APRIL 2011
CONSULTATION AND ALTERATIONS REPORT
WATER ALLOCATION PLAN
FOR THE
MALLEE PRESCRIBED WELLS AREA
# Table of Contents

1. Introduction .................................................................................................................. 1
2. Background ................................................................................................................... 1
3. Consultation process on the draft Plan ........................................................................ 2
4. Outcomes from consultation process .......................................................................... 3
   4.1. Consultation response: Information Sessions ......................................................... 3
   4.2. Consultation response: Public meeting ................................................................. 3
   4.3. Consultation response: Stakeholder Meeting ......................................................... 3
   4.4. Consultation response: submissions .................................................................... 4
5. Key issues identified during consultation ................................................................... 4
6. Alterations to the Plan .................................................................................................. 6
   6.1. Key alterations ....................................................................................................... 7

# Appendices and Attachments

**Appendix 1:** Stakeholder letter seeking comment on the draft Plan .........................8

**Appendix 2:** Advertising and media seeking comment on the draft Plan ..................10

**Appendix 3:** Summary of comments received on the draft Plan, Board responses and Plan alterations .................................................................14

**Attachment 1:** Communication strategy

**Attachment 2:** Draft Water Allocation Plan for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area 2010, as consulted on.

**Attachment 3:** Fact sheet – Frequently Asked Questions on the draft Water Allocation Plan for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area

**Attachment 4:** Fact Sheet – Volumetric Conversion for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area

**Attachments 5, 6, 7, 8:** Minutes and presentations from information sessions and public meetings, including answers to questions raised. As per section 79 (15) of the NRM Act.

**Attachment 9:** Respondents providing comment on draft Plan for the Mallee PWA

**Attachment 10:** Copy of submissions received

**Attachment 11:** Draft Water Allocation Plan for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area with tracked changes

**Attachment 12:** Final Water Allocation Plan for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area for approval
1. Introduction

This report has been prepared by the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (SA MDB NRM Board) to:

- summarise the consultation process on the draft Water Allocation Plan (the draft Plan) for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area; and
- report on the matters raised during consultation and recommended alterations to the Plan as a result.

The report is prepared as required by section 79 (16) of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (the NRM Act).

2. Background

The draft Plan, once adopted by the Minister, will replace the Water Allocation Plan for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area adopted by the Minister for Water Resources on 21st December 2000.

The SA MDB NRM Board, have worked in partnership with agencies, stakeholder groups and the community to develop an amended water allocation plan for the Mallee PWA. The Board has worked in close collaboration with the Mallee Water Resources Committee, Mallee and Coorong NRM group, Department for Water (DFW), particularly with staff from Science, Monitoring and Information, Licensing and NRM Support. These contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

Major steps in developing the Plan are given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steps</th>
<th>Stage of the Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. October 2005</td>
<td>Regulation toPrescribe the Out of Hundreds and Hundreds of Bandon, Vincent, Wilson, Hooper, Marmon Jabuk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. June 2006 to December 2006</td>
<td>Public and key stakeholder consultation on draft Concept Statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. February 2007</td>
<td>Concept Statement agreed to by the SA MDB NRM Board and Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. June 2006 to September 2007</td>
<td>Discussion papers and policy development preparation for draft Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. June 2006 to March 2007</td>
<td><em>Public consultation and information provided on discussion papers</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. September 2007 to May 2010</td>
<td>Refinement of policy development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. April 2010 to October 2010</td>
<td>sought Crown Law advice and DFW consultation on draft Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. 10 October 2010</td>
<td>Approval from DFW to release draft Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. 20 October 2010 to 14 January 2011</td>
<td>Advertised release of draft Plan and public consultation period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. 23 and 25 November 2010</td>
<td>Public meetings held at Parilla and Karoonda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. 14 January 2011</td>
<td>Close of consultation period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. April 2011</td>
<td>Final Plan (with proposed amendments) submitted to Minister for approval</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This report summarises the consultation process carried out in step 9, the responses received and the SA MDB NRM Board’s consideration of the consultation responses and subsequent alterations made to the Plan.
3. Consultation process on the draft Plan

The draft Plan (Attachment 2) was open for consultation from 20 October 2010 to 14 January 2011. This process was guided by a communications strategy (Attachment 1) agreed to by the Communications Unit of DFW.

The consultation process provided a range of opportunities for people to seek information and to make comment, including:

- Advertising in state wide, local newspapers, school newsletters (advertising public meeting dates, media release), and council newsletters where available. Refer to Appendix 2.

- The following information was mailed to stakeholders in early November 2010 – The draft Plan, *Frequently Asked Questions* – fact sheet (Attachment 3), *Volumetric Conversion for Mallee PWA* – fact sheet (Attachment 4), with a letter inviting stakeholders to public meetings and to invite comment on the draft plan. This information was mailed to current licence holders, people who applied for a licence in new boundary areas, interest community members, local government and state government agencies

- All information was placed on the SA MDB NRM Board’s website in electronic form available for downloading or reading on website

- A3 size advertisements for the release of the draft Plan and dates of public meetings were placed on public notice boards throughout the Mallee PWA.

- Radio and TV interviews with ABC, 5MU and Riverland WIN news were conducted with Board staff throughout the consultation period, to promote public meetings, encourage submissions, highlight parts of the draft plan and concerns raised

- Two public meetings were held, one at Parilla and one at Karoonda

- Two information sessions were held with invited Irrigation licence holders, one at Paruna and one at Parilla

- One on one phone calls and appointments were made with Board staff to discuss the contents of the draft Plan.

- Call for written submissions (able to be made via website, email, post or fax).
4. Outcomes from consultation process

4.1. Consultation: Information Sessions

Two information sessions were held, the first on 17 November 2010, from 1pm to 3 pm at Browns Wells Football clubrooms, Paruna, where 13 people from 10 (out of 11) licence holders within the 11A red management area attended. Also in attendance were members of the Mallee Water Resources Committee, DFW and SA MDB NRM Board. Refer to minutes in Attachment 5 for further details.

The second information session was held on 23 November 2010, 1 – 3 pm at the Parilla Sports centre, where 4 people from 3 (out of 10) licence holders from the Parilla red and 10A Parilla red management areas attended. Also in attendance were members of the Mallee Water Resources Committee, DFW, SA MDB NRM Board and the Southern Mallee District Council. Refer to minutes in Attachment 6 for further details.

The intent of the information sessions were to provide detailed information on of the setting of Permissible (PAV’s) and Annual allowable volumes (AAV’s) for the Mallee PWA and the volumetric conversion process for current irrigation licences. Questions from attendees were encouraged, with responses provided by presenters and staff of the SA MDB NRM Board and DFW.

4.2. Consultation: Public meetings

Two public meetings were held the first on 23 November 2010, 4 – 6 pm at the Parilla Sports centre, where 24 people attended including representatives of licence holders, general public, Mallee Water Resources Committee, DFW and SA MDB NRM Board. Refer to minutes in Attachment 7 for further details.

The second and final public meeting was held on 25 November 2010, 7 – 9 pm at the Karoonda Sports Centre where 22 people attended including current licences holders, applicants for a new water licence, general public, SA MDB NRM Board, Mallee Water Resources Committee, District Council of Karoonda East Murray and DFW. Refer to the minutes in Attachment 8 for further details.

The public meetings provided an explanation of the planning process, relevance of the Basin Plan, highlighted the contents and policies of the draft plan, groundwater resource technical information, the licensing process, provided opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback and encourage submissions or comment on the draft Plan.

4.3. Consultation: Stakeholder Meeting with Minister/s

There were several cases where current licence holders and interested parties expressed concerns to the Minister for Environment and Conservation regarding the perceived outcomes of the Plan on their current businesses or future arrangements.

The Board was aware of at least three companies who requested private meetings with the Minister for Environment and Conservation with support from their local member, Adrian Pederick MP. Two companies also met with the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries to repeat their concerns with support from their local member. Four people expressed their concerns in writing to the Minister. The written letters were forwarded to the Board and have been considered as submissions on the draft Plan.

The key issues raised during these meetings have been listed in Section 5 – Key issues identified during consultation. The written correspondence to the Minister have been noted in Appendix 3 – Respondents providing comment on the draft Plan.
4.4. Consultation: SA MDB NRM Board website
The SA MDB NRM Board’s website address was stated in the advertisements and public notices for more information. The website posted the draft Water Allocation Plan, two fact sheets and information regarding the draft Plans development. From website statistics we can view the number of hits on the Mallee water allocation planning page and the Ground water management page. There was a spike in interest at the start of the consultation period which then dropped off in the second half of the consultation period, understandably once public meetings had occurred, all information had been disseminated and leading into the Christmas and holiday periods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Mallee water allocation planning page (no. of hits)</th>
<th>Ground Management page (no. of hits)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consultation period 20th October 2010–14th January 2011

4.5. Consultation: Submissions
Twenty two submissions on the draft Plan were received.

Appendix 3 summarises each submission, proposed response to the submission comments and recommended changes to the draft plan. Attachment 9 lists the Respondents providing comments on the draft Plan. Refer Attachment 10 for copies of the written submissions received. The submissions were considered by the Mallee Water Resources Committee, SA MDB NRM Board and DFW staff. The recommended responses and changes to the Plan, as outlined in the section 6 of this report, have been developed from the discussions and considerations by these Committee members and staff.

Many of the written submissions reiterated the key concerns raised in the information sessions, public meetings and one on one meetings with either staff or Minister Caica.

5. Key issues identified during consultation
Key issues raised during the various consultation forums on the draft Plan are listed below.

- General Issues;
  - Concern that the outcome of volumetric conversion for irrigation licences will lead to a shortfall in water allocation compared to previous water use.
  - Concern that there is limited trading options, particularly within Red management areas
  - Request for a system of “overs and unders” or a “rollover credits system” for unused allocation to be used in following years.
  - Request for auxiliary requirements be issued on a case-by-case basis where there is a shortfall between the allocation as a result of volumetric conversion and historic water use.
  - Concern that figures used for volumetric conversion do not consider longer growing varieties or free draining sandy soils.
  - Concern regarding the amount allocation that will be received on recently purchased allocations which have not yet been developed. One of the reasons for delay in development is due to current transfers rules restricting the licence holders ability to transfer allocation to
a more suitable growing location. Financial restraints during drought conditions has been another reason stated for inability to develop an allocation.

- Concern regarding how soon licence holders will be notified of their volumetric allocation and the timeframes in which they need to comply with the volume allocation, specifically where licence holders are moving from an area-based licensing arrangement to volumetric.

- Concern regarding uncertainty of the security of volume and value of purchased irrigation allocations prior to the adoption of the Plan.

- Concern regarding the process that will lead to the granting of an allocation to the Mindarie sand mine, whereas all other current licence holders need to purchase allocations on the water market.

- SA MDB NRM Board and Council preliminary work on Aboriginal business and cultural needs has not been highlighted in the draft Plan and potential for SA MDB NRM Board to address some of the preliminary needs identified.

- Concern that increasing distance between wells (and therefore extraction of water) will increase Local Government costs to maintain increased lengths of roads used by irrigators, without compensation to Local Government for road maintenance.

- Suggest the resource condition indicator for salinity should be more sensitive.

- No mention of impact on neighbouring Tatiara Prescribed Wells Area

- Incorrect NRM boundary used for figure 1.

- Concern immature permanent plantings will not receive enough allocation for future water requirements as a result of the volumetric conversion process.

- Suggestion to clarify in Section 5.2 – Volumetric Conversion for Irrigation Allocations:
  - transfers of developed or undeveloped HaIE’s (Hectares irrigation equivalent) prior to volumetric conversion – tagged trade.
  - how to adjust developed HaIE’s where there have been multiple crops grown which collectively exceed the allocation
  - how to determine developed in a partial water use year at the date of adoption. Not accurately captured by the annual water use reporting.
  - existing volumetric allocations will not reduced during volumetric conversion of area based allocations.

- Comments on current demand included clarification of stock use from intensive farming, unlicensed stock and domestic use is greater than licensed intensive farming allocations, how figures mentioned in the draft plan were measured, no usage information provided for current industrial demand.

- Concern on draft Plan that not enough information was provided in Section 4.5 - Risk Assessment.

- Concern there is not enough explanation in the draft Plan regarding the adoption of the volumetric conversion “Skewes” figures and the prioritisation of developed allocations to undeveloped in the volumetric conversion of irrigation allocations.

- Concern there was not enough explanation or consideration of economic impacts in the draft Plan.

- 11A Red Management Area;
  - Concern regarding the significant reduction in PAV and the impact this will have on issuing volumetric allocations to irrigation licence holders.
  - Request for transitional arrangements as irrigators require time to adjust or move their business if required out of an area that is facing a significant reduction in the permissible annual volume (PAV).
Concerns regarding significant allocation reductions due to the volumetric conversion being calculated on maximum area in hectares under irrigation during Assessment period (1st July 2004 – 30th June 2009). Whereby the concerned party had undertaken development 10 years prior to the assessment period and due to illness had not continued development.

Sales of properties have been held up due to purchaser fear of the future size of water allocation.

A 50 – 60% reduction in allocation compared to current use will ability to supply national customers, packing shed, job losses and all aspects of the business.

Considerations should be given to the “highest and best” use of the water resource on a per hectare basis, which is considered to be potatoes.

Any reallocation of water from zone 11A to 10A should free up allocations that should be given to the SA Potato Company and the potato industry.

- Parilla Red Management Area;
  - Potato growers concerned there will be reduction in allocation, although DFW, Senior Hydrogeologist (Steve Barnett) suggests it is a robust resource. Historic use has been greater than new PAV, with no discernible negative impacts on the resource
  - Potato growers in this management area suggest the volumetric conversion of irrigation allocations will lead to 26% reduction in allocation compared to the volumetric usage which occurred during the assessment period. This would lead to reduced economic income if less crop area is able to be grown.

- Green Management Area;
  - Drought conditions and delay in obtaining well drillers has placed financial and timely delays on development during the Assessment period for irrigation volumetric conversion.
  - No irrigation requirements for date palms provided in the draft Plan
  - Disagreement with the decision not to allow auxiliary water for the Hundred of Chesson where leaching requirements due to higher salinity water are required.

- 9A Green Management Area
  - Suggestion that changes to the PAV is unwarranted. The PAV’s should have remained the same and the Minister should use discretionary powers to manage manage over allocation or reduction of allocations, rather than described in the draft Plan.
  - Query the hierarchy of the water allocation plan addressing the Border Groundwater Agreement.
  - Suggestion for an alternative approach for the volumetric conversion of irrigation allocations.
  - Concern regarding the distinction between active and inactive allocations in the conversion.

6. Alterations to the Plan

Following the consultation process outlined above, the SA MDB NRM Board has finalised the Plan for submission to the Minister for the Environment and Conservation. Changes to the draft Plan have been made based on:

- Consultation responses, as outlined in Appendix 3 (summary of submissions, Board response and recommended changes).
- Internal review having regard to all comments received during the consultation period. The internal review involved the Mallee Water Resources Committee, SA MDB NRM Board and DFW staff.

The changes made to the Plan are shown as “tracked changes” in Attachment 11. The final Plan for submission to the Minister incorporating the recommended changes is Attachment 12.
Key alterations made to the consultation draft Plan are summarised below for cases where there are changes or significant clarifications to policy intent, alterations to reflect legislative changes, or significant additions for non-policy sections. Grammatical improvements suggested in the submissions have generally been accepted as presented. The grammatical changes can be seen in Attachment 11 and are not included in this list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page number</th>
<th>Section, Principle, Figure</th>
<th>Change to Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Page 1, Figure 1,</td>
<td></td>
<td>Updated SA MDB NRM boundary inserted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 11</td>
<td>Section 3.3</td>
<td>Relocation of second paragraph regarding Groundwater Border Agreement, to Section 4.4 Management Arrangements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 11</td>
<td>Section 3.6</td>
<td>Inserted comments on the effects on Tatiara Prescribed Wells Area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 14</td>
<td>Section 4.2</td>
<td>Inserted 4.2.2 Aboriginal business and cultural needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 16</td>
<td>Section 4.3</td>
<td>Rearrangement of several paragraphs from Section 4.4 Management arrangements as they had more relevance to future demand than actual management arrangements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 20</td>
<td>Section 4.5</td>
<td>Additional information provided in the risk assessment as suggested by DfW submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 22</td>
<td>Section 5.1</td>
<td>Deletion of principle 7 and the editing of principle 6 to include the original intent although now referring to the South Australian unallocated water policy statement (2010).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 25</td>
<td>Section 5.2 Principle 18</td>
<td>Clarification inserted to regarding how crops will be reduced where there are multiple crop types.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The following principle numbering refers to the updated principle numbers in Attachment 11 for tracked changes.*

| Page 26 | Principle 19 | Removed and placed into a new Section 5.2.3 relating to transfers prior to date of adoption of the plan, to provide more clarity. |
| Page 26 | Principle 20, 21 & 22 | Additional wording inserted to existing volumetric allocations will be considered within the AAV for the management area and the conversion volume will be reduced if required. |
| Page 26 | Principle 21.3 | New principle inserted to obtain a supplementary annual water use report to determine development up till the date of adoption of the plan. |
| Page 26 | Principle 28 | Principle inserted to clarify undeveloped HaIE’s are assumed to be transferred in the first instance. |
| Page 26 | Section 5.2 | New policy created for temporary auxiliary allocation as result of submission concerns |
| Page 28 | Section 5.3 | Addition of Radiation Protection and Control Act 1982 to principles 36 an 37 in relation to mining activities. |
| Page 32 | Section 7.1.2 | Moved principle 52 to below the Murray Group Limestone Unconfined Aquifer section as this is where it is relevant. |
| Page 36 | Section 3.5 | The layout of this section has been made clear with distinctions made for resource condition indicators within or outside the Designated areas |
| Page 38 | Section 3.6 | The actions taken when resource condition indicators have been simplified without loosing the intent, but to show that the actions taken are the same for drawdown or salinity indicators and they follow 4 may steps. |
| Page 40 | Section 10 | Addition of an aquaculture definition as suggested by PIRSA |
| Page 45 | Appendix A | Insertion of sentence to note that crop water requirements will be sought for any new crops not currently identified in the appendix |
Appendix 1: Stakeholder letter seeking comment on the draft Plan

1st November 2010

Dear Water Licence holder in the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area,

Have your say on the draft Water Allocation Plan for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area.

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (SA MDB NRM Board) invites you to comment on the draft Water Allocation Plan (the draft Plan) for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area (Mallee PWA). The draft Plan is open for comment until Friday 14th January 2011.

The draft Plan sets out the policies for the ongoing management of underground water in the Mallee PWA including the volumetric conversion of existing area-based allocations, policies for the ongoing management of allocations, and the transfer of licences and allocations between users. The draft Plan also establishes policies for water affecting activities such as the construction of wells and the use of imported water, as well as principles for monitoring and reporting.

The SA MDB NRM Board has produced a draft Plan by working collaboratively with the Department for Water (formerly the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation), the Mallee Water Resources Committee, the Regional Development Board and with important input from the Mallee community and other stakeholders through previous development stages for the draft Plan.

How can I find out more and have my say on the draft Plan?

A copy of the draft Plan, Frequently Asked Questions, and a fact sheet on volumetric conversion are included with this letter.

The draft Plan is available online at www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au

Or by telephoning the SA MDB NRM Board’s Murray Bridge office on (08) 8532 1432.

You can attend public meetings or make an appointment with an SA MDB NRM Board staff member to discuss the draft Plan and have your say. You can also make a written submission.

Written submissions on the draft Plan can be sent to:

Cameron Welsh
SA MDB NRM Board
PO Box 2343
Murray Bridge SA 5253
Fax: 8531 1843
Email: wapfeedback@samdbnrm.sa.gov.au

The closing date for written submissions is Friday 14th January 2011 at 5pm.
You are welcome to attend a public meeting to hear a presentation about the draft Plan, ask questions and have your say.

Public meetings will be held on:

- **Tuesday 23rd November 2010 from 4 pm – 6 pm, Parilla Sports Centre; and**
- **Thursday 25th November 2010 from 7 pm to 9 pm, Karoonda Sports Centre**

Light refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP to the SA MDB NRM Board on tel. (08) 8532 1432 by [Friday 19th November] 2010 if you would like to attend one the public meetings.

Alternatively, you can telephone the SA MDB NRM Board on (08) 8532 1432 to make an appointment to discuss the draft Plan individually with SA MDB NRM Board staff at a mutually suitable time and location.

Once the consultation period on the draft Plan has closed, the SA MDB NRM Board will consolidate all of the written responses received and finalise the draft Plan. The draft Plan and all written comments are then forwarded to the Minister for Environment and Conservation for consideration and adoption as a final Plan.

On behalf of the SA MDB NRM Board, we look forward to seeing you at the consultation meeting and/or receiving your submission to assist in this final phase of preparing the draft Water Allocation Plan for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Paterson  
Presiding Member  
**South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board**
Appendix 2: Advertising seeking comment on the draft Plan

Advertisements seeking comment on the draft Plan and advertising public meetings dates, commenced on 19 October 2010 and were placed in newspapers and community newsletters as follows:

Border Times and Loxton News, 19 October 2010
Murray Valley Standard, 20 October 2010
The Advertiser, 20 October 2010

Public Notice - 1

INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT WATER ALLOCATION PLAN FOR THE MALLACO PRESCRIBED WELLS AREA

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SA MDB NRM Board) has prepared a draft Water Allocation Plan (the draft Plan) for the Mallaco Prescribed Wells Area. This draft Plan will assist the Department for Water and the SA MDB NRM Board in their role of managing water resources, particularly in granting volumetric water licences and managing the transfer of licences and allocations. To facilitate community acceptance of the draft Plan, adjustments to the Permissible Annual Volumes (PAVs) for the Mallaco Prescribed Wells Area have been made. These amendments are the result of consultations between the Board, community, and the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

The adjustments will contribute to the ongoing sustainable management of the groundwater resource within the Mallaco area and assist in the transition from current area based water allocations to volumetric entitlements proposed under the draft Plan. Whilst PAVs have been adjusted, there is no net change to the PAV aggregate within the boundaries of the Plan Area.

The table below summarises the PAV adjustments made by the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board Review Committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Old PAV/LVL</th>
<th>New PAV/LVL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zone 1A</td>
<td>8,691</td>
<td>9,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone 1B</td>
<td>4,400</td>
<td>14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Zone A North</td>
<td>3,035</td>
<td>2,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16,126</td>
<td>25,667</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The SA MDB NRM Board will hold public meetings to provide information about the draft Plan and to receive comment from the community:
- Tuesday 23 November 2010 from 4 pm to 6 pm at the Paringa Sports Centre
- Tuesday 23 November 2010 from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Rundle Sports Centre

Light refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP to the SA MDB NRM Board on telephone (08) 8532 1432 by Friday, 19th November 2010 if you wish to attend any of these meetings.

Written submissions on the draft Plan can be directed to:
Cameron Welsh
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
PO Box 510, Murray Bridge, SA 5253
Fax: (08) 8532 1432
Email: waterback@samdbnrm.sa.gov.au

The closing date for written submissions is Friday 14th January 2011 at 5pm.

Copies of the draft Plan, Frequently Asked Questions, and Volumetric Conversion Factors sheet are available from:
- www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au
- by telephoning (08) 8532 1432
- the Waterback Office at Minnaminup Road, Murray Bridge.

The same telephone number can be called to make an appointment to discuss the draft Plan with the SA MDB NRM Board staff.

www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au
Appendix 2

Karoonda Area School community newsletter, Karoonda, 1 November 2010

Invitation to comment on the Draft Water Allocation Plan for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area.

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SA MDB NRMA) Board has prepared a draft Water Allocation Plan (the draft Plan) for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area.

The draft Plan will assist the Department for Water and the SA MDB NRMA Board in their role of managing water resources, particularly in granting volumetric water licences and managing the transfer of licences and allocations.

The SA MDB NRMA Board will hold public meetings to provide information about the draft Plan and to seek comment from the community:
- **Tuesday 23**th November 2010 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at the Parilla Sports Centre; and
- **Thursday 25**th November 2010 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the Karoonda Sports Centre.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP to the SA MDB NRMA Board on tel. (08) 8532 1432 by Friday 19th November 2010 if you wish to attend either of these meetings.

Written submissions on the draft Plan can be directed to:
- Cameron Welsh
  - SA MDB NRMA Board
  - PO Box 2343
  - Murray Bridge, SA 5253
  - Fax: 8531 1643
  - Email: wacfeedback@samdbnrmA.sa.gov.au

The closing date for written submissions is **Friday 14th January 2011** at 5pm.

Copies of the draft Plan, Frequently Asked Questions and Volumetric Conversion fact sheet are available from:
- www.samdbnrmA.sa.gov.au
- by telephoning (08) 8532 1432
- the Board’s Head Office at Murray Road, Murray Bridge.

The same telephone number can be called to make an appointment to discuss the draft Plan with SA MDB NRMA Board staff.

A3 size posters, public notice boards

Wanbi, Lameroo, Pinnaroo, 1st week of November 2010
MEDIA RELEASE 1

Are you interested in water allocation planning in the Mallee?

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SA MDB NRM) Board has released the draft Water Allocation Plan (the draft Plan) for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area for public comment.

Once adopted, this plan will replace the current water allocation plan (2000).

SA MDB NRM Board’s Water Allocation Planning Manager Cameron Welsh urges the community to continue to be involved in the consultation process.

“We have had many discussions with members of the community, community based committees, relevant organisations and industry specialists to develop this draft Plan,” Mr Welsh said.

“During the development of the draft Plan, considerations were given to what policies are still appropriate in the current Plan and what needs improving, particularly in regard to managing water use demands of recent developmental pressures and continuing to provide for the general Mallee community."

“The current call for comments is the final phase of consultation for the development of the draft Plan and people are encouraged to write in and have their say.”

The draft Plan sets out the proposed policies for sustainable management of water allocations and licences in the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area. Of particular interest, the draft Plan details how the conversion of existing area based irrigation allocations to volumetric allocations will occur. The draft Plan also includes policies on allocation transfer, allocation limits for respective management areas, monitoring and reporting.

Adjustments to the Permissible Annual Volumes (PAV) for each of the Border Zones in the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area were formalised earlier this year as a result of consultation between the Border Groundwaters Agreement Review Committee and the SA MDB NRM Board. These adjustments are tabled in the draft Plan.

“The adjustments will facilitate transition from current area based irrigation allocations to volumetric entitlements proposed under the draft Plan. Whilst adjustments to PAVs have been made, there is no net change to the PAV aggregate for the Border Zones within the planning area”, said Mr Welsh. The SA MDB NRM Board will be holding public meetings to provide information about the draft Plan and to seek discussion with and comment from the community. The meetings will be held on:

- Tuesday 23rd November 2010 from 4pm – 6 pm at the Parilla Sports Club; and
- Thursday 25th November 2010 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at the Karoonda Sports Centre

Those interested in attending are asked to register by calling the SA MDB NRM Board on (08) 8532 1432, by Friday 19th November 2010.

Written submissions on the draft Plan can also be made to the SA MDB NRM Board. All comments submitted through the consultation process will be sent to the Minister for Environment and Conservation for consideration. The consultation period ends on Friday 14th January 2011.
MEDIA RELEASE 2
Are you interested in water allocation planning in the Mallee?

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SA MDB NRM) Board has released the draft Water Allocation Plan (the draft Plan) for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area for public comment.

Once adopted, this plan will replace the current water allocation plan (2000).

SA MDB NRM Board’s Water Allocation Planning Manager Cameron Welsh urges the community to continue to be involved in the consultation process.

“We have had many discussions with members of the community, community based committees, relevant organisations and industry specialists to develop this draft Plan,” Mr Welsh said.

“During the development of the draft Plan, considerations were given to what policies are still appropriate in the current Plan and what needs improving, particularly in regard to managing water use demands of recent developmental pressures and continuing to provide for the general Mallee community.”

“The current call for comments is the final phase of consultation for the development of the draft Plan and people are encouraged to write in and have their say.”

The consultation period on the draft Plan closes soon. Written submissions are to be received by the SA MDB NRM Board by 5pm on Friday 14th January 2011.

The draft Plan sets out the proposed policies for sustainable management of water allocations and licences in the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area. Of particular interest, the draft Plan details how the conversion of existing area based irrigation allocations to volumetric allocations will occur. The draft Plan also includes policies on allocation transfer, allocation limits for respective management areas, monitoring and reporting.

Adjustments to the Permissible Annual Volumes (PAV) for each of the Border Zones in the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area were formalised earlier this year as a result of consultation between the Border Groundwaters Agreement Review Committee and the SA MDB NRM Board. These adjustments are tabled in the draft Plan.

“The adjustments will facilitate transition from current area based irrigation allocations to volumetric entitlements proposed under the draft Plan. Whilst adjustments to PAVs have been made, there is no net change to the PAV aggregate for the Border Zones within the planning area”, said Mr Welsh.

Written submissions on the draft Plan are sought by the SA MDB NRM Board. All comments submitted through the consultation process will be sent to the Minister for Environment and Conservation for consideration. The consultation period ends on Friday 14th January 2011.

For further information on the consultation process, or to view a copy of the draft Plan, please contact the SA MDB NRM Board on (08) 8532 1432 or visit the website at www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au.
Appendix 3: Summary of comments received on the draft Plan, Board responses and Plan alterations

Comments received during the consultation period on the draft Plan are summarised in this appendix, without names to maintain some confidentiality if this document should be circulated to the public. This table also includes the Board’s response and alterations made to the Plan as a result of submissions. The respondents providing comment on the draft Plan are listed in Attachment 9.

References to principle numbers in these tables refer to the numbering as given in the original consultation draft Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Submission Comment</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Recommended change to draft WAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Expressing concerns and support for a Licence Holder, 11A. The Licence holder facing water allocation cut of 85% (original Desmier estimate to volumetric conversion), due to conversion volumes being calculated on the maximum area (in hectares) under irrigation (ie developed) during the maximum water use year within the assessment period”. Due to personal health reasons the Licence holder was physically unable to conduct farming operations during assessment period, however during 1994 – 2000 was actively growing lucerne crops and his records show he was using 10.5ML/ha over 47.7 ha. The Licence holder has invested in modern and efficient irrigation infrastructure, which would be worthless unless exceptions are made.</td>
<td>We understand that Minister Caica has already replied to your letter. In finalising the Water Allocation Plan for the Mallee PWA, the Board support the explanation provided to you by Minister Caica. The PAV for Border Zone 11A was reduced in July 2010 due to the concern that increased water extractions in this Border Zone could change the flow direction of underground water and draw more saline water into the pumping sphere. The volumetric conversion policy in the draft plan accommodates the reduced availability of water to existing licensees in these management zones. As a result, in Border Zone 11A, only developed portions of licences will be considered for volumetric conversion. All of the 13 Licence holders in this management zone will be impacted by this policy. The assessment period for the volumetric conversion policy intends to lessen the impact on current irrigation businesses, particularly with crops in the ground during the volumetric conversion process. Although the Licence holder you are representing indicated they fully utilised their allocation 10-16 years ago (records are unavailable for crop areas grown), they have since used the allocation to a lesser extend during the assessment period, by leasing land and water to Potato growers. Whereby others have expanded their businesses, also in</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
accordance with their licence conditions.

There are potentially other irrigators who could claim greater irrigation use prior to the assessment period, but if earlier irrigation periods were contemplated, allocations to existing enterprises (those that have demonstrated current use) would be detrimentally impacted and reductions to these businesses may be even greater than currently envisaged.

As land and water assets are separate entities that can be traded separately. It is anticipated that the reduced allocations in Zone 11A will create a strong water market for allocations, particularly for those wanting to leave the irrigations business.

| 2 | Writing in support of Licence holder for whom they are marketing the property. Property on sale since 27/03/2008, sale not eventuated due to review and concerns for the size of allocation after conversion. History of quality irrigations for lucerne hay then potatoes. Changed to potatoes due to health. Potato production by large irrigator who lease property and water. | The PAV for Border Zone 11A was reduced in July 2010 due to the concern that increased water extractions in this Border Zone could change the flow direction of underground water and draw more saline water into the pumping sphere. The volumetric conversion policy in the draft plan accommodates the reduced availability of water to existing licensees in these management zones. As a result, in Border Zone 11A, only developed portions of licences will be considered for volumetric conversion. All of the 13 Licence holders in this management zone will be impacted by this policy. As land and water assets are separate entities that can be traded separately. It is anticipated that the reduced allocations in Zone 11A will create a strong water market for allocations, particularly for those wanting to leave the irrigations business. | No change |

| 3 | Guidelines for conversion from HaIE to volume will severely compromise our property and financial well being. 1994 full allocation 47.7 HaIE (estimate 501 ML) were used on lucerne, with full infrastructure. Worked to full capacity for 10 years prior to assessment period. In 2000 health reasons for both Mr Pedler and son, reduced operations. We consider we should not be penalised for failure to fully | We understand that Minister Caica has already replied to your letter. In finalising the Water Allocation Plan for the Mallee PWA, the Board support the explanation provided to you by Minister Caica. The PAV for Border Zone 11A was reduced in July 2010 due to the concern that increased water extractions in this Border Zone could change the flow direction of underground water and draw more saline water into the pumping sphere. | No change |
assess our total HaIE alloc in the period selected.
Prior to the date their water licence stated HAD to develop 47.7 HaIE within 4 years. This was achieved and now penalised. Accurate performance level not displayed.
Undermined the possibility of sale to new purchaser wanting to establish 47.7 HaIE, renders property unviable – 85% lose of both land and water.
Would accept 50% cut to everyone as being the same.
Provided figures on 07-08 water use which leads to 85% cut to original allocation.

The volumetric conversion policy in the draft plan must therefore accommodate the reduced availability of water to existing licensees in these management zones. As a result, in Border Zone 11A, only developed portions of licences will be considered for volumetric conversion. All of the 13 irrigators in this management zone will be impacted by this policy.
The assessment period for the volumetric conversion policy intends to lessen the impact on current irrigation businesses, particularly with crops in the ground during the volumetric conversion process. Although you have indicated full use of the allocation 10-16 years ago, the allocation has since been used to a lesser extend during the assessment period, by leasing land and water to Potato growers. Whereby others have expanded their businesses, also in accordance with their licence conditions.
The Plan does not include exceptional circumstance for personal grievances or stops and starts to business, although it does consider the overall impact of applying policies to current and future businesses reliant on water.
There are potentially other irrigators who could claim greater irrigation use prior to the assessment period, but if earlier irrigation periods were contemplated, allocations to existing enterprises (those that have demonstrated current use) would be detrimentally impacted and reductions to these businesses may be even greater than currently envisaged.
As land and water assets are separate entities that can be traded separately. It is anticipated that the reduced allocations in Zone 11A will create a strong water market for allocations, particularly for those wanting to leave the irrigations business.

| 4 | Page 9 – font too small
Page 15 – year reference to be changed to 2001 - 2009
Page 16 – consider rephrasing 4.3.2 to “Water usage for town water supplies has declined contrary to the town populations remaining static and this has been largely |

Thank you for providing a submission to the draft water allocation plan for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area
The grammatical and visual comments provided by Council are appreciated and will be amended in the Plan as suggested.
The report received by the Board on Aboriginal business and cultural needs was commissioned to support the River Murray

Grammaratical suggestions are all accepted
Move 51 to below 52
attributed to recent drought responses by users of potable water supplies.”

Page – 16 consider rephrasing 4.3.3 to “Future water use for recreational purposes is estimated to remain the same as current use, or slightly decline due to Local Government initiatives to utilize either recycled wastewater or treated stormwater for recreational parks and lawns.”

Page 17 – Suggests a report the Board has been received on Aboriginal business and cultural needs and Board should highlight preliminary work on this subject. Council has previously undertaken work on Indigenous Land Use Agreement arrangements which has stalled due to insufficient funds, however it may be appropriate to address some of the preliminary cultural needs which have already been identified.

Page 18, third sentence – suggests rephrasing to “On-going adaptive management is essential for sustainability, ensuring future resource security and equity for the local community, licensees, landholders and the environment is achieved.”

Page 26 – change section 10 to read section 9
Page 30 – Consolidate principle 50 and 51 as one principle
Page 30 – Principle 51 should apply to principle 52 as well as principle 50

General concerns – Council has 5 year plan for scheduled road works to maintain current specified B Double truck routes to irrigated properties. Increasing distances between wells will increase council cost to maintain increased lengths of roads used by irrigators.

Council asked that the unintended impact be noted that, both tiers of government enjoy increased growth of higher agricultural yields, without additional funding to

WAP to focus on the process of engagement and defining elements of cultural water. The Board has no forward position as yet for these processes. For future progress the Board’s water allocation plan will utilise the information from the report across all areas of the region where relevant. At this stage the report does not provide any more substance to the Plan.

With regard to the amalgamation of principles 50 and 51, the principles will remain separate so as to clearly distinguish between the required limits of well and casing depth in the confined aquifer and the exceptions to the requirements.

Principle 52 is related to the unconfined aquifer where the characteristic of the aquifer do not require there to be an exception to the well and casing depth requirements.

The Board acknowledge the Councils ongoing concerns and expense relating to the maintence of roads in the Southern Mallee.

The policies relating to the distance between bores are not unlike how previous bore permit applications were assessed.

No additional water has been allocated therefore not expecting additional tonnage. In fact, there is a lower AAV in the Parilla area than recent use.

Add word “minimum depth”
compensate council for road maintenance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5</th>
<th>Explains the reasons why water licence has not been developed since it was granted in March 2000. Reasons include financial effects from drought on pastoral and farming properties. Attempts were made to develop in May 2007 to September 2009 when an irrigation bore was drilled. Second irrigation bore is due to be completed by 8th January 2011. Asks that the delay in development will be considered and continuation of their water licence at current levels is maintained.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Response already sent by C Welsh:</strong></td>
<td>Your letter outlines a range of impediments, some out of your control, in developing your license which ultimately has impacted your ability to fully meet the proposed volumetric conversion policies as per the draft plan. The Department for Water is the Ministers delegated authority for the issuing of water licenses consistent with the water allocation plan and as such it will be this department that will assess all existing license holders against the volumetric conversion policies in the adopted plan. As outlined in the draft plan, development post the assessment period will be considered for volumetric conversion within the capacity of the resource. The plan is unable to guarantee the granting of historical or proposed levels of water use for any license. If the aggregate licensed demand from your management area is within the resource capacity of that management area (also known as the annual allowable volume) then all demand can be catered for, if not then the plan prioritises allocations developed within the assessment period over development post the assessment period. Undeveloped HalEs will be considered last. The information provided in your letter will be forwarded to, and considered by, the Department for Water during their individual assessment of all irrigation licenses for the purposes of volumetric conversion post the adoption of the Mallee water allocation plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6</th>
<th>Support the draft plan, although has concerns with principle 75 regarding resource condition indicators for salinity. The groundwater monitoring network in the Mallee Prescribed Wells area has been operating for many years. The monitoring network is extensive, with bores regularly monitored throughout</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suggests the criteria be made more sensitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The reduction to water entitlements in Zone 11A of up to 50-60% will affect all aspects of operations and place financial hardship on the work force. Draft plan appears one-sided and does not consider or communicate the socio-economic and economic impacts. Refers to Water Act 2007 requiring authorities to optimise socio-economic impacts and communicate those. Consideration should be given to the “highest and best” use of water per hectare, e.g. $/ha. Farm gate values provided. Outlined the number of staff involved (in 2006) in potato</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
industry compared to other horticultural industries of same area. Understands that 1000 ML of water entitlement in 11A belongs in 10A due to position and location, thus freeing up entitlements in 11A. Notices that 10A PAV has increased from 9,400ML to 14,000ML. Requests that any re-allocation of water to 11A be given to the licence holder and the potato industry.

| 8 | In process of developing irrigated permanent plantings (broombush and date palms) over several years, which will use 4-5 times more water into the future as trees mature. Believes the plan only takes into account the amount of water used during the assessment period which is seen as a disadvantage to their development. No irrigation requirements for date palms are in the plan. Disagrees with decision to not allow for auxiliary water as Hd of Chesson is relatively saline, crops chosen are tolerant of saline water. However extra water for flushing salts will be required as plant matures. Request “case by case” situations are considered. |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | The PAV/AAV for zone 9A is based on a misconception. WAP prepared on the misconception that the Board was legally required to be consistent with the Border agreement. A response letter will be developed to include the following summarised information as advised from DfW’s Crown Solicitor. | Additional note placed in Appendix A to seek information for any new crop since the table was developed. |
which is not the case. S/155 allows Minister to reduce allocations using discretionary powers, rather than S/76 of NRM Act the WAP to comply to border agreement and reducing allocations.

Erroneous and unsound basis for Groundwater Committee to change PAV/AAV. Quotes the annual report of Groundwater Committee. Not a conversion or a resource capacity assessment but a redistribution of the property rights of the licensees of 9A

Suggests return of Zone 9A AAV to 3,835 ML.

*Increasing the PAV in zone 10A and reducing the AAV in zone 9A is unwarranted*

Refers to technical reports which suggest salinity in 9A is relatively low and there is no immediate risk to groundwater salinity. Continuation of present volumes of extraction will not compromise quality and availability of resource. Area of concern is further north (Peebinga).

No technical reason to decrease zone 9A.

*The WAP does not offer any policy justification for the alteration of the PAV.*

Other than Groundwater Committee report that PAV has been altered to facilitate the conversion process, but not in the WAP itself.

*There should be no distinction between “active” and “inactive” allocations in the conversion*

Unsafe assumption that the undeveloped licence is not of significance. Licensees may have secured finance for farm operations including land, water assets, and the water is available to the mortgagee in the case of a forced sale.

The period (assessment) is not representative. It considers extreme weather, inability to finance due to other elements

- The NRM Act is subject to the Border Groundwater Agreement (s.4(2)).
- Subject to the provisions of the Border Groundwater Agreement, the provisions of the NRM Act apply within the Designated Area in South Australia.
- Pursuant to cl.28(2) the Review Committee altered the PAVs and AAVs in respect of various zones.
- Any allocation granted by the Minister in respect of a well or wells within a given management zone must not exceed the limits imposed by the Border Groundwater Agreement in respect of those zones (see cl.26(1)).
- The limits in the draft Plan therefore reflect the PAVs and AAVs in the Border Groundwater Agreement.
- A WAP may, in order to improve the management of a water resource, change the basis on which water is allocated from the resource (s.76(8)).
- Area-based licences in the Mallee PWA are being converted to a volume. This will improve the management of underground water in the PWA.
- Given the terms of s.76(8), a WAP can involve a reduction to allocations.

Additionally;

The AAV set by the Border Groundwater Agreement Review Committee are greater the average use within assessment period.

It is understood that the future demand for the allocation by the client is outside of 9A border zone.

The assessment period for the volumetric conversion policy intends to lessen the impact on current irrigation businesses, particularly with crops in the ground during the volumetric conversion process. Assessment period is considered appropriate to incorporate current developments and business. There has
of farming enterprise suffering drought conditions.

The water market is constrained. It penalises licensees who were not able to make full use of water by transfer to other land they own or to another licence.

*The WAP cannot reduce allocations, but it can vary the basis of allocation.*

**Alternative approach**

The WAP set out basis for volumetric conversion. If in due course there is an over allocation the Minister can use S/155 to reduce allocations proportionately.

WAP cannot validly reduce allocations

Not yet clear if any reductions are required

There are other means to provide flexibility in both allocation and use.

There will be a reaction to the conversion process and the altered terms of the WAP. There may be trade, transfer of extraction locations out of 9A.

It is unjust to reduce property rights when the worst case effects in the future may be fairly localised and isolated.

In over-use situation there are other mechanisms to reduce without applying blanket rules based on redistribution – wait for market to re-distribute, appeals.

Allocation and use are different. Minister can use powers to use restrictions or allocation reductions after conversion process has settled.

*Preferred basis of conversion - Example*

1. Allocations will be a volume comprising –
   (a) The number of haE expressed on the relevant licence

been more development in 9A during the assessment period than any other time in history. The volumetric conversion does consider and provide for development post the assessment period and undeveloped up till the date of adoption of the Plan.

The use of a “rollover credits” scheme has been considered during the development of the draft Plan, although it was not deemed suitable at this time. The scheme will be considered again in future plans after volumetric allocations for irrigation have been in place for a period of time.
(b) Any further water to provide for the irrigation or other water use by the licensee based on the history of use of water since the original grant of the allocation, including the area of any crop, soil type, location, crop yield history, rainfall, evaporation rates, crop types, delivery requirements, auxiliary requirements and any other relevant factor”

2. Skewes NIR of reference crop x HaIE. Plus, licence by licence adjustment to increase allocation based on use history for licence period that has regard to area, soil type, location, yield, rainfall, evaporation rates, crop types, delivery requirements, auxiliary etc.

Delete policies relating to how matters are to be proved e.g. Principles 14-16. Not up to the Board to assert how a factor is to be determined. Minister and the Court will determine what evidence is required.

Include a “rolling average” or “rollover credit” allocation basis.

With a resource that is not affected by yearly recharge, a rollover credit system would be appropriate. Suggest accrue for 5 years.

| 10 | Tatiara PWA adjoining Mallee PWA in Zone 9A in not mentioned, in Section 3 – assessment of the effects on other water resources. Incorrect SE to SA MDB NRM boundary. They changed slightly in June 2009. | We have considered the effects on Tatiara PWA and have included a statement reflected the effects. Figure 1 in the Plan will be updated to include the current NRM Board boundaries. | Insert paragraph which considers effects on Tatiara PWA |
| 11 | Section 1 Lacking technical information and scientific reports. Section 2 Suggest reword stygofauna section. Section 4.2 Suggest rewording and additional words in | All comments were individually considered. Where necessary relevant DfW staff were approach to discuss the comments or suggestions. A significant amount of the grammatical, sentence rewording and additional definitions were inserted into the Plan. Not all of the suggested expansion of detail was included, as it | Generally rewording and grammatical suggestions have |
Current demands section. Clarify commercial and unlicensed stock water. Include Aboriginal and cultural needs. Unsure of how current demand volumes were measured and why no measurements for industrial purposes. Correction of dates required.

Section 4.4 Suggested rearranging of paragraph to future demands section 4.3

Section 4.4.1 Suggest sentence replacement. Questions prioritisation of allocations and the impacts.

Section 4.5 Expand on risk assessment

Section 5 Suggested policy rewording. Grammatical comments. Correct section and principle numbering. Queried definition of AAV, PAV and the inclusion of unlicensed use. Queried and suggested additional principals relating to volumetric conversion of irrigation allocations.

Section 6. Suggests the additional words to principle 45.

Section 7 Questions if there is a zero tolerance approach and if certain rules apply to stock and domestic wells.

Section 8 Suggest renumbering. Clarify focus on irrigation or intensive farming monitoring. Comments regarding who is responsible for compliance, enforcement and notification to public of annual water use reporting.

Section 8.5 Suggest changing the layout of the resource condition indictors to clarify rules applying to the Designated area, drawdown and salinity. Widen the mining principles. Clarification on principles or statements.

Section 8.6 Simplify the steps involved. Actions on drawdown and salinity indicitors being breached could be made the same.

Section 9 Suggests a few additions to the definition section.

was considered this information could be further research or enhanced through reference documents. Also it did not necessarily improve the understanding of intent of the policies in the Plan. Additional references to further sources of information have been inserted in the final Plan.

Additional text has been included in the Plan regarding the current demands of Aboriginal and Cultural needs, risk assessment, clarifying where policies apply to unlicensed and licensed purposes and definitions were amended or added where suggested.

been accepted

Text inserted regarding Aboriginal and cultural needs.

Additional text to be inserted in risk assessment
Three organisations notified they have received the draft Plan and had no comment to make.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12, 22, 23</th>
<th>Five of the submissions from existing Licence holders made the following repeated comments:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General support the intention of the draft plan to provide equity for current users and creating water trading avenues for new and existing users although circumstances of some licence holders mean objectives cannot be met under the allocation method.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Figures provided by individuals:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volumetric allocation = 92% of actual use, avg 7 ML/ha, shortfall 40ML &amp; 6 ha, est annual loss = $120,000 ($20,000/ha) (10A Parilla Red)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volumetric conversion = 91% of actual use, shortfall 277 ML, avg 7.8ML/ha, &amp; 35 Ha, est annual loss of $700,000 ($20,000/ha) (Green area)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volumetric conversion = 64% of actual use, shortfall 2,531ML &amp; 300ha, avg 9.1ML/ha, est annual loss = $6 million ($20,000/ha), 37 jobs (on flow 66 jobs). (Parilla Red)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volumetric conversion = 82% actual post assessment period, shortfall 375ML &amp; 55ha, avg use 6.7ML/ha, est annual loss $1.1million ($20,000/ha), 77% of actual use during assessment period, 6 jobs (flow on 11jobs). (Parilla Red)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volumetric conversion = 56% of actual use, shortfall of 1,156ML and 100ha, avg use = 11.5ML/ha, avg annual loss of $2 million ($20,000/ha), loss of 12 jobs (on flow 22 jobs). (11A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Limited trading options, high competition, can’t trade in unlike River Murray.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Refers to Skewes and EconSearch reports where auxiliary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Limited Trade:
It is anticipated that the reduced allocations in Zone 11A will create a strong water market for allocations, particularly for those wanting to leave the irrigations business.

Although trade may appear limited, the previous use in 10A Parilla red is equal to and in some years less than the predicted volumetric conversion of developed HaIE’s, therefore they is potential opportunity to trade un-required volumetric allocations once conversion has occurred.

Agreed there is limited ability to trade in Parilla Red due to few licence holders in the management area and the inability to trade in. There is the opportunity to trade unutilised allocation where efficiency in water use are been made or for those wanting to leave or have recess in the irrigation industries.

Auxiliary:
There has been a significant increase in the Net Irrigation requirements used to determine volumetric conversion for irrigation licences in the Plan. The base allocation rates to be used has increased by 15 – 17% during the revision of Desmier to Skewes Net irrigation requirement figures. There are also the additional provisions for a change to the crop area ratio and for a delivery component. These factors have significantly increased ML/ha provided for carrots, onions and potatoes.

The concept of auxiliary allocations were considered during the review of submissions. As a result a policy has been developed in the Plan for temporary auxiliary allocation (TAA). Whereby the conditions are: TAA will be available where the management area is not fully allocated as a result of the volumetric conversion process. TAA availability will be notified by the Minister’s delegate and will need to be applied for to the Minister’s delegate. TAA is

Temporary Auxiliary Allocation policy has been developed and inserted into the Plan

| No change |

Appendix 3
Appendix 3

requirements were discussed. Figures provided to show auxiliary requirements, suggest these be assessed case-by-case basis.

No recognition of longer growing period varieties of potatoes (e.g. 150 days rather than 100 days).

Crops are grown on free draining sandy soils which require regular frequent watering, higher irrigation rates required.

Revision of PAV where environment not affected (not relating in 11A).

A system of “unders and overs” would be beneficial (rollover credits)

temporary for 3 years and is not tradeable.

**Longer growing periods:**
The crop calendars for potatoes allow 5 months (153 days) summer growth and 6 months (181 days) winter growth for potatoes. Subsequent adjustments since the release of the Skewes 2004 have provided an increase the volume for carrots, onions, summer and winter potatoes for germination, whereas these rates would normally have been zero as there is no plant evapotranspiration occurring.

**Free draining soils:**
The Board understands different management practices are requirement for different soils. The Board has in the past and where possible into the future, will continue to offer support to Irrigators in identifying water savings.

**PAV’s:**
The PAV for Border Zone 11A was reduced in July 2010 due to the concern that increased water extractions in this Border Zone could change the flow direction of underground water and draw more saline water into the pumping sphere.

The volumetric conversion policy in the draft plan must therefore accommodate the reduced availability of water to existing licensees in these management zones. As a result, in Border Zone 11A, only developed portions of licences will be considered for volumetric conversion. All of the 13 irrigators in this management zone will be impacted by this policy.

**Parilla Red**
The draft Plan has considered an equitable balance between resource, social and economic issues, current and future demands across the Mallee PWA. The same method for conversion has been applied to all irrigators. PAV is shared across the area. Serious consideration was given to the re-distribution of AAV across management area as we are fully aware that reducing AAV from one management area to increase AAV in another area,
negatively impacts on the first management area. An increase in AAV in the Parilla Red management area does not result in increased in allocations for Parilla Red licence holders. The volumetric conversion preliminary calculation for the Parilla Red management area for developed HaIE's during the assessment period, post assessment period and undeveloped HaIE's, is less than the AAV for the Parilla Red Management area. The Plan allows for the Minister for make unallocated AAV available to the public.

**Unders and Overs:**

The concept of “unders and overs” was seriously considered throughout the development of the draft plan and was not supported for the Plan at this stage. Although it is not, it will be reconsidered and potentially more effective in a future Plan when incorporating NWI and Basin Plan requirements to separation water rights and managing a consumptive pool under a different administration regime.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>18</th>
<th>Supports intent of plan.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volumetric conversion = 1,426 ML, expect 46% reduction (old PAV – 6,862ML to new PAV 3,700ML) = 770ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Expected use in 2013/14 = 1,032ML, shortfall 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>As current usage is only 547ML concerned that Minister may divert proportion of allocation to other licence holders to cover the immediate shortfall to others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Due to allocation expected to be 25% less than requirements in 2013/14, impossible to sustain a viable operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Due to reductions faced by others in zone 11A, trading opportunities are limited. Unlike River Murray, can’t trade in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Due to fruit alternation issues with olives, reduction of fruit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The PAV for Border Zone 11A was reduced in July 2010 due to the concern that increased water extractions in this Border Zone could change the flow direction of underground water and draw more saline water into the pumping sphere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The volumetric conversion policy in the draft plan accommodates the reduced availability of water to existing licensees in these management zones. As a result, in Border Zone 11A, only developed portions of licences will be considered for volumetric conversion. All of the 13 Licence holders in this management zone will be impacted by this policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The concern that the Minister can divert allocations between individual licence holders is not suggested in the plan nor is it the intention of the plan. This is not a practice previously used or considered by the Minister.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It is not the intention of the Plan to make businesses unviable. Social and economic considerations have been given to the volumetric conversion method and reduction in PAV. The</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
in “on” year would make orchard uneconomical. Advises that if reductions in water allocation take place a formal objection would be lodged. assessment period for the volumetric conversion policy intends to lessen the impact on current irrigation businesses, particularly with crops in the ground during the volumetric conversion process. It is anticipated that the reduced allocations in Zone 11A will create a strong water market for allocations, particularly for those wanting to leave the irrigations business.

| 19 | Similar concerns raised as 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 | Support intent of draft plan as above. 11A issues; • Understand significant reductions facing businesses in zone 11A. Limited trading opportunities. • Suggest system of “unders and overs” (or rollover credits) • Suggest reduce allocations over a 5 year period to allow transition to take place • Facilitate access to entitlements in other management areas where there is unallocated water to assist licence holders affected and maintain viable business operations. Parilla Red issues; • Understand new PAV 7,000ML, previous use 8,000-9,500ML with no triggered management action. Suggest review of PAV to maintain social and economic outcomes. • Repeats combined figures provided by Parilla red licence holder submissions. • Potential shortfall 350 ha, $7 million / annum, 40 jobs (flow on 70 jobs total). |
| 11A concerns: | The PAV for Border Zone 11A was reduced in July 2010 due to the concern that increased water extractions in this Border Zone could change the flow direction of underground water and draw more saline water into the pumping sphere. The volumetric conversion policy in the draft plan accommodates the reduced availability of water to existing licensees in these management zones. As a result, in Border Zone 11A, only developed portions of licences will be impacted by this policy. Parilla Red AAV: The draft Plan has considered an equitable balance between resource, social and economic issues, current and future demands across the Mallee PWA. The same method for conversion has been applied to all irrigators. PAV is shared across the area. Serious consideration was given to the re-distribution of AAV across management area as we are fully aware that reducing AAV from one management area to increase AAV in another area, negatively impacts on the first management area. An increase in AAV in the Parilla Red management area does not result in increased in allocations for Parilla Red licence holders. The volumetric conversion preliminary calculation for the Parilla Red management area for developed HaE’s during the assessment period, post assessment period and undeveloped HaE’s, is less than the AAV for the Parilla Red Management area. The Plan allows for the Minister for make unallocated AAV available to the |
The concept of auxiliary allocations were considered during the review of submissions. The temporarily assist the shortfall between previous use and the volumetric conversion outcomes, a policy has been developed in the Plan for temporary auxiliary allocation (TAA). Whereby the conditions are: TAA will be available where the management area is not fully allocated as a result of the volumetric conversion process. TAA availability will be notified by the Minister’s delegate and will need to be applied for to the Minister’s delegate. TAA is temporary for 3 years and is not tradeable.

**Limited Trade:**

It is anticipated that the reduced allocations in Zone 11A will create a strong water market for allocations, particularly for those wanting to leave the irrigations business.

Although trade may appear limited, the previous use in 10A Parilla red is equal to and in some years less than the predicted volumetric conversion of developed Hx’s, therefore they is potential opportunity to trade un-required volumetric allocations once conversion has occurred.

Agreed there is limited ability to trade in Parilla Red due to few licence holders in the management area and the inability to trade in. There is the opportunity to trade unutilised allocation where efficiency in water use are been made or for those wanting to leave or have recess in the irrigation industries.

The Plan does facilitate improved water trading market with new management areas and trading zones.

Once allocations are in volume there will be more confidence in the water trading market as licence holders will know exactly the volume they are purchasing without the current risks associated with purchasing Hx’s with an unknown future volume.

There are no interim arrangements for trade or access to entitlements, other than those in the current plan. Any interim
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 20 | Care should be taken to ensure undeveloped land is not prejudiced in respect to the development of new business.  
Concern if additional expenses are created and for potential reduced water allocations to impact on existing and intended businesses.  
A business cost assessment for affected enterprises should be undertaken and used to assess suitability of proposed policies. | The draft Plan has considered an equitable balance between resource, social and economic issues, current and future demands across the Mallee PWA. The same method for conversion has been applied to all irrigators. PAV is shared across the area. Serious consideration was given to the re-distribution of AAV across management area as we are fully aware that reducing AAV from one management area to increase AAV in another area, negatively impacts on the first management area.  
The assessment period for the volumetric conversion policy intends to lessen the impact on current irrigation businesses, particularly with crops in the ground during the volumetric conversion process. Assessment period is considered appropriate to incorporate current developments and business. The volumetric conversion does consider and provide for development post the assessment period and undeveloped up till the date of adoption of the Plan. |
| 21 | General feedback – should there be a reference to the Salt Interception scheme  
Target salinity sampling requirement at big users only | All comments were individually considered. Sarah Kuchel from the Board has discussed some issues with Kym Walton during the development of the submission.  
Grammatical suggestions, sentence rewording and additional |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggested Changes</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Acceptance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insert aquaculture definition&lt;br&gt;Difficult to comment not knowing the financial impact on licence holders. Plan should include fees associated with water licence.&lt;br&gt;Section 4.1 Consider using the Renmark group aquifer where PAV’s have been reduced.&lt;br&gt;Section 4.2.1 Suggest providing additional information regarding stock and domestic water use.&lt;br&gt;Section 4.2.5 Provide further information in the Plan regarding the outcome of the mining authorisation to becoming a licence and the impact on the green management area.&lt;br&gt;Section 4.3.2 Suggested word changes&lt;br&gt;Section 4.4.1 Insert weblinks to EconSearch reference document&lt;br&gt;Section 5 Include economic objectives within the criteria to be consistent with the NRM Act&lt;br&gt;Section 5.1 Expand reference to include Renmark group aquifer. Suggest there should be a temporary allocation to allow time to adjust to a lower level of allocation than historic use.</td>
<td>definitions were inserted into the Plan.&lt;br&gt;Not all of the suggested expansion of detail was included, as it was considered this information could be further research or enhanced through reference documents. Also it did not necessarily improve the understanding of intent of the policies in the Plan. Additional references to further sources of information have been inserted in the final Plan.&lt;br&gt;Weblinks were not inserted into the Plan as the Board’s website may change into the future, making weblinks difficult to maintain.&lt;br&gt;Other than the exception for SA Water to access the Renmark Group aquifer, there are no further plans during the review of submission to allow extractions from the Renmark Group aquifer for irrigation purposes. Although some individuals may feel there allocations do not met historical use, the anticipated volumetric conversion allocations are similar to the AAV’s set for management areas.</td>
<td>rewording suggestions were accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three organisations notified they have received the draft Plan and had no comment to make.</td>
<td>A response has been sent, thanking them for the reply.</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is noted that there is a difference between the WAP area and the SDL areas set under the Guide to the Basin Plan. Recognises the difference in terminology for PAV and diversion limits.&lt;br&gt;The WAP has a PAV of 61.3 GL and the SDL in the Guide to the Basin Plan is 63.4 GL. The boundary for the WAP is slightly large and goes beyond the Murray-Darling Basin</td>
<td>Concerns regarding difference in boundary areas and PAV to SDL’s - The monitoring process for the Mallee WAP requires annual water use reporting – we can use this mechanisms to identify extraction volumes for the whole Mallee PWA and will also have the ability to separately report on extraction volumes against the SDL’s with the MDB. “Interception activities” suggests use of up to 6,000 ML by mining that will need to be managed and accounted for in more detail</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
boundary. It is noted that the allowable limits for extractions are taken from the Murray group limestone aquifer. If future extraction limits are to be set for the Renmark Group aquifer than these need to be mindful of the Basin Plan SDL’s. It could be expected that a greater level of management will be required for significant interception activities such as mining and forestry.

The status of the WAP – Interim or transitional. If this WAP is new and the old one is revoked, then the WAP is an interim plan with a five year expiry period. When the Basin Plan comes into action the WAP will already be accredited. If this WAP is an amendment than it is transitional and will cease to have effect on 12 December 2012 and will be required to go through an accreditation process.

through the WRP. To clarify, the WAP highlights an authorization for mining up 6,000 ML, where 1,765 ML was the maximum annual extraction (in 2008/2009). The draft WAP requires that an allocations will be created instead of the authorization for the mining activities (Section 5.3.1), which will be no greater than previous maximum use. The draft WAP also requires the allocations of water not to exceed the PAV or AAV, which are within the MDB’s SDL’s. Future mining extractions will be licensed and will be required to undertake monitoring requirements as outlined in the draft WAP. Management is more transparent and within the policies of the WAP, unlike currently as an authorization, but we will be guided into the future by the Basin Plan regarding any further management or accounting that is required for mining activities.

A formal response from the Board with support from DfW will be sent to the authority expressing the support for this WAP to be an interim Plan once adopted by the Minister.