

## Tintinara Coonalpyn Water Allocation Plan Review Stakeholder Advisory Group Minutes

Meeting No. 5, 19 February 2026, 2:00 – 4:30 pm  
Coorong District Council Board Room, Tintinara

### Objectives

- Continue to consider key concepts and principles from the Water Allocation Plan.
- Check in on review progress and timeline.
- Review and evaluate trade principles within the Plan.

### Attendees:

**Group Attendees** – Dr Jonathon Sobels (Chair), Tracey Strugnell, Adam Zacker, Campbell Foote, James De Barro, Jim Rowntree, John Young

**LC Landscape Board Staff Attendees** – Sue Botting, Chelsea Burns

**Apologies** – Rodney Lush, Graham Gates

### Welcome and agenda

The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked Group members and staff for their attendance and gave an acknowledgement of country.

### Agenda check and minutes

Discussion:

- There were no requests for changes to the draft minutes as tabled.
- The Group discussed items from the minutes and revisited key concepts that were considered in Meeting 4. Items raised included:
  - The relationship and services provided by Department of Environment and Water and the need to do 'work-arounds'. It was commented that it would be good if DEW designed mywater in consultation with licensees.
  - Any progress on salinity monitoring data from DEW as per the Actions table? A summary of current salinity monitoring and data was provided to Group members at the meeting and will be available on the Group member page.
  - Seasonal variability principle.
    - Viewed with intent of being 'emergency water' but available 3 years in 5. Meeting 4 discussion it was suggested 2 years in 5 might be more appropriate but is this still too high? Some Group members view that everyone has a licence and they work within that licence. If season is good or it is bad, they manage within their licence. More choices result in more slippage in the system for managing it. Also makes the Plan principles more confusing and complex. It was also viewed that the level of unused allocation

indicated there is option to trade unused water. Plan had timeframes which aren't relevant now. Most people have set cropping systems. People don't suddenly need more water. Business responsible for managing its own risk. Moving / at a more mature system.

- Rotational crop principles.
  - The Group commented that the principles are generally not used in this area, limited in application due to water quality and likely not needed anymore. Some growers are using other mechanisms to manage this ie temp trade. Industry will be able to provide feedback. Principle is a fairly standard inclusion across the Plans within the LC. Some group members viewed that growers need to work within the limitations of their allocation because the Plan is limiting things for a reason ie sustainable allocation.
  - With rotational crops is the rotational allocation accounted for in a hydro test if a neighbour is bringing in water? Question taken on notice, initial understanding is yes it would be.
- Any progress on heat maps of extraction from DEW as per the Actions table? Extraction maps from 2019-2022 were provided as part of the allocation and use presentation. If additional years are required, can follow up if this is able to be provided noting some of the challenges with use data from 2024 and 2025.
- Delivery supplement.
  - How does that Delivery Supplement – Flood in the Plan relate to Delivery Component? Two different concepts in the current Plan. The understanding is that delivery component at % in the table in the Plan was incorporated into allocation in transition to the current Plan. General intent was it was to account/compensate for water lost between extraction and delivery. Flood irrigation then also got the Delivery Supplement - Flood which remained as a separate licensing component and principles in the Plan.
- It was agreed by the Group to note this revisit/discussion as a follow up to the previous meeting discussion.

Meeting 4 minutes confirmed as true and correct Moved by: Adam Zacker. Seconded by: James De Barro. All were in favour.

## Review process check in

The review is currently at the halfway point/timing. A check in was provided on key concepts covered so far and a high level overview looking forward.

Discussion:

- The Group was provided an opportunity to put forward any specific topics or questions for DEW Science (Hydrogeologist) tentatively scheduled to present at next meeting in March.
- It was asked as to what sort of information can DEW present - Group members were happy to advise on info they'd like presented but not sure what the scope of that could be. May be able to provide an example of a presentation for a different PWA group. Group members can take on notice and provide questions to LCLB following meeting. A few items have been raised in previous meetings that could be included eg how much the Mallee PWA influences TC and vice versa, groundwater flow direction etc.

## Water Allocation Plan Principles – Trade

Chelsea Burns facilitated a discussion on key trade principles within the Plan for the Group to consider.

Discussion:

- The Group discussed general trade principles including the hydrogeological assessment. Key discussion points included:
  - There is not more flood being developed. Some old flood infrastructure revamped maybe, but not much across the PWA.
  - It was raised whether people should be able to apply for DS if they're in saline area and the last possible use of water is flood, and otherwise can't use water. Current plan doesn't allow for any new DS. Boothby may allow for something under innovative purposes allocation.
  - Hydro assessment models the effect on surrounding area from extraction. If it hits trigger points then not approved. It was raised around how activation can still occur with this to a negative impact as seen in other PWAs. Understanding is that the hydro would only be applied if that water was moving, transfers or new and in other PWAs there are areas of concentrated development that were in place before the hydro assessment was introduced.
  - If the assessment uses the previous 5 years, if there is not enough monitoring wells overall or not enough nearby that are relevant, how do they do the hydro test so it is meaningful or accurate?
  - What is the recharge value used for the management areas, is it in the plan? LCLB to forward questions to DEW Science re wells and recharge values in hydro assessment.
  - If hydro test is a critical assessment for any trades but data or test not suitable then is there a better test? Is it still appropriate? LCLB running project more broadly in 26/27 to look at hydro test across the region and what else is available to be used in this space.
  - Could a revised TC Plan say that it will use a new method if it becomes available after it is adopted? Yes, can amend plan after adoption or include updated assessment in gazette with the plan referring to 'method as gazetted'.
- The Group discussed permanent trade principles including:
  - Indicative cost of water in permanent trading is more around \$1,000-\$2,000/ML now.
  - From the trade volumes graphs, it was raised that large volume of trade likely associated with TFI purchase of olives in Tauragat/Coonalpyn. Sherwood trades might be because of rotational cropping if those principles are being used or shown as trades. Has there been any confined allocations converted to unconfined? Not as far as the trade and transfer data is showing. Generally need to consider what differences between use and allocation might occur under climate change.
  - When considering the principles as they apply now where all management areas have allocation less than TML, technically can't trade out of Tintinara MA where there is high concentration of use. From resource perspective, would it be better to allow for more transfers out of Tintinara MA from higher use to lower use areas? It was raised as to what is the benefit of arbitrary MA boundaries in trade?
  - Trade opportunity needs to be reflective of health of the aquifer. If monitoring showed that things were declining then it's not wise to open up to more trade or

put more pressure on the aquifer. From licensee perspective inter-management trades would be beneficial and allow best return if wanting to sell.

- Trade shouldn't be considered in isolation to condition of aquifer. Licensees may be motivated to move water out of an area under pressure/declining resource condition to an area not under pressure. If not considering aquifer condition, then hypothetically could get rid of MAs and just trade across PWA but we care about aquifer condition so should link trade to resource condition.
- Plan should be on having management principles linked to condition of resource and then market forces to 'manage' risk within that for trade.
- The Group discussed temporary trade principles.
  - Why wouldn't the same rules apply for temporary as they do for permanent? Would make sense to have same rules as permanent.
  - Given there is so few management area it doesn't make sense to have as 'adjacent' as that would only exclude Tintinara Sherwood temp trades.
  - Would a temporary trade to an under-allocated MA then stop a permanent trade? Understanding is yes, as the total allocation will reflect the temp trade in and any subsequent trades would only be able to utilise the remaining 'available' water. Would have to wait for the temp trade to be transferred back out for available water to increase. The understanding is that licensing don't currently maintain an Inter Management Area Trade (IMAT) table for TC PWA as there are so few trades. Data is showing that no inter management area trades have occurred over the term of the current Plan.
  - Is there any precedent for restricting use of water according to land use. Would more so be linked to purpose of use as opposed to land use. Example in current Plan of confined allocation for public water supply/industrial only for public water supply/industrial.
- Broadly the Group viewed that:
  - the current Plan principles for trade had some inconsistencies and redundant principles such as the reductions/75% principle with application date of 2016 and the principles may benefit from revision including how trade could be considered in an adaptive management framework linked to resource condition
  - discussion on trade should be revisited in consideration of sustainable allocation and resource condition.

## Next meeting date

- Next meeting dates proposed:
  - Meeting 6: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 2.00-4.30pm.
  - Meeting 7: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 2.00-4.30pm.
  - Meeting 8: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026 2.00-4.30pm.

## Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 4.50pm

The Chair thanked the stakeholders and staff for attending.

**Tintinara Coonalpyn Water Allocation Plan review**  
**Stakeholder Advisory Group**  
**Action Table**

| Action | TC WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Status   | Meeting 5 Update                                                                            |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.1    | To be provided to Group Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations from Meeting 1</li> <li>• Endorsed ToR and ground rules</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Complete |                                                                                             |
| 1.2    | Provide further break down of TML allocation and use to show delivery supplement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Complete |                                                                                             |
| 1.3    | Delivery supplement explanation and licence example                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Complete |                                                                                             |
| 1.4    | Licence authorisations (bundling/unbundling) explanation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Complete |                                                                                             |
| 2.1    | To be provided to Group members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations from Meeting 2</li> <li>• Acronyms list</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Complete |                                                                                             |
| 2.2    | Map of obswell locations for context of data and trends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Complete |                                                                                             |
| 2.3    | Confirm obswell bore purpose within the monitoring network ie specific obswell bores vs irrigation bores                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Complete |                                                                                             |
| 2.4    | Allocation and use data breakdown/analysis including % use of licences.<br><br>Heat maps of extraction (if able to be provided from DEW).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Complete | Follow up with DEW re additional heat maps of extraction.<br>2019-2022 previously provided. |
| 2.5    | To be followed up with DEW: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current monitoring program in TCPWA, and what are they actually committed to doing as part of the regional program.</li> <li>• Further explanation/reason for decrease in number of wells for 10 year and static salinity trends.</li> <li>• Seek advice on potential influence and/or risk of hydrogeology to west of PWA and whether that could be contributing to rising water levels in Coonalpyn/Tauragat.</li> <li>• Confirm locations of observation wells in Ngarkat Conservation Park or explanation if none present in this area as part of network</li> </ul> | Ongoing  |                                                                                             |

| Action | TC WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Status      | Meeting 5 Update                                                                                                  |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.1    | Salinity monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be raised at LC Landscape Board level and/or DEW water steering committee.</li> <li>Continue ongoing liaison with DEW Science and Monitoring on salinity data availability and application, potential gaps and opportunities.</li> <li>Request monitoring team to confirm purpose of use of obswell bores during next round of monitoring.</li> <li>Seek DEW feedback on coverage and representativeness of current obswell network in TC PWA as part of evaluation/review.</li> </ul> | Ongoing     | Salinity monitoring summary provided to Group members and available on Group member portal.                       |
| 3.2    | LC Landscape Board to request DEW hydrogeologist to present to Group to report on the TC PWA resource and condition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | In progress | DEW Hydrogeologist presentation scheduled for meeting of 19 March 2026.                                           |
| 3.3    | Summary of key concepts to revisit recommendations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holding licences</li> <li>Active &amp; expeditious use</li> <li>Delivery supplement - flood</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |             |                                                                                                                   |
| 4.1    | Engage with industry groups for feedback on the Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | In progress | Update on all plans to be circulated February 2026.<br><br>TC feedback call to industry scheduled for March 2026. |
| 4.2    | Summary of key concepts to revisit/recommendations for principles of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry over</li> <li>Seasonal variability</li> <li>Rotational crop</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |             |                                                                                                                   |
| 5.1    | Provide Group some example/s of DEW hydrogeology presentations from other groups or PWAs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |             |                                                                                                                   |
| 5.2    | To be followed up with DEW re hydro test: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the assessment uses the previous 5 years, if there is not enough obs wells or not enough nearby that are relevant, how do they do the hydro test usefully.</li> <li>What is the recharge value used for the management areas.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |             |                                                                                                                   |

| Action | TC WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions                                                                                                                                                                                              | Status | Meeting 5 Update |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------|
|        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• With rotational crops is the rotational allocation accounted for in a hydro test if a neighbour is bringing in water.</li><li>• Example or more detail on how hydro test is applied.</li></ul> |        |                  |
| 5.3    | Summary of key concepts to revisit/recommendations for principles of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trade</li></ul>                                                                                                          |        |                  |

Confirmed

## Tintinara Coonalpyn Water Allocation Plan review Stakeholder Advisory Group

### Items identified to be revisited and/or for recommendation

| Item number | TC WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Status                                           | Meeting raised |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1.          | Salinity monitoring 10 year trends to 2025 from DEW only showed 2-3 obswells. This is insufficient for educated decisions to be made.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Revisit for formal recommendation                | 2              |
| 2.          | Consider need for mandatory salinity readings/returns from licence holders.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Revisit                                          | 2<br>3         |
| 3.          | Consider whether Delivery Supplement (DS) is still needed as a component or whether it could be simplified. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DS-Flood still considered a relevant need and component for TC PWA. View to retain existing DS-flood allocations with no new.</li> </ul>                                                                                | Revisit<br><br>Revisit for formal recommendation | 2<br><br>3     |
| 4.          | Holding licences no longer relevant and not current in PWA. View to manage intent through other mechanisms more aligned with legislation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Revisit for formal recommendation                | 3              |
| 5.          | Active and expeditious use no longer relevant for the PWA and was time specific. View to remove these principles.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Revisit for formal recommendation                | 3              |
| 6.          | Carry over is highly valued. View that it remains appropriate as per current principles unless resource condition warrants more in depth review.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Revisit for formal recommendation                | 4              |
| 7.          | <i>Seasonal variability principle is likely to remain appropriate in intent. Consideration of being available 2 years out of 5.</i><br><br>Revisit discussion: principle may warrant further review or redundancy based on view to sustainably manage the resource, reducing complexity of the Plan and other ways to manage business risk in established farming systems. | Revisit for formal recommendation                | 4<br><br>5     |
| 8.          | <i>Rotational crop principle is likely to remain appropriate noting it is expected to have low use or expansion.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Engage with industry groups prior to formal recommendation</i></li> </ul><br>Revisit discussion: subject to industry engagement, principle may warrant further review or redundancy                         | Revisit for formal recommendation                | 4<br><br>5     |

| Item number | TC WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Status  | Meeting raised |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------|
|             | based on view to sustainably manage the resource, low use and opportunity for expansion based on water quality in PWA, reducing complexity of the Plan and other ways to manage business risk in industry related to rotational crop principles.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |         |                |
| 9.          | <p>Trade principles remain partially relevant for the PWA with view that the principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• had some inconsistencies and redundant principles</li> <li>• may benefit from revision including how trade could be considered in an adaptive management framework linked to resource condition</li> <li>• should be revisited in consideration of sustainable allocation and resource condition.</li> </ul> | Revisit | 5              |