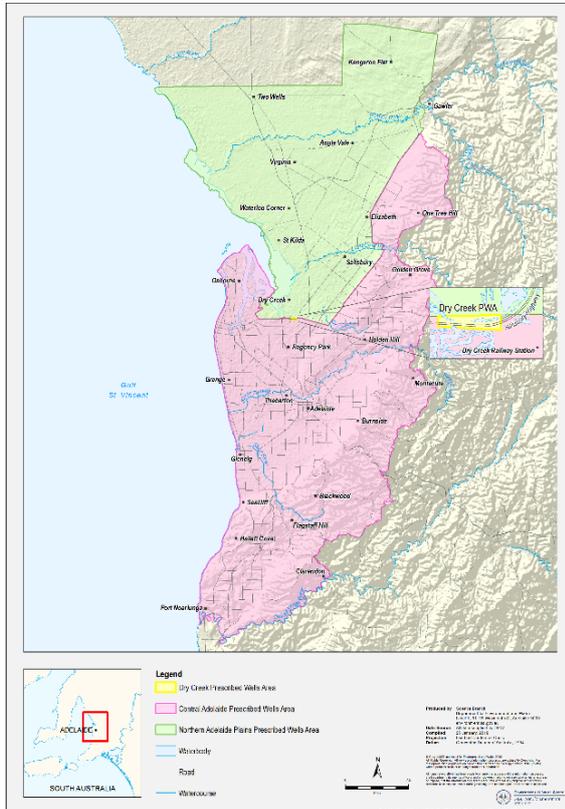




1. Introducing the draft Adelaide Plains Water Allocation Plan



Introduction

You are invited to provide comment on the draft Adelaide Plains Water Allocation Plan (draft WAP). The WAP describes how water licences and permits for the groundwater resources within the Adelaide Plains area will be issued and managed in the future.

The draft WAP is based on scientific investigations as well as input from community advisers. It updates and replaces the current Northern Adelaide Plains WAP and is the first WAP for the Central Adelaide area (as well as the small Dry Creek area). This extended area will ensure a comprehensive management approach, as the main aquifers used for water extraction and storage run continuously across the broader Adelaide Plains area.

The overall aim is to ensure that groundwater is managed in a sustainable manner, so that it continues to be available and of good quality to provide for economic, cultural, social and environmental benefits.

What is in the draft Adelaide Plains Water Allocation Plan?

The draft WAP is based on the best available science and knowledge about how groundwater works, the effects of water extraction and the needs of ecosystems which are reliant on groundwater. This is combined with information about current and potential future water use and demand, which is outlined in the draft WAP.

Based on this information, a set of principles or 'rules' has been developed, setting out:

- how water extraction is managed at the scale of a number of smaller zones or 'consumptive pools'. These are mostly based on the main aquifer groups with smaller consumptive pools in some aquifers;
- the maximum annual acceptable extraction limits for each consumptive pool;
- the types of water management tools (licences, entitlements and allocations) used to manage groundwater extraction (see information sheet 'Water Licensing under the draft Adelaide Plains Water Allocation Plan');
- how these water management tools may be issued, varied or transferred to other people (see information sheet 'Transferring Water under the draft Adelaide Plains Water Allocation Plan');



- in two consumptive pools (T1 Northern Adelaide Plains and T2 Northern Adelaide Plains) how water extraction will be managed if the condition of groundwater declines below identified thresholds (see 'Managing High Risk Areas under the draft Adelaide Plains Water Allocation Plan' information sheet);
- buffer zones to limit extraction in close proximity to groundwater-dependent ecosystems and other water users;
- how bores must be constructed and maintained;
- how Managed Aquifer Recharge activities will be licensed and managed (see information sheet 'Managed Aquifer Recharge in the draft Adelaide Plains Water Allocation Plan'); and
- how the groundwater resources should be monitored.

More detail on these issues is provided in the relevant information sheets.

Consultation on the draft WAP

Consultation will be open until 28 November 2021. During this period, you can get more information and provide comments online in YourSAy at <https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/>

You can also provide written comments through the following:

Email: DEW.AdelaidePlainsWAP@sa.gov.au

Post: Water Planning and Security Team
Department for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

If you prefer to speak to someone, please phone (08) 8463 3733.

All comments received will be considered in the finalisation of the WAP before it is considered by the Minister for Environment and Water for adoption. Please note that all written submissions will be publicly available (with personal details removed) as part of a consultation report.