

Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Minutes

Meeting No. 2, Thursday 31 October 2019, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Farmer's Leap, 41 Hodgsons Road, Padthaway, SA 5271

Objectives

- Detail the unbundling process
- Provide information on the details of the current Water Allocation Plan (WAP)
- Gather group feedback on the current WAP and issues identified and changes required
- Gather group feedback on Terms of Reference
- Gather group feedback on risk assessment

Attendees:

Group Attendees – Graham Gates (Group Chair, SE NRM Board), Scott Longbottom, Tim Hoare, Krysteen McElroy, John Summers, Carolyn Brown, Phil Brown.

Staff Attendees – Sue Botting (Team Leader, Water Policy and Planning, NRSE), Daniela Conesa (Senior Policy Officer, DEW), Ryan Judd (Senior Project Officer, Water Policy and Planning, NRSE).

Apology - Faith Coleman (proxy Chair, SE NRM Board).

Welcome and agenda

The Chair welcomed everyone and discussed the proposed agenda. Thanked advisory group members and staff for their attendance.

Minutes

Previous minutes from meeting 1 confirmed as true and correct.

Action outcomes to note

- Action 1.1 – Still in progress.
- Action 1.2 – Completed to be removed.
- Action 1.3 – Completed to be removed.

Staff changes

Sue Botting advised of some recent staff changes at Natural Resources South East and subsequent changes to the Padthaway WAP review project team:

- Daniela Conesa has taken a secondment with the DEW Water Security, Policy and Planning team. In this role Daniela will provide policy advice for South East water planning, including the Padthaway WAP review, but will not usually attend the Stakeholder Advisory Group meetings.
- Ryan Judd will lead the Natural Resources South East process for reviewing the WAP.
- Sue Botting will provide and arrange support for the WAP review, where needed.

Detail the unbundling process

Daniela Conesa discussed the unbundling process and changes for the community with the implementation of unbundling.

Key Points:

- Unbundling is required for all Water Allocation Plans undergoing review.
- This is a new process and to date only one plan has been partially unbundled.
- Unbundling separates components of the current licence into a Water Access Entitlement (the share of the resource), Water Allocation, Works Approval and Site Use Approval.
- This simplifies and provides more flexibility for water trading and water management.
- A new water licencing system (Water Management Solutions (WMS)) is also being developed to improve accessibility and efficiency in water management and trading.
- The Stakeholder Advisory Group requested a copy of the presentation.

ACTION: Forward unbundling presentation to the Group.

Discussion:

- The Group noted a number of concerns:
 - How would unbundling be applied in the Padthaway area and does it add value, particularly where different types of licences are in use (eg delivery supplement)?
Daniela advised that DEW will work closely with NRSE to draft policy that allows for unbundling and is consistent with the principles of the Padthaway WAP.
 - Would the Padthaway WAP be protected from state-wide restrictions that may be proposed as a response to the drought?
Daniela advised that currently the Minister has the power to implement restrictions for specific reasons and areas in a PWA, rather than universal state-wide restrictions.
 - Was there potential for unbundling to open the Padthaway up to water baron activity?
Ryan noted that there was little variation in water availability and this would limit the opportunity for market speculation.
- The Group requested confirmation of the following points:
 - That the delivery supplement is not included in the allocation volume.
 - That the delivery supplement, as a proportion of tradeable allocation, and the assumption of 100% recharge to the aquifer, is consistent across the Padthaway PWA.
 - What the current sustainable limit volume and current allocations are and whether they includes Delivery Supplement and Specialised Production Requirement (SPR).

ACTION: Confirm requested information regarding delivery supplements and the current sustainable limit and allocations.

- The Stakeholder Advisory Group requested that tables and graphs of water extraction, annual rainfall and salinity data from the last ten years be provided.

ACTION: Available water extraction, rainfall and salinity data for the last ten years to be compiled and forwarded to the group.

Overview of the current Padthaway Water Allocation Plan and Issues

Ryan Judd discussed the current Padthaway Water Allocation Plan, the principles for the transfer of water, seasonal variability and carry-overs, hydrogeological assessments and the protection of groundwater dependent ecosystems.

ACTION: Forward presentation on the current Padthaway Water Allocation Plan to the Group.

Discussion:

- The Stakeholder Advisory Group identified some issues for clarification and discussion:
 - Confirm if trade to an under-allocated Management Area outside the Padthaway PWA is required to be adjacent to the Padthaway PWA.
 - Check if carry-over is available on Delivery Supplement and the proportion that may be carried over.
 - Confirm volume of SPR currently allocated.
 - Where allotments are divided by or held in separate management areas, can the distance provision of 2km be amended?
 - Confirm if there is any limitation on where water is used on a divided allotment across both ranges and flats and with a single licence
 - Confirm, if information is available, the volume of allocation and number of licences where divided allotments extend across both management areas flats and ranges.

ACTION: Confirm requested information regarding transfers, carry-overs and divided allotments.

- The Group identified that the carry-over rules for SPR were generally not well understood and not clearly communicated through licence management.

ACTION: Prepare and distribute to the Group an explanation / example of the application of the three year rolling average SPR carry-over.

Terms of Reference – Issues identified and changes required

Stakeholder Advisory Group discussed issues identified in the Terms of Reference. See Terms of Reference document for detail.

Discussion:

- The term “sustainable” was noted to be ambiguous. Sustainable groundwater use relates to both water quantity and quality. The Group suggested rephrasing introductory paragraph to “sustainable groundwater use with regard to quality and quantity”, or similar.

ACTION: Terms of Reference to be amended, as discussed, and distributed to the Group.

Next steps

- Presentation of the Padthaway model with current groundwater use data.
- Presentation and discussion of scenarios.

Next meeting date

- Next meeting date: 5 December 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Close of meeting

The Chair thanked the stakeholders and staff for attending.

**Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group
Action Table**

Action	Tatiara WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status	Meeting 2 Update
1.1	Amend Terms of Reference	Ongoing	Held open
1.2	Unbundling presentation for meeting 2	Complete	Closed
1.3	Forward both Daniela and Cameron's meeting 1 presentations to SAG members	Complete	Closed
2.1	Forward unbundling presentation to the Group		
2.2	Confirm requested information regarding delivery supplements and the current sustainable limit and allocations		
2.3	Available water extraction, rainfall and salinity data for the last ten years to be compiled and forwarded to the group		
2.4	Forward presentation on the current Padthaway Water Allocation Plan to the Group.		
2.5	Confirm requested information regarding transfers, carry-overs and divided allotments.		
2.6	Prepare and distribute to the Group an explanation / example of the application of the three year rolling average SPR carry-over.		
2.7	Terms of Reference to be amended, as discussed, and distributed to the Group.		