

WANDIN YALLOCK CREEK DIVERTERS UPDATE

17th JANUARY 2006

Following on from our streamflow update of the 9th January, Melbourne Water has met with some of the licence holders along the Wandin Yallock Creek to discuss conditions and pumping.

Flows in the Wandin Yallock Creek were assisted by around 18mm of rainfall last week, enabling the lifting of bans on the system. However, flows have fallen once again and the system is hovering on the limits of bans being reintroduced. As such, Melbourne Water is urging all licence holders to restrict their pumping as far as practical to try and preserve streamflows and avoid the reintroduction of bans on this system if possible.

Licence holders are requested to wherever possible:

- Co-ordinate local pumping rosters / restrictions with other neighbouring growers in their area.
- Ensure that on-stream dams continue to pass a flow.
- Take from stored volumes in dams rather than the creek or spring flows.
- Where surplus water is held in dams, to make additional releases downstream to the benefit of other growers and the environment.

If through these actions a minimum flow of 1ML a day can be met at the monitoring station on the creek, then access to water for pumping can continue to the benefit of all users. If however, 1ML cannot be maintained at the gauging point, then bans will come back into force in accordance with the drought response plan.

This will mean that all pumping from the creek flows / springs must cease. Taking from stored water in dams will still be permitted but all streamflow and spring flow into any on-stream dam must be passed downstream.

Flow conditions in the creek can change rapidly in response to different weather conditions. Melbourne Water stresses again to licence holders that it is your responsibility to check the restriction or ban status of your catchment ***before*** taking water.

Options available to check flow levels and restriction or ban status of your catchment:

Option 1 –



Option 2 –



Check online at Melbourne Water's website at www.melbournewater.com.au/diverters

Or call **131 722**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Compliance

Melbourne Water will be undertaking inspections and patrols in this area. Non-compliance with pumping bans will result in action being taken which may include prosecution under the Water Act.

Diverters seeking additional information from Melbourne Water, should contact Steve Hosking, Phil Biasi or Tim Donovan on 9784 6373 or visit www.melbournewater.com.au

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