

Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group

Minutes

Meeting No. 14, Tuesday 7 September 2021, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Farmer's Leap, 41 Hodgsons Road, Padthaway

Objectives

- Draft Padthaway WAP.
- Community engagement.

Attendees:

Group Attendees – Penny Schulz (Group Chair, Limestone Coast Landscape Board), Tim Hoare, Krysteen McElroy, Phil Brown, Scott Longbottom (arrived 1:42pm).

Staff Attendees – Sue Botting (Team Leader, Water Policy and Planning, LCLB), Ryan Judd (Senior Project Officer, Water Policy and Planning, LCLB), David Williamson (Team Leader, Water Licencing, DEW).

Apologies – Carolyn Brown, Michelle Irvine (SA Water).

Welcome and agenda

The Chair welcomed everyone, advised on COVIDSafe requirements and discussed the proposed agenda. Thanked advisory group members and staff for their attendance.

Started 1:39 pm

Minutes

Previous minutes from meeting 13 confirmed as true and correct.

Action outcomes to note

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Action 2.6 – On-going. | • Action 13.12 – Complete. |
| • Action 3.6 – On-going. | • Action 13.13 – Complete. |
| • Action 3.7 – On-going. | |
| • Action 4.5 – On-going. | |
| • Action 5.6 – On-going. | |
| • Action 12.5 – On-going. | |
| • Action 12.6 – On-going. | |
| • Action 13.1 – Complete. | |
| • Action 13.2 – Complete. | |
| • Action 13.3 – Complete. | |
| • Action 13.4 – Complete. | |
| • Action 13.5 – Complete. | |
| • Action 13.6 – Complete. | |
| • Action 13.7 – Complete. | |
| • Action 13.8 – Complete. | |
| • Action 13.9 – Complete. | |
| • Action 13.10 – Complete. | |
| • Action 13.11 – Complete. | |

Meeting 13 Actions

Further detail and information was provided for discussion of some Meeting 13 actions.

Key Points and Discussion:

Hydraulic gradient RCL (Actions 13.5, 13.11 and 13.12)

- DEW Licensing confirmed that there were 52 licences in the limited extraction zone.
- The Group discussed what the intent of the limited extraction zone was and the level of risk posed to the water resource by allowing further extraction from the zone. The intent, to be confirmed, was assumed to be to protect the through-flow from the Ranges to the Flats. The level of risk to the water resource was not well understood and the Group requested further hydrogeological advice.
- Cameron Wood has provided advice that the RCL management responses to address groundwater level would also be effective in managing the hydraulic gradient. As such a separate adaptive management response specific to hydraulic gradient is not needed.
- Cameron Wood reviewed the groundwater level data of the Flats and advised that the groundwater level RCL management responses will also provide effective protection of the hydraulic gradient across the Flats.

ACTION: Include discussion on limited extraction zone management on agenda of meeting where all SAG members are able to attend and provide input.

ACTION: Consult with Cameron Wood to understand increased extraction risks in the limited extraction zone.

ACTION: Remove the hydraulic gradient RCT / RCL from the adaptive management table and include in the front section of the Plan an explanation that groundwater level RCL management responses would also be effective in managing the hydraulic gradient.

Licence examples (Action 13.4)

- Revised examples of licensing instruments (Water Account and Licence / Water Access Entitlement) were presented side-by-side with a current water licence example.
- The Group noted the corrections made to the examples and that the colour-coded boxes on the old and new examples identifying key information significantly improved understanding of the new licence formats.

Administration of WAP principles (Licensing) (Actions 13.1, 13.2 and 13.9)

- It was confirmed that the Minister may need to grant new water licences from time to time, eg as part of the administrative process for permanent trades. However, as the text "The Minister may grant new water licences with respect to the wells in the prescribed areas in accordance with this Plan and the Landscape SA Act" is in the Act it may not need to be specifically included in the Plan. It is expected that DEW Policy and or the Crown Solicitor's Office will provide advice on this when they review the draft Plan.
- DEW Licensing confirmed that where licences were split by the management area boundaries but water was used in both management areas, the licence is assigned to a single management area but lists titles and wells across both to allow for continued water use in both areas.

WAP principles (Actions 13.7, 13.8 and 13.10)

- RJ reported that principles to allow for the return of Class D and Class S entitlements following a temporary trade had been included in the Plan but were in a later section that the Group has not yet reviewed. The Group had reviewed Section 6.5 Water Access Entitlement Classes, which

refers to what should happen on the WAE should there be a temporary transfer. Whereas Section 6.14 Transfers describes what and how components can be transferred and / or returned.

- A principle to use water on adjoining allotments held by the same owner but split by the Flats and Ranges boundary had also been included in the draft Plan under Section 6.8.
- The Group discussed the structure of the Plan and the potential to move the order of some sections to improve continuity on topics of greater interest to licensees. They also noted that where continuity was not possible additional referencing may assist readers.

ACTION: Review the structure and referencing of Section 6 of the Plan.

Additional comments on draft Plan

- It was noted that the draft Plan, particularly in the Transfer section, refers to "another person" where "licence holder" may be more appropriate for the principle, and inclusive of company owned licences.
- Group discussed and supported inclusion of seasonal variability principle (allows a licensee to temporarily transfer in up to 20% of their allocation, on an annual basis, for up to three in every five years without a hydro test). The principle allows users to balance out unforeseen seasonal issues.
- Reviewers to be aware that some hyperlinks have not updated correctly so numbering references may not be correct.

ACTION: Review draft Plan and correct references to "another person" to "licence holder", where appropriate.

ACTION: Advise Ryan Judd of any referencing and hyperlink errors identified in the draft Plan.

Community Consultation – key concepts

The Group discussed the arrangements and presentations for the upcoming community consultation of key concepts.

Feedback and Discussion:

Introductory presentation

- SAG members will be acknowledged in presentation.
- Improve clarity of salinity map and graphs slide and description of salinity drivers.

Main presentation

- Refer to "delivery system" rather than "purpose".
- Confirm when accounts will be sent to licensees.
- Include bore representation with RCTs and RCL actions on adaptive management slide.
- Note that water level is currently monitored quarterly and salinity six-monthly.

Fact sheets and invitations

- Include fact sheets with hardcopy invitations so licensees can review prior to meeting.
- Put fact sheets on website prior to meeting and provide link in invitations.
- Provide side-by-side hardcopy example of old and new licences with colour-coding of key information to match presentation.
- Change Fact Sheet 4 heading to "Adaptive Management".
- Include map of monitoring wells network.

Consultation arrangements

- Licensee meeting proposed for 4.00 – 6:00 pm Wednesday 13 October, 2021 at Padthaway Football Club.
- One-to-one sessions to be available in the following week with licensees able to book sessions online.
- Feedback may also be given in person, online or via email or phone.
- Specific feedback to be requested on issues noted in SAG meetings, including: proposed change to SPR, inclusion of an ASR consumptive pool and application of adaptive management responses to entire Padthaway PWA.

ACTION: Adopt SAG advice on community consultation arrangements, presentations and supporting communications.

Other business

- Nil.

Next steps

- On-going review of draft WAP content.
- Community consultation on key concepts – SAG to review consultation and feedback.

Next meeting date

- Next meeting date: Thursday 18 November 2021 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm,

Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 3:45 pm.

The Chair thanked the stakeholders and staff for attending.

**Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group
Action Table**

Action	Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status	Meeting 14 Update
2.6	Prepare and distribute to the Group an explanation / example of the application of the three year rolling average SPR carry-over.	On-going	Held open
3.6	Consider alternative wording to "Resource Condition Triggers". Suggested wordings: "Warnings" and "Actions" "Resource condition indicators"	On-going	Held open
3.7	Consult with DEW re feasibility of providing more tailored water quality and level data and trends directly to licensees.	On-going	Held open
4.5	Consult with relevant DEW teams to review annual reporting to better inform licensees of Padthaway salinity and groundwater levels and trends.	On-going	Held open As per Action 3.7
5.6	Further investigate options for managing commercial-in-confidence data.	On-going	Held open
12.5	Include explanations for: the use of 2009 groundwater levels as the reference point for RCLs in the adaptive management framework; what "exceeding" an RCL means, and; what the ALE is and how it relates to consumptive pools.	On-going	To be included in earlier section of Draft WAP
12.6	Reword adaptive management framework to clarify: the percentage level of restriction that will apply to licences, and; that DEW will provide a management recommendation to the Limestone Coast Landscape Board if the hydraulic gradient RCL condition is exceeded.	On-going	Use of percentage restriction, and hydraulic gradient management response further discussed in meeting.
13.1	Check if the administrative process for permanent trades requires the Minister to issue a new licence.	Complete	To be discussed in meeting.
13.2	Check if there is a need to include the text "The Minister may grant new water licences with respect to the wells in the prescribed areas in accordance with this Plan and the Landscape SA Act."	Complete	To be discussed in meeting.
13.4	Revise information on Water Account example and prepare side-by-side example of the old licence and new authorisations for community consultation.	Complete	To be discussed in meeting.
13.5	Consult with DEW Licensing to identify number of licensees in the limited extraction zone and potential risks to not limiting extraction in the zone.	Complete	To be discussed in meeting.
13.7	Include principles in the Plan to allow for the return of Class D entitlements following a temporary trade of the associated Class T entitlement, where the Class T entitlement will be used again for flood irrigation purposes.	Complete	To be discussed in meeting.
13.8	Include principles in the Plan to allow for the return of Class S entitlements following a temporary trade of the associated Class T entitlement, where the Class T entitlement will be used again for frost protection purposes.	Complete	To be discussed in meeting.
13.9	Confirm current administrative arrangements and operational application of licences listing titles and wells across both management areas.	Complete	To be discussed in meeting.

Action	Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status	Meeting 14 Update
13.10	If administratively possible, include principles to allow a water allocation to be used anywhere on adjoining allotments, subject to conditions, where they are held by the same owner and divided by a consumptive pool boundary.	Complete	To be discussed in meeting.
13.11	Consult with Cameron Wood to review the Ranges to Flats hydraulic gradient risks and potential for groundwater level RCL management responses to effectively address the situation.	Complete	To be discussed in meeting.
13.12	Consult with Cameron Wood to determine the risk to the hydraulic gradient across the Flats.	Complete	To be discussed in meeting.
14.1	Include discussion on limited extraction zone management on agenda of meeting where all SAG members are able to attend and provide input.		
14.2	Consult with Cameron Wood to understand increased extraction risks in the limited extraction zone.		
14.3	Remove the hydraulic gradient RCT / RCL from the adaptive management table and include in the front section of the Plan an explanation that groundwater level RCL management responses would also be effective in managing the hydraulic gradient.		
14.4	Review the structure and referencing of Section 6 of the Plan.		
14.5	Review draft Plan and correct references to "another person" to "licence holder", where appropriate.		
14.6	Advise Ryan Judd of any referencing and hyperlink errors identified in the draft Plan.		
14.7	Adopt SAG advice on community consultation arrangements, presentations and supporting communications.		

Action Table – Closed Items

Action	Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status
1.1	Amend Terms of Reference	Complete
1.2	Unbundling presentation for meeting 2	Complete
1.3	Forward both Daniela and Cameron's meeting 1 presentations to SAG members	Complete
2.1	Forward unbundling presentation to the Group	Complete
2.2	Confirm requested information regarding delivery supplements and the current sustainable limit and allocations	Complete
2.3	Available water extraction, rainfall and salinity data for the last ten years to be compiled and forwarded to the group	Complete
2.4	Forward presentation on the current Padthaway Water Allocation Plan to the Group.	Complete
2.5	Confirm requested information regarding transfers, carry-overs and divided allotments.	Complete
2.7	Terms of Reference to be amended, as discussed, and distributed to the Group.	Complete
3.1	Forward Groundwater Modelling and Resource Condition Limits (RCLs) presentation to the Group.	Complete
3.2	Further information on flow from the ranges to the flats to be provided.	Complete
3.3	Further information required on modelled salinity output confidence levels, with respect to landuse and spatial patterns, and potential areas to improve the model.	Complete
3.4	Contact PIRSA (Mel Fraser) to investigate current or potential soil salinity monitoring projects of relevance.	Complete
3.5	Scenarios to be run for average extraction, full allocation and reduced rainfall.	Complete
3.8	Confirm requested information for RCT and RCL discussion.	Complete
3.9	Ryan to present further information on the Citizen Science salinity monitoring project.	Complete
4.1	Forward updated salinity modelling and groundwater modelling scenarios presentation to the Group.	Complete
4.2	Forward heat mapping and other information to the Group.	Complete
4.3	Licensing to check that if DS has been returned that Total Allocation has also been reduced, and to confirm the current Total Allocation volume.	Complete
4.4	Investigate suggested alternatives for groundwater level resource condition triggers and limits.	Complete
4.6	Forward salinity monitoring project presentation to the group.	Complete
5.1	Decision Register to be updated with reference to salinity modelling limitations as a key consideration in the decision to not have an RCT or RCL for salinity.	Complete
5.2	Examples of how unbundling applies to Padthaway licences to be prepared for the next meeting.	Complete
5.3	Request advice from Cameron Wood on the use of saturated thickness as an RCL measure and how it varies across the Padthaway area.	Complete
5.4	Forward presentation of RCL and RCT graphs to the Group amended with only winter observation wells' readings included.	Complete

Action	Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status
5.5	Prepare examples of the application of the proposed RCL/RCTs to past data and future modelled scenarios, the percentage of well exceedances for each management area, and projections for the recovery of the resource.	Complete
6.1	Forward Simone's unbundling presentation to the Group.	Complete
6.2	Forward Action 5.3 response to the Group.	Complete
6.3	Investigate possible changes to vineyard extent in the Padthaway since 2009.	Complete
6.4	Forward RCL Scenarios presentation to the Group.	Complete
7.1	Forward Meeting 7 unbundling presentation to the Group.	Complete
7.2	Forward legislative references for bundling and unbundling to the Group.	Complete
7.3	Forward risk assessment presentation to the Group.	Complete
7.4	Prepare a list of risk statements for consideration by the Group.	Complete
8.1	Prepare an accurate map of the Padthaway Prescribed Wells Area and current management areas for the Group.	Complete
8.2	Data on SPR licences and use to be prepared and presented at the next meeting for Group discussion.	Complete
8.3	Check that risk statements include risks to users.	Complete
8.4	Group to review consequence criteria and risk statements and provide feedback and / or additional risks for consideration.	Complete
9.1	Compile results of first risk assessment session and provide to the Group at the next meeting.	Complete
9.2	Forward supporting hydrogeological and ecological presentations to the Group.	Complete
9.3	Forward SPR presentation to the Group.	Complete
9.4	Present a draft timeline for the remainder of the Padthaway WAP review at the next meeting.	Complete
10.1	Forward map of drainage channels to the Group.	Complete
10.2	Compile results of second risk assessment session and provide to the Group at the next meeting.	Complete
10.3	Forward supporting hydrogeological, public water supply and stock and domestic wells presentation to the Group.	Complete
10.4	Review Wine Australia climate data with respect to that used for Padthaway groundwater model to confirm comparability.	Complete
10.5	Forward adaptive management scenario modelling presentation to the Group.	Complete
10.6	Include time on next meeting's agenda to further discuss recovery rules following RCL induced restrictions.	Complete
10.7	Ryan to re-forward Padthaway WAP background information to Bruce Wood (alternative email address).	Complete
10.8	Sue to forward Water-Connect link to technical reports to Bruce Wood.	Complete
10.9	Draft community engagement plan to be forwarded to the Group.	Complete
11.1	Check on availability of Padthaway modelling report for distribution to Group.	Complete
11.2	Forward completed risk assessment summary to the Group.	Complete

Action	Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status
11.3	Write up complete adaptive management table including RCTs and RCL and management responses following triggering of RCTs and RCL for the different recovery scenarios.	Complete
11.4	Map groundwater observation wells, identifying those to be monitored to inform the adaptive management framework.	Complete
11.5	Update community engagement plan and circulate to the Group.	Complete
11.6	Penny to write a letter to Kerry DeGaris conveying Group's appreciation and thanks for chairing the SAG meetings in 2020.	Complete
11.7	Distribute Penny's email address to the Group.	Complete
12.1	Forward Padthaway WAP Update: Progress and Next Steps presentation to the Group.	Complete
12.2	Group to review the current "Guiding Principles and Objectives" (slide 3) out of session provide feedback for discussion.	Complete
12.3	DW to provide example of the new water licence system including an allocation authorisation with carry-over for discussion at next meeting.	Complete
12.4	Prepare a solution for addressing licences that straddle consumptive pools.	Complete
12.7	Forward map of <i>Groundwater Level Observation Wells 2021</i> to the Group.	Complete
12.8	Amend the adaptive management framework to refer to "25% of wells, or ten wells, whichever is the greater, exceed the RCL", or similar wording.	Complete
12.9	Sue to check availability of DEW Science team to provide additional support to address monitoring wells questions re representativeness of proposed RCL exceedance conditions.	Complete
13.3	Principles to manage the ASR consumptive pool and related authorisations to be included on the agenda of the next SAG meeting.	Complete
13.6	Update Water access entitlement classes and purposes of use table to include Industrial use for Class T entitlements.	Complete
13.13	Include review of community consultation presentations on agenda at next meeting.	Complete

Padthaway WAP Review 2019/20
Decision Register

Issue	Meeting	Decision
Terms of Reference	3	Group agreed to adopt the Terms of Reference
Guiding principles for WAP review		
Resource Condition Triggers and the concept of Resource Condition Limits	4	Group agreed to have no RCT or RCL for salinity
	4	Group agreed to having an RCL for maintaining throughflow of groundwater from the Ranges to the Flats
	4	Group agreed to having an RCT and an RCL for groundwater levels
Timeline for Resource Condition Triggers and Resource Condition Limits	5	Group agreed to the proposed timeline for responses to resource condition triggers and limits
Carry-over	6	Group <i>provisionally</i> agreed that carry-over should be suspended if RCT B is reached as an adaptive management step to prevent the RCL being reached.
Adaptive management	6	Group agreed that management responses activated through the triggering of RCTs and RCLs are to be applied to the entire Padthaway PWA.
Resource Condition Limit recovery management.	11	Group agreed that groundwater levels to be above RCL for two continuous years before restrictions are removed. At any time during the life of the Plan, RCL adaptive management responses will be implemented if groundwater levels drops below the RCL for two continuous years when restrictions have previously been applied.
Adaptive management monitoring program	12	The Group <i>provisionally</i> agreed that the adaptive management framework includes a minimum of ten observation wells to trigger the RCL to enable implementation of RCL adaptive management framework.
Aquifer Storage and Recovery Consumptive Pool	13	Group agreed to include the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Consumptive Pool for community consultation.
Specialised Production Requirement	14	Group agreed that the community be consulted on converting of SPR to a set entitlement, without three-year rolling averages or carry over.