



2. Transferring Water under the draft Adelaide Plains Water Allocation Plan

The draft Adelaide Plains Water Allocation Plan (draft WAP) proposes rules for the transfer of water licences, entitlement shares and allocations in the Adelaide Plains.

The proposed rules are designed to allow movement of licences, entitlement shares and allocations so that water users can meet their short and long term water needs without affecting other water users or groundwater dependent ecosystems. They also encourage the permanent transfer of unused water entitlements in high allocation areas to other areas where it is sustainable for more groundwater to be taken.

This information sheet should be read together with the information sheet 'Water Licensing under the draft Adelaide Plains Water Allocation Plan' which explains how the new licensing system works and outlines the consumptive pools in the Adelaide Plains.

What can be transferred?

Under the proposed rules you can apply to do any of the following in relation to native groundwater licences¹:

- transfer your whole water licence with all of its shares to another person;
- transfer a portion of your shares to another water user;
- transfer all of your shares to another licence holder but keep your 'empty' licence; or
- transfer all or part of your annual water allocation to another water user, which is to be used within the same water use year.

What are the transfer rules?

Transfers of licences and entitlement shares can be either permanent or temporary. The draft WAP sets out that:

- permanent transfers of licences or entitlement shares to a different consumptive pool may be approved, as long as this does not cause any consumptive pool extraction limits to be exceeded;
- an exception to this rule is that no licences, shares or allocations may be transferred into the T1 Northern Adelaide Plains or T2 Northern Adelaide Plains Consumptive Pools from another consumptive pool. This is because the total volume of shares in these consumptive pools is already beyond the sustainable extraction limit; and
- if a transfer is temporary, it can only be within the same consumptive pool.

As new water allocations are issued at the commencement of each water use year, they only exist for 12 months. Therefore transfers of allocations are only temporary and expire at the end of the water use year (end of June each year). Allocation transfers can only be within the same consumptive pool.

¹ Special rules apply to the transfer of Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) licences and these are dealt with in a separate information sheet.



All applications for transfers will be assessed against the transfer rules set out in section 7.9 of the draft WAP.

Some key points to note are:

- transfers must not impact on existing water users;
- any transfers within the T1 Northern Adelaide Plains, the T2 Northern Adelaide Plains or the T2 Kangaroo Flat Consumptive Pools must be to an area of higher potentiometric surface (ie further away from the centre of the cone of depression) and to an area of higher groundwater salinity;
- for the Quaternary, T1 Regional, T2 Regional, Lower Tertiary, Golden Grove Embayment, Noarlunga Embayment, Northern Fractured Rock and Southern Fractured Rock Consumptive Pools, there are buffer zones between wells to ensure that new or increased water extraction due to the transfer of water does not impact on other water users; and
- for the Golden Grove Embayment, Noarlunga Embayment, Northern Fractured Rock, Southern Fractured Rock and Quaternary Consumptive Pools, there are environmental buffer zones to ensure that new or increased extraction due to the transfer of water does not impact on important groundwater-dependent ecosystems.