



February  
2016

## Drought Response Plan: Part B

A Water Sharing Plan for Licenced Water Users in the:

# Little Yarra & Don River catchments

To be read in conjunction with Part A : A Water Sharing Plan for all Licensed Water Users 2016

## 1. Catchment Descriptions

### 1.1 Little Yarra River

The Little Yarra River rises to the east of Powelltown in the Yarra Ranges. The stream flows generally north-west through the townships of Powelltown, Three Bridges, Gladysdale, and Yarra Junction, before joining the Yarra River near Don Road in Launching Place. The total catchment area of the Little Yarra River is approximately 154km<sup>2</sup>.

Tributaries of the Little Yarra include Britannia, Black Sand, Blackwood, Slaty, Hackett, Saxton and Learmonth creeks. Much of the upstream region of the catchment is heavily forested, with logging occurring in some areas.

The Little Yarra River drains an area of high and reliable rainfall (average 1400mm per year), and maintains permanent flows throughout the year.

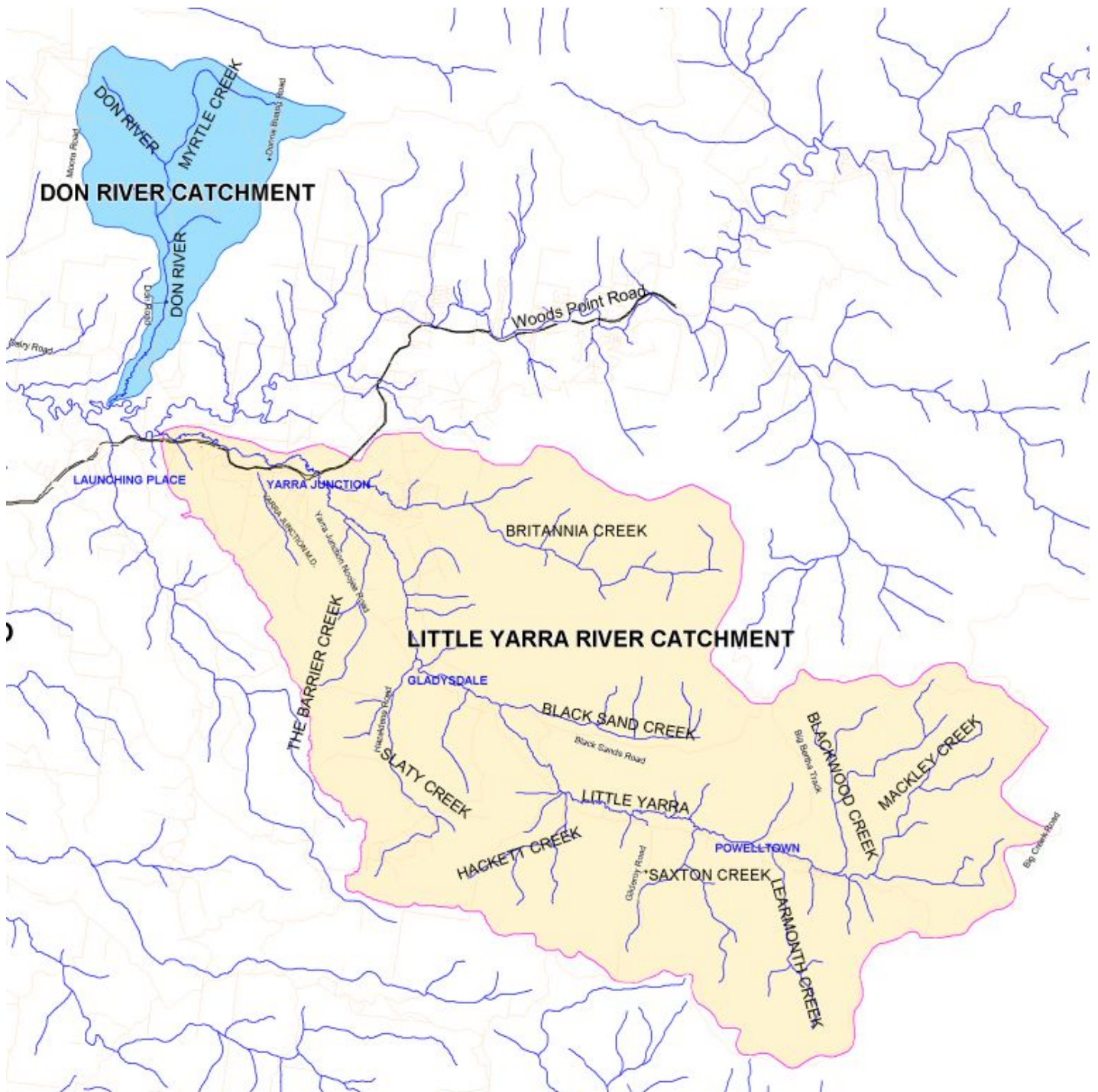
### 1.2 Don River

The Don River rises near Pantong Gap on Mt Toolebewong. The river flows south and is joined by a number of small tributaries. The Don River joins the Yarra River near Don Road in Launching Place.

The Don River catchment is heavily forested above the Don Road crossing. Below this the area has been cleared for a variety of agricultural uses similar to those in the Little Yarra catchment.

The Don River catchment is approximately 21km<sup>2</sup>. The Don River drains an area of high and reliable rainfall (average 1000mm per year), and maintains permanent flows throughout the year with a base flow provided by groundwater inputs.

The Little Yarra and Don Rivers catchments are subject to a Stream Flow Management Plan which commenced in 2012. Further information on the establishment of ban and restriction levels for this catchment can be found within the plan. The map on the following page shows the catchments and major waterways.



*Little Yarra River and Don River Catchments*

## 2. Ban & Restriction Triggers

Flow levels are monitored by gauges (data logging stations) that provide continuous flow readings. The catchments have the following nominated compliance points for the introduction of bans and restrictions:

- Licence holders within the Little Yarra River catchment are subject to flow conditions at the gauge at [Yarra Junction \(229214\)](#).
- Licence holders within the Don River catchment are subject to flow conditions at the gauge at [Don Valley \(229220B\)](#).



## 2.1 Ban Trigger levels

Bans will be introduced and lifted when catchment specific triggers occur based upon 7-day rolling average stream flows. The trigger levels for bans are as shown in the following table:

Catchment	Compliance Gauge	Low Flow Period (Dec– Jun) ML/day	High Flow Period (Jul – Nov) ML/day
Little Yarra River	229214 Little Yarra River at Yarra Junction	39	39
Don River	229220B Don River at Don Valley	3	10



*Little Yarra River*

## 2.1 Restriction Trigger Levels

For the Don River catchment restrictions are not implemented as at lower flow conditions the historic flow data and management demonstrates that there is limited benefit or impact on stream conditions when introducing restrictions.

Restrictions will be introduced and lifted when catchment specific triggers occur based upon 7-day rolling average stream flows. The trigger levels for restrictions in the Little Yarra River catchment are as shown in the table below:

Catchment	Compliance Gauge	All year (January – December) ML/day
Little Yarra River	229214 Little Yarra River at Yarra Junction	60

### 3. Application of Restrictions

Irrespective of anything in this section, users must not exceed their annual allocation on their licence or take water outside of their authorised take period.

Active licence holders in the Little Yarra and Don Rivers with allocations greater than 5ML are metered by Melbourne Water. Both volumetric and / or time based restrictions will apply within the Little Yarra River catchment depending on if a licensee is metered or not.

#### 3.1 Metered Licences:

For all metered licenses in the Little Yarra River catchment access to water during restrictions will be based on a percentage of the Maximum Daily Volume (MDV) shown on the licence. The MDV will be set at no greater than five percent of the total annual volume.

During restriction periods a licensee will be entitled to take and use only 20% of their MDV. The percentage of MDV available under corresponding flow conditions is as shown in the table below. All water used under these conditions must be passed through and recorded on the authorised MW meter.

Metered water users are required to keep a record of daily diversions during ban and restriction periods, to be made available to MW upon request.

% of Maximum Daily Volume (MDV) Permitted	All year (1 Jan– 31 Dec) Flow (ML/day)
100 %	>60
Restriction: 20 %	>39 - 60
Ban: 0%	39



*Irrigation meter being read by Melbourne Water*

## 3.2 Unmetered Licences:

For all unmetered licenses, access to water during restrictions will be based on allotted days and hours designed to reduce demand and focus watering on the beginning and end of the day to promote watering efficiency and reduce losses. Unmetered licence holders who wish to have their restrictions based on a percentage of maximum daily volume as per section 3.1 above may apply to purchase and install a Melbourne Water meter. Following meter installation they will be eligible for volumetric based restrictions to be applied.

During restriction periods the following limitations on accessing water will apply for unmetered licences:

Licence Type: Irrigation, industrial or commercial use direct from waterway	
Low Flow Period (1 Dec – 30 Jun)	<p><b>All users except as shown</b></p> <p>Max. 7 hours between 6am &amp; 9am and 6pm &amp; 10pm on allotted group days, or as agreed with Melbourne water</p> <p>Group A Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays</p> <p>Group B Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays</p> <p><b>Commercial flower growers, nurseries,</b></p> <p>Max. 3 hours between 6am &amp; 8am and 7pm &amp; 8pm any day.</p> <p><b>Berry growers</b></p> <p>Max. 3 hours between daylight hours any day. Records to be kept of actual use for audit purposes</p> <p><b>Industrial</b></p> <p>Volume diverted to be reduced by 50%. Records to be kept of actual use for audit purposes</p>
High Flow Period (1 Jul – 30 Nov)	<p><b>All users except as shown</b></p> <p>Max. 7 hours between 6am &amp; 9am and 6pm &amp; 10pm on any day on allotted group days, or as agreed with Melbourne water</p> <p><b>Industrial</b></p> <p>Volume diverted to be reduced by 25%. Records to be kept of actual use for audit purposes.</p>
Licence type: irrigation or commercial licence used with an on-stream dam	
All Periods	<p>If diverters share of water held in on-stream dam is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Greater than 50% of licensed entitlement</b> No restrictions apply provided all water used is drawn from reserves of stored water and all natural stream-flow passes downstream</li> <li>• <b>Less than 50% of licensed entitlement</b> Restrictions apply as per use direct from waterway as above</li> </ul>
Licence Type: Irrigation Or Commercial Licence Used With An Off-Stream Dam	
All Periods	<p>Stored water in the off-stream dam may be used at any time but refilling of the dam from the waterway may only occur in accordance with the restrictions applied as per use direct from waterway above.</p>
Licence Type: Winter-Fill On-Stream Dam	
Low Flow & Shoulder Period (1 Nov – 30 Jun)	<p>Refilling of storages is banned (outside of take period).</p> <p>No restrictions on water use provided water supply is drawn from reserves of stored water.</p> <p>All natural streamflow must be passed downstream.</p>
High Flow Period (1 Jul – 31 Oct)	<p>No restrictions on water use provided water is drawn from reserves of stored water.</p> <p>Under restriction conditions, dam-filling limited to maximum four hours per day, between 8.00 am &amp; 12.00 pm.</p>



Licence Type: Winter-Fill Off-Stream Dam	
Low Flow Period (1 Dec – 30 Jun)	Refilling of storages is banned (outside of take period). No restrictions on water use provided water supply is drawn from reserves of stored water.
High Flow Period (1 Jul – 30 Nov)	No restrictions on water use provided water is drawn from reserves of stored water. Under restriction conditions, dam-filling limited to maximum four hours per day, between 8.00 am & 12.00 pm.
Licence Type: Domestic & Stock Use	
Low Flow Period (1 Dec – 30 Jun)	Pumping banned if alternative water supply available. I.e. Mains supply. If no alternative supply available then water may only be taken for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essential household use</li> <li>• Watering of stock</li> </ul> Individual drought contingency plans should be implemented.
High Flow Period (1 Jul – 30 Nov)	Not restricted
Licence Type: Non-Consumptive Use	
All Periods	Provided 100% of water is returned in accordance with EPA discharge licence, no more than the lesser of 25% of the assessed stream-flow or 75% of the daily flow as indicated on the licence may be diverted
Licence Type: Farm Dams	
All Periods	Not restricted

All licence holders within the catchment must adhere to the restrictions and bans introduced in response to the flow conditions specified. Melbourne Water will consider exemptions or modification to the restrictions contained above upon written application by licence holders and in accordance with Section 12 of the Drought Response Plan Part A.

## 4. Roster Groups and Allotted Days

The following table defines the roster group allocation and allotted pumping days for waterways within the Little Yarra River catchment only. To be used in conjunction with restriction tables above

LITTLE YARRA RIVER Catchment Site ID 229214	
<b>Restriction Roster Group A waterways (including tributaries)</b> <b>Allotted days – Monday, Wednesday, Friday</b>	
Little Yarra River	
<b>Restriction Roster Group B waterways (including tributaries)</b> <b>Allotted days – Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday</b>	
Barrier Creek	Fir Tree Creek
Blakes Creek	Hackett Creek
Boys Camp Creek	Kobecke Creek
Brittania Creek	Learmouth Creek
Condon Creek	Slaty Creek



*Little Yarra River flow gauge at Yarra Junction*

## Document Versions

Revision	Date Issued	Issued To	Issued By
Version 1	2016	Melbourne Water Diversion Customers	Melbourne Water Diversion Team