



February  
2016

## Drought Response Plan: Part B A Water Sharing Plan for Licenced Water Users in the: **Merri Creek catchment**

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

### 1. Catchment Description

Merri Creek starts in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range around Heathcote Junction before joining its western arm north of Wallan. It then flows some 60 kilometres south to its junction with the Yarra River at Dights Falls in Abbotsford. It is one of the Yarra's major tributaries draining water from a catchment covering 396 square kilometres. It has a number of major tributary systems including: Wallan Creek, Aitken Creek, Malcolm Creek, Merlynston Creek, Central Creek and Edgars Creek.

While the Merri Creek catchment is predominantly rural, land use along the course of the creek changes from pastoral to industrial, then urban to residential. Despite a history of land clearing and agricultural development, the rural reaches have retained some natural stream form and feature a number of sites of state and national conservation significance. The endangered growling grass frog is also found in several locations. Merri Creek has a very high social value because of passive recreation and European and Aboriginal heritage. Where Merri Creek and the Yarra River join was once an important Aboriginal meeting place. The creek and surrounding lands were also important to the Aborigines for food, shelter and travel.



The map below shows the catchment :



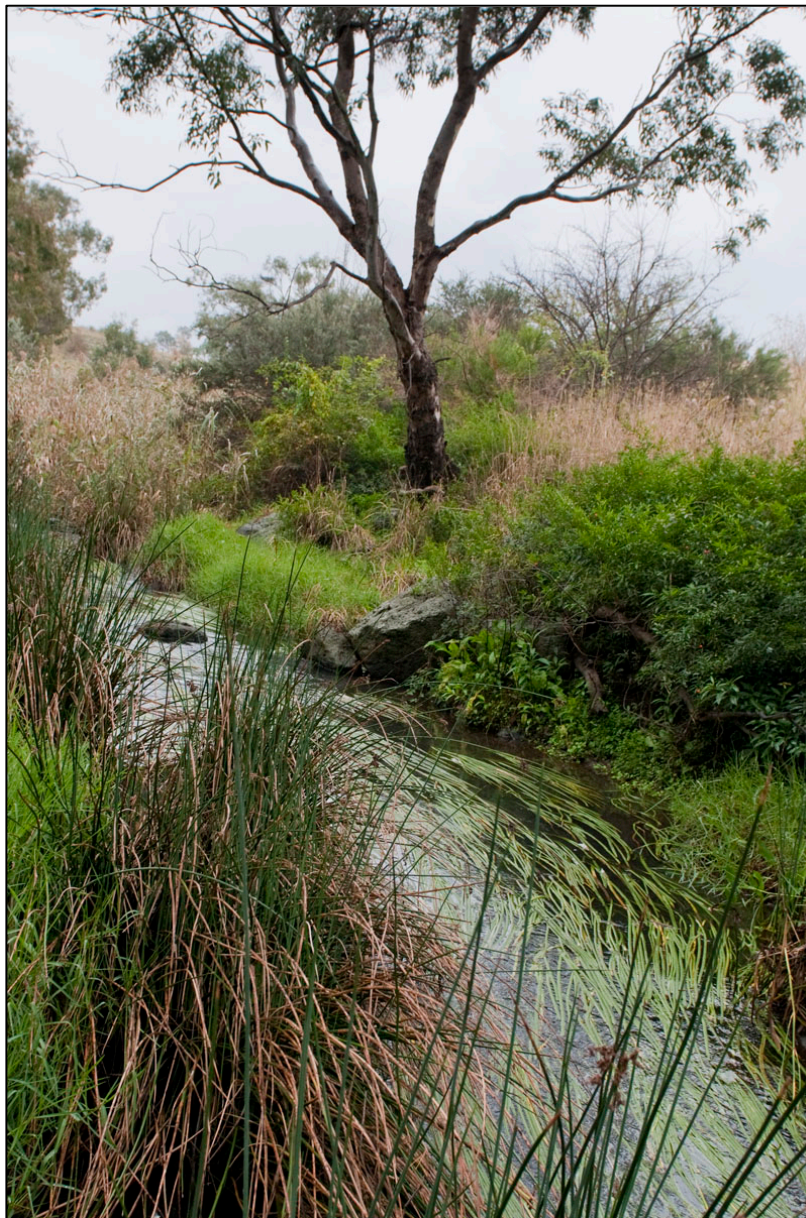
*Merri Creek Catchment*

## 2. Ban Triggers

Flow levels are monitored by gauges (data logging stations) that provide continuous flow readings. The data logging station for the Merri Creek is located at [Somerton \(229603\)](#). In plan at 229645- Merri Creek at Cooper Street, Somerton- check The trigger levels for the Merri Creek catchment are as shown in the following table:

Dates	Ban Trigger (ML)
All year (January – December)	2.0

Bans are implemented or lifted when a catchment-specific trigger has been met, based on an instantaneous stream flow. Diverting can only resume when the 7 day average is greater than 2.0 ML.



*Merri Creek, Cooper Street Epping*

## 2 Application of Plan

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 Merri Creek with allocations greater than 5ML are metered by Melbourne Water.



*Merri Creek revegetation works*

## Document Versions

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