

Draft Proposal Statement

Kangaroo Flat Water Allocation Plan

October 2004



**Northern Adelaide and
Barossa Catchment Water
Management Board**

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The Proposal Statement for the Kangaroo Flat Water Allocation Plan has been prepared by the Northern Adelaide and Barossa Catchment Water Management Board in line with the requirements of Section 102 of the *Water Resources Act 1997*.

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**Government
of South Australia**

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1. Introduction

The *Water Resources Act 1997* requires the Northern Adelaide and Barossa Catchment Water Management Board to prepare a water allocation plan for each of the prescribed water resources in its area. A water allocation plan is a statutory instrument that will be used for various purposes in the administration of the *Water Resources Act 1997* (the Act); in particular, to guide the granting of licences to take water and the transfer of a licence and/or water allocation.

Before preparing the draft water allocation plan, the Board must prepare a proposal statement in accordance with Section 102 (1) of the *Water Resources Act 1997*. The proposal statement must:

- set out, in general terms, the proposed content of the water allocation plan;
- specify matters to be investigated by the Board before preparation of the draft plan; and
- set out the proposals (if any) for consultation on the draft plan that are in addition to the requirements of the *Water Resources Act 1997*.

The proposal statement does not explore issues in detail, or provide solutions, as this will be done as part of the process to prepare the plan.

The Kangaroo Flat Area (within the Northern Adelaide Plains Prescribed Wells Area) was prescribed on 22 July 2004, and the Board is now commencing the process of preparing a water allocation plan for the area.

The Northern Adelaide Plains Prescribed Wells Area includes:

- the Northern Adelaide Plains Proclaimed Region; and
- the Kangaroo Flat Area.

A proposal statement has previously been prepared for the development of a new water allocation plan for the Northern Adelaide Plains Proclaimed Region. While this proposal statement only covers that area shown as the Kangaroo Flat Area (see Figure 1), it is intended that once the preparation of a draft plan commences, a single draft water allocation plan will be prepared for the Northern Adelaide Prescribed Wells Area, incorporating both the Northern Adelaide Plains Proclaimed Region and the Kangaroo Flat Area.

2. Proposed Content of the Water Allocation Plan

The process to develop this proposal statement for the prescribed groundwater resources of the Kangaroo Flat Area commenced in September 2004 with a call for public submissions through advertisements in the local media.

The proposed content of the draft Kangaroo Flat Water Allocation Plan has been developed based on this initial consultation process. Broadly the water allocation plan will include the following items.

2.1 Water Resource Management

- Determine mechanisms for the regular monitoring, evaluation and publication of status reports on the condition of the aquifer.
- An assessment of the effect of taking and using water from the prescribed water resource.
- An assessment of the quantity and quality of water in the prescribed resource.
- Determination and setting of sustainable extraction volumes and the provision of a review mechanism.
- Appropriate monitoring and evaluation, including performance indicators and reporting requirements at a regional and property scale.
- Trigger mechanisms for highlighting changes to water resource conditions such as water level and salinity.
- The definition of any management area boundaries within the prescribed area.
- The impacts of past, present and future land use change on water quantity and quality.
- Impacts of the importation of water.

2.2 Water Use and Management

- Identification of existing demands on the water resource.
- Sustainable use of the water resource.
- Efficient water use.
- Current water requirements of stock, domestic and recreation and conservation of the environment.

2.3 Water Policy

- Access rights and equitable allocation of water from the prescribed resource.
- Method by which water is allocated.
- Methods by which water can be transferred (both temporary and permanent transfers).
- Criteria for permits for water affecting activities, including Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and importation of water.

2.4 Ecosystems and Natural Resources

- Identification of dependant ecosystems.
- Environmental impacts of water use within the prescribed area and downstream.
- Assessment of the needs of dependant ecosystems, both within the prescribed area and downstream.
- Provision for the water needs of dependant ecosystems.

2.5 Economic and Social Development

- Impacts of water allocation, short and long-term.
- Consideration of social and economic values within the prescribed area for landholders and the wider community.
- Future water requirements of stock, domestic and recreation.
- Water requirements of industry.
- Capacity and value of land.

3. Detailed Investigations to be Undertaken

Key issues for investigation have been identified during the review of the water allocation plan. These issues will be investigated before preparation of the new water allocation plan, and are outlined below.

Issues identified to date include:

- Identification of ecological characteristics of the Kangaroo Flat Area with particular reference to the needs and health of ecosystems dependent on the prescribed water resource.
- Identification of hydrogeological characteristics of the Kangaroo Flat Area.
- Further definition of the acceptable extraction rates of the groundwater resource of Kangaroo Flat Area that will reduce pressure on the resource and allow for the rehabilitation of the aquifers where they may be stressed.
- Assessment of current demands (social, economic and environmental) on the prescribed resource.
- Options for use of ASR within the prescribed area.

4. Development Plan Amendments

The *Water Resources Act 1997* provides the opportunity to propose amendments to the development plans of constituent councils to ensure consistency between development plans and the water allocation plan. At the time of preparing this proposal statement, there were no specific recommendations for changes defined. It is anticipated that any recommendations for changes will be determined through the developmental phase of the plan.

Any changes proposed to development plans will be defined in consultation with Local Government and will contribute to input to the *Development Act 1993* Section 30 Review.

5. Links to Other Legislation

The draft water allocation plan will have regard to the benefits of consistency with other relevant Acts including the *Environment Protection Act 1993*, and other such plans and policies or guidelines as prescribed by regulation. It will also have regard to the *Natural Resource Management Act 2004*.

6. Water Allocation Plan Development and Additional Consultation

An indicative timeframe to develop the water allocation plan is provided below:

Actions Required	Timeframe
Invite public comment on the content of the proposal statement	September 2004
Receive submissions on the content of the proposal statement	September 2004
Prepare Proposal Statement	October 2004
Reach agreement with the Minister on the contents of the proposal statement	November 2004
Invite public comment on the proposal statement	December 2004
The Minister and the Board to consider all comments made and amend proposal statement if necessary	December 2004
Prepare Draft Water Allocation Plan, including consultation with the community and specialist studies	December 2004 - June 2005
Consult on the Draft Water Allocation Plan (invite public submissions, hold public meeting)	July 2005
Finalise Water Allocation Plan	October 2005
Adoption of new Water Allocation Plan by Minister	December 2005

6.1 Additional Consultation

In addition to the consultation required under the Act, the Board will seek to further strengthen its planning process through the following consultative mechanisms.

6.1.1 Water Allocation Planning Committee

A Water Allocation Plan Advisory Committee has been established to guide the development of the water allocation plan for the Northern Adelaide Plains (including Kangaroo Flat). The committee is a joint committee of the Virginia Horticulture Centre and Northern Adelaide and Barossa Catchment Water Management Board, and includes representatives of both groups as well as community representatives and a representative of the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.

The role of the committee will be to:

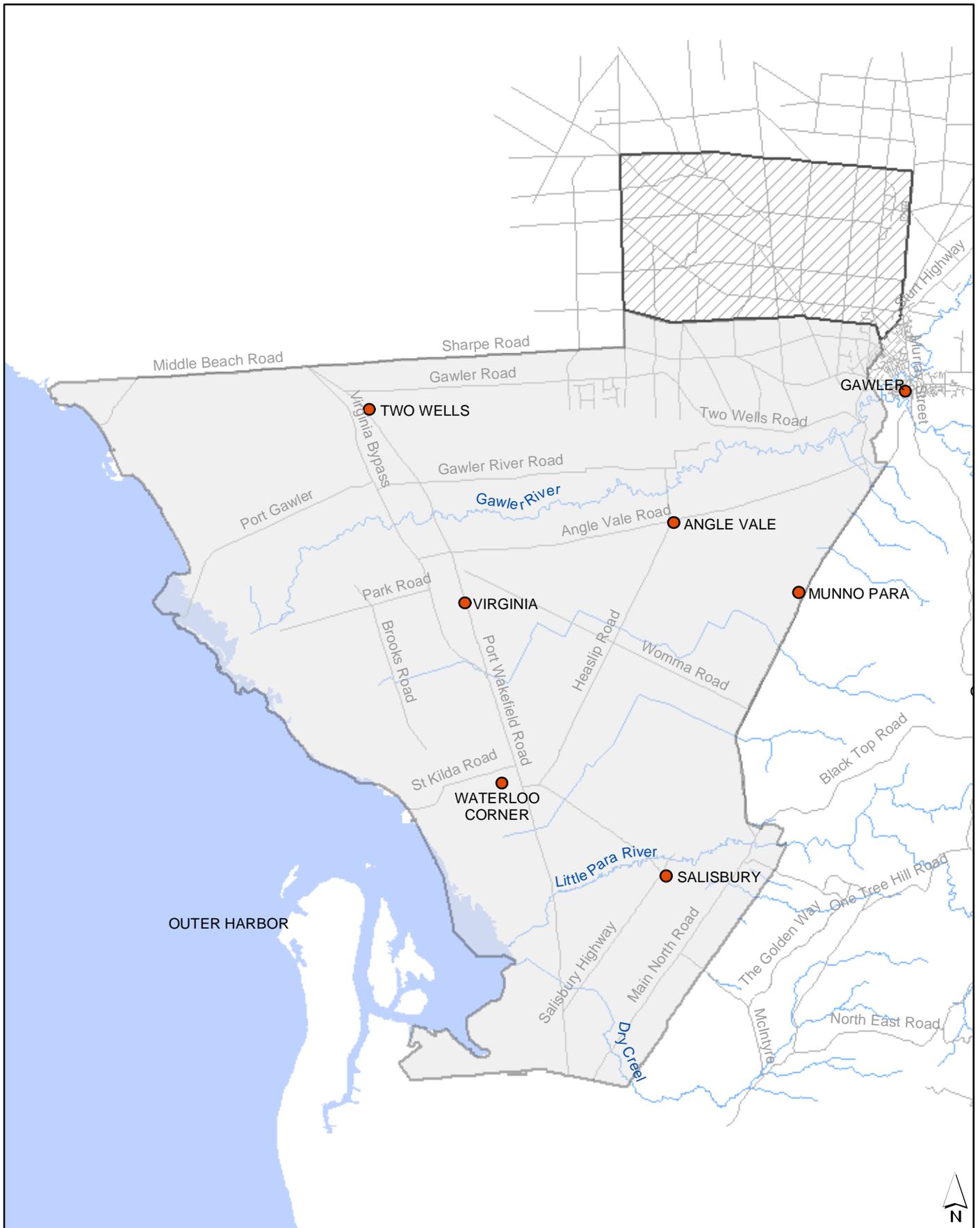
1. Advise the Board on the management of water resources within the Northern Adelaide Plains Prescribed Wells Area.
2. Advise the Board on the best methods of communicating and consulting with the Northern Adelaide Plains community during the development of the water allocation plan.
3. Advise the Board on further studies or investigations required in the Northern Adelaide Plains Prescribed Wells Area to improve the Board's knowledge and understanding of the local groundwater resources.
4. Review and comment on draft policies as they are developed for a new water allocation plan.

6.1.2 Discussion or Issue Papers

The Board will endeavour to develop a range of issue/topic papers for community information as a basis for consultation, particularly during the statutory consultation phase for the drafting of the Plan. This may include issues based workshops to discuss key elements of the water allocation plan.

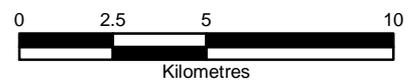
6.1.3 Workshops

The Board anticipates holding stakeholder group workshops to meet its statutory requirements during the development of the Water Allocation Plan.



Legend

-  Northern Adelaide Plains Proclaimed Region
-  Kangaroo Flat Area



**NORTHERN ADELAIDE PLAINS
PRESCRIBED WELLS AREA**

Including Kangaroo Flat Area and
Northern Adelaide Plains Proclaimed Region

LOCATION PLAN