

**Northern and Yorke
Landscape Board**

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Reference: [JM: 20250626]

[Title] [FirstName] [Last Name]

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Dear [Title] [Last Name]

I am pleased to inform you that the draft amended Barossa Water Allocation Plan (draft WAP) has been released for public consultation. The draft WAP provides the framework for the taking and use of prescribed groundwater, surface and watercourse water in the Barossa Prescribed Water Resources Area in accordance with the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. The draft WAP replaces the existing Water Allocation Plan for the Barossa Prescribed Water Resources Area (2009).

As a water licence holder, the draft WAP is relevant to you as it sets out the way water licences and allocations will be managed in the future. In particular, it proposes:

- overall limits on how much water can be extracted from each water resource within zones (called 'consumptive pools'). The groundwater consumptive pools are based on aquifer type and relevant triggers (e.g. water level). The surface water consumptive pools are based on the main sub-catchments and monitoring site locations;
- the types of water management tools (licences, entitlements and allocations) used to manage water extraction and take;
- how these water management tools may be issued, varied or transferred to other people;
- buffer zones to limit water use in close proximity to water-dependent ecosystems and other water users;
- what water-dependent ecosystems are present and the relevant water requirements to meet their needs;
- provision of cultural water to meet the water rights of native title; and
- how water resources and ecosystems should be monitored.

For the groundwater consumptive pools (Upper Aquifer Central Consumptive Pool and Lower Aquifer Consumptive Pool) that are at potential risk if current water entitlements were fully extracted over an extended period, a 'safety net scheme' is proposed to manage this risk, without having to permanently reduce water entitlements for the life of this WAP. The scheme proposes to manage extractions if at any time groundwater monitoring

indicates that the triggers have been breached for the established thresholds for recovered winter pressure level. Allowing existing water entitlements to stay at the current volume for each existing licensee provides flexibility to respond to seasonal weather conditions. Water extraction can increase for short periods when conditions are drier than usual, provided the long term average stays stable and does not put the groundwater resource at risk. Please refer to the Overview, Adaptive Management, and FAQ information sheets enclosed for further information.

For the surface water consumptive pools (named by sub-catchment), upper extraction limits for each pool equal to the total current volume allocated have been set. This is in recognition of the recorded reduction in the resource capacity and the likely ongoing and long-term decline in water availability forecast by climate models. Environmental flow and permanent pool metrics have been established to monitor the condition of the water resource and ecosystems. These will be used by the Minister to determine the most appropriate management response where thresholds are exceeded. Please refer to the Overview, Adaptive Management, and FAQ information sheets enclosed for further information.

We welcome your feedback on the draft WAP. More information and ways to provide your feedback are available through the YourSAy website at:

<https://bit.ly/BarossaWAP> or scan this QR code to access.



You can also make a written submission via:

Email: ny.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au

Post: Northern and Yorke Landscape Board
318 Main North Road
CLARE SA 5453

If you prefer to speak to someone, please phone (08) 8841 3444 or come along to one of our drop-in sessions where you can find out more and ask questions. Please click on the QR code below to register your attendance.

- Lyndoch | Thursday, 31 July 2025 – 12pm-2pm
- Tanunda | Thursday, 31 July 2025 – 4.30pm-6.30pm
- Angaston | Friday, 1 August 2025 – 12pm-2pm
- Nuriootpa | Friday, 1 August 2025 – 4.30pm – 6.30pm



The consultation period commenced on Monday 30 June 2025 and will end at 5pm on Sunday 31 August. All submissions received will be considered in finalising any amendments to the WAP and submitted to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water for adoption. If you require more time to complete your submission, please contact the Landscape Board on the phone number above to discuss options. Please note that all written submissions will be publicly available (with personal details removed) as part of a consultation report.

The Landscape Board and the Department for Environment and Water are working in partnership to consult on, and finalise, the draft amended Barossa Water Allocation Plan.

We look forward to hearing from you if you have any questions, comments or feedback on the proposals in the draft WAP.

Yours sincerely

Tony Fox
General Manager, Northern and Yorke Landscape Board

30/6/2025