

A guide to the EP WAP 2026

**A brief summary of Eyre Peninsula's
'Water Allocation Plan
for the Southern Basins and Musgrave
Prescribed Wells Areas 2026'
(EP WAP 2026)**

V2: September 2026

Contents

How to use this Guide	2
Overview of the WAP	3
Brief summary of WAP sections	4
1. Introduction.....	4
2. Condition of groundwater resources.....	5
3. Management approaches	6
4. Capacity of groundwater resources.....	6
5. Needs of groundwater-dependent ecosystems.....	8
6. Aboriginal water interests	9
7. Assessment of the effects on other water resources	10
8. Assessment of demands on the water resources.....	12
9. Water management strategy	13
10. Principles.....	14
11. Monitoring and evaluation	16
12. Consistency with other plans and legislation	17
13. Units of measurement	17
14. Shortened forms	17
15. Glossary.....	17
16. References.....	17

Acknowledgement of Country

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands are part of our landscape board region, and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual attachment and the relationship that Aboriginal people have to Country.

How to use this Guide

Read the 'Overview of the WAP' on the next page, as it explains key terms and the major items from the WAP. Access a copy of the full WAP, either from the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board's [website](#), or by obtaining a hard copy from the Board (Email: EPLBAdmin@sa.gov.au, Phone: 08 8688 3200). Read the "Brief summary of WAP sections" part of this document. For more information, use the 'Contents' page at the start of the WAP to navigate to specific sections.

Overview of the WAP

Key terminology

The WAP refers to the 'Prescribed Wells Areas' as 'PWAs' (see WAP Figures 1-1 and 1-2 for maps).

The WAP refers to 'consumptive demands', which means water needed for licensed uses (e.g. public water supply, irrigation, mining) and for non-licensed uses (e.g. stock and domestic).

Groundwater resources also need to supply 'non-consumptive demands' for groundwater-dependent ecosystems (e.g. springs, red gums) and aquifer maintenance (e.g. marine discharges).

'Quaternary Limestone' aquifers across the PWAs are the major sources of fresh groundwater.

Closures for licensed extraction

The Lincoln South and Uley Wanilla groundwater resources are now closed for licensed extraction, but non-licensed extraction (e.g. for stock and domestic use) can still occur. These basins were previously used as part of the public water supply system.

Reduced licensed extraction

Licensed extraction for public water supply from the Uley South groundwater resource will be reduced from a previous maximum of 7.3 gigalitres per year to 3.5 GL/y, from the 2027-28 water use year. Uley South continues to be the largest source of groundwater for public water supply.

Improved risk management

'Risk Management and Monitoring Plans' (RMMP) are now required for certain licences of 50,000 entitlement shares or more (i.e. nominally a volume of 50 ML/y). RMMP include monitoring, reporting and risk management strategies that aim to protect groundwater from potential impacts.

Stock and domestic and environmental protection

The WAP has not changed the arrangements from the previous Plan, for the availability of water for stock and domestic use and for the protection of groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

Aboriginal water interests

The WAP supports Aboriginal water interests and includes content (section 6) co-authored with representatives from the three Aboriginal Corporations who hold Native Title over the areas.

Simplified and more secure annual allocations

The WAP has simplified the way that annual allocations are calculated for the Uley North, Bramfield, Sheringa and Poldia consumptive pools. It has improved water security for those licensees, by setting 35% as the minimum allocation in dry years, unless extreme conditions arise.

Improved water security for other groundwater resources

Based on a variety of factors, the volume of water available for consumptive use will not be recalculated annually for the Uley South, Coffin Bay, Lincoln North, Southern Basins and Musgrave Tertiary and Basement, and the Aquaculture Elliston consumptive pools. This provides certainty for licensees in those areas.

Brief summary of WAP sections

The following section/sub-section headings and numbers correspond to those in the [WAP](#).

1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the Water Allocation Plan

Provides information on state legislation linked to the WAP; consistency with the 'National Water Initiative'; what water resources are in scope; and what the WAP aims to achieve.

1.1.1 Objectives

Sets out the five specific objectives that the WAP is seeking to meet.

1.1.2 History of groundwater management

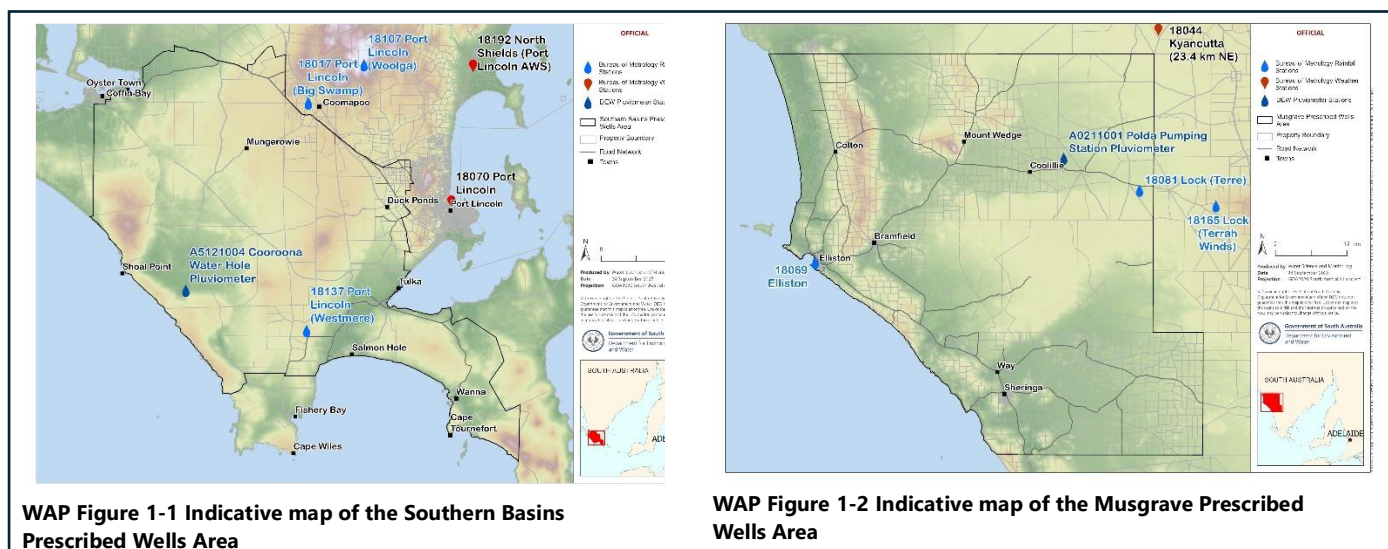
Discusses where drinking water for the region has come from; the history of regulation seeking to protect groundwater; the previous plan; the decline in groundwater resources; and measures being taken to improve regional water security.

1.2 Description of Prescribed Wells Areas

Provides information and maps on the location and size of these Prescribed Wells Areas (PWAs) and the Hundreds, townships, geology, land and water features, and weather stations in them, such as the figures below.

1.2.1 Southern Basins Prescribed Wells Area

1.2.2 Musgrave Prescribed Wells Area



1.3 Climate

Provides information on climate in the PWAs, including diagrams on rainfall reliability, average temperature variability, and long-term rainfall and maximum temperature data and trends.

1.3.1 Southern Basins climate conditions

1.3.2 Musgrave climate conditions

1.3.3 Climate variability and impacts

Discusses groundwater reliance on local rainfall; climate projections; and modelling assessments of the effect of changes in climate on recharge to groundwater and on groundwater levels.

1.4 Hydrogeology of the Prescribed Wells Areas

Provides the five main scientific hydrogeology references that have been used for the WAP.

1.4.1 Regional geological setting

Summarises regional geology and how it relates to different layers that may contain groundwater.

1.4.2 Aquifers

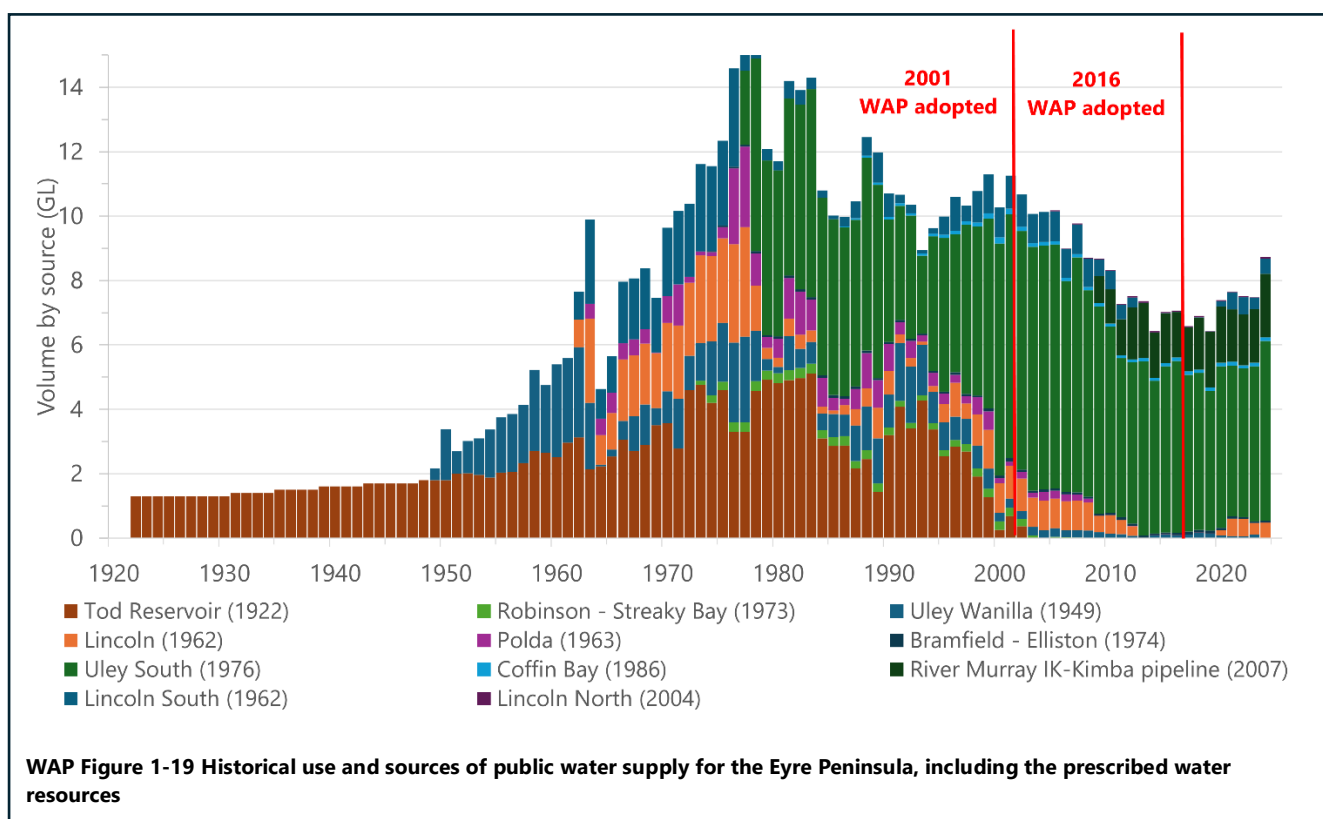
Describes the different types of aquifers that occur across the PWAs and provides diagrams that illustrate groundwater flow direction in the fresh-water-containing Quaternary Limestone aquifers.

1.4.3 Aquifer recharge and discharge processes

Discusses local rainfall being the source of groundwater in the Quaternary Limestone aquifer and how recharge into all the different types of aquifers occurs.

1.5 Historic trends of extraction

Discusses the history of mains water supply and demand across the region; the regulation of groundwater in recent times; current and future demand; and regional water security. Diagrams (such as the one below) illustrate historic supply from different sources, and current demand from different sectors.



2. Condition of groundwater resources

Discusses the fall in groundwater levels and the impacts this has caused. Describes the investigations that have been done to better understand the issues. Introduces the detailed information which follows, on each of the Quaternary Limestone aquifers across the areas.

2.1 Southern Basins Prescribed Wells Area

Provides detailed scientific information, maps and diagrams about each groundwater resource. The groundwater resources which are available for licensed use are called 'consumptive pools'. The Uley Wanilla and Lincoln South 'basins' are now closed for licensed extraction.

2.1.1 Coffin Bay Consumptive Pool

2.1.2 Uley North Consumptive Pool

2.1.3 Uley Wanilla Basin

2.1.4 Lincoln North Consumptive Pool

2.1.5 Uley South Consumptive Pool

2.1.6 Lincoln South Basin

2.2 Musgrave Prescribed Wells Area

Provides detailed scientific information, maps and diagrams about each groundwater resource.

2.2.1 Bramfield Consumptive Pool

2.2.2 Polda Consumptive Pool

2.2.3 Sheringa Consumptive Pool

2.3 Alterations in groundwater-dependent ecosystems in response to historic water level change

Discusses changes to wetlands over time, driven by climate variations and historic over-extraction, and explains the role of the WAP in minimising impacts on groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

3. Management approaches

3.1 Adaptive management consumptive pool approach

3.1.1 Uley North, Bramfield, Sheringa and Polda resources

Summarises the approach in these consumptive pools and that the annual volume of water available for consumptive use by water licence holders, may vary according to groundwater levels.

3.2 Non-adaptive consumptive pool approach

Summarises the approach in these consumptive pools, where the annual volume of water for consumptive use by water licence holders will stay the same, unless adverse impacts are observed and the Minister chooses to enact powers under the [*Landscape South Australia Act 2019*](#) (the Act).

3.2.1 Coffin Bay

3.2.2 Uley South

3.2.3 Lincoln North

3.2.4 Aquaculture Elliston

3.2.5 Southern Basins and Musgrave Tertiary and Basement

3.3 No licensed extraction approach

Explains that these groundwater resources can no longer be used for licensed purposes, but can still be used for stock and domestic purposes.

3.3.1 Uley Wanilla and Lincoln South

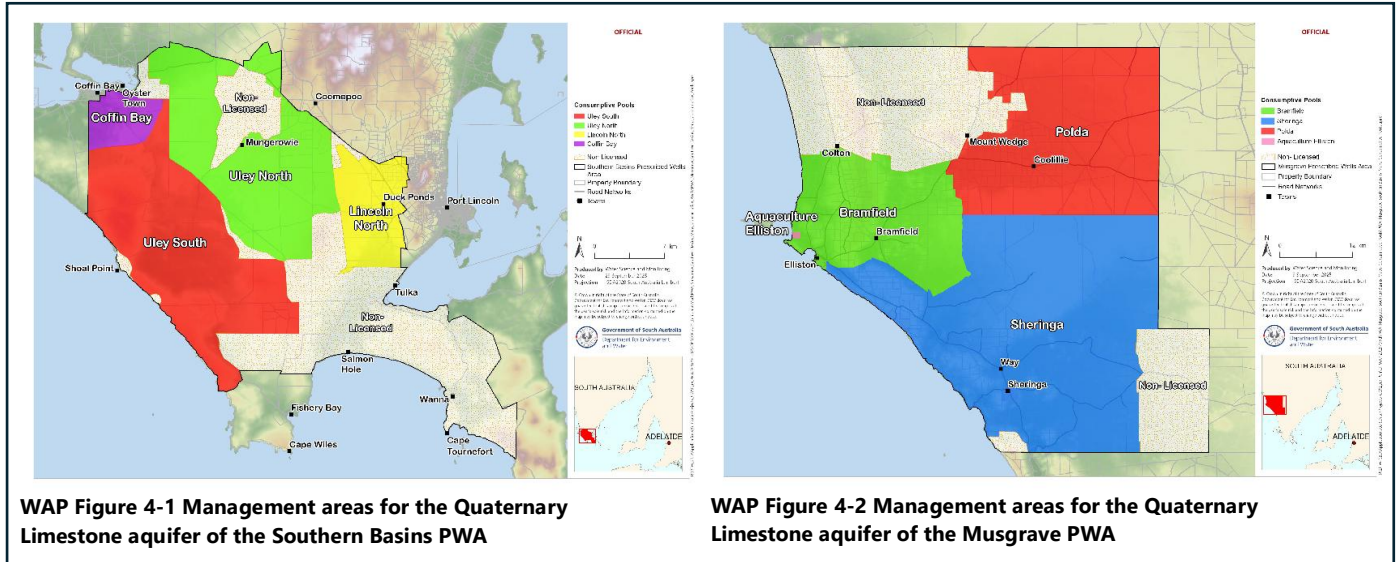
4. Capacity of groundwater resources

Explains how the capacity (i.e. volume) of the different groundwater resources are calculated and that the total size of each resource is allocated for either consumptive use (e.g. water licences or

non-licensed use such as stock and domestic) or non-consumptive use (e.g. natural groundwater discharges or use by groundwater-dependent ecosystems).

4.1 Management areas used to determine consumptive pools

Describes management areas, which are the geographic extent of the different groundwater resources, e.g. Uley South, and provides maps showing their location, such as the two below.



4.2 Licensed Quaternary Limestone aquifer management areas

Discusses how the capacity (ML) of the Coffin Bay, Uley North, Lincoln North, Poldra and Sheringa management areas are estimated by multiplying the area (km²) of the recharge zone by the recharge rate (mm/year). Explanations, maps, diagrams and tables provide detailed information.

4.2.1 Recharge zones

4.2.2 Recharge rate

4.2.3 Resource capacity estimates

4.3 Uley South and Bramfield Quaternary Limestone aquifer management areas

Explains that the method used to estimate capacity for these areas was informed by the availability of numerical groundwater models that have assessed long-term water availability. More detailed information is provided for each of the areas, including volumes for different types of water use.

4.3.1 Uley South groundwater modelling results

4.3.2 Bramfield groundwater modelling results

4.4 Aquaculture Elliston management area

Discusses this area, which provides brackish to saline groundwater for aquaculture operations with a dedicated consumptive pool, plus ongoing monitoring and reporting requirements.

4.5 Non-licensed Quaternary aquifer management areas

Explains that these areas includes the dry parts of the Quaternary Limestone aquifer, plus the Lincoln South and Uley Vanilla basins where only non-licensed use is allowed. The consumptive pool volume is estimated from projected non-licensed demand and is not re-calculated annually.

4.6 Tertiary Sands and Basement aquifer management areas

Explains that, due to the lack of information on recharge rates for these deeper aquifers, the consumptive pool volume has been based on the non-licensed and licensed extraction, with an additional allowance for any Ministerial authorisation.

4.6.1 Tertiary Sands aquifer management areas

4.6.2 Basement aquifer management areas

Table 4-6 shows volumes for different uses, for the areas covered by sub-sections 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6.

4.7 Annual calculation of the resource capacity for variable consumptive pools

States that variable consumptive pools volumes will be set annually for Uley North, Bramfield, Sheringa and Polda, based on the condition of the groundwater resources, as per the methodology discussed in section 9.4.1.

5. Needs of groundwater-dependent ecosystems

5.1 Environmental water requirements and provisions

Explains the legislative requirements for the WAP to assess the water needs of ecosystems that depend on the groundwater resources, i.e. the 'environmental water requirements'. Discusses how the WAP must seek a balance between environmental, social and economic needs for water, when providing environmental water needs through 'environmental water provisions'.

5.1.1 Environmental water requirements

5.1.2 Environmental water provisions

5.2 Groundwater-dependent ecosystems

Summarises what groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDEs) are, what they are like in the PWAs and how they rely on groundwater.

5.3 Groundwater-dependent ecosystems within the PWAs

States that GDEs in the WAP areas were identified and mapped and split into five groups based on the type of ecosystem. Maps are provided, showing all types of GDEs. As GDEs have cultural significance to Aboriginal people, these maps also show existing Native Title determinations. Given the environmental importance of wetlands, maps are also provided including these features. The following sub-sections provide more detailed information on the five types of GDEs.

5.3.1 Wetlands

5.3.2 Phreatophytes (especially red gum forests and woodlands)

5.3.3 Baseflow and groundwater soaks

5.3.4 Hypogean, hyporheic and collapsed sinkhole ecosystems

5.3.5 Marine discharges

5.3.6 Aquifer maintenance

Explains that natural flows through aquifers must be maintained, so that water gets to GDEs.

5.3.7 Management areas with no known groundwater-dependent ecosystems

States that the deeper Tertiary Sands and Basement aquifers are unlikely to provide water to GDEs.

5.4 Environmental water requirements

Explains how these requirements were determined and the limitations that apply, and discusses the role of surface water. The following sub-sections then provide detailed information about the environmental water requirements of the different types of ecosystems.

5.4.1 Environmental water requirements for groundwater-dependent plants

5.4.2 Environmental water requirements for groundwater-dependent wetlands

5.4.3 Environmental water requirements for other groundwater-dependent ecosystems

5.4.3.1 Phreatophytes (especially red gum forests and woodlands)

5.4.3.2 Baseflow and groundwater soaks

5.4.3.3 Hypogean, hyporheic and collapsed sinkhole ecosystems

5.4.3.4 Marine discharges

5.4.3.5 Aquifer maintenance

5.5 Assessment of environmental water provisions

Explains that the WAP allocates enough water so that the 'environmental water provisions' supply all of the 'environmental water requirements' (see 5.1), as even full usage of the consumptive allocations is not expected to impact on the water needs of groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

6. Aboriginal water interests

Explains that this section was co-authored with representatives from the Nauo, Wirangu and Nauo, and Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation RNTBCs, holding Native Title over the PWAs.

6.1 Cultural importance of groundwater to Aboriginal Peoples

States that: "Aboriginal people believe that all water in these regions and across the whole landscape must be managed to allow it to maintain, and restore where possible, the connected elements of this Country".

6.2 Aboriginal water rights and interests

6.2.1 Commonwealth legislation and commitment

Summarises how groundwater fits into federal Native Title legislation, provides information about the Native Title determinations and includes a map (Figure 6-1 below) of Native Title areas and the PWAs.

6.2.2 State legislation and commitment

Identifies sections of the Act that link to Aboriginal water interests; the SA 'Framework to Advance Aboriginal Water Interests'; and SA's commitment to the '*National Agreement on Closing the Gap*', which includes an Inland Waters target that relates to Aboriginal rights to groundwater.

6.3 Aboriginal water interests objective

Identifies the WAP Objective (section 1.1.1) that addresses Aboriginal water interests and explains this is the start of a process, with significant barriers to be overcome.

6.4 Providing access to groundwater for Aboriginal people

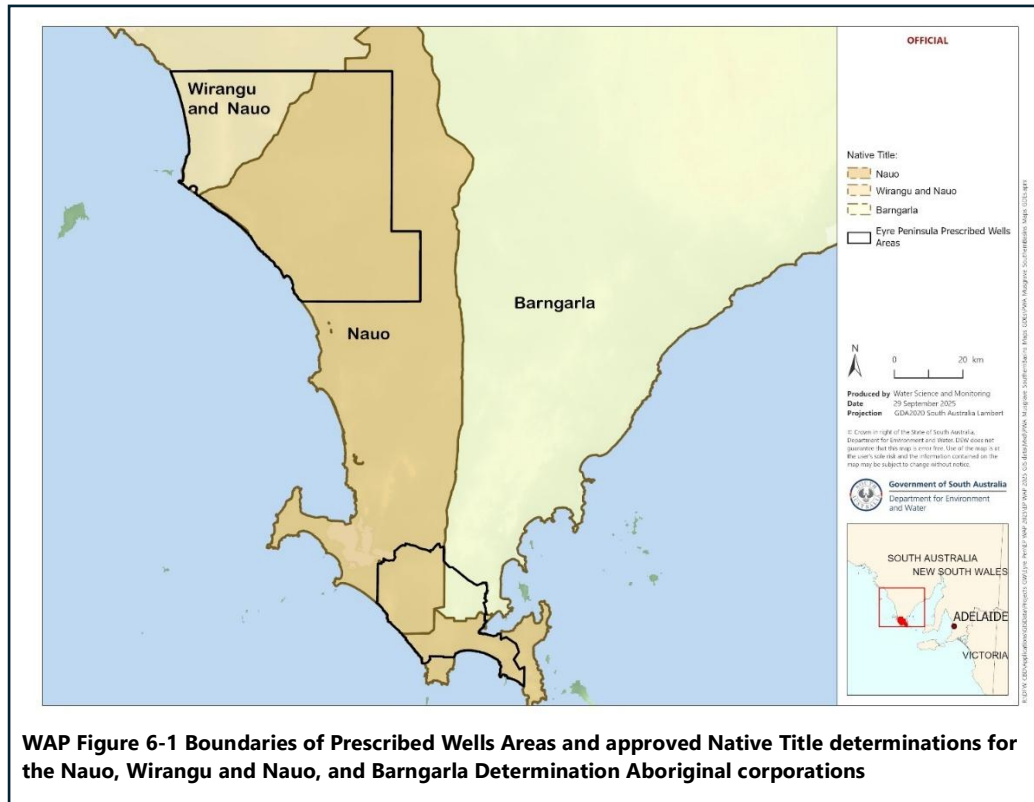
Describes three ways the WAP contributes to supporting water interests of Aboriginal people through the provision of access to the water resources.

6.5 Incorporating traditional knowledge in groundwater management

States that recognising and including Aboriginal traditional knowledge will support successful water planning outcomes, but that there is still significant work to be done to achieve this.

6.6 Protecting sites of cultural significance

Explains an existing SA mechanism for Native Title holders to contribute to protecting sites of cultural significance, and explores other ways Aboriginal people could help protect sites from the impacts of water take.



7. Assessment of the effects on other water resources

States that the Act requires a WAP to include an assessment of whether the taking or use of water will have a negative impact on any other water resources.

7.1 Impacts from aquifer use

7.1.1 Seawater-fresh groundwater interface

Explains that in coastal aquifers, e.g. Uley South and Bramfield, if extraction lowers groundwater levels too far, seawater may move inland and contaminate fresh groundwater.

7.1.2 Saltwater upconing

Describes how some fresh aquifers can have saltier groundwater underneath. Local over-extraction can draw saltier water up into the overlying fresh water. This is a risk in the Coffin Bay resource.

7.2 Impact of taking from one resource on another

Discusses how groundwater can flow into surface waters, e.g. Lake Newland, and from one aquifer into another, so the WAP needs to protect against impacts on other water resources.

7.2.1 Protection for public water supply resources

Explains the groundwater protection zone (see Figure 7-1 on page 116) which protects Uley South, a vital public water supply, by preventing new wells into the deeper Tertiary Sands or Basement aquifers, which might cause downward leakage from the overlying Quaternary Limestone fresh water aquifer.

7.2.2 Protecting the Quaternary aquifer where the Tertiary clay aquitard is absent

Discusses how pumping from Tertiary Sands or Basement aquifers underneath the Quaternary aquifer can draw fresh water down into the saltier deeper aquifers. A clay layer ('aquitard') under the Quaternary prevents this downward leakage, but where this layer is absent, the WAP prevents new wells into the deeper aquifers, via exclusion zones called 'clay buffers' (see Figures 7.2 and 7-3 on pages 117 and 118).

7.2.3 Protection around wetland groundwater-dependent ecosystems

Explains how groundwater extraction can impact on wetlands and how the WAP prevents new wells from being drilled too close to wetlands, using 'environmental protection zones'.

7.2.4 Protection of red gum communities

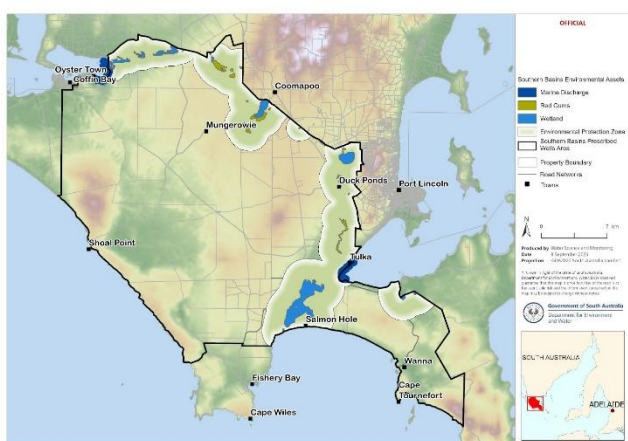
States that mature red gums can be dependent on shallow groundwater. The WAP protects red gums using 'environmental protection zones', and by reducing the volume of extraction in some consumptive pools when groundwater levels drop below certain trigger points (see section 3.1.1).

7.2.5 Protection of marine discharges

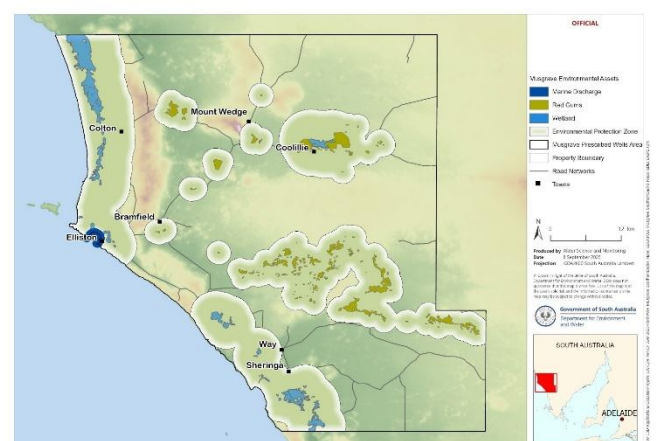
Discusses how groundwater outflows prevent seawater from moving inland and also contribute to near-shore ecosystems. The WAP protects outflows with 'environmental protection zones'.

7.3 Water resources in adjacent non-prescribed wells areas

Explains that effects on nearby water resources are not expected, and provides maps of 'environmental assets' and 'environmental protection zones' for the PWAs (Figures 7-6 and 7-7 below).



WAP Figure 7-6 Spatial distribution of environmental assets and environmental protection zones within the Southern Basins PWA



WAP Figure 7-7 Spatial distribution of environmental assets and environmental protection zones within the Musgrave PWA

8. Assessment of demands on the water resources

States that the Act requires the WAP to assess the capacity of water resources to meet demands.

8.1 Licensed Quaternary Limestone aquifer management areas

Explains that resource capacity must meet both non-consumptive demands (GDEs and aquifer maintenance) and consumptive demands (water for licensed and non-licensed purposes).

Risk assessment has been used to inform the balance between these two demands. It was built into the modelling for Bramfield and Uley South (see 4.3). For Uley North, Sheringa, Polda, Coffin Bay and Lincoln North Quaternary aquifers, the risk assessment is explained in sub-section 8.1.

8.1.1 Non-consumptive demands

Explains that a percentage of recharge is set aside for non-consumptive purposes. In setting this percentage, the process considered 'accessibility risk', from users not being allocated enough groundwater and not being able to access alternative water supplies. 'Environmental risk' was also considered, based on the presence of GDEs and risks to aquifer salinity and groundwater levels. A risk matrix was used, and ratios of consumptive to non-consumptive resource capacity were set for the different aquifers. The following sub-sections provide more detail about these processes.

8.1.1.1 Defining accessibility risk

8.1.1.2 Defining environmental risk

8.1.1.3 Risk matrix

8.1.1.4 Consumptive to non-consumptive ratios

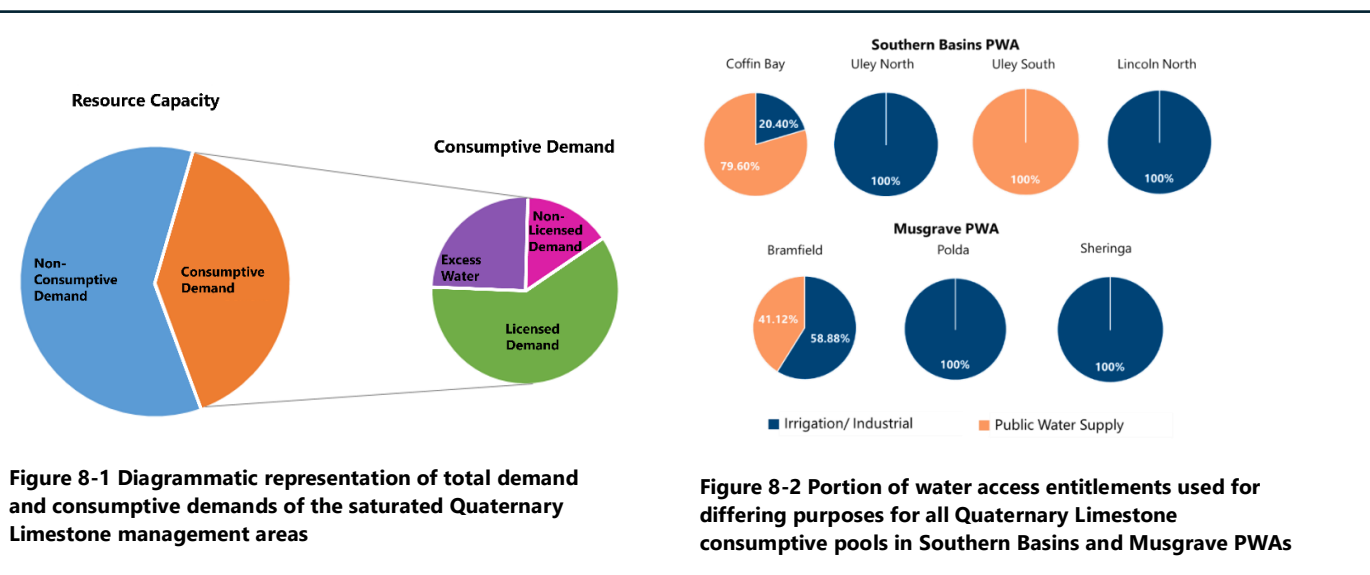
8.1.2 Consumptive demands

Describes how volumes for consumptive demand were calculated, by subtracting non-consumptive demand (8.1.1) from the total resource capacity estimates (4.2.3). Non-licensed consumptive demand was estimated by considering both stock and domestic water use and making a small allowance for Ministerial authorisations. Licensed consumptive demand consists of water licences for public water supply and for private use. If current demand for licensed use is less than the total available for that purpose, the remainder may be available as 'excess water'. The following sub-sections provide more detail, including tables and diagrams.

8.1.2.1 Non-licensed demand

8.1.2.2 Licensed demand

8.1.2.3 Excess water



8.2 Non-licensed Quaternary Limestone management areas

States it is unlikely there will be significant volumes available for consumptive use in these areas.

8.3 Tertiary Sands and Basement management areas

8.3.1 Non-consumptive demands

These were unable to be determined, due to limited knowledge of these deeper aquifers.

8.3.2 Consumptive demands

States that water available for consumptive demands was assumed to be the sum of the non-licensed and the licensed demand.

8.3.2.1 Non-licensed demand

Explains that this includes stock and domestic demand and describes how this was estimated. The demand estimation also includes a small allowance (5 ML) for Ministerial authorisations under section 105 of the Act, e.g. for firefighting or public road making.

8.3.2.2 Licensed demand

States that Department for Environment and Water (DEW) records were used to identify licensed demand from these aquifers.

Tables 8-9 and 8-10 provide volumes for resource capacity and for both non-licensed and licensed demand for all aquifers in the PWAs.

8.4 Future demand for water

Refers to the 'Water Security Statement: Water for Sustainable Growth', which informed the consideration of future demand.

8.4.1 Public water supply

Discusses supply and demand considerations including reduced groundwater availability; desalination; regional growth and water security; Elliston town water supply; tourism and mining.

8.4.2 Water for stock and domestic use

Discusses potential factors that may influence future demand for these uses.

8.4.3 Recreational and industrial use

Mentions tourism and aquaculture as examples of potential development requiring more water.

8.4.4 Mining industry use

Discusses future demand from the mining or energy sectors and the need for this demand to be managed within existing water allocation and licensing frameworks.

8.4.5 Land values

States that the WAP is not expected to adversely affect land values, has made generous provisions for stock and domestic water, and has improved water security for private licensed water users.

9. Water management strategy

States that lawful take of water from the prescribed resources can only be via a water allocation, or for stock and domestic purposes, or through an authorisation under section 105 of the Act.

9.1 Water licensing regime

Explains the water licensing regime, including the difference between a water licence, a water access entitlement, the value of the entitlement shares, and a water allocation (see Figure 9-1 on page 141).

9.2 Water affecting activities

Identifies that the Minister is the relevant authority for water affecting activity permits concerning wells, and states that the WAP sets out matters that the Minister must consider for those permits.

9.3 Management of Managed Aquifer Recharge Schemes

Defines what managed aquifer recharge is and states that the WAP has provisions to control the draining or discharge of water into an aquifer and the recovery of water for use.

9.4 Consumptive pool management

Explains that differences between specific groundwater resources mean some are adaptively managed based on the annual condition of the resource, and others are not.

9.4.1 Adaptively managed consumptive pools

States that the Uley North, Bramfield, Sheringa and Poldia management areas are adaptively managed. Sub-sections provide detail of the adaptive framework used in the previous WAP and of the one used in this current WAP. The new framework has been simplified and it also provides greater water security, by seeking to avoid years where no licensed extraction is allowed.

9.4.1.1 Previous Framework

9.4.1.2 New Framework

9.4.2 Non-adaptively managed consumptive pools

Lists the management areas that are non-adaptively managed. Explains that their consumptive pool volumes do not vary from year to year and are the sum of 'non-licensed demand' and the 'maximum volume of water available for licensed use', as per Tables 8-9 and 8-10 (on page 136). Sub-sections explain the reasons that this approach was taken for each of the consumptive pools.

9.4.2.1 Coffin Bay

9.4.2.2 Uley South

9.4.2.3 Lincoln North

9.4.2.4 Aquaculture Elliston

9.4.2.5 Deeper groundwater resources

10. Principles

Explains that the 51 principles in the following sections apply to all applications for new, or variation of existing, water management authorisations; to transitional arrangements; and to information requirements that apply to some applications. It discusses who is responsible for providing required information. It explains that a reference to the Minister includes the Minister's delegate. The sub-sections provide detailed policy principles applying under each heading.

10.1 Consumptive pools

Principle 1 provides summary information about the 16 consumptive pools.

10.2 Water licences

Principles 2 – 8 address the granting of water licences; listing of wells; managed aquifer recharge; mining or petroleum licences; and when licences are not required.

10.3 Water access entitlements

Principles 9 -14 state that the Minister may grant a new water access entitlement; that entitlements are a specified share of water available for licensed use; that specific principles apply to entitlements from managed aquifer recharge consumptive pools; that new entitlements cannot cause the total to exceed the set maximum value; how entitlement shares relate to excess water; and how excess water can be issued.

10.4 Water allocations

Principles 15 – 18 state the basis for the annual issuing of a water allocation; that an entitlement share has a nominal value of 1 kL subject to the Minister’s decision; and that an allocation to recover water from managed aquifer recharge is subject to specific principles.

10.5 Adaptive management

Principle 19 states that the Minister may annually determine the value of individual entitlement shares, and the volume of allocation, from each consumptive pool. Table 10-1 (on page 153) provides volumes and water access entitlement share numbers for all consumptive pools.

10.6 Carry-over of unused water allocation

Principle 20 states that carryover is not allowed.

10.7 Transitional arrangements

Principles 21 – 23 address how existing water licences transition into the 2026 WAP, and that principles in sub-section 10.8 apply.

10.8 Terms and conditions for consideration for a water licence or water allocation

Principles 24 – 26 apply to Risk Management and Monitoring Plans (RMMP); recovering managed aquifer recharge water; and how the principles in this sub-section apply.

10.9 Transfers of water licences, access entitlements or entitlement shares

Principles 27 – 34 explain what can be transferred; for how long; a restriction on transferring managed aquifer recharge items; transfers to stay within the original consumptive pool; that transfers must meet requirements under Principle 10.12; and Ministerial authorisation.

10.10 Variation of a water licence or water allocation

Principles 35 – 36 state the Minister can vary a water licence or allocation, as long as the decision is consistent with the WAP, and particularly with sections 10.12 and 10.8.

10.11 Management of wells

Principles 37 – 40 state conditions that must be met for new wells; permit requirements and obligations; exceptions to certain requirements; and evidence required for managing risks from potentially contaminated groundwater.

10.12 Assessment criteria

Principles 41 – 45 discuss various types of protection zones restricting the location of new wells; when the zones do or do not apply; and the Minister’s power to issue or vary an authorisation if the applicant has demonstrated that undesirable impacts will not occur. Tables 10-2 and 10-3 (pages 159 and 160) supply specifications for the different protection zones.

10.13 Draining or discharging water into a well

States that certain criteria mean that an authorisation from the SA Environment Protection Authority may be required. Principles 46 – 50 explain the WAP requirements relating to risk assessment; a risk management and monitoring plan; permits; recovery of introduced water; and reporting.

10.14 Conversion of a mineral well to a water well

Principle 51 allows this conversion; identifies the construction standards that will apply; and that the Principles from section 10.11 of the WAP apply.

11. Monitoring and evaluation

The Act requires a WAP to provide for regular monitoring to assess if water resources can meet demands without impacting on ecological sustainability. Monitoring also assists in reviewing if the WAP is meeting its objectives. The WAP also has a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plan.

11.1 Monitoring strategy

Identifies the aims of the WAP's monitoring strategy.

11.2 Assessment of changes in condition of priority groundwater resources and environmental assets

11.2.1 Groundwater monitoring network

Discusses the broader groundwater monitoring network across the PWAs; wells monitored to inform annual allocations; and monitoring as part of risk management and monitoring plans for certain licences.

11.2.2 Environmental asset monitoring

Notes that monitoring relating to groundwater-dependent ecosystems will be in the MERI Plan, to assess measures in the WAP (sections 5 and 10) aimed at protecting these environmental assets.

11.3 Annual assessment of level of storage of the saturated Quaternary Limestone management areas

Explains that autumn monitoring of groundwater levels in wells listed in Table 9-1 (on page 147) for the Uley North, Bramfield, Sheringa and Poldia consumptive pools, will be used in the process of determining the water allocation for the next water use year, which commences on the 1st of July.

11.4 Monitoring of demands placed on the groundwater resource

States that records of (metered) licensed extraction across the PWAs are kept by DEW in 'mywater' and that RMMP may require specific monitoring of extraction from production wells.

11.5 Compliance with conditions on authorisations

States that monitoring data obtained via sections 11.2 to 11.4 will assist with determining compliance with permit or licence conditions.

11.6 Evaluation

Explains that evaluation will occur at different stages and for a range of purposes; that evaluation methodology will consider environmental assets, climate variability and land management; and that the MERI Plan will provide more information on the evaluation processes.

11.7 Evaluating the success and appropriateness of this Plan

Identifies that the Act requires a comprehensive review of the success and appropriateness of the WAP and provides a framework to inform the development of the MERI Plan.

11.7.1 Review of this Plan

Provides information on the WAP review, including timing; aims of the review; key evaluation questions; and a two-stage approach. The approach first reviews success and effectiveness, and then carries out a forward-looking risk assessment of whether the WAP is still appropriate, and if and how it needs to be amended. Additional detail is provided in the following sub-sections.

11.7.1.1 Stage 1 evaluation – success and effectiveness of this Plan

11.7.1.2 Stage2 evaluation – appropriateness and need for amendment

12. Consistency with other plans and legislation

Lists the legislation, policies, agreements and plans that the WAP considered.

13. Units of measurement

List and explains the units of measurement that have been used in the WAP.

14. Shortened forms

Provides the meanings of the abbreviations that have been used in the WAP.

15. Glossary

Explains the meaning of the various technical terms that have been used in the WAP.

16. References

Provides the details of documents used to inform the development of the WAP.

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