



February  
2016

## Drought Response Plan: Part B

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

# Watts River catchment

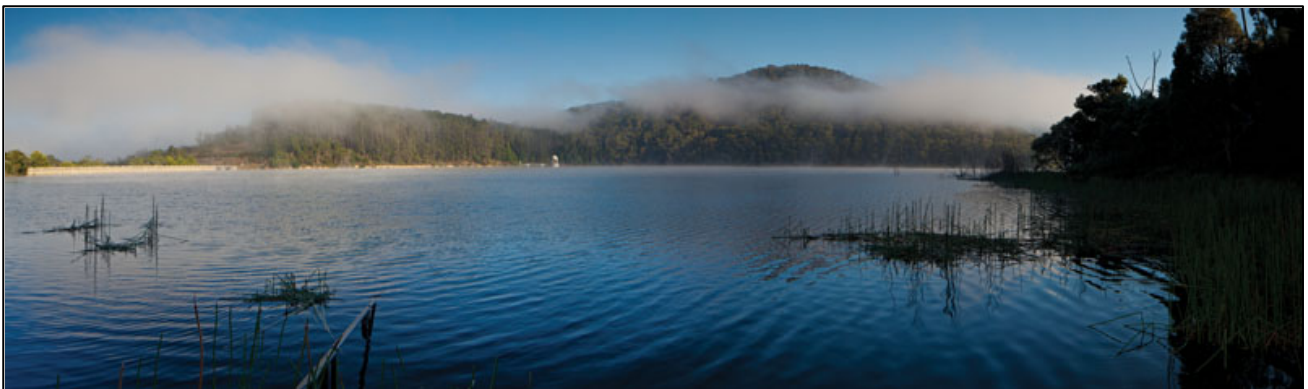
To be read in conjunction with Part A: A Water Sharing Plan for all Licensed Water Users 2016

## 1. Catchment Description

The Watts River is largely contained within the forested Maroondah Reservoir water supply catchment. The reservoir was completed in 1927 and has a capacity of 22,000 million litres. The reaches upstream of the reservoir are considered ecologically healthy. While the dam wall prevents fish migration, spotted galaxias are found in the upper reaches. Tributaries of Watts River include Donnelly's and New Chum creeks. Donnelly's Creek contains a heritage-listed weir and along with the upper parts of New Chum Creek, has very high environmental values due to undisturbed forested catchments. Downstream of Maroondah reservoir, the loss of vegetation, reduced flows, erosion and degraded water quality pose significant risks to the Watts River. The headwaters of Graceburn and Corranderrk creeks are also in forested water supply catchments where environmental values are high and the reaches have been defined as ecologically healthy.

The Corranderrk Creek is of high Aboriginal significance due to its connection with the Corranderrk Aboriginal Mission. Whilst the historical weirs on Corranderrk Creek are of European cultural importance the weir also poses a significant risk to native fish, preventing migration upstream and downstream. Downstream of the forested areas the condition declines due to cleared streamside vegetation, reduced flows and poor water quality.

The map on the following page shows the catchment



*Maroondah Reservoir and Outlet Tower*



*Watts River catchment*

## 2. Ban Triggers

Flow levels are monitored by gauges (data logging stations) that provide continuous flow readings. The data logging station for Watts River is located at [Healesville \(229144\)](#). The trigger levels for the Watts River catchment are as shown in the following table:

Period	Dates	Ban Trigger (ML)
Low Flow	1 Nov - 30 Jun	1.0
High Flow	1 Jul - 31 Oct	3.0

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



*Watts River at Maroondah Reservoir*

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



*Maroondah Reservoir*

### Document Versions

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