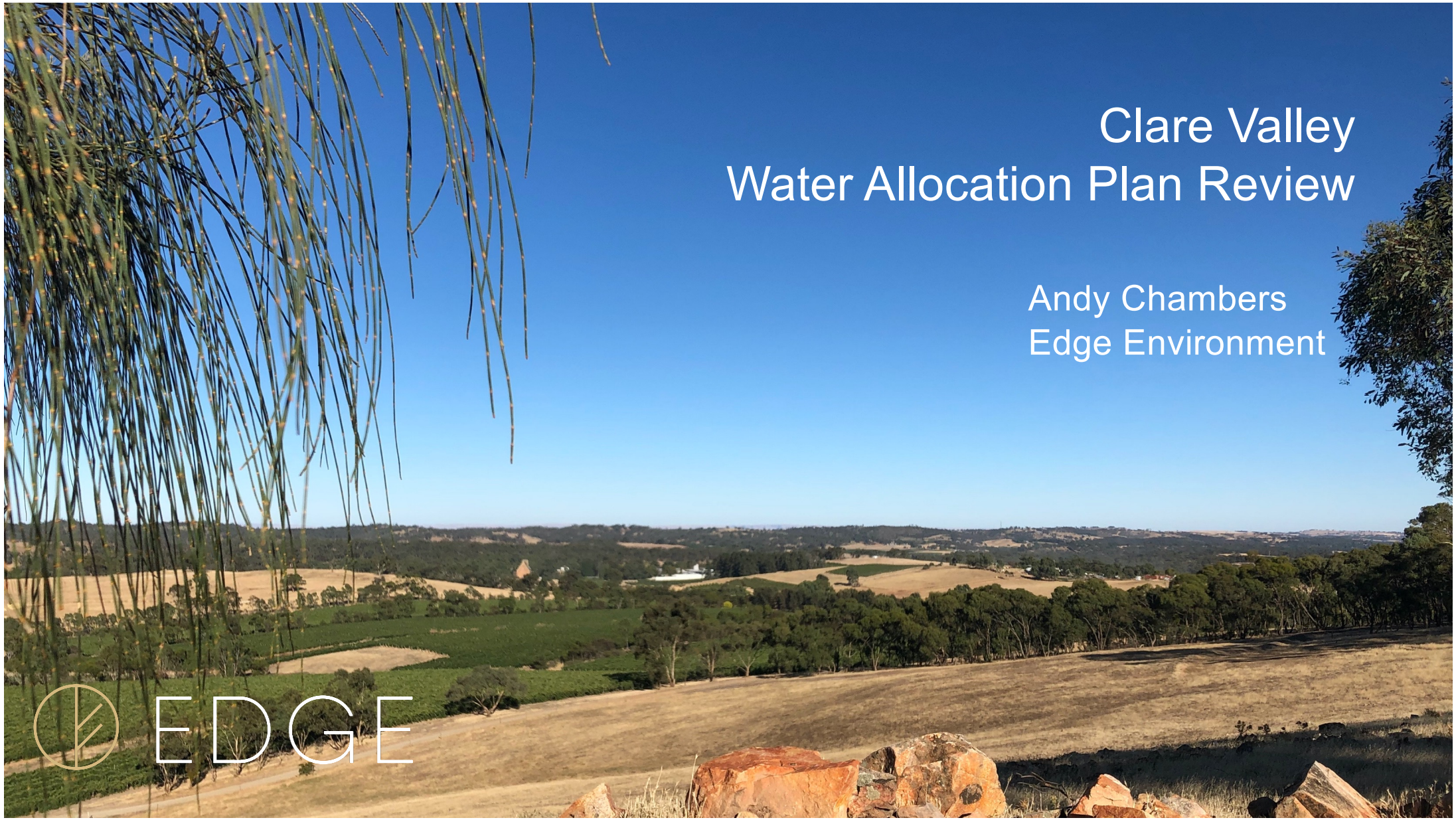
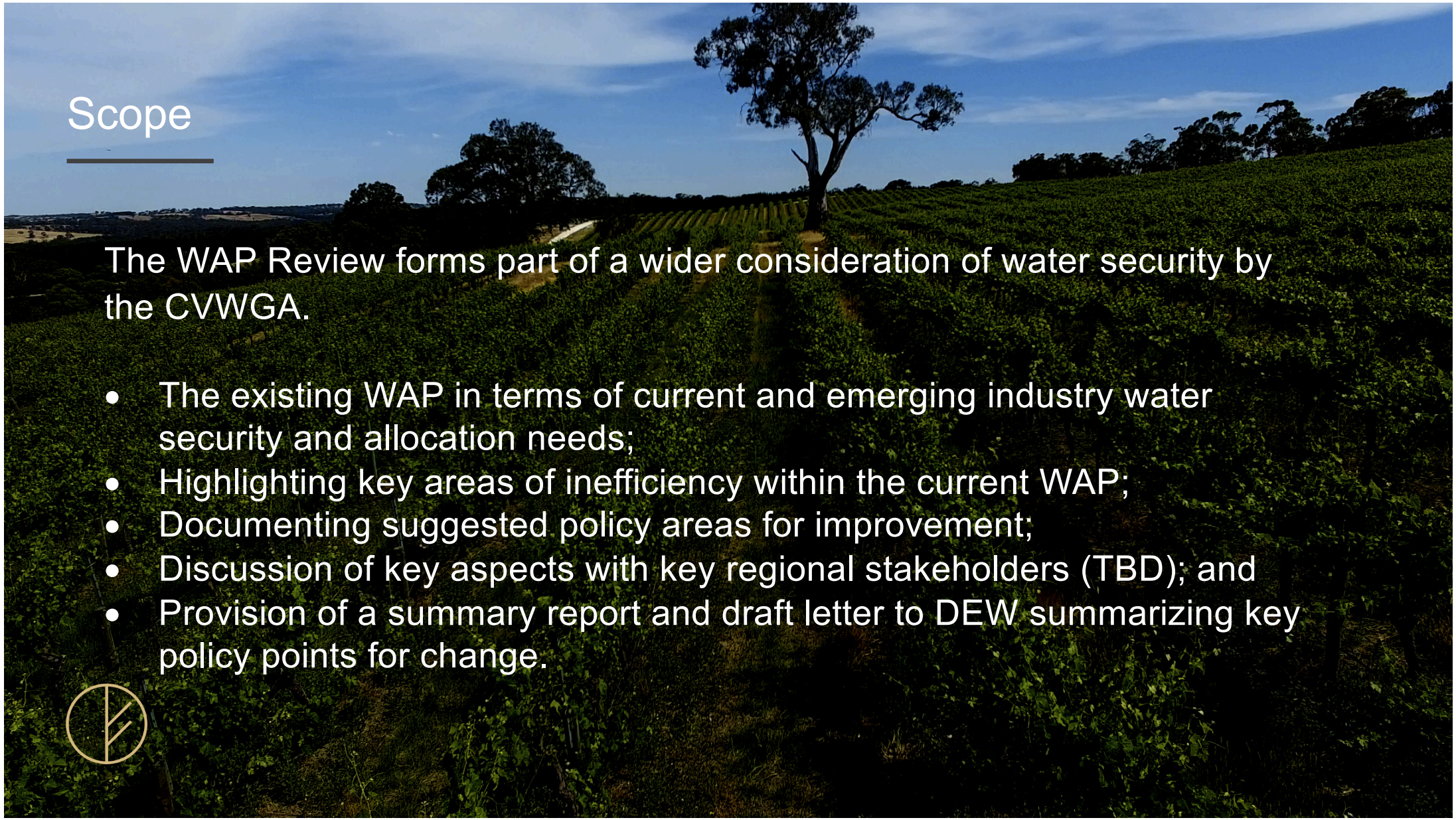


Clare Valley
Water Allocation Plan Review

Andy Chambers
Edge Environment

EDGE



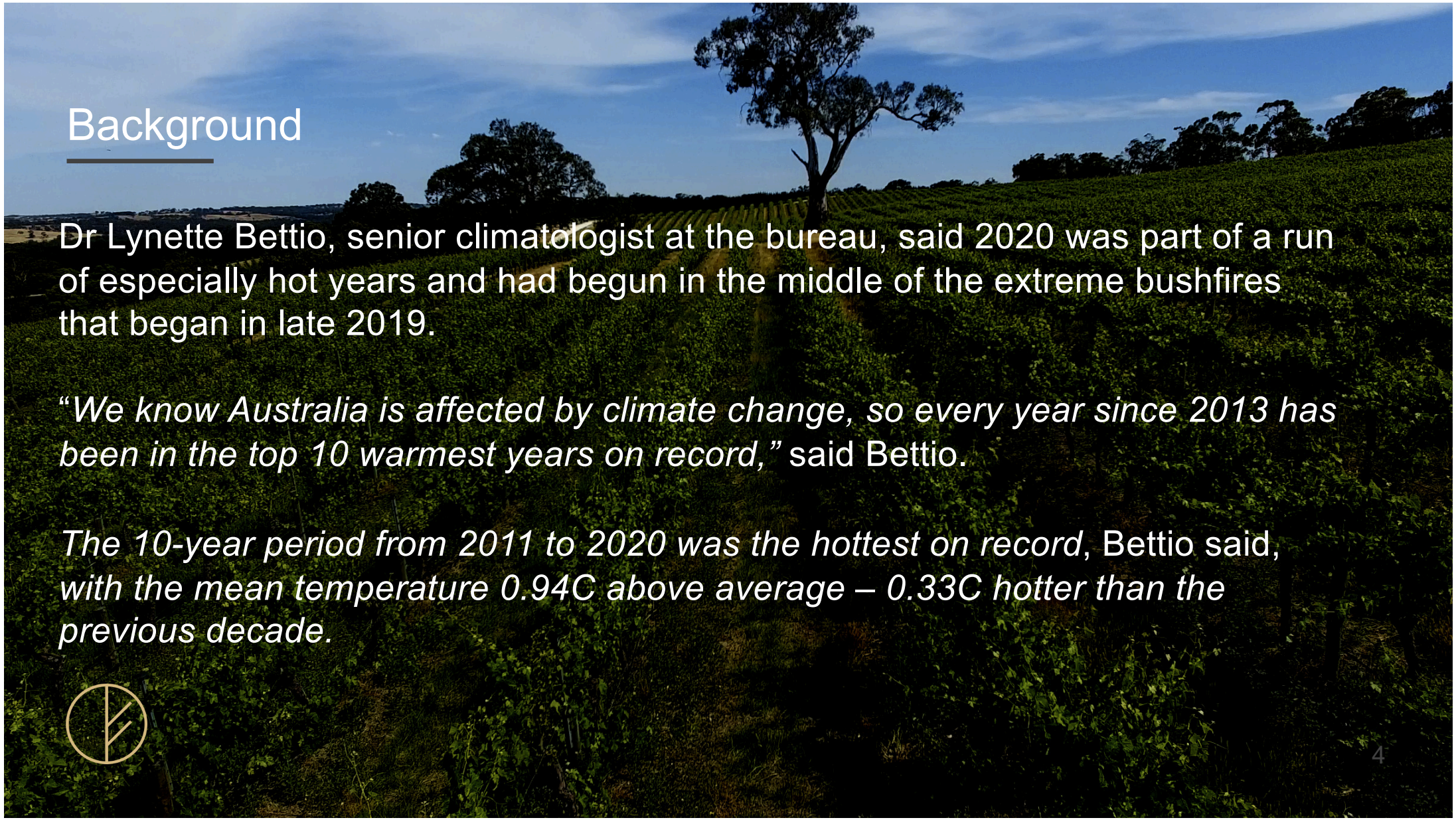
Scope

The WAP Review forms part of a wider consideration of water security by the CVWGA.

- The existing WAP in terms of current and emerging industry water security and allocation needs;
- Highlighting key areas of inefficiency within the current WAP;
- Documenting suggested policy areas for improvement;
- Discussion of key aspects with key regional stakeholders (TBD); and
- Provision of a summary report and draft letter to DEW summarizing key policy points for change.

Background

- The Clare Valley (at a Prescribed Water Resources Area, PWRA scale) was assigned a red surface water status for 2016, by DEW, based on the status of total stream flow recorded at the Hill, Hutt and Wakefield River gauging stations: ‘Annual streamflow was below the 25thpercentile (%ile) of the period of record’.
- It should be noted that the 2016 Clare Valley surfacewater report:
  - *“does not seek to evaluate the sustainable limits of the resource, nor does it make any recommendations on management or monitoring of the resource”.*
- It should also be noted that the following winter (2017) also resulted in some of the highest stream flows recorded in the region. A reflection on the variable nature of the region.

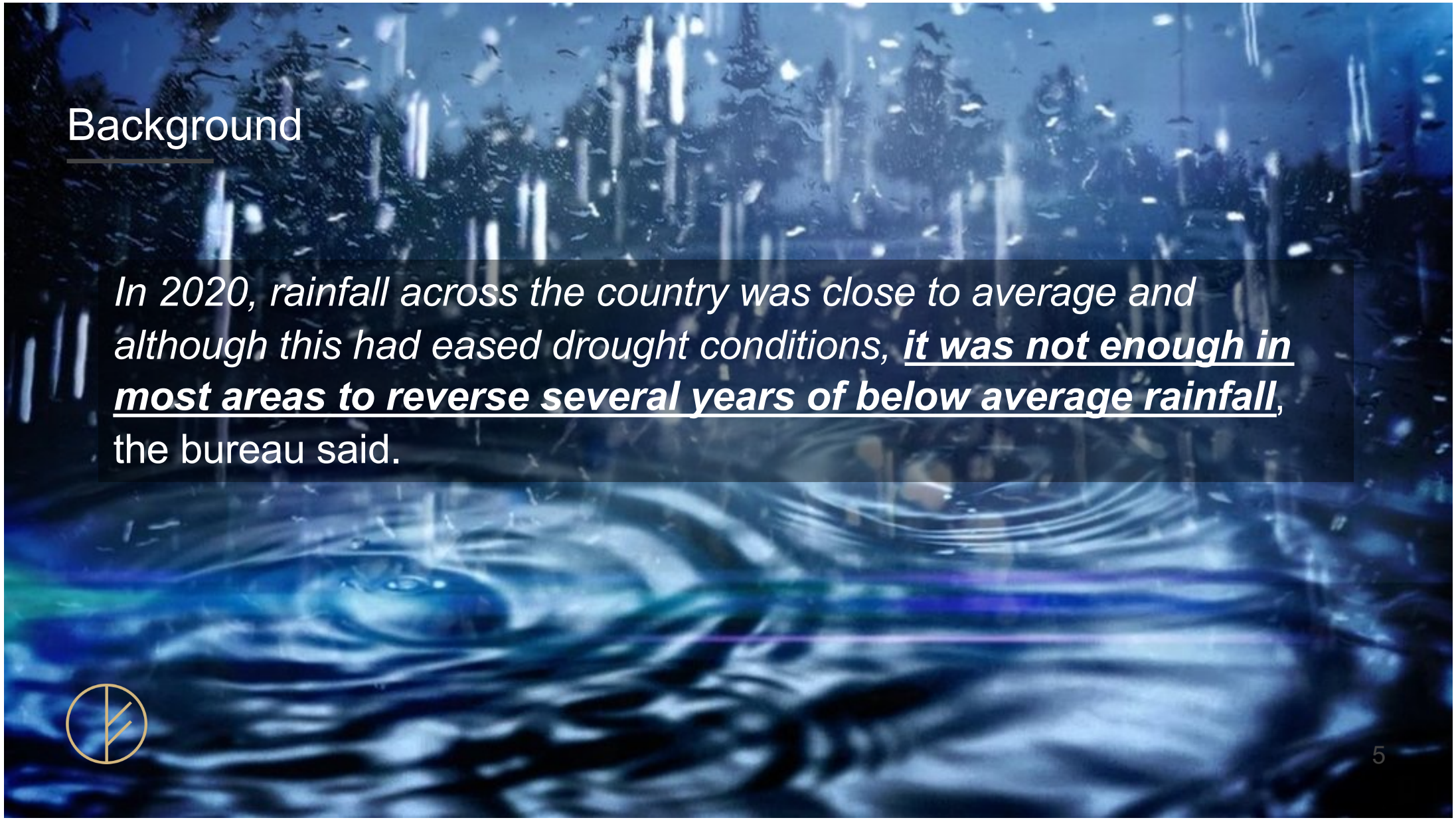


Background

Dr Lynette Bettio, senior climatologist at the bureau, said 2020 was part of a run of especially hot years and had begun in the middle of the extreme bushfires that began in late 2019.

"*We know Australia is affected by climate change, so every year since 2013 has been in the top 10 warmest years on record,"* said Bettio.

The 10-year period from 2011 to 2020 was the hottest on record, Bettio said, *with the mean temperature 0.94C above average – 0.33C hotter than the previous decade.*

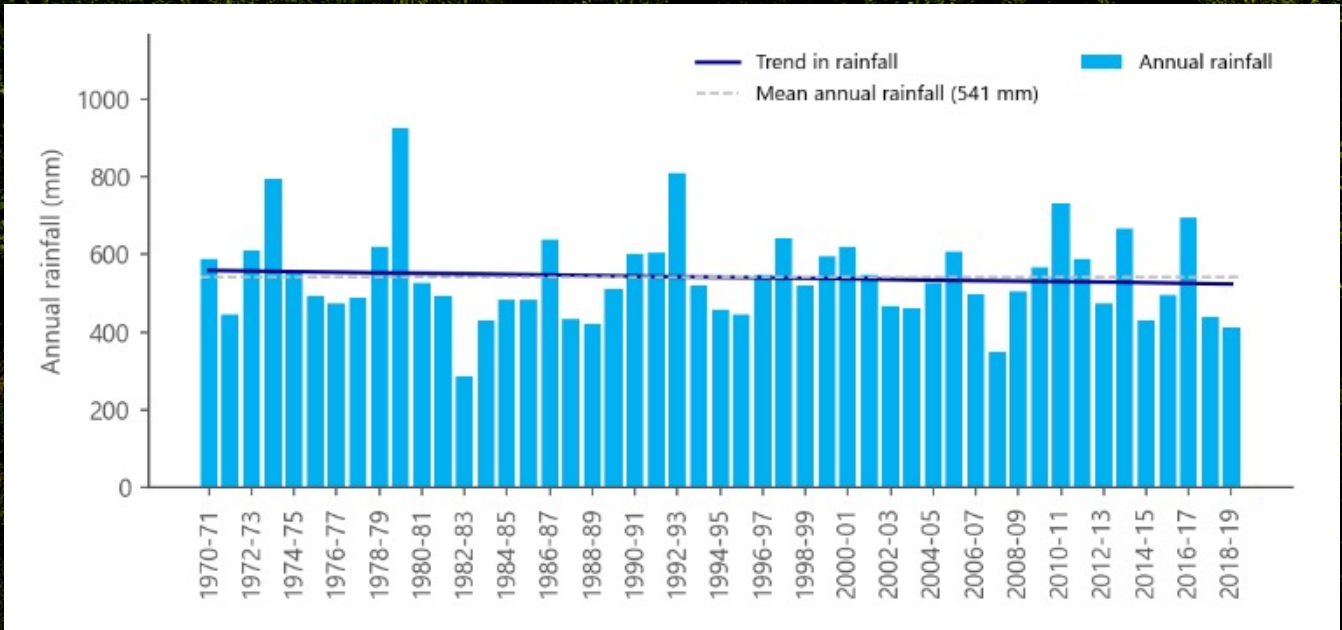


Background

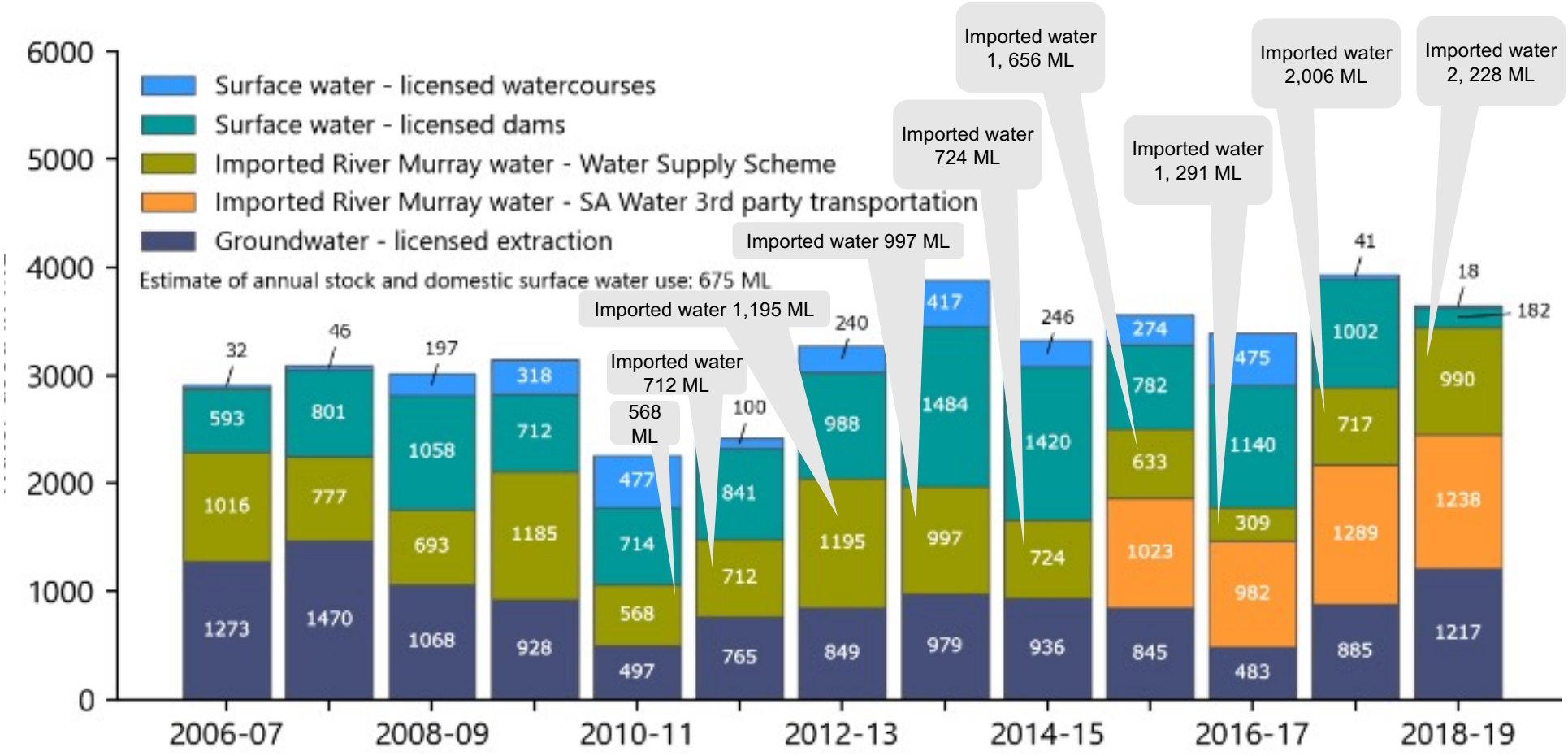
*In 2020, rainfall across the country was close to average and although this had eased drought conditions, **it was not enough in most areas to reverse several years of below average rainfall**,* the bureau said.

Background

Winegrape growers and wine producers in the region have awareness of the broader concerns regarding regional water trends and water security and are considering means to be as flexible as possible in the future in managing their total water needs.



Annual rainfall for 1970–71 to 2018–19 at the Calcannia rainfall station (21075) Source DEW Nov 2020



Water used from 2006–07 to 2018–19 for the Clare Valley PWRA

Source: DEW Nov 2020, 2018-19 Clare Valley Prescribed Water Resources water resources assessment

Background

- Strong awareness of variability in local water resources.
- Highly engaged in sourcing alternative water sources. i.e. SA Water Scheme
- Adaptation strategies to conserve water i.e. mulching
- Responding to climate related impacts like fruit temperatures, night harvesting and compressed vintages.

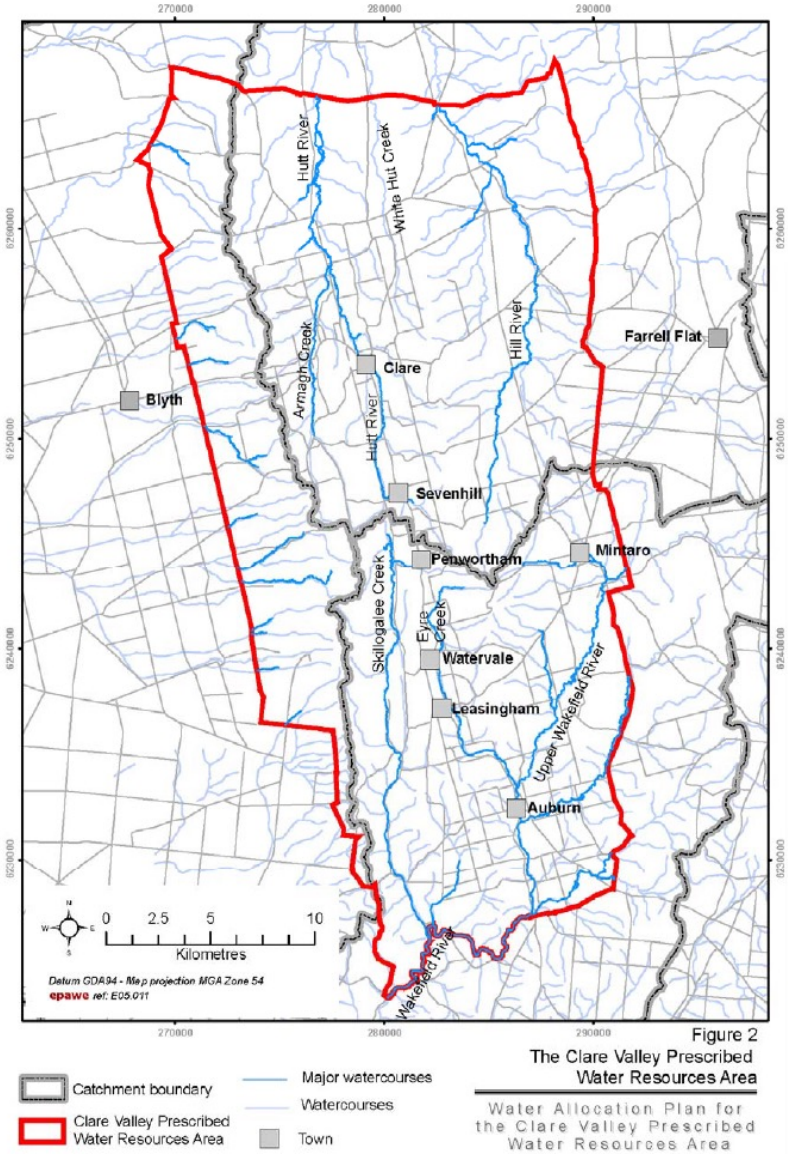
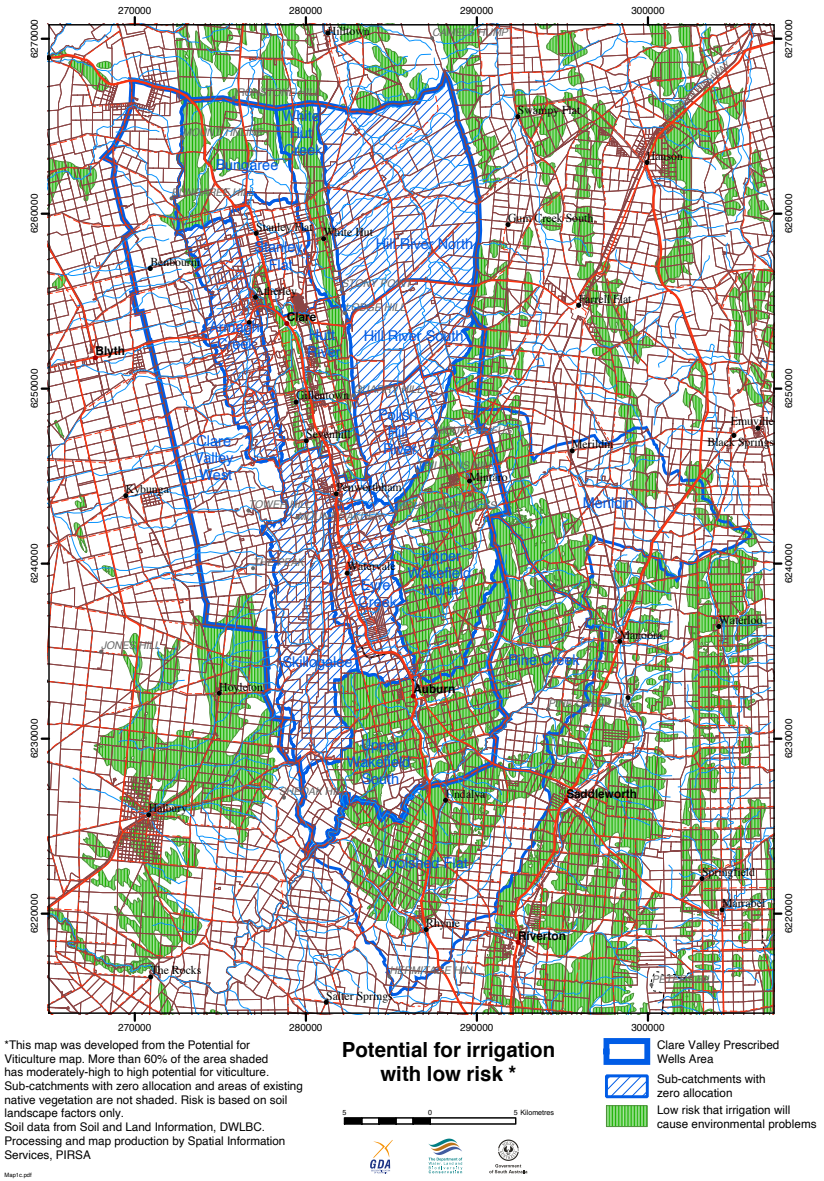


Figure 2
The Clare Valley Prescribed Water Resources Area
Water Allocation Plan for the Clare Valley Prescribed Water Resources Area

Background

Clare Valley Prescribed Water Resources Area

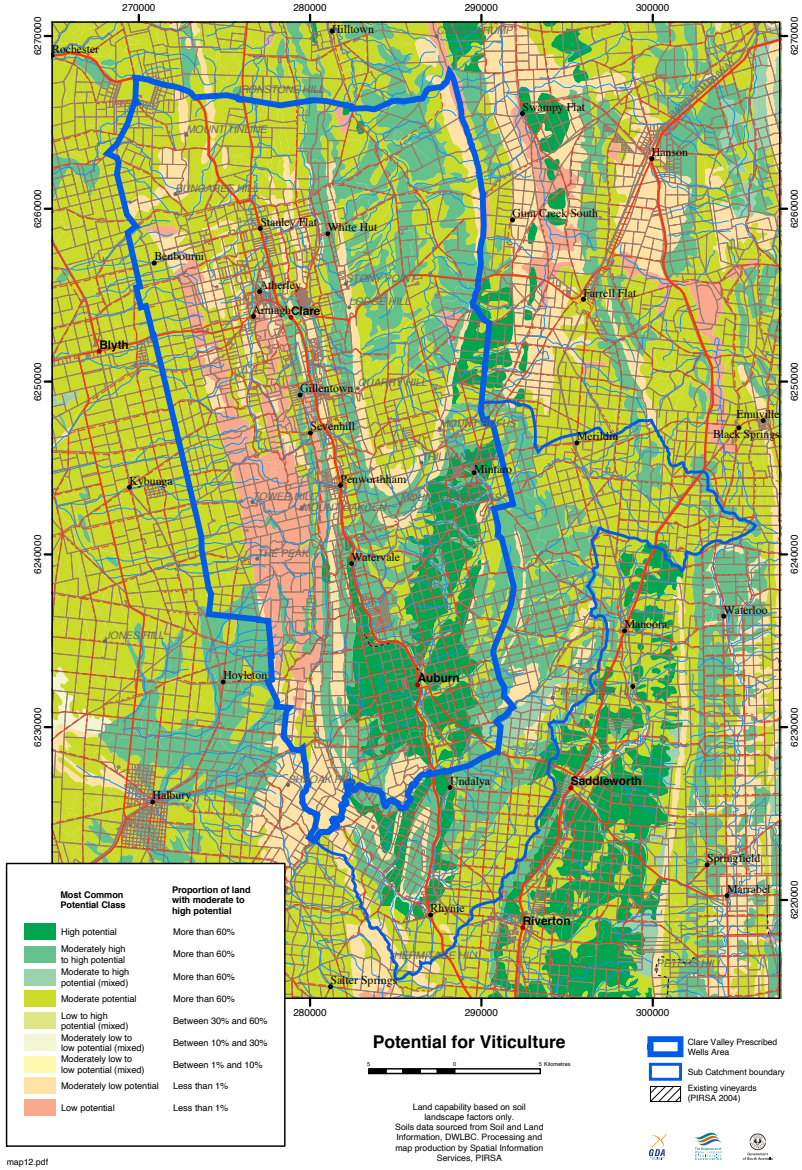
The sub-catchments.
Hashed (blue) originally closed on salinity grounds for imported water

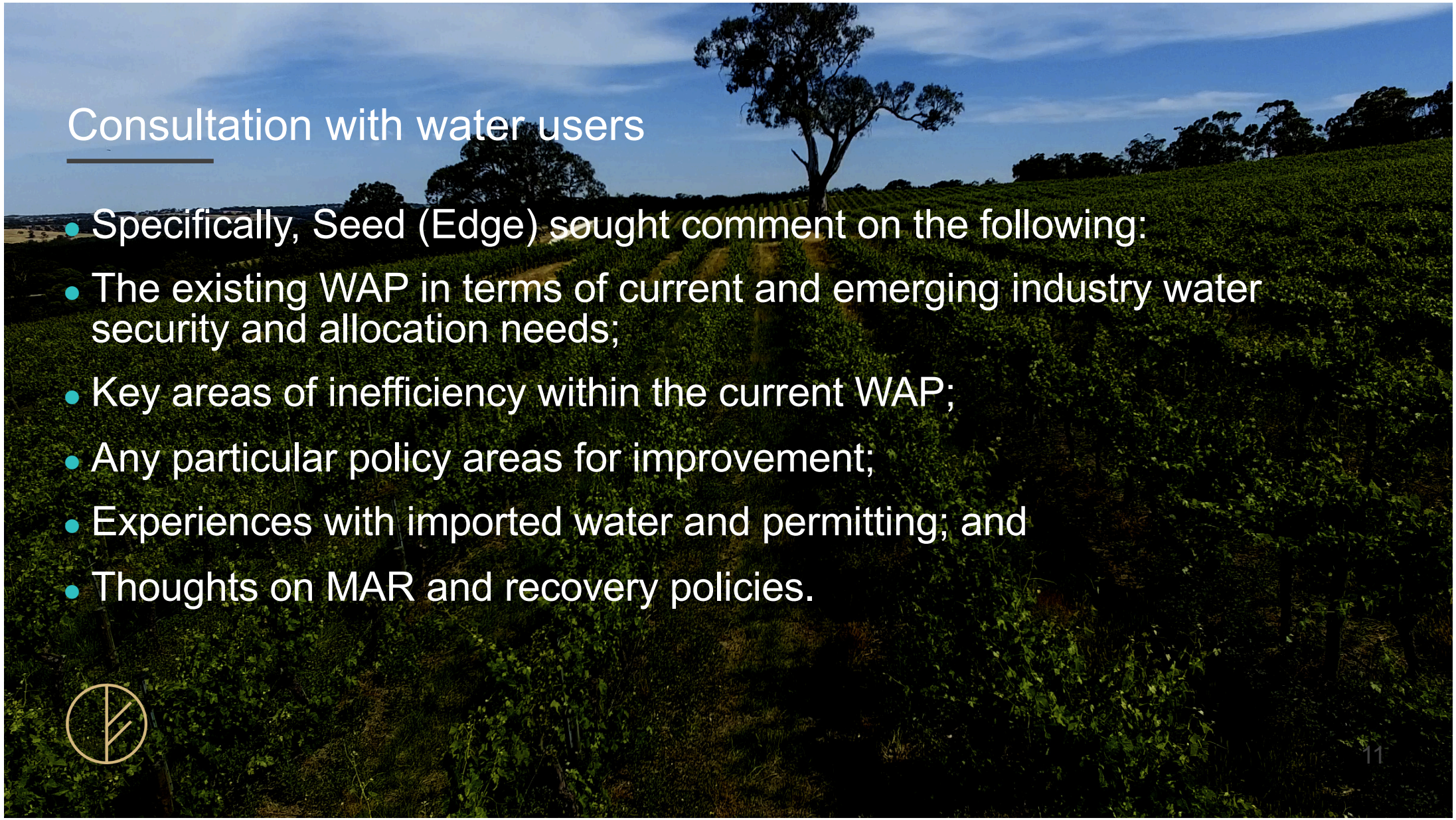


Background

Mapping potential for viticulture (2004)

High – dark green
Moderate – light green
Low - pink





Consultation with water users

- Specifically, Seed (Edge) sought comment on the following:
- The existing WAP in terms of current and emerging industry water security and allocation needs;
- Key areas of inefficiency within the current WAP;
- Any particular policy areas for improvement;
- Experiences with imported water and permitting; and
- Thoughts on MAR and recovery policies.

Consultation with water users

- A request to consider more flexibility on water allocation roll-overs, and to include groundwater allocation rollovers, which currently are not included in the WAP;
- A wide range of views on the applicability of the 1 ML/ha regional water application target, with a request to consider flexibility on this issue in consideration of dry summers and a changing climate;
- Concern that administration and management of imported water was not addressing the increased regional demand for imported water in a timely manner;
- Concern that regional monitoring of salinity aspects associated with sub-catchments and imported water was lacking and leading to confusion and lack of knowledge about the status of sub-catchments for ongoing use of imported water; and
- An overall consensus that greater flexibility of policies was needed and that current policies need to be reviewed to better address issues like ASR/MAR recovery of imported water, Irrigation Salinity Management Plans (ISMP's) and support information (e.g. catchment salinity caps and ground water zone plans) to better assist water user decision making.

Consultation with water users

Sections of the WAP to review

WAP Section	Policy Issue?	Change needed?
6.3 General Principles	Principle 20 – 1 ML/ha	50/50 No science supporting this v consider other regional factors like high quality "boutique" region.
6.4 Allocation of Groundwater	Pump tests/groundwater allocations	Review 30 day irrigation aspect – not relevant, scheduling, soils, etc. case by case basis. Consider sustainable yield rather than 20ML limit for bores.

Consultation with water users

Sections of the WAP to review

WAP Section	Policy Issue?	Change needed?
6.4	Well protection zones (ML)	More information on zones needed for prospective purchasers of land.
6.4	Groundwater rollovers	Consider including rollovers for groundwater
6.5	Surfacewater rollovers	Consider more flex around timing of allocation reuse (to counter the variations and “peakiness” of flows under a changing climate).

Consultation with water users

Sections of the WAP to review

WAP Section	Policy Issue?	Change needed?
6.6	Allocation of ASR water	Change to 100% for imported “purchased” water
		Consider greater carry over i.e. 5 yrs
6.7	Exchange of water for imported water	Advice needed on salinity balances for each sub-catchment. Note Principle 40 Minister to publish sub-catchment salinity trends

Consultation with water users

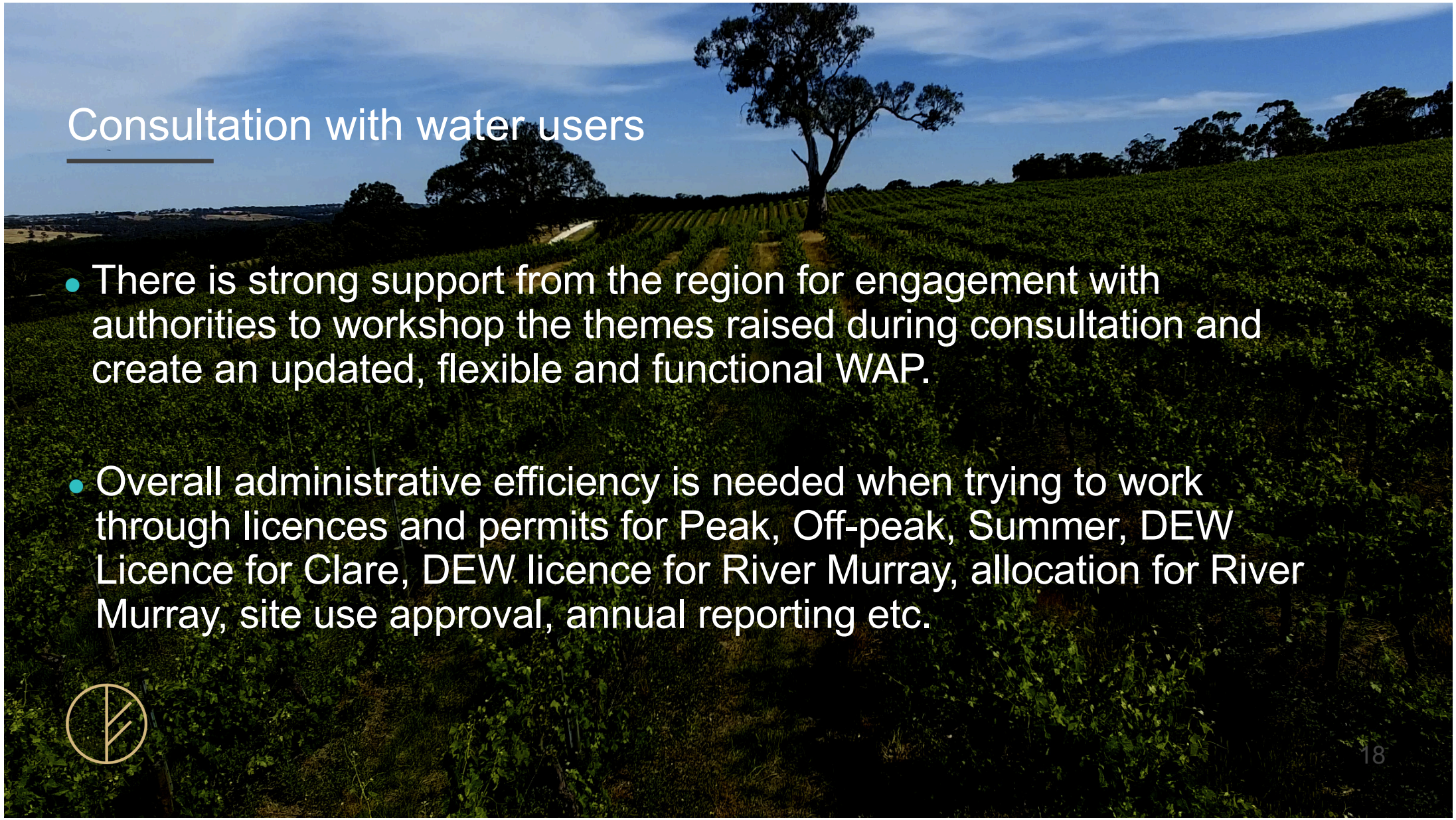
Sections of the WAP to review

WAP Section	Policy Issue?	Change needed?
7.0	Transfers	More info on sub-catchment trends needed to support property sales & purchases.
8.0	Permits – imported water	Review overall conditions for imported water – report salinity trends on sub-catchments – what volumes can be imported for each?

Consultation with water users

Sections of the WAP to review

WAP Section	Policy Issue?	Change needed?
8.11	Drainage & discharge permit (ASR/MAR)	Review ability to recover 100% of purchased water (i.e. SA Water) – currently 60%
10.3	Monitoring – Recording water use at property level	Review the intent of collecting data and reporting annual reports, Full-Stop devices, plus sub-catchment salinity reporting. How is this being used for benefit?



Consultation with water users

- There is strong support from the region for engagement with authorities to workshop the themes raised during consultation and create an updated, flexible and functional WAP.

- Overall administrative efficiency is needed when trying to work through licences and permits for Peak, Off-peak, Summer, DEW Licence for Clare, DEW licence for River Murray, allocation for River Murray, site use approval, annual reporting etc.

Key Messages

Future proofing……

Water security – access to long term secure water.

WAP policies will need to keep pace with industry growth, an increasingly sophisticated water market and a changing climate.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Thank You
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