



February  
2016

## Drought Response Plan: Part B

### A Water Sharing Plan for Licenced Water Users in the:

# Plenty River catchment

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

## 1. Catchment Description

The Plenty River is ephemeral and ceases to flow regularly for a number of months over summer. Historically the river may have flowed almost continuously. The impact of harvesting water by Melbourne Water combined with water allocations to licensed water users and collecting water in farm dams means that the system is unable to meet all users needs at all times.

The flow regime of the Plenty River has undergone significant change which may have resulted in the changes to the aquatic flora and fauna within the Plenty system, including the likely loss of river blackfish from the system. Other native and exotic fish species persist including southern pygmy perch, climbing and mountain galaxias, short finned eels, flat headed gudgeon, eastern gambusia and brown trout.

The Plenty River rises from the slopes of Mount Disappointment in the Great Dividing Range approximately 50 kilometres north of Melbourne. The Plenty River Water Supply Protection Area, incorporates the whole of the Plenty River catchment and is approximately 351 square kilometres. Water is also diverted to the Plenty River from the King Parrot Creek catchment (Silver and Wallaby Creeks) over the dividing ridge and into Toorourrong Reservoir. The Plenty River Water Supply Protection Area is shown in Schedule 1.

The river flows generally north-south with the protection area extending from the Great Dividing Range north of Whittlesea to the junction with the Yarra River at View Bank/Lower Plenty. The main sub catchments of Plenty River are Scrubby Creek, Plenty River East and West (Crystal Creek) Branches and Bruces Creek which join at Whittlesea to form the Plenty River. The other major tributary is Barbers Creek, which enters Plenty River about nine kilometres downstream of Whittlesea.

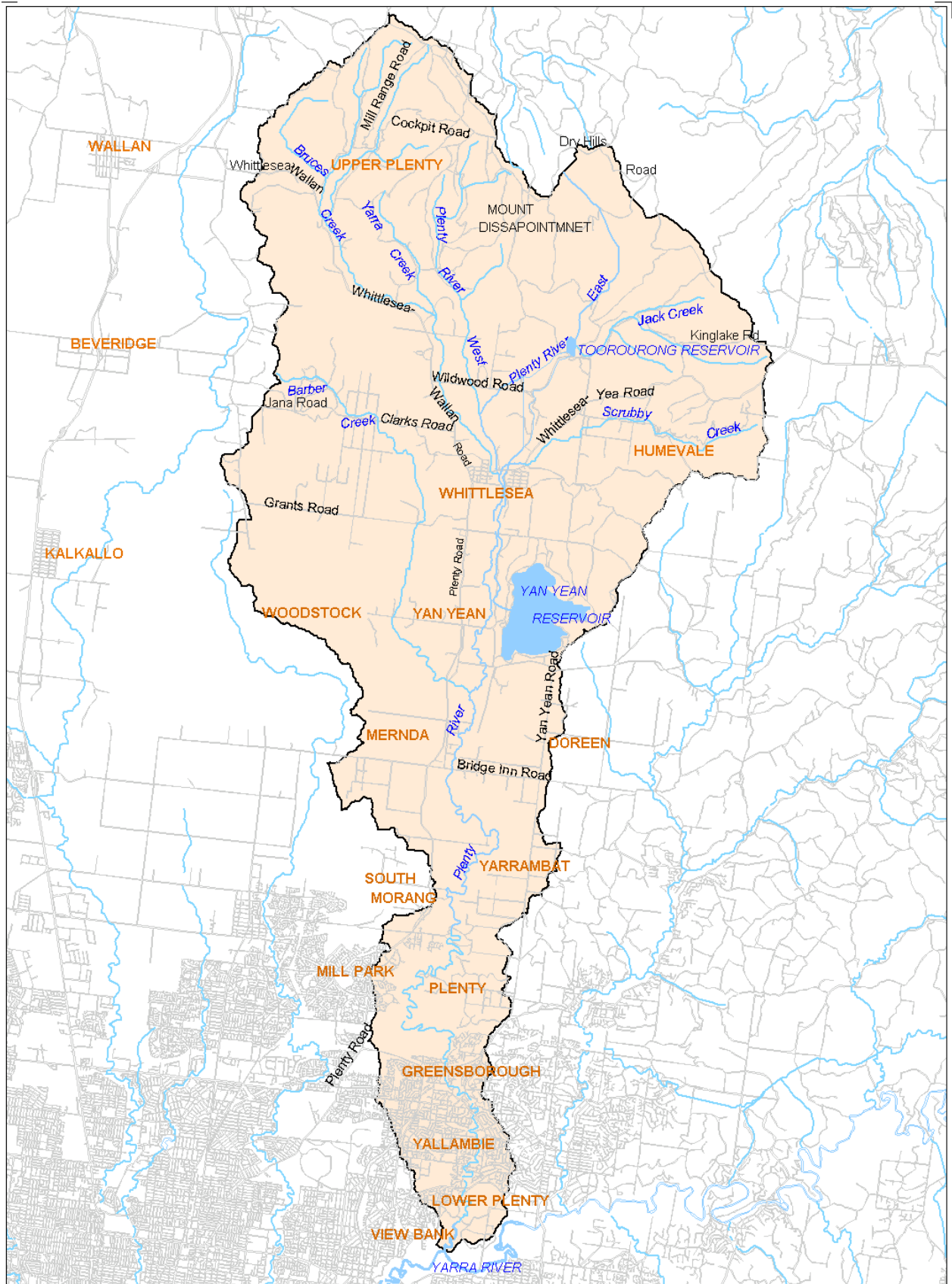
Two water supply reservoirs within the protection area have significantly altered the natural flow. The largest of these is Yan Yean Reservoir, an off stream storage, upstream of Mernda and Toorourrong Reservoir in the upper catchment. Yan Yean Reservoir is connected to Toorourrong Reservoir via the Clear Water Aqueduct.

Upstream of the rural areas, the river runs through State Forest and the catchment of Toorourrong Reservoir is closed. The rural reaches of the Plenty River system extend from the State Forest area downstream to approximately Mernda.

Downstream of Mernda the adjoining land use is a combination of rural and urban, with extensive urban development proposed. The other dominant land use in this reach is public open space with Plenty Gorge Park straddling the River for approximately nine kilometres. The River downstream of Plenty Gorge Park flows through the predominantly developed urban areas of Greensborough,

Montmorency and Lower Plenty until its confluence with the Yarra River. The Plenty River catchment is subject to a Stream Flow Management Plan which commenced in 2007. Further information on the establishment of ban and restriction levels for this catchment can be found within the plan.

The map on this page shows the catchments and major waterways.



Plenty River Catchment

## 2. Ban Triggers

Flow levels are monitored by gauges (data logging stations) that provide continuous flow readings. The data logging station for Plenty River is located at [Mernda \(229616\)](#). The trigger levels for the Plenty River catchment are as shown in the following table:

Period	Dates	Ban Trigger (ML)
Low Flow	1 Dec - 31 May	1.5
High Flow	1 Jun - 30 Nov	2

Bans are implemented or lifted when a catchment-specific trigger has been met, based upon the seven day rolling average stream flow.



*Plenty River Gorge*

## 3. 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 Plenty River with allocations greater than 5ML are metered by Melbourne Water.



*Plenty River at Headwaters*

## Document Versions

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