



February
2016

Drought Response Plan: Part B

A Water Sharing Plan for Licenced Water Users in the:

Maribyrnong River Lower and Western catchment

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

1. Catchment Description

Catchment overview

The Maribyrnong catchment lies north-west of Melbourne and covers about 1408 sq km. Average rainfall exceeds 1000mm in the ranges, declining to less than 500mm on the lower plains. The catchment boundaries extend from near Rosslynne Reservoir in the west, to the Cobaw Ranges and Mount William in the north and to Pretty Sally Hill and Konagaderra in the east.

The Maribyrnong River is 160km long and begins on the southern slopes of the Great Dividing Range, near Lancefield. In the upper catchment, the Maribyrnong system comprises two main branches, Deep Creek and Jacksons Creek. Deep Creek is fed by major tributaries including Boyd Creek and Konagaderra Creek, and Jacksons Creek by Riddells, Emu and Bolinda creeks.

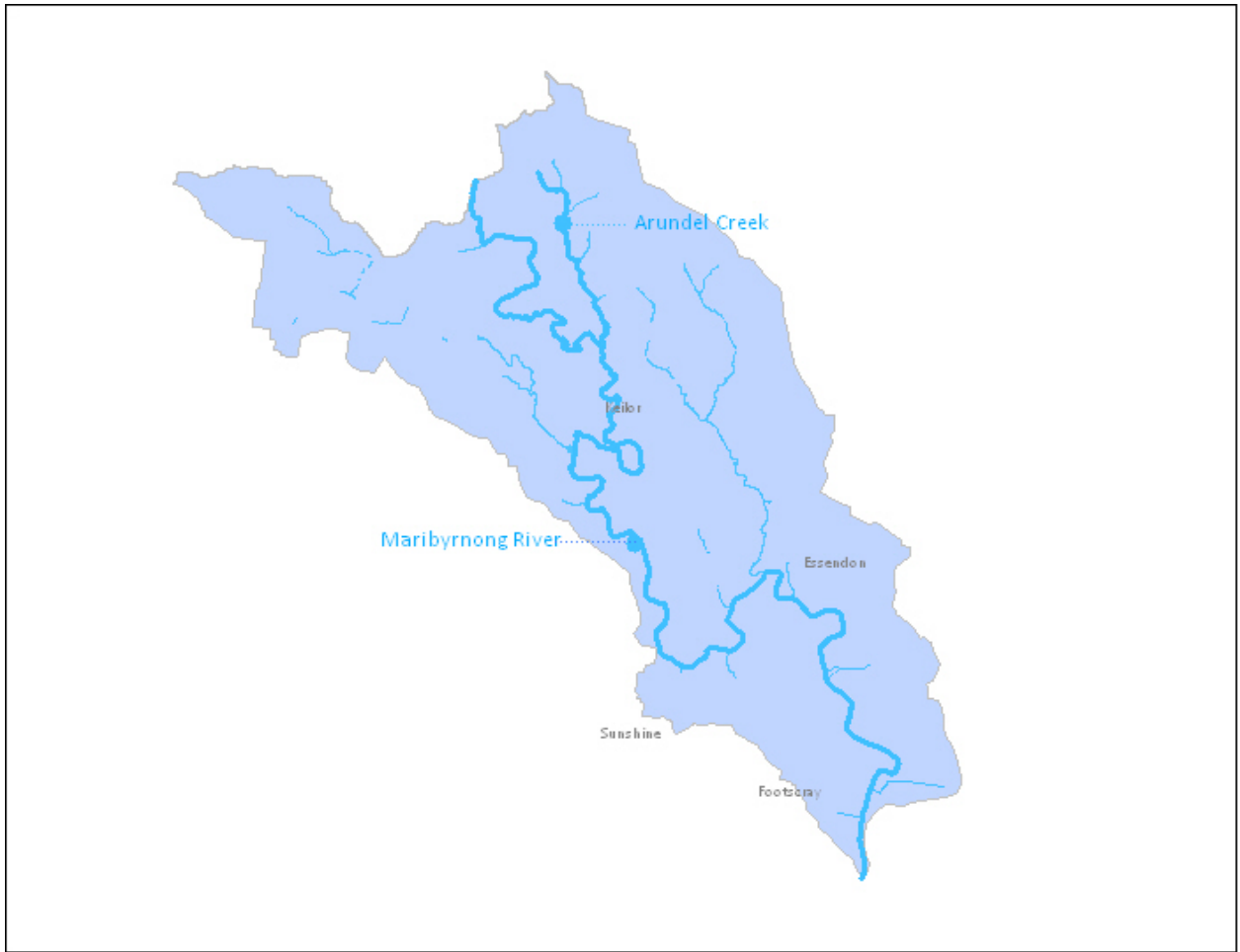
The Maribyrnong River is a regulated system, relying on a combination of releases from Rosslynne Reservoir and natural catchment flows to supply water for irrigation demands. The rules governing the sharing of water resources amongst stakeholders and the environmental are set by the government in a Bulk Entitlement Order.

Melbourne Water issues licences to individual irrigators to take water in accordance with the Maribyrnong Bulk Entitlement. All-year licence holders can take water at any time throughout the year provided the instantaneous stream flow is above the ban level described in the table below. Conversely, winter-fill licence holders can only take water during the high-flow period (01 July - 31 October) in any given year provided stream flows are above the specified ban level.



Maribyrnong River Rock Weir

This map shows the catchment:



Maribyrnong River Catchment

2. Ban & Restriction Triggers

Flow levels are monitored by gauges (data logging stations) that provide continuous flow readings. The catchment has a nominated compliance point for the introduction of bans and restrictions:

- Licence holders within the Maribyrnong River (Lower) sub-catchment are subject to flow conditions at the gauge at [Keilor \(230105\)](#).

The trigger levels for the Maribyrnong River (Lower) are as shown in the table below:

Period	Dates	Ban Trigger (ML)
Low Flow (All Year)	1 Jan - 31 Dec	5
High Flow (Winter-Fill Only)	1 Jul - 31 Oct	50

Bans are implemented or lifted when the specific trigger has been met, based on an instantaneous stream flow.



Bridges at Arundel Weir Keilor

3. Application of Rules

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 Maribyrnong River (Lower) with allocations greater than 5ML are metered by Melbourne Water.



Typical irrigation in the Kellor area.

Document Versions

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