



February  
2016

## Drought Response Plan: Part B

### A Water Sharing Plan for Licenced Water Users in the:

# Yarra River (Lower) catchment

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

## 1. Catchment Description

For licensed diversion purposes the Yarra River (Lower) catchment is that section of the river lying downstream of Warrandyte.

Much of the floodplain is protected in public open spaces such as the Yarra Valley parklands, and the system is fortunate to contain many floodplain wetlands with natural values such as Bolin Bolin Wetlands.

Many creeks within the lower Yarra also contain floodplain wetlands. The waterways in this system are highly valued by locals and visitors alike. Most are found in urban environments and are very well utilised by the community, particularly the extensive network of pathways beside most of the waterways. These waterways incorporate significant Indigenous and European heritage values, with important locations and attractions including Dights Falls and the Heidelberg Artists Trail.

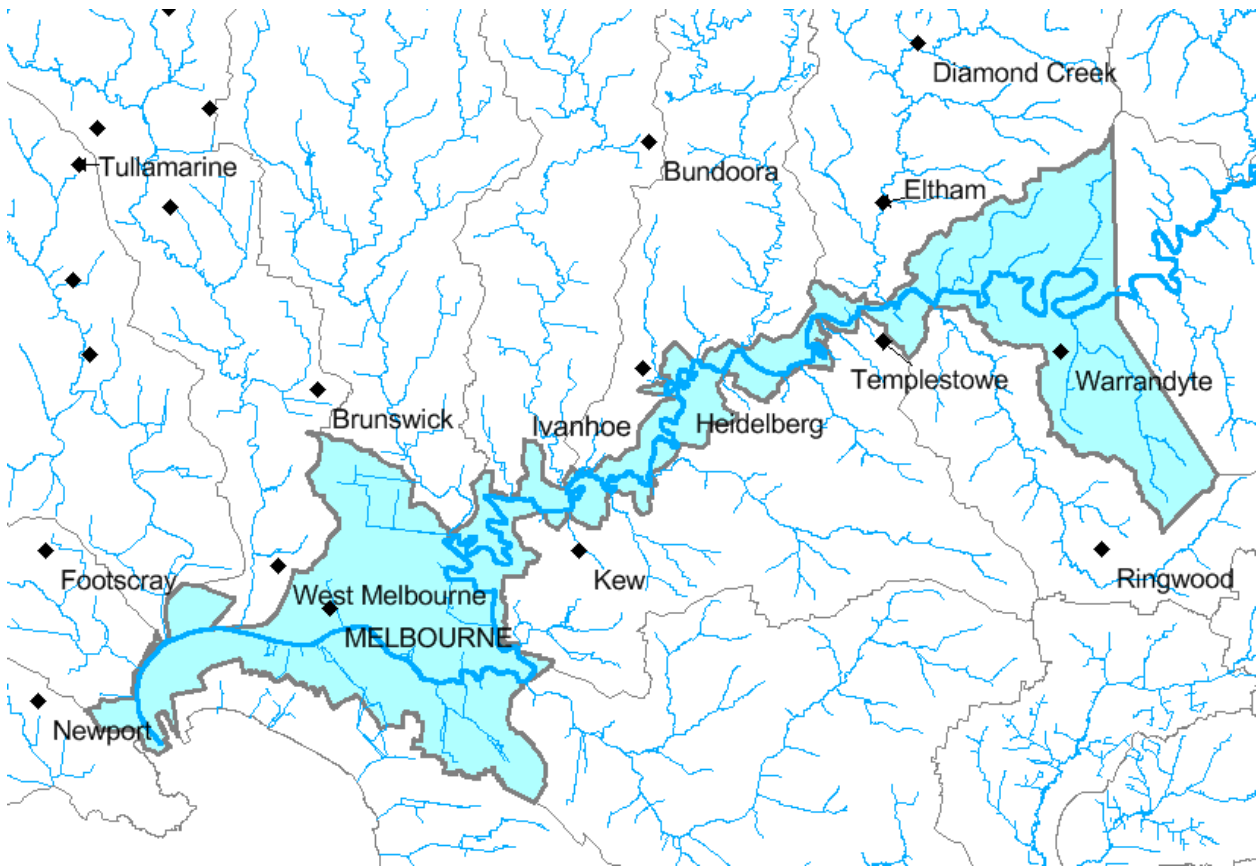
### **Estuaries**

The Yarra River estuary extends about 22km from Dights Falls to Newport, north of Hobsons Bay. It has high ecological, social, aesthetic and recreational values as it flows through the city and eastern suburbs of Melbourne to Port Phillip Bay. It is a 'salt- wedge' estuary, where the mixing of salt and freshwater is influenced by freshwater inflows over Dights Falls.

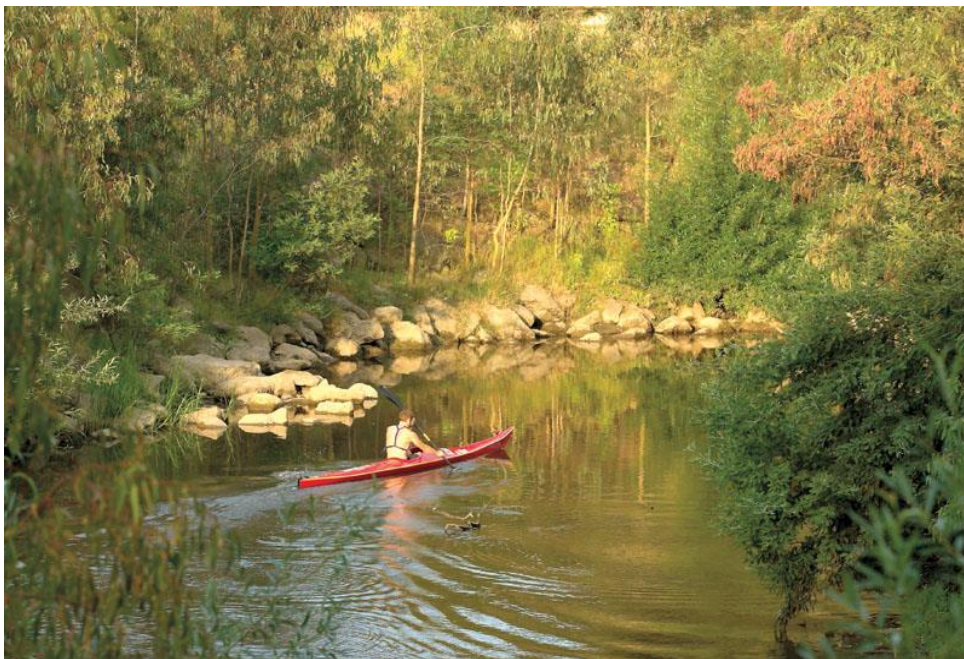
### **Wetlands**

Wetlands are prominent throughout the Yarra catchment and range in type, quality and size. These areas provide important conditions for specific vegetation and habitat for birds, frogs, platypus and macroinvertebrates. Examples of significant wetlands in the catchment include the Bolin Bolin Wetlands and Yarra Flats billabongs around Heidelberg.

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



*Yarra River Lower Catchment*



*Yarra River (Lower) at Banksia Park*

## 2. Ban & Restriction Triggers

Flow levels are monitored by gauges (data logging stations) that provide continuous flow readings. The catchment has a nominated compliance point for the introduction of bans and restrictions:

- Licence holders within the Yarra River (Lower) sub-catchment are subject to flow conditions at the Yarra River gauge at [Fairfield - Chandler Highway \(229143A\)](#).

Bans and restrictions will be introduced and lifted when catchment specific triggers occur based upon instantaneous daily stream flows. The trigger levels for bans and restrictions for the Yarra River (Lower) are as shown in the table below:

Period	Ban Trigger (ML)	Level 2 Restriction Trigger (ML)	Level 1 Restriction Trigger (ML)
Low Flow Period 1 November – 30 April	200 ML	300 ML	600 ML
High Flow Period 1 May – 31 October	350 ML	450 ML	600 ML

The Yarra River (Lower) includes all tributary sub-catchments that discharge to the Yarra River below Warrandyte that are not the subject of another catchment specific water sharing plan.



*Typical Golf Club Irrigation*

### 3. Application of Restrictions

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 Yarra River (Lower) with allocations greater than 5ML are metered by Melbourne Water. Both volumetric and / or time based restrictions will apply within the Yarra River (Lower) catchment depending on if a licensee is metered or not.

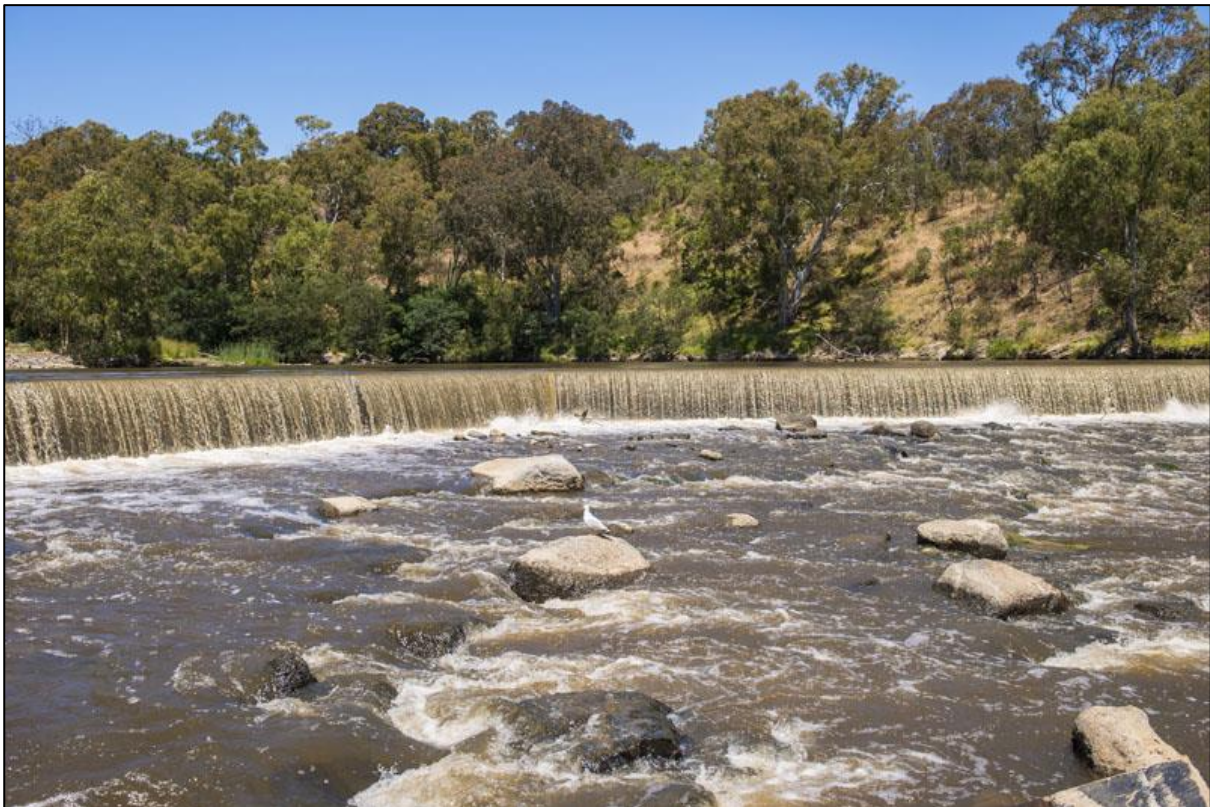
#### 3.1 Metered Licences:

For all metered licenses access to water during restrictions will be based on a percentage of the Maximum Daily Volume (MDV) shown on the licence. The MDV will be set at no greater than five percent of the total annual volume.

During restriction periods a licensee will be entitled to take and use only 50% during Level 1 and only 25% of their MDV during Level 2 restrictions. The percentage of MDV available under corresponding flow conditions is as shown in the table below. All water used under these conditions must be passed through and recorded on the authorised MW meter.

Metered water users are required to keep a record of daily diversions during ban and restriction periods, to be made available to MW upon request.

Restriction Level	% of MDV Permitted
Level 1	50 %
Level 2	25 %



*Dights Falls Weir and Fishway*

## 3.2 Unmetered Licences:

For all unmetered licenses access to water during restrictions will be based on allotted days and hours designed to reduce demand and focus watering on the beginning and end of the day to promote watering efficiency and reduce losses. Unmetered licence holders who wish to have their restrictions based on a percentage of maximum daily volume as per section 3.1 above may apply to purchase and install a Melbourne Water meter. Following meter installation they will be eligible for volumetric based restrictions to be applied.

During restriction periods the following limitations on accessing water will apply for unmetered licences:

Licence Type: Irrigation, industrial or commercial use direct from waterway	
Low Flow Period (1 Nov– 30 Apr)	<p><b>All users except as shown</b></p> <p>Max. 7 hours between 6am &amp; 9am and 6pm &amp; 10pm on allotted group days, or as agreed with Melbourne Water</p> <p>Group A Mondays, Wednesdays And Fridays</p> <p>Group B Tuesdays, Thursdays And Saturdays</p> <p><b>Commercial flower growers, nurseries,</b></p> <p>Max. 3 hours between 6am &amp; 8am and 7pm &amp; 8pm any day.</p> <p><b>Berry growers</b></p> <p>Max. 3 hours between daylight hours any day. Records to be kept of actual use for audit purposes</p> <p><b>Industrial</b></p> <p>Volume diverted to be reduced by 50%. Records to be kept of actual use for audit purposes</p>
High Flow Period (1 May – 31 Oct)	<p><b>All users except as shown</b></p> <p>Max. 7 hours between 6am &amp; 9am and 6pm &amp; 10pm on any day</p> <p><b>Industrial</b></p> <p>Volume diverted to be reduced by 25%. Records to be kept of actual use for audit purposes.</p>
Licence Type: Irrigation Or Commercial Licence Used With An On-Stream Dam	
All Periods	<p>If diverters share of water held in on-stream dam is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Greater than 50% of licensed entitlement</b> No restrictions apply provided all water used is drawn from reserves of stored water and all natural stream-flow passes downstream</li> <li>• <b>Less than 50% of licensed entitlement</b> Restrictions apply as per use direct from waterway as above</li> </ul>
Licence type: irrigation or commercial licence used with an off-stream dam	
All Periods	<p>Stored water in the off-stream dam may be used at any time but refilling of the dam from the waterway may only occur in accordance with the restrictions applied as per use direct from waterway above.</p>
Licence type: winter-fill on-stream dam	
Low Flow Period (1 Nov– 30 Apr)	<p>Refilling of storages is banned (outside of take period).</p> <p>No restrictions on water use provided water supply is drawn from reserves of stored water.</p> <p>All natural streamflow must be passed downstream.</p>
High Flow Period (1 May – 31 Oct)	<p>No restrictions on water use provided water is drawn from reserves of stored water.</p> <p>Under restriction conditions, dam-filling limited to maximum four hours per day, between 8.00 am &amp; 12.00 pm.</p>

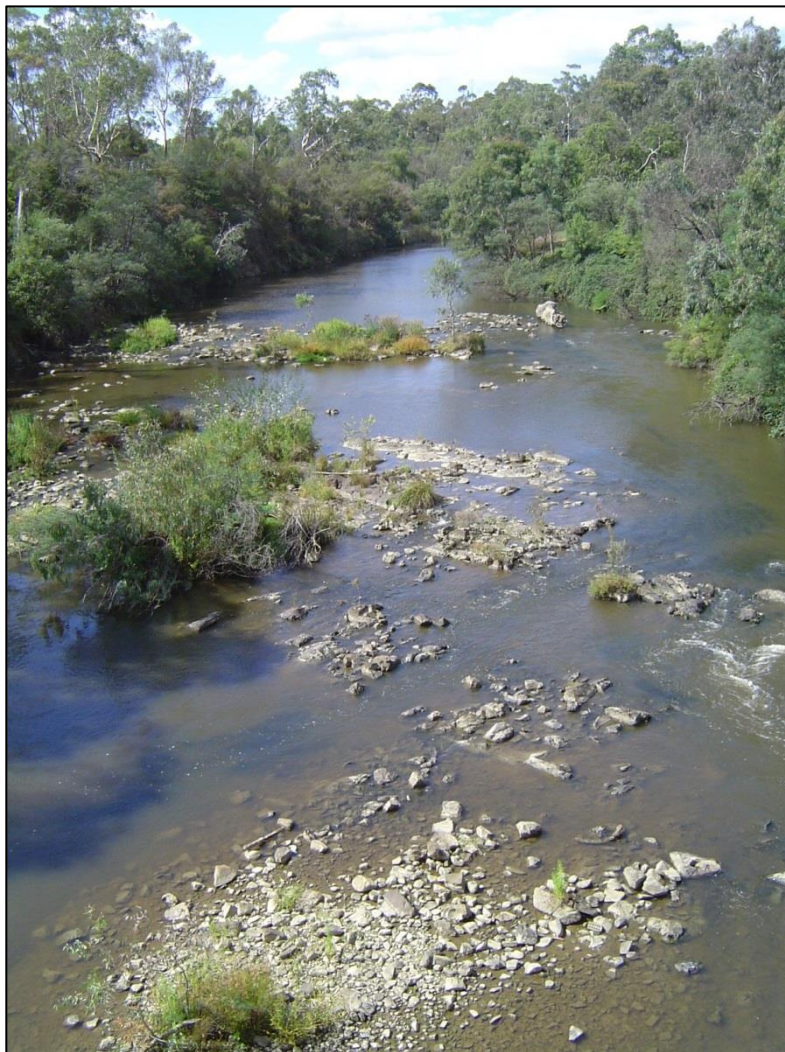
<b>Licence type: winter-fill off-stream dam</b>	
Low Flow Period (1 Nov– 30 Apr)	Refilling of storages is banned (outside of take period). No restrictions on water use provided water supply is drawn from reserves of stored water. All natural streamflows must be passed downstream.
High Flow Period (1 May – 31 Oct)	No restrictions on water use provided water is drawn from reserves of stored water. Under restriction conditions, dam-filling limited to maximum four hours per day, between 8.00 am & 12.00 pm.
<b>Licence type: domestic &amp; stock use</b>	
Low Flow Period (1 Nov– 30 Apr)	Pumping banned if alternative water supply available. I.e. mains supply. If no alternative supply available then water may only be taken for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essential household use</li> <li>• Watering of stock</li> </ul> Individual drought contingency plans should be implemented.
High Flow Period (1 May – 31 Oct)	Not restricted
<b>Licence type: non-consumptive use</b>	
All periods	Provided 100% of water is returned in accordance with EPA discharge licence, no more than the lesser of 25% of the assessed stream-flow or 75% of the daily flow as indicated on the licence may be diverted
<b>Licence type: farm dams</b>	
All periods	Not restricted

All licence holders within the catchment must adhere to the restrictions and bans introduced in response to the flow conditions specified. Melbourne Water will consider exemptions or modification to the restrictions contained above upon written application by licence holders and in accordance with Section 12 of the Drought Response Plan.

## 4. Roster Groups and Allotted Days

The following table defines the roster group allocation and allotted pumping days for waterways within the Yarra River (Lower) catchment. To be used in conjunction with restriction tables above

YARRA RIVER (LOWER) catchment Site ID 229143A Yarra River downstream of Warrandyte	
Restriction Roster Group B waterways (including tributaries) Allotted days – Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	
Anderson Creek	Yarra River
Ruffey Creek	



*Yarra River at Templestowe flowing at 246 ML per day*

## Document Versions

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