Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Minutes

Meeting No. 16, Wednesday 14 September 20221, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Farmer's Leap, 41 Hodgson Road, Padthaway, SA, 5271

Objectives

- Draft Padthaway WAP.

Attendees:

Group Attendees – Penny Schulz (Group Chair, Limestone Coast Landscape Board), Phil Brown, Tim Hoare, Scott Longbottom, Michelle Irvine (SA Water).

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

Apologies – Carolyn Brown, Krysteen McElroy, Dean Zeven (Acting Team Leader, Water Licencing, DEW).

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 2.15 pm

Minutes

Previous minutes from meeting 15 confirmed as true and correct.

Action outcomes to note

- Action 2.6 – Closed. Decision at meeting 15 to change SPR to annualised allocation
- Action 3.6 – Closed. No concerns raised at community consultation re use of wording "resource condition triggers"
- Action 3.7 – On-going.
- Action 4.5 – On-going.
- Action 5.6 – Closed. Not of direct relevance to WAP review.
- Action 12.5 – On-going.
- Action 12.6 – On-going.
- Action 14.4 – On-going.
- Action 14.5 – On-going.
- Action 14.6 – On-going.
- Action 15.1 – On-going.
- Action 15.2 – Complete.
- Action 15.3 – Complete.
- Action 15.4 – Complete.

Meeting 15 Actions

Further detail and information was provided for discussion of Meeting 15 action.

Key Points and Discussion:

Limited extraction zone (Actions 15.1)

- The Group revisited the discussion on the Limited Extraction Zone (LEZ) and whether it was possible to introduce any flexibility without increasing the risk.
- The Plan allows for the replacement of existing wells, where it is no closer to the management zone boundary, and rotational cropping on properties that straddle the management zone. Additional flexibility has the potential to increase risk by providing greater opportunity to extract water from the LEZ.

WAP review and implementation timeline

Sue Botting provided an overview of the review and implementation timeline, and approvals process.

Key Points and Discussion:

- LCLB will seek review of the draft plan by several teams within the Department for Environment and Water – Water Planning and Security, Water Licensing, Science and Environment.
- LCLB will review DEW feedback and make any changes needed to the draft Plan.
- The draft Plan will go to the Limestone Coast Water Planning Steering Committee (LCWPSC) (joint high-level committee between DEW and LCLB) for approval. The DEW members of the LCWPSC will seek advice and feedback from their teams however, having already been given the opportunity to review the Plan, this should be a fairly efficient process.
- Final steps before formal community consultation are for the LC Landscape Board to approve the consultation draft and then forward to Minister for their approval for formal community consultation.
- Timeline for this process is dependent on external factors – DEW availability and Ministerial approvals process.

Draft Padthaway WAP – SAG Feedback

The Group reviewed and discussed the draft Plan, as prepared to date.

Key Points and Discussion:

- Noted that some of the Objectives of the current Plan are "motherhood" statements and difficult to monitor hence split of Guiding Principles and Objectives (Sections 1.3 and 1.4). Guiding principles e and f are very similar and could be combined.
- Group generally supported content of the draft Plan. Some different positions on proposed First Nations content. SB noted this as one of the key areas that DEW were interested in seeing addressed in more depth than current Plan, in line with National water policy.
- Other National policy areas of particular interest to DEW are accounting for climate change and protecting critical human needs.
- Group clarified that principles allowed for return of delivery supplement to transferor when associated tradable allocation or entitlement had been temporarily transferred for a different (non-flood) purpose. Suggested presenting a flow chart to illustrate how this would work.
- Clarify location of adaptive management monitoring wells by providing a map.
- Some concern raised as to whether DEW will commit to on-going monitoring of the PWA as required by the adaptive management. Noted that this can be raised with the LCWPSC.

- Similar concerned raised about annual notifications to licensees. This has been raised before and remains on the Action Table.

  ACTION: In the SAG draft plan revise the Guiding principles (delete e and amend f).

  ACTION: Prepare flow chart of delivery supplement entitlement / allocation where associated tradeable is temporarily transferred.

  ACTION: Include map of locations of observation wells to be monitored for the adaptive management framework.

  ACTION: Raise concerns with LCWPSC of need for on-going commitment to monitoring observation wells in the Padthaway PWA by DEW.

Next steps

- Finalise consultation draft for DEW review.

Next meeting date

- Next meeting date: Thursday 17 February 2023 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm,

Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 4:00 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 16 Update
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
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	As the consumptive pool may change the percentage restriction to meet the ALE would also change. Hydraulic gradient management response will be highlighted for comment by DEW Science.
14.4	Review the structure and referencing of Section 6 of the Plan.	On-going	Held open
14.5	Review draft Plan and correct references to "another person" to "licence holder", where appropriate.	On-going	Held open
14.6	Advise Ryan Judd of any referencing and hyperlink errors identified in the draft Plan.	On-going	Held open
15.1	Leave principle in for protection but Sue and Ryan to consider whether flexibility can be introduced and implemented without increasing risk.		
16.1	In the SAG draft plan revise the Guiding principles (delete e and amend f).		
16.2	Prepare flow chart of delivery supplement entitlement / allocation where associated tradeable is temporarily transferred.		
16.3	Include map of locations of observation wells to be monitored for the adaptive management framework.		
16.4	Raise concerns with LCWPSC of need for on-going commitment to monitoring observation wells in the Padthaway PWA by DEW.		

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
2.6	Prepare and distribute to the Group an explanation / example of the application of the three year rolling average SPR carry-over.	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
3.6	Consider alternative wording to "Resource Condition Triggers". Suggested wordings: "Warnings" and "Actions" "Resource condition indicators"	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	Licencing 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

Action	Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status
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
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
5.6	Further investigate options for managing commercial-in-confidence data.	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

Action	Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status
11.2	Forward completed risk assessment summary to the Group.	Complete
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 *Groundwater Level Observation Wells 2021* 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
14.1	Include discussion on limited extraction zone management on agenda of meeting where all SAG members are able to attend and provide input.	Complete
14.2	Consult with Cameron Wood to understand increased extraction risks in the limited extraction zone.	Complete
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.	Complete
14.7	Adopt SAG advice on community consultation arrangements, presentations and supporting communications.	Complete
15.2	Forward Limited Extraction Zone presentation to the Group.	Complete
15.3	Forward Community Consultation presentation to the Group.	Complete
15.4	Seek further advice on developing aquifer recharge and recovery principles.	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 *provisionally* 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 *provisionally* 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.
Specialised Production Requirement	15	Group agreed to retain proposed change to Class S to be an annual allocation rather than a 3 year rolling average.
Consumptive Pools	15	Group agreed to having a single consumptive pool (whole of PWA) and two management. zones (Padthaway Flats and Padthaway Ranges) for the unconfined aquifer.