



February
2016

Drought Response Plan: Part B

A Water Sharing Plan for Licenced Water Users in the:

Yarra River (Upper) catchment

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

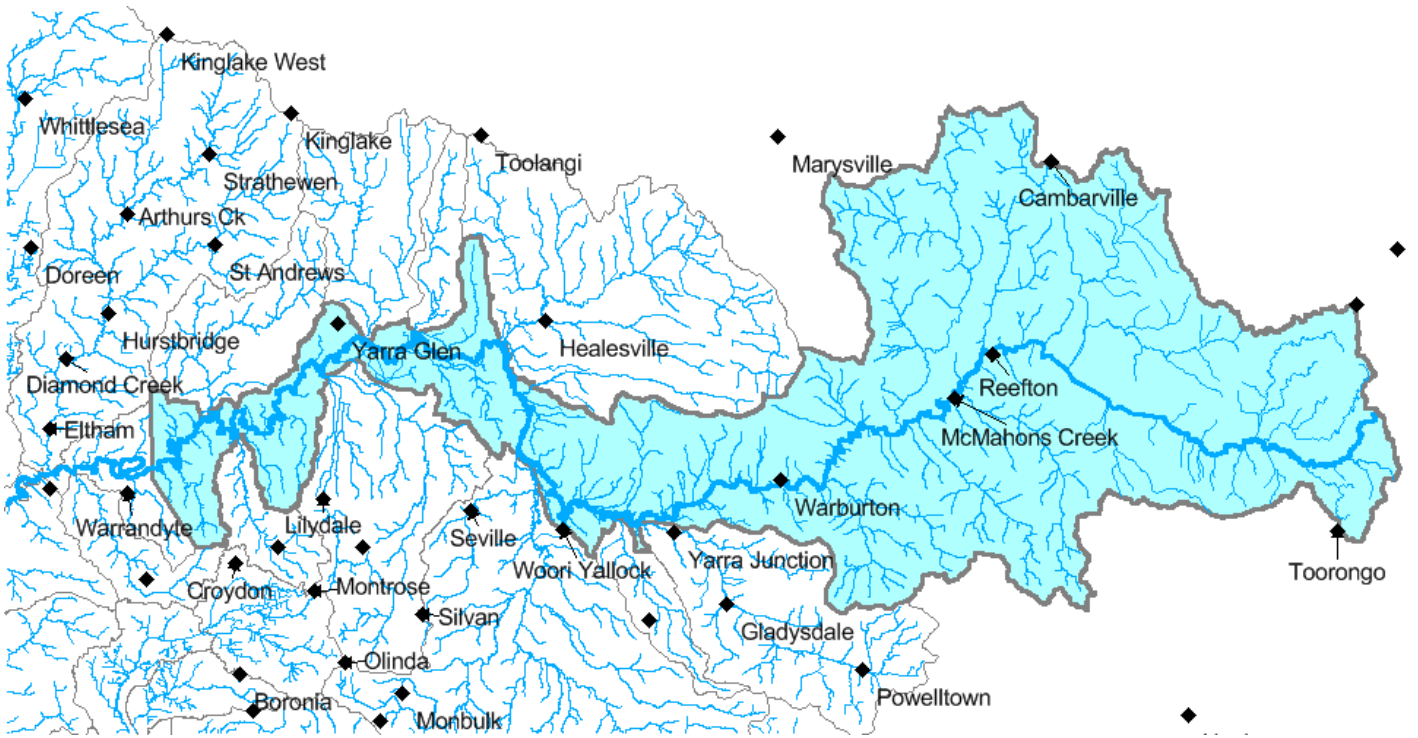
1. Catchment Description

The Upper Yarra River contains the section of Yarra River above Warrandyte, including several major tributaries. The headwaters of many tributaries begin in protected forests and are in excellent condition. As a result Melbourne residents receive high quality drinking water and the river sustains diverse flora and fauna including the Mt Donna Buang stonefly and a population of the endangered Macquarie Perch. The Yarra River between Warburton and Warrandyte is a Victorian Heritage River. The protected catchments are highly valued by Melburnians and the river attracts many visitors. Risks for the Upper Yarra River include:

- poor water quality,
- poor quality of streamside zone vegetation
- stock access; and
- change in natural flow

Challenges for waterway health include the impacts of rural roads and agriculture, and balancing social, environmental and economic needs in the water supply catchments. The map on the following page shows the catchment and major waterways.





Yarra River Upper 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 Yarra River (Upper) sub-catchment are subject to flow conditions at the Yarra River gauge at [Yarra Glen \(229206\)](#).

Bans and restrictions will be introduced and lifted when catchment specific triggers occur based upon instantaneous daily stream flows. The trigger levels for bans and restrictions for the Yarra River (Upper) are as shown in the table below:

Period	Ban Trigger (ML)	Level 2 Restriction Trigger (ML)	Level 1 Restriction Trigger (ML)
Low Flow Period 1 November – 30 April	200 ML	300 ML	600 ML
High Flow Period 1 May – 31 October	350 ML	450 ML	600 ML

The Yarra River (Upper) includes all tributary sub-catchments that discharge to the Yarra River above Warrandyte that are not the subject of another catchment specific water sharing plan.



Yarra Upper Golf Club

3. Application of Restrictions

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 Yarra River (Upper) with allocations greater than 5ML are metered by Melbourne Water. Both volumetric and / or time based restrictions will apply within the Yarra River (Upper) catchment depending on if a licensee is metered or not.

3.1 Metered Licences:

For all metered licenses access to water during restrictions will be based on a percentage of the Maximum Daily Volume (MDV) shown on the licence. The MDV will be set at no greater than five percent of the total annual volume.

During restriction periods a licensee will be entitled to take and use only 50% during Level 1 and only 25% of their MDV during Level 2 restrictions. The percentage of MDV available under corresponding flow conditions is as shown in the table below. All water used under these conditions must be passed through and recorded on the authorised MW meter.

Metered water users are required to keep a record of daily diversions during ban and restriction periods, to be made available to MW upon request.

Restriction Level	% of MDV Permitted
Level 1	50 %
Level 2	25 %



Upper Dam Environmental Flow Release

3.2 Unmetered Licences:

For all unmetered licenses access to water during restrictions will be based on allotted days and hours designed to reduce demand and focus watering on the beginning and end of the day to promote watering efficiency and reduce losses. Unmetered licence holders who wish to have their restrictions based on a percentage of maximum daily volume as per section 3.1 above may apply to purchase and install a Melbourne Water meter. Following meter installation they will be eligible for volumetric based restrictions to be applied.

During restriction periods the following limitations on accessing water will apply for unmetered licences:

Licence Type: Irrigation, industrial or commercial use direct from waterway	
Low Flow Period (1 Nov – 30 Apr)	<p>All users except as shown Max. 7 hours between 6am & 9am and 6pm & 10pm on allotted group days, or as agreed with Melbourne Water Group A Mondays, Wednesdays And Fridays Group B Tuesdays, Thursdays And Saturdays</p> <p>Commercial flower growers, nurseries, Max. 3 hours between 6am & 8am and 7pm & 8pm any day.</p> <p>Berry growers Max. 3 hours between daylight hours any day. Records to be kept of actual use for audit purposes</p> <p>Industrial Volume diverted to be reduced by 50%. Records to be kept of actual use for audit purposes</p>
High Flow Period (1 May – 31 Oct)	<p>All users except as shown Max. 7 hours between 6am & 9am and 6pm & 10pm on any day</p> <p>Industrial Volume diverted to be reduced by 25%. Records to be kept of actual use for audit purposes.</p>
Licence Type: Irrigation or commercial licence used with an on-stream dam	
All Periods	<p>If diverters share of water held in on-stream dam is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater than 50% of licensed entitlement No restrictions apply provided all water used is drawn from reserves of stored water and all natural stream-flow passes downstream • Less than 50% of licensed entitlement Restrictions apply as per use direct from waterway as above
Licence Type: Irrigation or commercial licence used with an off-stream dam	
All Periods	<p>Stored water in the off-stream dam may be used at any time but refilling of the dam from the waterway may only occur in accordance with the restrictions applied as per use direct from waterway above.</p>
Licence Type: Winter-fill On-stream dam	
Low Flow Period (1 Nov – 30 Apr)	<p>Refilling of storages is banned (outside of take period). No restrictions on water use provided water supply is drawn from reserves of stored water. All natural streamflow must be passed downstream.</p>
High Flow Period (1 May – 31 Oct)	<p>No restrictions on water use provided water is drawn from reserves of stored water. Under restriction conditions, dam-filling limited to maximum four hours per day, between 8.00 am & 12.00 pm.</p>

Licence Type: Winter-fill Off-stream dam	
Low Flow Period (1 Nov – 30 Apr)	Refilling of storages is banned (outside of take period). No restrictions on water use provided water supply is drawn from reserves of stored water.
High Flow Period (1 May – 31 Oct)	No restrictions on water use provided water is drawn from reserves of stored water. Under restriction conditions, dam-filling limited to maximum four hours per day, between 8.00 am & 12.00 pm.
Licence Type: Domestic & Stock use	
Low Flow Period (1 Nov – 30 Apr)	Pumping banned if alternative water supply available. If no alternative supply available then water may only be taken for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential household use • Watering of stock Individual drought contingency plans should be implemented.
High Flow Period (1 May – 31 Oct)	Not restricted
Licence Type: Non-consumptive Use	
All Periods	Provided 100% of water is returned in accordance with epa discharge licence, no more than the lesser of 25% of the assessed stream-flow or 75% of the daily flow as indicated on the licence may be diverted
Licence type: farm dams	
All Periods	Not restricted

All licence holders within the catchment must adhere to the restrictions and bans introduced in response to the flow conditions specified. Melbourne Water will consider exemptions or modification to the restrictions contained above upon written application by licence holders and in accordance with Section 12 of the Drought Response Plan.

4. Roster Groups and Allotted Days

The following table defines the roster group allocation and allotted pumping days for waterways within the Yarra River (Upper) catchment. To be used in conjunction with restriction tables above

YARRA RIVER (UPPER) catchment Site ID 229206 Yarra River upstream of Warrandyte	
Restriction Roster Group A waterways (including tributaries) Allotted days – Monday, Wednesday, Friday	
Armstrong Creek	Four Mile Creek
Badger Creek	Frenchmans Creek
Big Pats Creek	Little Mick Creek
Brushy Creek	McMahons Creek
Boggy Creek (Healesville)	Mississippi Creek
Brisbane Creek	Platts Creek
Cement Creek	Rocky Creek
Chirnside Park Drain	Yarra River (Upper)
Dee River	Ythan Creek



Yarra River (Upper) at Warburton

Document Versions

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