

Communications and Engagement Plan

Project/ Activity	Barossa Water Allocation Plan – pre-consultation phase			
Purpose	Communicate and engage with key stakeholders during the pre-consultation phase, regarding the updated science and management approaches being considered as part of the development of the draft amended WAP			
Timing	December 2022 to the formal public consultation stage (currently planned to occur in 2023)			
Objectives	Communicate with key Barossa stakeholders (water licence holders, key industry representative groups, other water users) regarding the progress and proposed timing for completion of the draft WAP, and an indicative timeline for the public consultation phase and the opportunities for them to contribute and get involved Engage with key stakeholder groups (grape and wine industry, graziers, horticulture industry, other water user groups) regarding the updated science and the resulting water resource management approaches being considered to seek their input into the development of the updated draft WAP prior to consultation in 2023 - Through the above two objectives, improve the working relationships and communications between the Board and the key stakeholders during the pre-consultation phase, in preparation for the formal consultation phase of the WAP			
Stakeholders	- How will the community be involved in this project? - Targeted communications and community meetings/workshops to be delivered through existing networks using a 'involve/collaborative' approach, e.g. Barossa Australia, BIGG, RDA, PPSA, local government. - The members of the Barossa WAP Advisory Group will act as conduits for C&E with the community/industry that they are representing. - Has the Community Engagement Officer been consulted? If not, why? What is the outcome from this? - CEO will be involved as part of the CE Team in the development and implementation of this plan. - Has the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer been consulted? If not, why? What is the outcome from this? - APO will be involved as part of the CE Team in the development and implementation of this plan. Noting the separate Aboriginal Engagement Plan also in place for targeted engagement in the Barossa WAP process.			
Key dates and tactics	Planned activities	Key dates	Tactics	Responsibility
	Barossa WAP Advisory Group meetings (WAPAG) - includes Barossa Australia, BIGG, RDA, PPSA, 2x Board members and producers	Meetings monthly in 2023	Seek input and recommendations into policy development and proposed community engagement through this group. Report to the Board.	Jennifer Munro
	YourSAy campaign	Dec 2022 – end of March 2023	Promote on Facebook in early Dec and again in February 2023	Sarah Johnson / Jennifer Munro
		Dec, Jan, Feb, March editions	Include in Yakka e-newsletter and also offer to Barossa Australia, BIGG and PPSA for their newsletters or other communications	Sarah Johnson / Jennifer Munro
		Dec 2022	Update NYLB website with links to YourSAy campaign	Sarah Johnson
	'Redo' initial community workshop via webinar format	24 January 2023	Hold second workshop to capture more community feedback in an online setting	DEW Teams / Jennifer Munro / Rebecca Howard / Leonie Boothby / Sarah Johnson
		Dec 2022	Set up Zoom meeting	Jennifer Munro
			Create new Eventbrite registration link	Sarah Johnson
			Update Indesign invitation and share with partners	Sarah Johnson / Jennifer Munro
			Create new event on website and update other webpage content	Sarah Johnson
			Promote on Facebook in Dec and again as a reminder in early Jan 2023	Sarah Johnson

	WAP presentation at BIGG Conference	Feb 2023	Present at the conference. Set up and man a NYLB display.	DEW Teams / Jennifer Munro / NYLB staff
	Follow up community workshop at Barossa Cellar	March/April 2023	Hold a third workshop to present the community feedback and the draft amended WAP Create new Eventbrite registration link Update Indesign invitation and share with partners Create new event on website and update other webpage content 2 x Facebook posts	DEW Teams / Jennifer Munro / Rebecca Howard / Leonie Boothby / Sarah Johnson Sarah Johnson Sarah Johnson / Jennifer Munro Sarah Johnson Sarah Johnson
	Provide updates and information to the wider water user community	As required through 2023	Work within existing networks to share C&E info: - Barossa Council - Light Regional Council - RDA Barossa	Barossa WAP Project Team / Barossa and Light Regional Council / C&E staff / Barossa RDA / Sarah Johnson
	NYLB members engaged and involved in the WAP C&E activities	As required through 2023	Involvement in community workshops, BIGG conference, WAPAG Provide overview presentation to new Board members	Jennifer Munro / Rebecca Howard / Tony Fox / Board representatives Jennifer Munro
	NYLB members informed of stakeholder feedback	Early to Mid 2023	Pre-consultation summary report submitted to NYLB for noting	Jennifer Munro / Rebecca Howard / Sarah Johnson
	Water Planning Steering Committee and Board input for the review and consultation approval of the draft WAP	Mid 2023	Draft WAP submitted for review (WPSC/NYLB/DEW/CSO) Finalised draft WAP and Consultation Plan submitted for approval (WPSC/NYLB/Min)	Project Team / Jennifer Munro / Rebecca Howard / Tony Fox / Sarah Johnson / Hannah Ling
Key messages	• <i>Ensure this section provides enough detail. List the messages you are hoping to deliver with comms.</i> • NYLB is investing in water planning in the Barossa PWRA as required under the LSA, at a time of changing climate, diminishing native water resources, and increasing water demands. • The amendment of the current 2009 Barossa WAP is being completed by NYLB with support of the community and stakeholder representative Water Allocation Plan Advisory Group, and in partnership with DEW to ensure that it is informed by the best available water-related data and information and aligns with the requirements of the LSA as part of the statewide water planning program. • The amended WAP will be based on updated science and monitoring that has occurred since the adoption of the current 2009 Barossa WAP. • Recent years in the Barossa have seen an overall decline in rainfall and this has impacted on streamflow, recharge of aquifers and the condition of local ecosystems. Streamflow trends have shown a long-term decline and groundwater levels in all three aquifer systems were either below-average or reached their lowest on record. • The NYLB is seeking community input into the development of WAP policies and how best to manage surface water and groundwater resources in a changing climate. The WAP is a regulatory document that manages the take and use of surface water and groundwater. Other projects are underway alongside the WAP amendment process that are considering actions that can improve water security for water users and local ecosystems. A suite of projects and actions, including WAP policies, will be needed to manage water resource issues that Barossa is currently experiencing. SURFACE WATER - Recent data has confirmed declines in stream flows at the lower range of those predicted in models, exacerbated by the presence of existing dams and potential watercourse extractions - Current levels of surface water use are within allocation volumes – however, management options limited to targeting allocations are therefore unlikely to provide Environmental Water Requirements - Management zones are proposed based on sub-catchments, with transfers limited to within these zones - An upper extraction limit is proposed to be established equal to current allocations - Proposed no net increase in dams - Proposed that harvesting of additional runoff generated from urban development be provided for - The Board is keen to hear your views on the management of surface water resources, particularly how best to manage the risks that declining flows pose to existing users and the local environment. GROUNDWATER - Current groundwater use is within allocation volumes - Groundwater recharge is sensitive to climatic changes, and with recharge declining in recent years current extractions may not be sustainable over the longer-term			

	- Management zones proposed are based on aquifer type and the relevant issues that need to be managed, e.g. increasing salinity, and the need to protect baseflow to support water-dependent ecosystems - An upper extraction limit is proposed to be established equal to current allocations - Resource condition thresholds are being considered, which if breached adaptive management responses such as variable allocations could be implemented to allow the groundwater resource to recover - To protect existing wells and water-dependent ecosystems, the use of buffer zones between wells, and around groundwater-dependent ecosystems is proposed - The Board is keen to hear your views on how best to manage groundwater resources, protect baseflow and ensure sustainability of the resource. ECOLOGY - The WAP will describe Environmental Water Requirements for key water-dependent ecosystems i.e. permanent pools - Environmental Water Provision options involving increased available watercourse flows and water releases from dams are being considered - The Board is keen to hear your views on the management of the health and condition of key water-dependent ecosystems • The Board is keen for water users in the Barossa to have their say in the development of content for the amended Barossa WAP, and is engaging to collaboratively involve stakeholders in the development of the plan. • This will provide the opportunity for stakeholders and community members, including First Nations, to be involved to ensure the water-related priorities and perspectives of the Barossa and Flaxman Valley communities of the Barossa PWRA are considered in the drafting stages. • Following completion of a draft WAP there will be a period of formal public consultation. Feedback provided at this stage will be considered before finalising the WAP. • Cultural water values are being incorporated into the Barossa WAP for the first time through targeted engagement with First Nations. • The amended WAP is being developed parallel to other concurrent projects including the Barossa Water Security Strategy and the Barossa New Water project that are focused on long-term water supply for the Barossa and Flaxman Valley areas. The WAP aims to manage the sustainable take and use of surface water and groundwater, working alongside these complementary projects to support economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes and help adaption to a changing climate.		
Tone	Describe the intended tone: Positive Informative Casual Positive and Collaborative		
Audience	Primary: • Barossa Water Licence holders • Greenock Creek Existing Users • Barossa Australia members • Barossa Improved Grazing Group members • Primary Producers SA members • NYLB members and staff • Advisory Group/Project Team/Steering Committee	Secondary: • Barossa Infrastructure Limited members • Barossa and Flaxman Valleys community • State Water Policy Forum	Stakeholders • SA Water • PIRSA • EPA • Barossa Council • Light Regional Council • RDA BGLAP • Barossa Infrastructure Limited
Budget	Barossa WAP project (3005)		
Risks	• Any communication issues, sensitive topics, potential confusion around messaging • Targeted stakeholders do not engage in the process either due to engagement fatigue or uncertainty around how this process differs from other Barossa engagements. Manage by: Being clear that this process is occurring in parallel and linked to other Barossa water-related processes. Communicate what it will deliver and the benefits. Coordinate communications between projects so as to not overwhelm people with information. • Targeted engagement process may not cover the entirety of the Barossa water user community. Manage by: Ensure that all methods of non-targeted engagement are well communicated and advertised, to maximise the opportunities for input and involvement. • Possible lack of understanding of the scope and limitations of the process as compared to the other Barossa projects. Manage by: Be transparent around the process, timelines and deliverables. Be clear that the process is a regulatory one that is linked but independent of the other projects. • Unknown timeframe required to complete a draft policy framework for management of all water resources and environments. Manage by: internal collaboration and workshopping by the Project Team and their colleagues in order to complete an agreed draft policy framework for review and approval by the WPSC and Board by mid 2023. • Negative response by water licence holders to the extended length of the WAP amendment process. Manage by: Provide communications and engagement at intervals to demonstrate progress and remaining timeline. Briefing papers indicating the state of the resource and the need for additional management. Refer to other related projects underway to show that water management issues have progressed and the WAP amendment is occurring alongside these other projects.		

	• Resistance by industry groups to the direction and intent of the plan. Manage by: Targeted engagement with industry groups ahead of consultation to address concerns directly. Encourage collaborative media use as part of the finalisation of the amended plan to demonstrate transparency and an inclusive approach. • Proposed amendments not supported by stakeholders. Manage by: Co-design policy with stakeholders via Advisory Group and via targeted pre-consultation engagement with key industry and stakeholders. Early acknowledgment and addressing of issues where the proposed changes could have significant impact on particular stakeholders.
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