

Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Minutes

Meeting No. 9, Thursday 17 September 2020, 1:00 – 4:15 pm
Treasury Wines Meeting Room, 6558 Riddoch Highway, Padthaway

Objectives

- Risk assessment
- SPR

Attendees:

Group Attendees – Kerry DeGaris (Group Chair, Limestone Coast Landscape Board), Penny Schulz (Group Chair, Limestone Coast Landscape Board), Tim Hoare (arrived 1:30 pm), Carolyn Brown, John Summers, Scott Longbottom, Phil Brown, Krysteen McElroy.

Staff Attendees – Sue Botting (Team Leader, Water Policy and Planning, LCLB, absent 2:00-2:25 pm), Ryan Judd (Senior Project Officer, Water Policy and Planning, LCLB), David Williamson (Team Leader, Water Licencing, DEW, arrived 1:50 pm) Lu-Wei Spinks (Wetland Restoration Advisor, LCLB, absent 2:00-2:25 pm), Cameron Wood (Senior Hydrogeologist, DEW, left 3:50 pm).

Apologies – Nil.

Welcome and agenda

The Chair welcomed everyone, advised on COVIDSafe requirements and discussed the proposed agenda. Thanked advisory group members and staff for their attendance.

KDG introduced Penny Schulz, LCL Board member, who will take over the chairing role. Members of the SAG introduced themselves to Penny. Lu-Wei introduced as in attendance to provide ecological expertise for risk assessment.

Minutes

Previous minutes from meeting 8 confirmed as true and correct, with corrections to organisational reference of chair and staff attendees, and Action Table heading.

Action outcomes to note

- Action 2.6 – On-going.
- Action 3.6 – On-going
- Action 3.7 – On-going.
- Action 4.4 – On-going.
- Action 4.5 – On-going.
- Action 5.6 – On-going.
- Action 6.3 – Completed. To be forwarded to the Group.
- Action 8.1 – Completed.
- Action 8.2 – Completed. To be presented in meeting.
- Action 8.3 – Completed.
- Action 8.4 – Completed.

Risk assessment

The Group undertook a risk assessment process, as outlined in meetings 7 and 8.

- Cameron Wood provided hydrogeological information, interpretation and advice to the Group.
- Lu-Wei Spinks gave a presentation on groundwater dependent ecosystems, their ecological function and importance.
- The Group each completed risk assessment scoring for the categories:
 - Connected water supply.
 - Water for amenity, recreation, cultural or heritage places.
 - Groundwater-dependent ecosystems.
- The remaining categories will be assessed at the next meeting.

ACTION: Compile results of first risk assessment session and provide to the Group at the next meeting.

ACTION: Forward supporting hydrogeological and ecological presentations to the Group.

SPR

Ryan Judd presented data on current SPR (frost) licences for a group discussion on how SPR may be better managed.

Key Points:

- Only nine SPR (Frost) licences in the Padthaway.
- Data presented on the quantity of SPR, proportion of licence and value (calculated using average cost of recent sales).
- Discussion centred on the question of how SPR could be removed as a specific allocation without disadvantaging those who have SPR and have invested in frost infrastructure, or those who do not have SPR if SPR was converted to tradable.

Discussion:

- What would be impact of converting to tradeable?
CB: Not equitable and could result in more use.
- Are other regions dealing with SPR?
DW: Tatiara and Padthaway are the first plans to look at reviewing SPR.
- Does DEW have any ideas on how to manage it?
DW: SPR is administratively challenging and DEW Water Licencing would like to see it removed as a specific licenced purpose. The concern is how to make it equitable. If SPR is converted then may need to allow some DS to be converted to be fair to all.
- Possible risk that if SPR was converted to tradable, more water could be extracted during the summer period exacerbating impacts on groundwater levels.
- Spray is generally more effective in protecting against frost than fans. Move to fans depends on other factors – e.g. salinity of SPR water.
- Appears to be no clear way to be completely equitable. Feedback through community consultation could help inform a way forward.

ACTION. Forward SPR presentation to the Group.

Other business

- KDG noted receipt of a letter requesting further information on the expected timeframes to complete the review of the Padthaway WAP.

SB: The Group has worked through most key issues. The main issues remaining for Group discussion include: anything arising from the risk assessment not previously addressed and the community engagement plan. Other work to be done includes: consultation with South East Aboriginal Focus Group (SEAFG) to identify cultural water values and completion of a regional Water Affecting Activities (WAA) control policy (allows WAA principles to be removed from water allocation plans). LCLB is aiming for a draft of the Plan to be ready for the Group to review in early 2021 followed by informal community consultation by June 2021.

ACTION. Present a draft timeline for the remainder of the Padthaway WAP review at the next meeting.

Next steps

- Draft timeline.
- Risk assessment – session two.
- Recovery modelling.

Next meeting date

- Next meeting date: Thursday 15 October 2020 1:00 pm – 4:15 pm.

Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 4:13 pm.

The Chair thanked the stakeholders and staff for attending.

**Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group
Action Table**

Action	Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status	Meeting 9 Update
2.6	Prepare and distribute to the Group an explanation / example of the application of the three year rolling average SPR carry-over.	On-going	Held open
3.6	Consider alternative wording to "Resource Condition Triggers". Suggested wordings: "Warnings" and "Actions" "Resource condition indicators"	On-going	Held open
3.7	Consult with DEW re feasibility of providing more tailored water quality and level data and trends directly to licensees.	On-going	Held open
4.4	Investigate suggested alternatives for groundwater level resource condition triggers and limits.	On-going	Held open
4.5	Consult with relevant DEW teams to review annual reporting to better inform licensees of Padthaway salinity and groundwater levels and trends.	On-going	Held open As per Action 3.7
5.6	Further investigate options for managing commercial-in-confidence data.	On-going	Held open
9.1	Compile results of first risk assessment session and provide to the Group at the next meeting.		
9.2	Forward supporting hydrogeological and ecological presentations to the Group.		
9.3	Forward SPR presentation to the Group.		
9.4	Present a draft timeline for the remainder of the Padthaway WAP review at the next meeting.		

Action Table – Closed Items

Action	Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status
1.1	Amend Terms of Reference	Complete
1.2	Unbundling presentation for meeting 2	Complete
1.3	Forward both Daniela and Cameron's meeting 1 presentations to SAG members	Complete
2.1	Forward unbundling presentation to the Group	Complete
2.2	Confirm requested information regarding delivery supplements and the current sustainable limit and allocations	Complete
2.3	Available water extraction, rainfall and salinity data for the last ten years to be compiled and forwarded to the group	Complete
2.4	Forward presentation on the current Padthaway Water Allocation Plan to the Group.	Complete
2.5	Confirm requested information regarding transfers, carry-overs and divided allotments.	Complete
2.7	Terms of Reference to be amended, as discussed, and distributed to the Group.	Complete
3.1	Forward Groundwater Modelling and Resource Condition Limits (RCLs) presentation to the Group.	Complete
3.2	Further information on flow from the ranges to the flats to be provided.	Complete
3.3	Further information required on modelled salinity output confidence levels, with respect to landuse and spatial patterns, and potential areas to improve the model.	Complete
3.4	Contact PIRSA (Mel Fraser) to investigate current or potential soil salinity monitoring projects of relevance.	Complete
3.5	Scenarios to be run for average extraction, full allocation and reduced rainfall.	Complete
3.8	Confirm requested information for RCT and RCL discussion.	Complete
3.9	Ryan to present further information on the Citizen Science salinity monitoring project.	Complete
4.1	Forward updated salinity modelling and groundwater modelling scenarios presentation to the Group.	Complete
4.2	Forward heat mapping and other information to the Group.	Complete
4.3	Licensing to check that if DS has been returned that Total Allocation has also been reduced, and to confirm the current Total Allocation volume.	Complete
4.6	Forward salinity monitoring project presentation to the group.	Complete
5.1	Decision Register to be updated with reference to salinity modelling limitations as a key consideration in the decision to not have an RCT or RCL for salinity.	Complete
5.2	Examples of how unbundling applies to Padthaway licences to be prepared for the next meeting.	Complete
5.3	Request advice from Cameron Wood on the use of saturated thickness as an RCL measure and how it varies across the Padthaway area.	Complete

Action	Padthaway WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status
5.4	Forward presentation of RCL and RCT graphs to the Group amended with only winter observation wells' readings included.	Complete
5.5	Prepare examples of the application of the proposed RCL/RCTs to past data and future modelled scenarios, the percentage of well exceedances for each management area, and projections for the recovery of the resource.	Complete
6.1	Forward Simone's unbundling presentation to the Group.	Complete
6.2	Forward Action 5.3 response to the Group.	Complete
6.3	Investigate possible changes to vineyard extent in the Padthaway since 2009.	Complete
6.4	Forward RCL Scenarios presentation to the Group.	Complete
7.1	Forward Meeting 7 unbundling presentation to the Group.	Complete
7.2	Forward legislative references for bundling and unbundling to the Group.	Complete
7.3	Forward risk assessment presentation to the Group.	Complete
7.4	Prepare a list of risk statements for consideration by the Group.	Complete
8.1	Prepare an accurate map of the Padthaway Prescribed Wells Area and current management areas for the Group.	Complete
8.2	Data on SPR licences and use to be prepared and presented at the next meeting for Group discussion.	Complete
8.3	Check that risk statements include risks to users.	Complete
8.4	Group to review consequence criteria and risk statements and provide feedback and / or additional risks for consideration.	Complete

Padthaway WAP Review 2019/20
Decision Register

Issue	Meeting	Decision
Terms of Reference	3	Group agreed to adopt the Terms of Reference
Guiding principles for WAP review		
Resource Condition Triggers and the concept of Resource Condition Limits	4	Group agreed to have no RCT or RCL for salinity
	4	Group agreed to having an RCL for maintaining throughflow of groundwater from the Ranges to the Flats
	4	Group agreed to having an RCT and an RCL for groundwater levels
Timeline for Resource Condition Triggers and Resource Condition Limits	5	Group agreed to the proposed timeline for responses to resource condition triggers and limits
Carry-over	6	Group <i>provisionally</i> agreed that carry-over should be suspended if RCT B is reached as an adaptive management step to prevent the RCL being reached.
Adaptive management	6	Group agreed that management responses activated through the triggering of RCTs and RCLs are to be applied to the entire Padthaway PWA.