



Comments on

draft

Water Allocation Plan

for the

Marne Saunders

Prescribed Water Resources Area

by

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FARMERS FEDERATION
(SAFF)
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

On

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CHAIR: Sharon Starick

Level 1, 67 South Terrace
Adelaide SA 5000

CONTACT: Natural Resources Executive Officer
Ms Sandra Keane
Email: skeane@saff.com.au

PO Box 6014
Halifax Street SA 5000
Telephone: (08) 8410 7233
Facsimile: (08) 8211 7303
Website: www.saff.com.au

General comments:

The South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF) would like to congratulate the South Australian Murray-Darling NRM Board on the significant work undertaken to develop the Water Allocation Plan (WAP) for the Marne Saunders Prescribed Water Resources Area - both in terms of the scientific work undertaken as a basis for the WAP and the development of policies to address the issues.

SAFF recognises the work undertaken given that this will be the first WAP for the area and that allocations will be expressed as a volume of water.

SAFF recognises the significant involvement by the community in the development of the WAP. The Board provided many avenues for community members to be able to have their say about this draft Plan.

The draft is relatively easy to read and well presented. The 'Frequently Asked Questions' fact sheet gives a good and clear background to the water allocation planning process.

New allocations:

SAFF supports the approach that where water is available for new allocations, that it is made available for development; given that water is allocated within sustainable limits.

Further clarification needs to be provided on the roof run-off policy – is this on a per property basis or a per roof area basis?

Transfers:

SAFF supports the transfer of allocations (both temporary and permanent) between users, subject to the rules within the WAP. SAFF would encourage an education and awareness program to enable greater understanding of trade within this area as the community would have little understanding of the process.

Low flow bypasses:

SAFF supports the policies in relation to low flow by-passes as they directly relate to environmental benefit. In the short to medium term, SAFF would encourage the Board together with DWLBC, to develop some low cost models for low flow by-passes which would enable irrigators to implement the requirement.

Monitoring and evaluation:

SAFF supports the ongoing monitoring of the water resources to gain a better understanding of the resources over time, given the implementation of the WAP policies.

Water affecting activities: - use of effluent

SAFF questions the need of intensive industries required to seek a permit annually for the spreading of effluent, given that the volume of effluent that is allowable is small. SAFF understands the need to protect the environment, neighbours and water quality. However the volumes set are very low. It might have been better if the WAP actually set out some buffer distances from the Marne/Saunders within which you cannot spread effluent without getting a permit.