

Padthaway Water Allocation Plan

Water Licence Instruments

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Limestone Coast Landscape Board

The consultation draft of the Padthaway water allocation plan introduces a new water license authorisation system. This system will follow state and national policy that promotes the unbundling of water rights. This means separating water rights and permissions into individual instruments.

How is the new water licensing system different?

Instead of one water licence, the new licensing system introduces two separate water licensing instruments, in line with the requirements of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

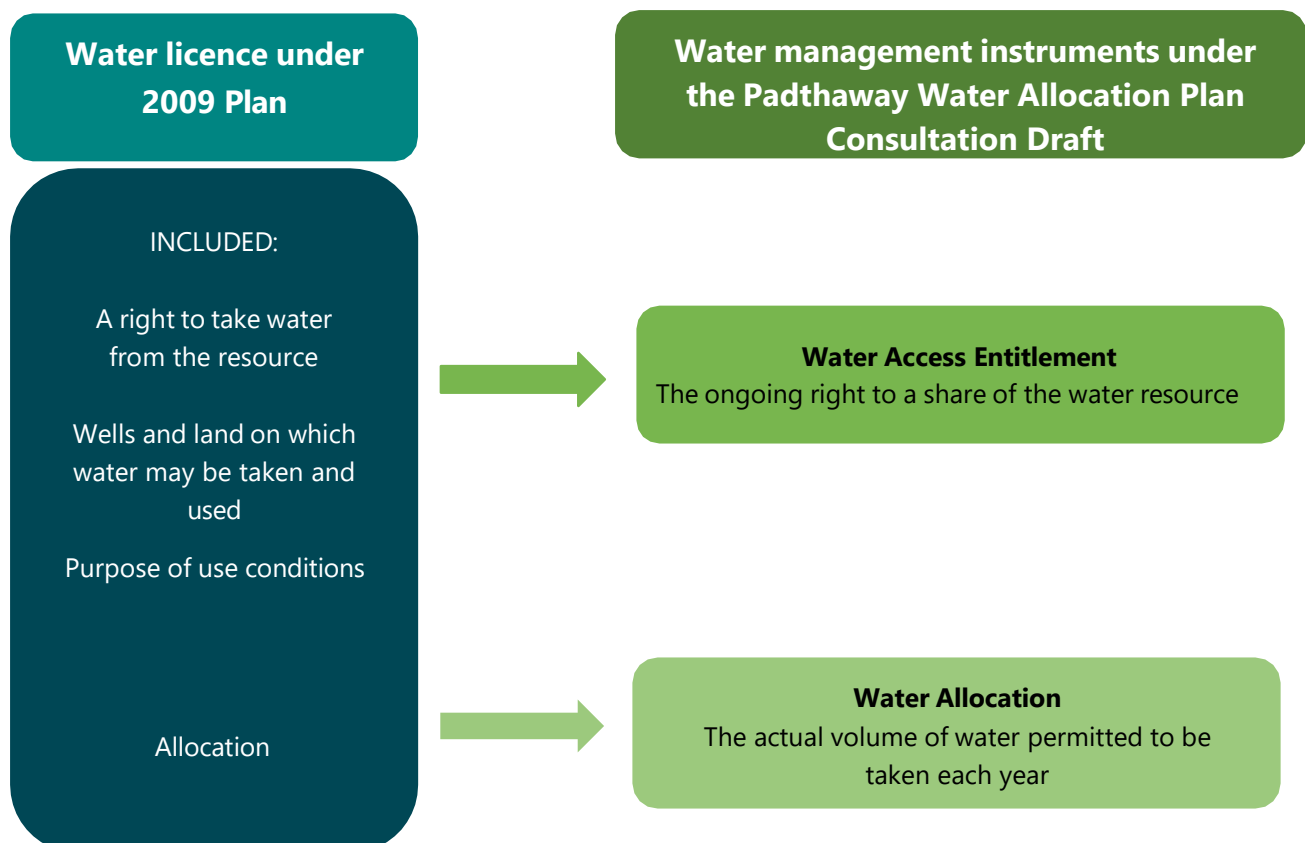
These separate instruments will enable water licence holders to access water but will allow simpler trading of water and more flexibility to change allocations according to annual water availability. They will distinguish between an ongoing right to access water and the actual volume of water allocated each year.

A water licence is still not required to take water for stock or domestic purposes.

What are the two water licencing instruments?

1. Water access entitlement
2. Water allocation

These are described on the following page.



What is a Water Access Entitlement?

A water access entitlement gives the holder a right to a share of water in a specified consumptive pool (see Fact Sheet 3 – Consumptive Pools). Each water share in the Padthaway water allocation plan (the plan) will be equivalent to 1 kilolitre (kL).

Each water access entitlement will be allocated a class which describes permitted water uses (See Fact Sheet 2 – Classes of Water Access Entitlement).

It is proposed that water access entitlements will not change for the life of the Plan once granted. They would only change if they are traded or sold.

During the transition to the amended Plan all existing water licence holders will be granted a water licence containing a water access entitlement to the same volume of water as their previous annual water allocation.

What is a Water Allocation?

A water allocation is the actual volume of water from the water access entitlement that is permitted to be extracted for use each year.

Water allocations will be reviewed annually and an allocation will be set for each water use year (July 1 to June 30).

This volume will be equal to the full water access entitlement for the year unless a resource condition limit has been reached which will result in a restriction of allocation to the acceptable level of extraction (ALE) (See Fact Sheet 4 – Adaptive Management).

Water Allocation Carryover

The Plan will allow licensees to apply to carryover an unused water allocation into the next water use year for water used for irrigation, recreation, industry or public water supply.

No more than 20% of a water allocation can be carried over in any year.

No carryovers can apply to water allocations associated with the Padthaway managed aquifer recharge consumptive pool.

Example

If Mr Smith had a water licence under the 2009 Padthaway water allocation plan with an allocation of:

- Tradeable = 687,280 kL
- Delivery Supplement = 1,050,670 kL
- Specialised Production Requirement = 32,280 kL

Under the amended Plan, Mr Smith would have the following water access entitlements:

- Class T1 = 687,280 kL
- Class D = 1,050,670 kL
- Class S = 32,280 kL

If no resource condition limits have been triggered then this would translate to Mr Smith receiving an annual allocation of:

- Class T1 = 687,280 kL
- Class D = 1,050,670 kL
- Class S = 32,280 kL

If the underground water level decline resource condition is triggered (See Fact Sheet 4 – Adaptive Management), Mr Smith's water access entitlement shares (units of shares) would remain the same although allocation would be reduced (11.12% reduction in allocation) and reviewed in 12 months. This would result in Mr Smith receiving an annual allocation of:

- Class T1 = 610,854 kL
- Class D = 933,835 kL
- Class S = 28,690 kL

If the underground water level recovers above the resource condition limit for two consecutive years, allocation will return to 100% in the following water use year.

Acknowledgment

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