

GREAT FORESTER RIVER CATCHMENT WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

October 2021

The **Great Forester River Catchment Water Management Plan** September 2021 took effect on 27 October 2021. It replaces the Great Forester Catchment Water Management Plan 2003 and applies to all surface water and groundwater resources in the Great Forester River catchment.

The Plan's objectives aim to balance the need for reliable access to water for town and essential water users while maintaining environmental, social and cultural values, and providing water for economic purposes.

Implementation of the Plan is supported by the Water Management Protocols which describes how water will be managed under the rules of the Plan.

Full details of the Plan and Water Management Protocols are provided on our website:

<http://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/water/water-management-plans/adopted-water-management-plans/great-forester-water-management-plan>

WATER ALLOCATION

The Great Forester River catchment is fully allocated for the **summer** period (1 November to 30 April). Some water is available during the **winter** period (1 May – 31 October) and applications to allocate that water will be considered by the Department on a case-by-case basis.

RESTRICTION MANAGEMENT

Low flow access thresholds

Restrictions will apply to water users with Surety 3-6 allocations when the flow in the Great Forester River reaches the levels in Table 1, measured at the flow reference point – Great Forester River upstream of the Forester Road bridge.

Different staged restrictions are applied to two water management zones in the Plan area – the Upper Great Forester River and the Lower Great Forester River.

The staged restriction rules are provided in the Water Management Protocols (Section 1.3.1 for the Upper zone and Section 1.3.2 for the Lower zone).

Table 1. Low flow access (cease-to-take) thresholds (megalitres (ML)/day).

MONTH	THRESHOLD (ML/DAY)
November	30
December	30
January	30
February	30
March	30
April	30
May	58
June	80
July	130
August	155
September	130
October	90

Opportunistic take-access (high flow) threshold

Under this Plan, licensees are permitted to take water from a watercourse during periods of very high flow (at any time of year) once the opportunistic take - access threshold of **1200 megalitres/day** (at the flow reference point) has been reached and notified by an Authorised Officer. Permission will remain in place until flow falls below the high flow threshold and authorisation is revoked.

Current water restrictions and authorisations are provided to licensees via SMS and to the general public via the Tasmanian Government Public Notices website:

www.publicinfo.tas.gov.au

OTHER INFORMATION

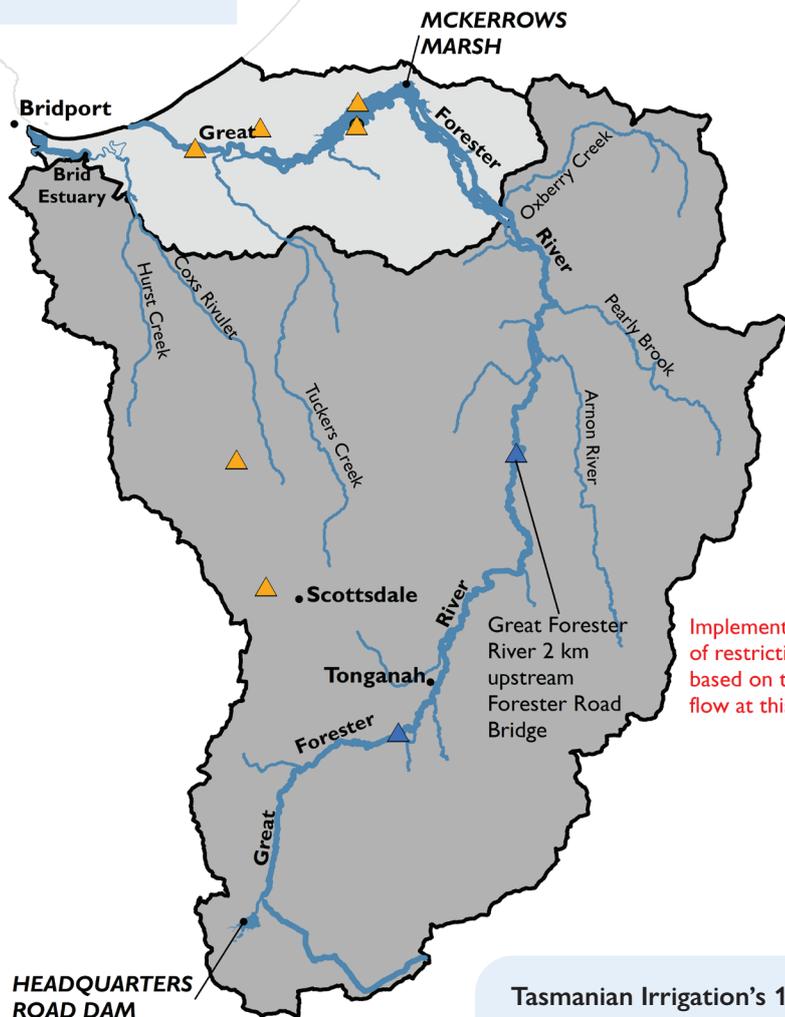
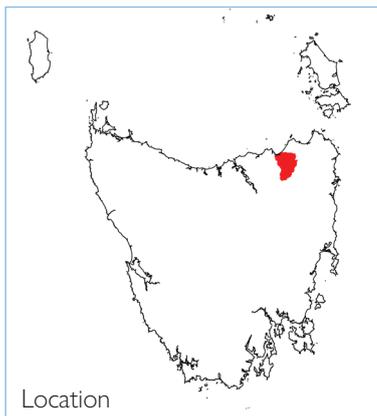
Information on the catchment is available at:
<https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/water/water-management-plans/adopted-water-management-plans/great-forester-water-management-plan/great-forester-river-catchment-water-resources-information>

Annual reports will be published every year to provide updates on some information:
<https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/water/water-data/annual-river-reports>
 Stream flow and groundwater level data are available on the Water Information Tasmania Web Portal:
<portal.wrt.tas.gov.au>

The river system has a largely **natural flow regime that shows a strong seasonal flow pattern** (wetter in winter and drier in summer). The average annual yield for the catchment is 149,400 megalitres/year.

River flows are essential to sustain natural values in the river and **MCKERROWS MARSH (blackwood swamp of regional and State significance)**.

Water use in the catchment is primarily for growing vegetables, dairying, raising beef cattle and aquaculture.



Implementation of restrictions is based on the flow at this point.

- ▲ Streamflow gauging stations
- ▲ Groundwater monitoring sites

Water Management Zones

- Lower Great Forester River
- Upper Great Forester River

For thousands of years the Great Forester River was an important landmark for Tasmanian Aboriginal people. It was and continues to be a significant placescape that provided a rich source of seasonal foods, cultural products and where families gathered to conduct ceremonial activities.

Tasmanian Irrigation's 1920 megalitre **HEADQUARTERS ROAD DAM** supplies water to downstream irrigators in the Great Forester and Scottsdale irrigation schemes.