

Little Yarra and Don Rivers Stream Flow Management Plan Annual Report 2016

The purpose of this report is to summarise Melbourne Water's activities administering and enforcing the Little Yarra and Don Rivers Stream Flow Management Plan.

Each year a report is submitted to the Minister for Water and Port Phillip and the Westernport Catchment Management Authority in accordance with section 32C of the Water Act 1989 and prescription 22 of the Little Yarra and Don Rivers Stream Flow Management Plan.

Prescription No.	Prescription	Compliance	Comments
1.	<p>PROHIBITIONS ON GRANTING NEW LICENCES</p> <p>Section 32A(3)(d) of the Act allows for a management Plan to prescribe restrictions or prohibitions on the issue of licences under section 51 or 67.</p> <p>1.1 Melbourne Water must refuse an application under section 51(1)(a) or (ba) of the Act if this will or may cause the total volume of water taken in any year under licences to exceed:</p> <p>a) The Permissible Consumptive Volume declared for the Yarra Basin; or</p>	Yes	<p>No new licences issued and trading confined to within catchment.</p> <p>The minor historic over allocation of 2ML from past years has been addressed through surrender of unused licences and allocated volume is within limits.</p>

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1. (cont)	<p>b) 1,357 ML in the Little Yarra River catchment; or c) 145 ML in the Don River catchment.</p> <p>1.2 The above prescription applies except where Melbourne Water renews a surface water licence that authorises the use of surface water in accordance with any state-wide policy approved by the Minister, and the Permissible Consumptive Volume and total catchment licence volumes are deemed to be adjusted by any additional volume of surface water authorised under the renewed licence.</p>		

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2	<p>ROSTERING AND RESTRICTIONS</p> <p>Section 32A(3)(g) of the Act allows for a management Plan to prescribe restrictions to be imposed on the taking of surface water at any locations specified in the area, if necessary to ensure that – (i) specified flows at any particular time or for any particular circumstance are maintained; or (ii) the permissible consumptive volume for the area is not exceeded; or (iii) the environmental water reserve is maintained in accordance with the environmental water reserve objective.</p> <p>Melbourne Water may prepare and implement rosters or restrictions to specify a maximum volume or percentage allocation of water that a licensee may take or use on any rostered day (or lesser roster period). In developing rosters or restrictions Melbourne Water must have regard to:</p>	Yes	<p>Melbourne Water imposes restrictions, rosters and bans under the principles and triggers detailed in Melbourne Water's Drought Response Plan for Licensed Water Users taking into account the requirements of Stream Flow Management Plans where relevant.</p> <p>No rosters and restrictions have been developed for the Don River at this time. Water demand remains low in this catchment and rosters are therefore not warranted.</p>

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2. (cont)	<p>(i) The relative requirements of different crops and other uses of land for water;</p> <p>(ii) Differences between the types of licence, maximum volumes which may be taken under licences, and pumping capacities; and</p> <p>(iii) The need for all licensees to have fair and reasonable access to available water, give the matters referred to in subparagraphs (i) and (ii) above.</p> <p>2.1 The rostering and restriction arrangement for the Little Yarra River will remain as outlined in Melbourne Water's Drought Response Plan (2007). To enable efficient use, individual metering times can be altered as agreed to with Melbourne Water. The rostering and restrictions for the Little Yarra River are – A maximum of 7 hours between 6am & 9am and 6pm & 10pm on allocated group days, or as agreed with Melbourne Water</p>		

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2. (cont)	2.2 The Don River does not currently have any rostering and restriction arrangements in place. However as noted above, Melbourne Water may prepare and implement rosters and/or restrictions if required, whilst having regards to points (i), (ii) and (iii)		

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3	<p>TRANSFERRING LICENCES</p> <p>Section 32A(3)(d) of the Act allows for a management plan to prescribe conditions to which licences issued under section 51 to take and use surface water and transferred under section 62, are to be subject, including a condition relating to the maximum volume of water which may be taken and used under the transferred licence.</p> <p>3.1 Melbourne Water must refuse an application made under section 62(3) of the Act to permanently or temporarily transfer a licence if this will cause the limits referred to in Prescription 1 to be exceeded.</p>	Yes	Only transfers that occurred in the catchment were related to sale of land and transfer to the new owner.

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3. (cont)	<p>3.2 Melbourne Water may approve an application made under section 62(3) of the Act to permanently transfer a licence into or within the Little Yarra River catchment provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The limits referred to in Prescription 1 are not exceeded; and b) Any licence traded into the Little Yarra catchment is converted to winter-fill; and c) All licences traded upstream are converted to winter-fill; and d) All licences traded downstream within the catchment retain their volume and take period; and e) Any licence traded into or within the Slaty Creek sub-catchment is subject to the total licence allocation in Slaty Creek sub-catchment not exceeding 130 ML. <p>3.3 Melbourne Water may approve an application made under Section 62(3) of the Act to permanently transfer a licence within the Don River catchment provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The limits referred to in Prescription 1 are not exceeded; and 		

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3. (cont)	<p>b) For all-year licences traded upstream, the application provide a flow assessment, using the FLOWS methods, which indicates there is no impact to other diverters or the environment as a consequence of the transfer; and</p> <p>c) Licences traded downstream retain their volume and take period.</p> <p>3.4 No trades will be permitted into the Don catchment for the duration of this plan.</p> <p>3.5 Melbourne Water may grant an application made under section 62(3) to temporarily transfer a licence for up to 1 year, provided the application meets the relevant prescriptions in 3.1-3.4</p>		

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4	<p>METERING AND MONITORING</p> <p>Section 32A(3)(a) of the Act allows management plans to prescribe requirements for metering and monitoring.</p> <p>4.1 Melbourne Water must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Meter all licences over 5 ML, excluding registration licences, b) Read meters and store metering information, and c) Read meters at the start and end of each licence period. <p>Note that p 26 of the SFMP states “Meters are not required for licences less than 5ML in volume or for licences that are inactive.”</p> <p>4.2 Melbourne Water must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continuously record and store information on flows at the Little Yarra River gauge (229214) and Don River gauge (229220B). b) Periodically inspect the condition of each gauging station, c) Maintain each gauging station in good condition, and d) Keep a record of each inspection and work undertaken under paragraph (b) or (c). 	Yes	<p>Meter maintenance data captured in Melbourne Water's Asset Management system (Maximo). Maintenance of meters is scheduled every 3 years. Program available from Diversions team.</p> <p>Melbourne water monitors flows continuously at Little Yarra River gauge (229214) and Don River gauge (229220B)</p>

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5	<p>NEW DAMS, AESTHETIC DAMS AND DAMS ON SUBDIVISIONS</p> <p>Section 32A(3)(d) of the Act allows for a management plan to prescribe prohibitions on the issue of licences under section 67. Section 32A(3)(c) of the Act allows for a management plan to prescribe the requirements for the location, capacity and operation of private dams which are – (i) not licenced under section 51, and (ii) not for domestic and stock use. Section 32(3)(n) of the Act allows for a management plan to prescribe the maximum volume of water that may be retained – (i) in each private dam on a particulate lot in a plan of subdivision in the area concerned. Section 67 of the Act allows Melbourne Water to grant a licence to construct works etc. This includes operation of dams. Section 71 of the Act empowers Melbourne Water to set conditions for these licences.</p> <p>5.1 Melbourne Water must not issue any licence under section 67 of the Act to construct a dam on a waterway.</p>	Yes	<p>Yarra Ranges Shire Council are responsible for subdivisions. Council processed 3 applications to subdivide in the Little Yarra catchment, 1 of which included a farm dam. Council are not able to confidently comment on whether this led to an increase in farm dam volume within the catchment.</p> <p>As a result to our knowledge the total volume of water for domestic and stock purposes has not exceeded the total volume of water from all private dams on that land.</p>

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5. (cont)	<p>5.2 The total volume of water that can be retained in domestic and stock dams on subdivided lots must not exceed the greater of:</p> <p>a) Those dams that were there before the Plan; or</p> <p>b) A volume that is reasonable to meet the domestic and stock water needs of the land prior to subdivision, calculated in accordance with the approved guidelines.</p> <p>Once this limit is reached, no additional water can be retained in additional domestic and stock dams.</p> <p>5.3 Melbourne Water must not issue any licence under section 67 to construct an aesthetic dam.</p> <p>5.4 For the purpose of clause 5.3., a dam is:</p> <p>a) Deemed to be for aesthetic purposes if it is constructed after the commencement of this plan and is used for recreational purposes; but</p> <p>b) Not deemed to be aesthetic purposes if it is:</p> <p>(i) Constructed or used for domestic and stock and is a reasonable size for its intended use; or</p> <p>(ii) Designed specifically for environmental, rather than aesthetic or recreational purposes and is used for erosion control or biodiversity conservation purposes.</p>		<p>Melbourne water undertakes field observations and acts on reports received from the general community to assess the impact of aesthetic dams.</p> <p>No community reports regarding aesthetic dams were received during this reporting period.</p> <p>To Melbourne Water's knowledge no aesthetic dams exist that breach the requirements of this prescription.</p>

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6	<p>LICENCE CONDITIONS Section 32A(3)(k) of the Act allows for a management plan to prescribe conditions to which licences are issued under section 51 are to be subject.</p> <p>6.1 A licence granted under section 51 of the Act is subject to each condition set out in Schedule 1 – Licence Conditions, in relation to that licence’s purpose. This includes restrictions on the taking of water in order to maintain minimum environmental flows in summer and winter as specified under licence conditions 1.2, 1.4, 1.5 & 1.6 of Schedule 1.</p>	Yes	
7	<p>ANNUAL REPORTING Section 32C of the Act requires that the authority that has the duty of administering and enforcing an approved management plan must prepare a report of its activities in relation to the plan.</p>	Yes	<p>The Minister approved the Stream Flow Monitoring Plan for Melbourne Water’s eight SFMP catchments in 2013.</p> <p>The monitoring plan is implemented annually.</p>

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7. (cont)	<p>7.1 As part of the annual report, Melbourne Water should undertake an assessment of the following matters</p> <p>a) Changes to the level and type of development within the area including:</p> <p>(i) The extend of water usage resulting from transfers</p> <p>(ii) Location and impact of new take and use licences</p> <p>b) Water usage information</p> <p>c) The effectiveness of management prescriptions in meeting the objectives of the Plan including:</p> <p>(i) Metering,</p> <p>(ii) Flow monitoring,</p> <p>(iii) Restrictions and rosters</p> <p>(d) Including the details and findings of any relevant complementary works or studies (e.g. environmental studies) being undertaken in the catchments.</p> <p>(e) Any difficulties associated with, and progress towards, meeting environmental flows specified in the Plan</p>		

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8	<p>REVIEW OF PLAN</p> <p>Section 32A(3)(o) of the Act allows for a management plan to prescribe any matter relevant to the object of the management plan or its implementation.</p> <p>8.1 Melbourne Water must:</p> <p>a) Review the implementation of this Plan:</p> <p>(i) Five years after its commencement</p> <p>(ii) Thereafter, at intervals of no more than five years, and</p> <p>b) Assess the effectiveness of management prescriptions in meeting each of the objectives of the Plan, as per section 4 of this Plan.</p> <p>c) Propose any consequential amendment (if any) to the Minister</p>	Yes	<p>This plan is due for review in 2017.</p> <p>Melbourne Water has commenced this review process.</p>