

Upper South East Water Allocation Planning Review 2016

Community Engagement Report Executive Summary

The Process

Three open public meetings in Bordertown, Tintinara and Padthaway held on 14 & 15 November, stakeholder briefings and written feedback recorded community views.

Key themes:

1. Current Plan/s

- Current carryover provisions and flexible special production requirements and delivery supplements were well accepted - some considered that they should become part of the main water allocation.
- Satisfaction for the current rules for temporary trading.
- The rules concerning transfers between zones were identified as being too restrictive.
- Some dissatisfaction was identified with the current administration of water licencing.
- Some positive comment towards the monitoring and reporting system (metering) which has enabled the better management of the water resource.

2. Amalgamation

- The majority of comments did not support amalgamation of the plans. Reasons included the differences between the PWAs, the types of water use and the need to manage each PWA in its own way.
- There was a concern for a loss of local representation and potentially an increase in complexity of the plan and its rules.
- Positive feedback centred on the benefits of consistency, simpler administration and boundary realignments. Current plans were working well and unless there were substantial benefits, there was not need to change.

3. Community Engagement

- Provision of information needs to be relevant, timely and understandable. Having an up to date public schedule for the review and providing notifications concerning events or closing periods as early as possible were also raised.
- No one method of communicating information to the community was preferred.
- Public forums that allow for two way discussion were identified as useful and should involve existing local groups and networks.
- Stakeholders wanted a local reference group established to represent the stakeholders with equitable representation on the reference group.

4. New Plan/s

- Views included that any new or revised plan should be more equitable for all water users and that it should encourage water efficiency.

A full copy of the Engagement Report considered by the Board at its 23 Feb 2017 meeting is available on the NRSE web site at: <http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/southeast/water-and-coast/water-allocation-plans/wap-review>.