

Tatiara Water Allocation Plan Amendment Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting Notes

Meeting No. 26, 30 July 2025, 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Limestone Coast Landscape Board Office, Keith

Objectives

- Review allocation and use with a view to consider the impacts under the key concepts of the revised Plan.
- Revisit the proposed classes of water access entitlements for the revised Plan.
- Revisit key considerations of the proposed adaptive management framework including resource condition and management responses.

Attendees:

Group Attendees – Robbie Davis (Chair), Tracey Strugnell (Proxy Chair), Jake Tranter (via Teams), Richard Halliday, Scott Manser, Simon Sherriff (via Teams), Wayne Dodds, Paul Leadbeter (via Teams, arrived at 4.25pm)

LC Landscape Board Staff Attendees – Sue Botting, Chelsea Burns

Apologies – Scott Campbell

Welcome and agenda check

The Chair welcomed everyone, thanked Group members and staff for their attendance and confirmed the agenda for the meeting.

Review of Meeting 25 Summary

Meeting summary of Meeting 25 held on 25 June 2025 confirmed as true and correct.

Discussion:

- The Group agreed for the Meeting 24 summary to remain unconfirmed but to be made publicly available for transparency with an appropriate disclaimer.
- The Group discussed the recommendations table and relevance in the context of transition to the current LC Landscape Board. The action table was reviewed with updates provided on actions 25.1-25.4.
- A member requested clarification on whether public water supply will be subject to reductions or restrictions under classes and adaptive management. This was to be considered in following agenda items.

Allocation and use data

Sue Botting presented updated allocation and use data for 2018-2024 for the Prescribed Wells Area (PWA) as per Action 25.4.

Discussion:

- The Group discussed data presented and points for clarification. Allocation excludes carry over, whereas use includes any use of carry over. Both allocation and use include delivery supplement (DS) and specialised production requirements (SPR). SPR is defined in the Plan, references water used for grapes (frost protection), potatoes and high production pasture. Allocation and use data is presented by water use year eg 2024 is 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.
- There was general discussion and observations from Group members on allocation and use data:
 - Use was fairly consistent over time not nearing full allocation at a PWA level. Group discussed reasons why use may not be reaching full allocation, suggested likely legacy/historical as water provided with the intent to develop and irrigate, people were provided a volume who may not have been irrigating within their business already. Also, possibly due to volumetric conversion and potential overestimation in conversion. Noted some leasing is occurring currently for those who have allocation above their own business needs.
 - Shaugh MA use higher than allocation likely due to use of carryover, may be some inter-PWA water piping occurring, located within the border zone. Clarification that it is the unconfined aquifer, depth to water around 60-80m+.
 - Tatiara MA seen as an area being developed with additional pivots being established.
 - Zone 8A unlikely to have much irrigation development in the near future.
 - Historical 'unassigned MA' authorisation allocation from the confined for JBS.
- There was discussion around controls in the current Plan in relation to purpose of use. Intensive animal keeping includes feedlots, pigs etc.
- Holding licences are a water licence authorisation with an allocation and a management area, but do not have a bore location or site works approval for the actual take of water. A hydrogeological test would be required to 'activate' a water holding licence and convert it to a water taking allocation. Only a small number of holding licences left in PWA and are assigned to the Tatiara management area.

Classes of water access entitlement

Sue Botting presented on proposed classes of water access entitlements for a revised Plan.

Discussion:

- Confirmation from previous discussion in Meeting 25 that the proposed licence authorisations for the revised plan would be partially unbundled.
- The Group discussed proposed changes to the classes of water access entitlements from those previously presented at community consultations, including:
 - Creating a separate class for public water supply that would be exempt from restrictions and other limitations.
 - Removing the separate classification for "holding" licences and classifying it the same as other tradeable entitlements.

- Removing the proposed Class S classification and converting all existing Specialised Production Requirement to tradeable.
- There was discussion on the difference between public water supply and recreational purpose of use. Particularly with regard to the existing water supply arrangement at Wolseley, facilitated by the Council under a water licence. It is important to understand and confirm if or how water is supplied to households and generally how this arrangement is being used to service the community. LC Landscape Board will follow up with Council and consider how this may need to be transitioned under the proposed classes of water access entitlement.
- It was noted that at the time of the previous proposal, the configuration of water authorisations in *mywater* was not known. With the transition to *mywater*, existing holding licences are able to be represented with an entitlement and allocation assigned to a particular resource and management area, but no wells or land are specified meaning that a licensee would need to pass a hydrogeological assessment in order to activate that water. This would enable existing holding licences to be classified similar to taking licences while retaining existing tests to activate.
- The Group discussed potential impacts of removing Class S and converting SPR to Class T (tradeable). Some group members viewed that it simplifies classes and reporting and provided benefits to having it as tradeable. It was noted that the change would result in the higher water levy rate being charged for those entitlements, but that was considered to be balanced by the overall cost benefit in being tradeable. Current SPR allocations are only 0.6% of total allocation in the PWA so fairly minor. Group members generally supported the change in principle, noting the importance of it going to public consultation so those who would be impacted can understand and comment.
- In summary, the Group discussed and provided consensus agreement of proposing the following changes to the previously proposed classes of water access entitlement:
 - Public water supply to have a separate class (Class P) for higher security being exempt from reductions and restrictions under adaptive management.
 - Separate holding licence classification to be removed and merged with Class T (tradeable).
 - Remove Class S and convert SPR allocations to Class T (tradeable). Delivery Supplement to remain as separate Class D.

Adaptive management

Sue Botting presented on key considerations of the proposed adaptive management framework including resource condition, management responses and modelling options.

Discussion:

- The Group was provided the recently implemented Padthaway PWA Water Allocation Plan adaptive management framework as a case study example. The importance of the monitoring program and ongoing communication of resource condition was discussed.
- Explanation of hydraulic gradient and hydraulic head. Hydraulic gradient is included as a measure of resource condition for the unconfined aquifer as is important to maintain throughflow from east to west to avoid the accumulation of salts. Hydraulic head is the height to which a column of water will stand above a reference elevation, such as mean sea level. The difference in hydraulic heads of paired wells (one in the east one in the west) is used to calculate hydraulic gradient. Hydraulic head is also used as a measure of resource condition in the confined aquifer, similar to the use of groundwater levels in the unconfined aquifer.

- The Group discussed groundwater salinity in the Tatiara PWA. Salinity can be localised and highly variable. Use of salinity as a trigger for adaptive management can be challenging to effectively implement. Salinity level and trends are important but the Plan's best way to manage salinity is at a regional scale by protecting the hydraulic gradient (maintain throughflow to continue to push salts through from east to west). Individuals generally manage the risk within their own business.
- The Group discussed the previously proposed Tatiara PWA adaptive management framework. The proposed adaptive management framework used the 2015 data as available and modelled data at that time. Spring observations are used, which is the winter recovered level from observation well (obswell) monitoring network. New bores have been installed in Tatiara PWA to support an adaptive management framework moving forward.
- There was discussion on obswells within hydro zones/management zones acting similarly, so the percentage of wells for adaptive management would not provide a staged approach or early management opportunities as anticipated. The Group discussed and agreed the need to consider triggers at different levels or triggers to allow for response and recovery. Modelling will need to support this process and could also assist to understand how the proposed framework would have performed with more recent observation data.
- There were concerns that if there was a management action in place (eg restrictions) and the Resource Condition Limit (RCL) was breached, prompting an early review of the Plan, whether restrictions would remain in place for the duration of the review. Additionally, it was discussed that the RCL should have a specified management response and defined breach threshold (eg state the number of wells which must have breached RCL in order for the management response to be enacted).
- The Group discussed that public consultation will be really important and challenging if there are any proposed changes to adaptive management. The narrative on 'why' the change from the previously presented 2017 framework with supporting data or modelling is critical for both this Group in future meeting discussions and the community.
- There was Group discussion around whether the Plan would be aiming for stabilisation in most MAs, noting Wirrega MA is the most variable in historical trends. There was some discussion about how it would be perceived if a revised plan were to be implemented with restrictions immediately in place due to the adaptive management.
- The Group raised whether the last 5-10 years of data could be used as a simulation for adaptive management framework options given that the modelling had data to 2015. With a number of new members in the Group, additional information with options and impacts was requested for further discussion at the next meeting. This would then allow the Group to confirm what additional support or questions may be needed from DEW.

Summary and next steps

- Next meeting date: Meeting 27 proposed Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at 4.00pm (TBC).

Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 6.26pm

The Chair thanked the Group members for attending.

**Tatiara WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group
Action Table**

Action	Tatiara WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status	Meeting 26 update
1.2	Positions for Onion and Potato Grower Organisations be held open for members if they are able to become involved as the planning process develops.	Ongoing.	Organisations may be represented at any stage of review.
1.4	Build in engagement of JBS into the Community Engagement Strategy	Ongoing.	Engagement with JBS has been established.
19.2	LCLB to investigate RCT monitoring options for Poocher.	Ongoing.	Review following determination of Poocher Swamp adaptive management. Need for specific RCTs for Poocher to be informed by discussions with Poocher licensees.
20.2	Prepare draft companion documents for Group review and comment.	Ongoing.	Clarification that draft companion documents include a plain English guide to the WAP. Draft under development.
20.3	Plan engagement activities as discussed: community meeting, radio interview, interactive pdf platform, industry group meetings.	Ongoing.	No update.
23.1	Provide further explanation of the management of the Poocher Zone, including options for how Poocher licensees may use or transfer their water, in the next community consultation.	Ongoing.	No update.
23.2	Check on whether carry-over can be claimed where transfers aren't fully used.	Ongoing.	Check with Licensing how current plan works.
23.4	Follow up with DEW Licencing re position on self-assessment hydro test.	Meeting 24 decision to be confirmed.	DEW advised difficulty in administering. Group decision to remove option (meeting 24).
23.7	LCLB to prepare two RCT / RCL management responses to be included in the draft WAP for DEW to review.	Ongoing.	15% and 30% restrictions modelled. Increased restriction levels recommended to enable recovery. Further review and discussion.

These minutes represent the discussion by Stakeholder Advisory Group members. They are captured to support interested parties to understand the breadth of discussions.

Action	Tatiara WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status	Meeting 26 update
24.2	Provide meeting presentation to the Group.	Completed.	LCLB to resend via email to Group members after Meeting 25. To be removed.
24.3	Provide draft Plan to the Group following DEW review.	On hold.	Draft Plan to be updated following revisit of key concepts by Group and in consideration of Padthaway Plan, internal review and DEW feedback.
25.1	Provide to Group members: • Link to revised Padthaway Water Allocation Plan • Link to Tatiara WAP project page • Copy of presentation slides from Meeting 25	Completed.	To be removed.
25.2	Provide a reference list for acronyms to the Group.	Completed.	To be removed.
25.3	Review of proposed principles relating to temporary transfers to manage seasonal variability.	Ongoing.	To be discussed at a future meeting.
25.4	Prepare updated allocation and use data for the Group including % public water supply of total allocation.	Completed.	To be removed.
26.1	LCLB to follow up with Tatiara District Council on the water supply at Wolseley and consider transition to proposed classes.		
26.2	Review and provide options of RCTs and RCLs for Group discussion.		
26.3	Provided map/s of obswell monitoring network locations to the Group.		

**Tatiara WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group
Recommendations Table**

No.	Recommendation	Board Decision
6.1	That the nominations by Mundulla Vignerons Assoc. of David Edwards as member representative and Trent Reilly as observer representative be accepted and approved.	Approved
6.2	That the resignation of David Edwards as observer representative for the District Council of Tatiara be accepted.	Approved
6.3	That the District Council of Tatiara be contacted seeking a nomination for an observer representative to replace David Edwards.	Approved
6.4	That upon the disbandment of the USE NRM Group in February 2018 that the SAG charter be amended by the removal of the USE Group from the stakeholder membership list and that a community stakeholder representative membership position be added to the SAG charter.	Approved
6.5	That upon the disbandment of the USE NRM Group, Wayne Dodd be reappointed to the SAG as the community stakeholder representative member on the SAG.	Approved
6.6	That the final draft version of the principles as endorsed by the SAG be submitted to the Board for approval.	Approved
8.1	That the revised timeline for the Tatiara WAP review be submitted to the Board for endorsement.	Approved
8.2	That the group chair send a letter to the NRM board recommending that the Board provide comment to the Landscapes SA Bill public consultation on unbundling.	Approved
11.1	The amended group charter endorsed by the SAG to be submitted to the Board for approval.	Approved
12.1	The revised Tatiara WAP review and amendment timeline be submitted to the Board for approval.	Approved
13.1	That Michelle Irvine nomination to the group as observer representing SA Water be forwarded to the Board for approval.	Approved
14.1	Final endorsed drafts of all 6 discussion papers be forwarded to Board for approval to release.	Approved
16.1	That the resignation of Trent Reilly (Mundulla Vignerons) as observer be accepted. That the SAG decision to not replace this position be accepted.	

**Tatiara WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group
Members Task Table**

Task No.	Task	Status	Meeting 25 update
21.1	Industry representatives to email organisation's contact person to send a letter requesting a meeting presentation.	Ongoing	No update
23.1	SA Water to provide LCLB with SA Water Resource Assessment and Management Plan and key dot points on limitations of 600 TDS.	Ongoing.	TDS information has been provided by SA Water for LLC. Confirm needs of task with SA Water rep.