundwater resource, however temporary or permanent trade of existing entitlement is allowed.

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 WSPA.

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 Sale WSPA:

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

Due to the threat of saline intrusion from the Gippsland Lakes, SRW currently restricts any groundwater trading in the Clydebank area. This area is identified as the Clydebank Restricted Trading Zone. The Clydebank Restricted Trading Zone is shown in Figure 1 and refers to the area bounded by Lake Wellington in the east, the Avon and Nuntin Creek to the north, the Princes Highway to Sale, the South Gippsland Highway from Sale in the west to where it crosses the Latrobe River, and from the Latrobe River to Lake Wellington. The following rules apply:

- Groundwater cannot be transferred into the Clydebank Restricted Trading Zone
- Groundwater can be transferred out of the Clydebank Restricted Trading Zone to elsewhere in the Sale WSPA. Transfers are permitted from the Sale WSPA (including the Clydebank Restricted Trading Zone) into the Lindenow trading zone area.

Metering

Southern Rural Water 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 Local Management Plan, other than administrative changes or clarifications.

The Local Management Plan 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