

Draft Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse

Water affecting activities –

Drilling of wells along the length of the River Murray



Background

Water affecting activities (WAA) are activities that can potentially have adverse impacts on the health and condition of water resources, other water users and ecosystems that depend on water resources.

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board is making changes to the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse Water Allocation Plan (the draft plan) which includes new provisions for water affecting activities related to drilling wells along the length of the River Murray to minimise impacts associated with connected water resources.

The new rules are proposed to address a risk that alternative sources of water will be sought due to continued high demand for River Murray water entitlements. There are currently limited protections in place for the extraction of groundwater along the length of the River Murray.

New rules are being introduced to the draft plan to protect interactions between groundwater, water dependant ecosystems and the River Murray.

What are the proposed new water affecting activities rules?

The new water affecting activities (WAA) rules are outlined in Section 8.1 of the draft plan. The policy proposal allows construction of wells where extraction of groundwater near to the river is useful from a resource perspective e.g. where extraction acts like a salt interception scheme that will prevent saline groundwater from entering the river, or will lower local groundwater mounds.

The policy proposal also prevents wells from being constructed to take groundwater in areas where there is likely to be good connectivity between the River Murray and local groundwater system. This will avoid additional take of water from the River Murray through extraction from a nearby water well.

I want to find out more about...

The Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse:

T: (08) 8463 6877

E: rmwap.feedback@sa.gov.au

Or visit:

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/rivermurraywap

Water Affecting Activity permits relating to wells or well driller's licences:

T: (08) 8463 6876

Or visit: www.environment.sa.gov.au/licences-and-permits/water-licence-and-permit-forms/statewide

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