February 2016

Drought Response Plan: Part B

A Water Sharing Plan for Licenced Water Users in the:

Steels, Paul and Dixons Creeks catchment

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

1. Catchment Descriptions

The Steels, Paul and Dixons Creeks catchments lie approximately 70 kilometres north east of Melbourne near the town of Yarra Glen and drain a combined catchment area covering 127 square kilometres.

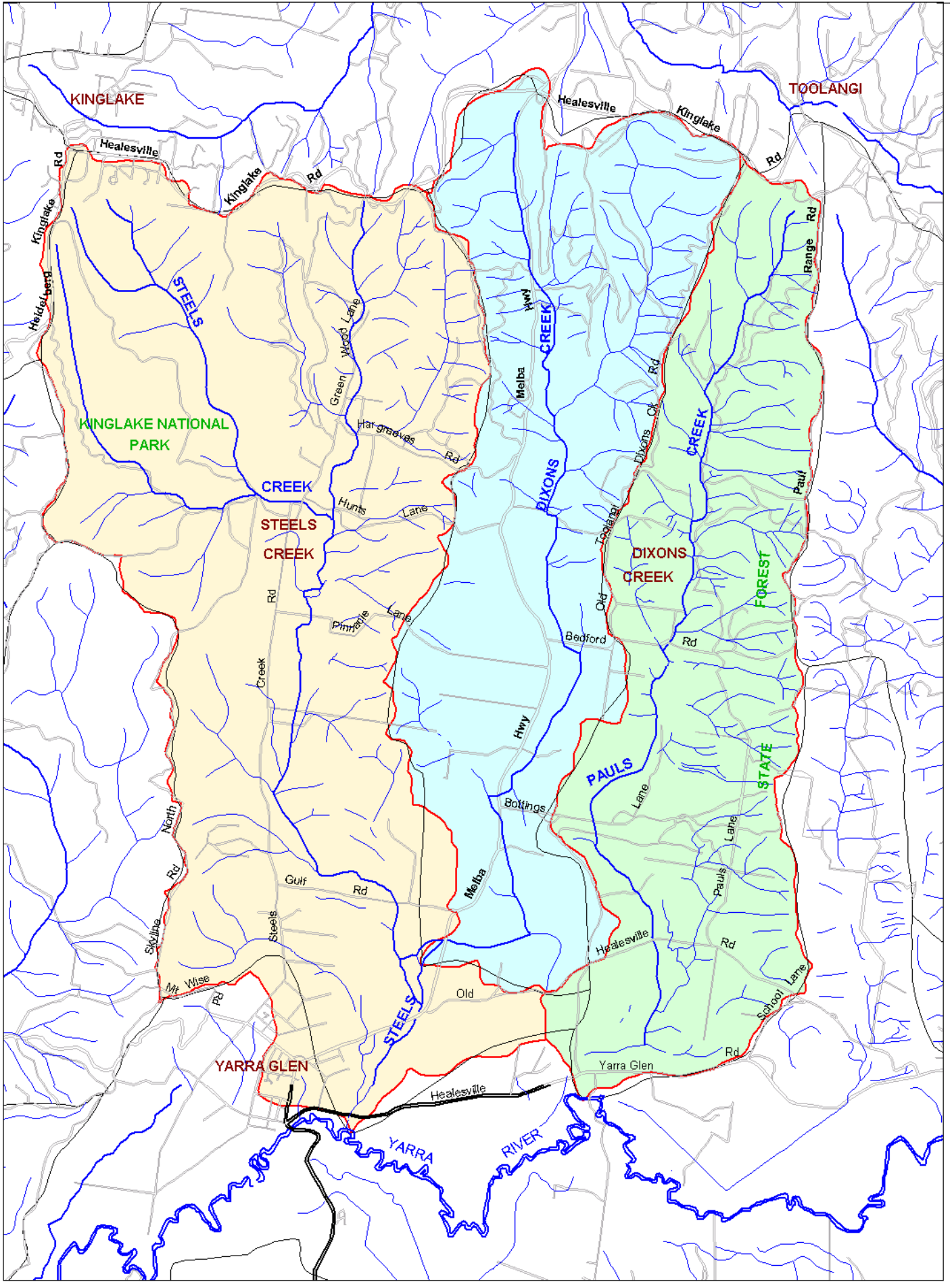
Steels Creek rises on the slopes of Mount Slide in the Kinglake National Park and flows in a generally southerly direction through the Steels Creek community to the Yarra River just upstream of Yarra Glen. The upper tributaries of Steels Creek include the Jehosophat, Pinchgut, Dry, Full and Plenty creeks, which drain the southerly aspects of the Kinglake National Park around Mount Jerusalem and Mount Beggary. The upper reaches of the catchment are in a near natural state, with very little farm dam development.

Dixons Creek is the main tributary of Steels Creek and joins just before it flows into the Yarra River upstream of Yarra Glen. It flows in a parallel valley to the Steels Creek, with the confluence approximately three kilometres upstream of the Yarra River. Like Steels Creek the upper reaches of Dixons Creek are in a near natural state. The middle and lower parts of the catchment have been extensively cleared for grazing with an increasing number of properties being used for viticulture. The lower reaches of both the Steels and Dixons Creeks have been substantially realigned to allow for improved drainage and increased productivity on nearby farms.

The Paul Creek catchment rises in Toolangi State Forest near Toolangi and flows due south until the confluence with the Yarra River near Tarrawarra. There are no tributaries of any size that feed into Paul Creek. The lower reaches of Pauls Creek have not been realigned like the Steels and Dixons Creeks however, the area has been extensively cleared, with grazing and viticulture the dominant industries.

The Steels, Paul and Dixons Creeks catcments are subject to a Stream Flow Management Plan which commenced in 2007. Further information on the establishment of ban and restriction levels for this catchment can be found within the plan.

The map on the following page shows the catchments and major waterways.



Steels, Paul and Dixons Creeks Catchments

2. Ban Triggers

Flow levels are monitored by gauges (data logging stations) that provide continuous flow readings. Under the Stream Flow Management Plan the catchment is divided into sub catchments: Steels Creek, Dixons Creek and Paul Creek.

Steels, Paul and Dixons Creek

The data logging stations are located as below:

Gauge Number	Gauge name	Compliance point for the following reaches
229246C	Steels Creek at Yarra Glen	Steels Creek catchment
229245	Paul Creek at Tarrawarra	Paul Creek catchment
229290A	Dixons Creek	Dixons Creek catchment

The trigger levels for all catchments are as shown in the following table:

Period	Dates	Ban Trigger (ML)
Low Flow	1 Dec – 30 Jun	LICENCE BAN
High Flow	1 Jul - 30 Nov	5.0

Bans are implemented when a catchment-specific trigger has been met, based on an instantaneous stream flow. Bans are lifted based on the seven day average stream flow **Note:** Cannot resume taking water until the seven day average rises above the stream flow triggers referred to above during High Flow period only. . Licence Ban indicates that no water can be taken from the system during the Low Flow period.

Vineyard at Yarra Glen

3.Application of Plan

Irrespective of anything in this section, users must not exceed their annual allocation on their licence or take water outside of their authorised take period.

Active licence holders in the Steels, Paul and Dixons Creeks with allocations greater than 5ML are metered by Melbourne Water.

Document Versions

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