



Review of Spring Hill
Groundwater Management Plan 2001

Groundwater user survey

Final 1

Date: 26 June 2007

Document Number: 2218073

Document History and Distribution

Version(s)

Version	Date	Author(s)	Notes
Draft A	17 May 2007	Brendan Cossens	Document Creation. Comments provided by Matt Barden, Eddie Tappe, Simon Cowan, Richard Carter
Final 1	26 June 2007	Brendan Cossens	

Distribution

Version	Date	Recipient(s)	Notes
Draft B	30 May 2007	Russell McKay	Comments provided
Final 1	27 June 2006	GHD	Assist with review of Spring Hill Groundwater Management Plan

Executive Summary

This report summarises responses from surveyed groundwater users in the Spring Hill Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA) on what they believe are the successes and limitations of the Groundwater Management Plan 2001. Most groundwater users surveyed indicated that overall, the Groundwater Management Plan has not been successful. Issues were identified with management boundaries; access to groundwater; bore interference; distribution of groundwater entitlement; lack of enforcement by Goulburn-Murray Water (G-MW); monitoring; metering; and transfer of water entitlement.

It was widely acknowledged that groundwater levels have been falling over the past decade. Almost half of groundwater users surveyed have had to alter their pumping arrangements in response to falling groundwater levels since the introduction of the Groundwater Management Plan. Additionally, greater than half of respondents indicated that springs had stopped flowing.

Around half of the respondents claimed that their neighbours bore may be impacting on groundwater levels in their bore. Thirty percent of respondents indicated that there was too much groundwater pumping in their local area causing increased interference during periods of high extraction and low recharge. Most groundwater users indicated that no new licence entitlement should be granted in the Spring Hill WSPA as this would further reduce the security of supply for existing users, particularly in hot spot areas such as south of Newlyn.

On the other hand, 21% of respondents indicated that water levels in their bore are not influenced by neighbouring pumping bores and that additional water should be made available. In some areas groundwater users suggested that levels were '*holding well*' and that some springs were still flowing. This suggests that there may be areas in the Spring Hill WSPA where the aquifer is not stressed including the Blampied, Smeaton and Mollonghip Zones.

There is evidence that additional groundwater monitoring is required in the Mollonghip, Newlyn and Kingston areas. The majority of groundwater users reported that groundwater salinity was not increasing in the area.

A large number of groundwater users indicated that they had had problems with their meter such as it reading too fast; wearing out; and the inconvenience of pipe length required to make meters operate (i.e. requirements up and downstream of the meter).

Thirty three percent of respondents indicated that they had issues with temporary transfer of water entitlement. Reasons stated included boundaries bisecting properties and rules introduced at short notice in response to limited recovery in 2006/07 which impacted on farm production.

A large majority of surveyed groundwater users indicated that they were in favour of introducing permanent trade of water entitlement in the Spring Hill WSPA to increase security of supply for farms that require more water and achieve a more equitable distribution of groundwater entitlement. However, they would only support permanent transfers if the plan considered appropriate controls to protect neighbouring bores.

Most groundwater users were generally satisfied with the information provided by G-MW which allowed them to manage their licence entitlement. G-MW was criticised for failure to police domestic and stock use for irrigation; ensuring licence holders are complying with their licence conditions; and not providing more regular communication of monitoring information.

Other key issues identified by groundwater users for review of the plan included possibility of introducing carryover and better understanding of groundwater use on the environment.

This report recommends that a new Groundwater Management Plan be developed given the level of dissatisfaction with the current plan. Any new plan should consider:

- the need to alter boundaries and zones;
- the introduction of groundwater level response management in some areas to ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource;
- rules to limit the degree of bore interference;
- restriction options to minimise impacts to farm production during periods of low groundwater levels;
- areas where the aquifer may not be stressed, including the Blampied, Smeaton and Mollongghip Zones, to determine if additional water may be available;
- the need for groundwater users to return sample bottles provided by G-MW sent annually to monitor groundwater salinity;
- options to introduce permanent trade of water entitlement in the Spring Hill WSPA to increase security of supply.
- a communications strategy to inform groundwater users of the state of the resource;
- consider, as part of reporting, publicising action taken against groundwater users who do not comply with their licence conditions.

Additionally, G-MW should information supplied to licence holders on the operation of meters.

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1 Introduction

This report documents the outcomes from a survey of groundwater users in the Spring Hill Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA). Groundwater users were requested to complete the survey as part of a review of the Spring Hill Groundwater Management Plan 2001.

The Spring Hill Groundwater Management Plan review will consist of the following components:

1. groundwater user survey;
2. monitoring review;
3. technical review; and
4. Groundwater Management Plan evaluation.

The outcomes from the groundwater user survey will provide valuable community input into the review of the plan by identifying technical work that needs to be undertaken and determining the direction of future discussions with the community.

1.1 Aim

The aim of the survey was to identify the success of the Groundwater Management Plan. This report is not intended to respond to groundwater users concerns or provide answers to issues raised. Rather, it is intended to summarise groundwater user's perception of the current Groundwater Management Plan, including identifying limitations of the plan and how it may be improved to provide input to the review.

1.2 Background

The Spring Hill WSPA was declared on 14 January 1999 as the licence entitlement was high relative to the Permissible Annual Volume. At that time there was limited groundwater level monitoring and no metering. A Consultative Committee was appointed to develop a Groundwater Management Plan for the Spring Hill WSPA. A Plan was endorsed by the Minister in February 2002. It established management zones for transfer of water and prohibited new entitlements. A monitoring and metering program was established to assist with reporting requirements. The plan stated that it was to be reviewed within 5 years from the date it was approved.

2 Methodology

All licensed groundwater users (56) were sent a copy of the survey. A copy of the survey is presented in Appendix A. An advertisement was also placed in the notices of the Ballarat Courier in an attempt to gain input from domestic and stock users who are not licensed.

The survey questions were structured to gauge the success of the plan in terms of the following:

- management boundaries and zones;
- groundwater resources;
- groundwater salinity;
- monitoring;
- metering;
- transfers;
- G-MWs implementation role; and
- overall success of the Groundwater Management Plan.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Response to survey

A total of 24 responses were received; 4 domestic and stock, 1 urban and 19 irrigation users (Figure 3-1). The number of responses received was considered good, as there are only 56 groundwater licence holders in the Spring Hill WSPA. This highlights the interest in the management of groundwater resources in the area. It should be noted that since the Groundwater Management Plan was endorsed groundwater levels have been declining in the region. This is likely to have generated greater interest in groundwater resources. It may be that those who have responded to the survey are most affected by falling groundwater levels. This may bias some responses.

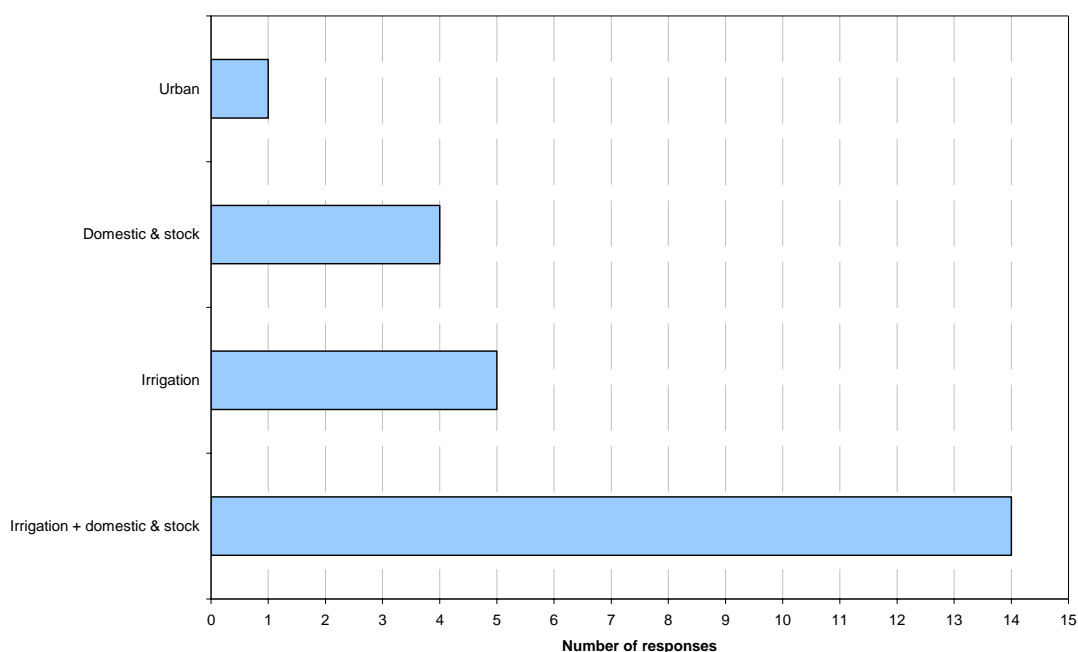


Figure 3-1 Number of responses to survey

3.2 Success of Groundwater Management plan

Only 33% of respondents thought that the Groundwater Management Plan had achieved its objective to '*ensure groundwater resources are managed in an equitable and sustainable manner during both normal and drought seasons*' (Figure 3-2).

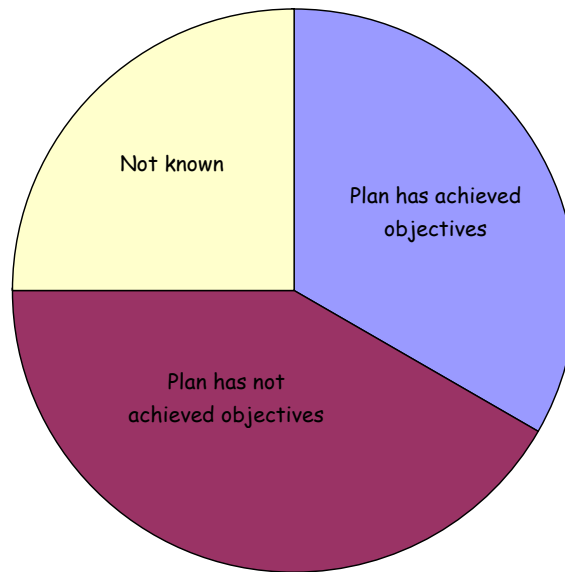


Figure 3-2 Respondents view on success of plan

Forty two percent of respondents believe that the plan has been unsuccessful in achieving its objective. Reasons provided included:

- lack of active management by G-MW;
- refusal to increase entitlement despite bore capacity;
- inequitable distribution of groundwater entitlement (small properties have more entitlement and large licenses not being used).

Some groundwater users believe that entitlement should be commandeered from those not using it and more fairly distributed.

3.3 Management boundary and zones

Boundary

The boundary of the Spring Hill WSPA was based primarily on groundwater allocation intensity and encircling of the main areas of high quality groundwater (DNRE, 1998). Half of respondents were satisfied with the management boundary, however, 21% indicated that they were dissatisfied suggesting that the area should be enlarged for the following reasons:

- to include all the basalt area;
- to include new bores being drilled outside the area that are impacting on available resource; and
- south-western end of Forest Hill should be extended to the state forest.

The plan review should consider these reasons for extending the management boundary when reviewing technical data.

More than a quarter of respondents were not familiar with the boundary.

Zones

Only 33% of respondents were satisfied with zones in the Spring Hill WSPA. A quarter of respondents were not satisfied. Reasons for dissatisfaction included:

- zone boundaries restricted trade opportunities where boundaries bisect properties;
- rules are not flexible enough and restrict trading opportunities;
- uncertainty as to the technical basis for boundaries;
- the belief that water hasn't been distributed or managed fairly; and
- the need to create an easy to follow boundary between Forest Hill and Mollonghip Zone (e.g. follow CHW easement pipe to create clear straight line).

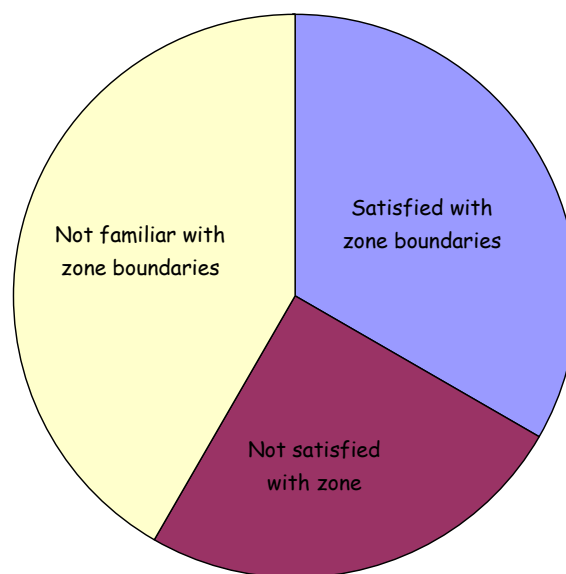


Figure 3-3 Appropriateness of zones boundaries

Forty two percent of respondents were not familiar with zone boundaries. G-MW should provide clear supporting technical information as to why zones boundaries have been established and communicate these to groundwater users in the plan review.

3.4 Groundwater resources

Groundwater users were questioned about the following to assess the status of groundwater resources in their area:

- groundwater levels;
- access to groundwater;
- pumping interference from nearby bores;
- the flowing status of local springs; and
- the possibility of increasing entitlement.

Groundwater levels

Seventy four percent of respondents were aware that groundwater levels have been falling within the WSPA, the remainder did not know. The decline in groundwater levels was largely attributed to reduced rainfall over the last 10 years. Groundwater users noted that in some areas groundwater levels recharged to pre-pumping levels following winter rainfall. In the Blampied Zone some groundwater users suggested that levels were '*holding well*'.

Access and interference

Forty two percent of respondents have had to lower their pump, deepen their bore, or in some cases abandon their bore in response to falling groundwater levels (Figure 3-4). This includes 2 urban supply bores. Other groundwater users have had to limit their pumping rates and/or duration to enable them to maintain supply. The large percentage of users who have had to alter their pump depth suggests that the Groundwater Management Plan may need to consider groundwater level response management in some areas to ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource.

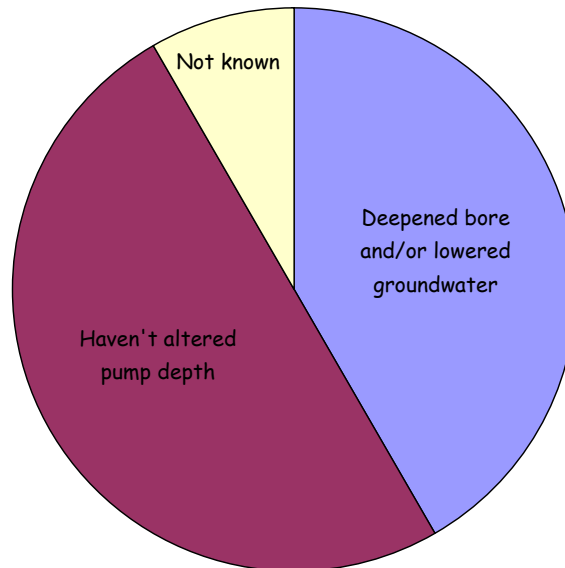


Figure 3-4 Groundwater user response to falling groundwater levels

Twenty nine percent of respondents indicated that, in their opinion, there was too much groundwater pumping in their local area (depending on the season). This is supported by 46% of respondents claiming that their neighbours bore may be impacting on groundwater levels in their bore. This highlights the need to consider local intensity rules in the Spring Hill WSPA to reduce interference.

Those who indicated that pumping from surrounding bores is impacting on water levels in their bore raised concerns about the following:

- increased interference during periods of high extraction and low recharge;
- large licence holders pumping for long periods;
- unregulated pumping; and
- siting of neighbouring bores.

These concerns should be considered by G-MW when licensing bores or permitting transfer of water entitlement in the Spring Hill WSPA. Methods of reducing interference might include reducing the maximum pumping rate, introducing a maximum pumping duration, and introducing local intensity rules (that is specifying the maximum volume of water that may be extracted annually within a specified area).

There were only 8% of respondents who had lowered their pumps and also indicated that there is potential to pump more groundwater in the Spring Hill WSPA. This indicates that there are some groundwater users who are willing to 'chase' the groundwater to greater depths. This also suggests that most groundwater users recognise it is not an infinite resource and would be willing to accept some form of level management.

Status of springs

Fifty eight percent of respondents indicated that springs had stopped flowing in their local area. Detrimental impacts on groundwater dependant ecosystems in the area due to this are not known. Seventeen percent of respondents indicated that some springs were still flowing, which suggests that while the impacts of declining groundwater levels has been widespread, there are areas less affected. These springs should be mapped to assist with the identification and protection of groundwater dependant ecosystems in the Spring Hill WSPA.

Potential for increased entitlement

Fifty eight percent of respondents indicated that no new licence entitlement should be granted in the Spring Hill WSPA as this would further reduce the security of supply for existing users, particularly in hot spot areas such as south of Newlyn (Figure 3-5).

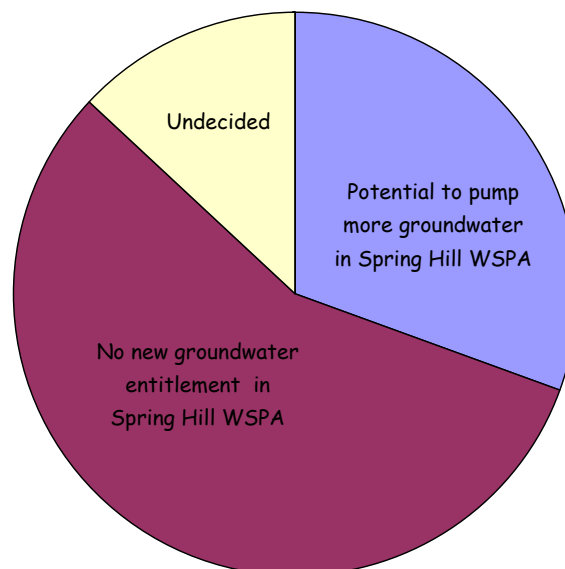


Figure 3-5 Groundwater user opinion on potential to pump more groundwater

On the other hand, 29% of respondents indicated that additional water should be made available. This corresponds with 29% of respondents who indicated that water

levels in their bore are not influenced by pumping from neighbouring bores. This suggests that there may be pockets in the Spring Hill WSPA where aquifers are not stressed (e.g. Smeaton and Mollonghip Zones) and there may be an opportunity to transfer groundwater entitlement into these areas from hot spot areas.

Groundwater users noted that metering has shown that overall the volume extracted is less than entitlement. Also noted was that the perception of some groundwater users that there is significant illegal pumping which continues in the area without any regulation.

3.5 Monitoring

A total of 38% of respondents thought that groundwater monitoring was sufficient. However, 33% of respondents think monitoring is insufficient, which suggests that there are areas where additional groundwater monitoring may be required.

Only 17% of respondents who claim that surrounding bores are impacting on water levels in their bore thought that additional monitoring was required. This was in the Mollonghip, Newlyn, and Kingston areas.

Groundwater users stated the following in regard to groundwater monitoring:

- given high variability of groundwater levels across the area additional monitoring is required;
- more monitoring is required in the Blampied Zone;
- groundwater users should provide G-MW with level information from their bore(s); and
- there needs to be more feedback to groundwater users.

The review of monitoring in the Spring Hill WSPA should address these comments. The plan should identify a means of communicating monitoring information to groundwater users.

3.6 Groundwater salinity

A total of 58% of respondents indicated that the groundwater salinity was not increasing in the Spring Hill WSPA. Only 4% (1 groundwater user) from the Blampied area indicated that it was increasing while the remainder did not know.

The review of monitoring should investigate any groundwater salinity increases in the Blampied area as part of the technical review.

The plan should communicate the importance of groundwater users to return sample bottles sent annually to monitor groundwater salinity.

3.7 Metering

Forty six percent of respondents indicated that they were satisfied with their meter. However, 38% indicated that they were not. Issues with meters included:

- meter reading too fast;
- meters wear out; and
- inconvenience of pipe length required to make meters work.

G-MW should consider providing some communication to all licence holders on the operation of meters.

Interestingly, 45% of those who indicated that they had meter problems also claimed that there is potential to pump more groundwater from the Spring Hill WSPA.

3.8 Transfer of water entitlement

Temporary trade of water entitlement

Thirty three percent of respondents indicated that they had issues with temporary transfer of water entitlement. These issues included:

- transfer of entitlement was made exceedingly difficult with rules changed in 2006/07 on extremely short notice which impacted on farm production;
- transfer of entitlement in 2006/07 was limited in the whole WSPA rather than just hotspot zones.

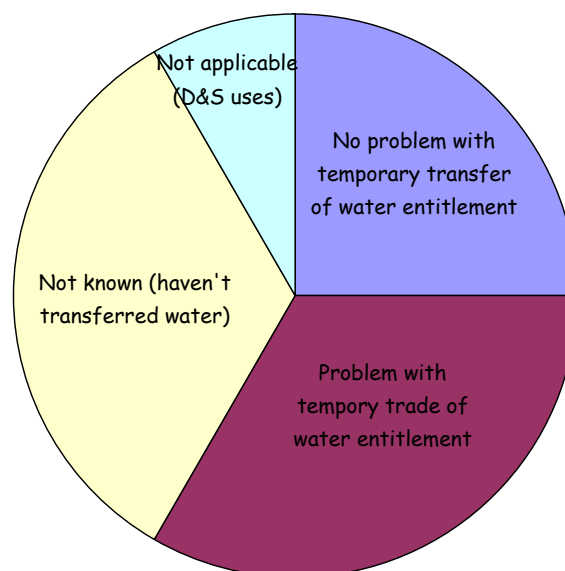


Figure 3-6 Groundwater user responses to temporary trading

The plan should review restriction options to minimise impacts to farm production during periods of low groundwater levels. For example, the plan could seek to identify hot spots where trading should be limited to a volume that the applicant can demonstrate will not have a detrimental impact on surrounding bores.

Permanent trade of water entitlement

Seventy one percent of respondents were in favour of introducing permanent trade of water entitlement in the Spring Hill WSPA. Groundwater users indicated that they would support permanent trade of water entitlement to:

- increase security of supply for farms that require more water; and
- achieve a more equitable distribution of groundwater entitlement.

However, some groundwater users would only support permanent transfers if the plan considered appropriate controls to protect neighbouring bores (Section 40 of the

Water Act 1989) and there was a proven history of temporary transfer. If there was not a proven history of temporary transfer then the applicant would be required to transfer temporarily for a number of years before permanent transfer would be considered.

There were 21% of respondents opposed to permanent transfer of water entitlement stating that there would be greater potential for interference from existing bores and that the entitlement should be tied to the land.

3.9 G-MW licence management

Sixty seven percent of respondents indicated that they were satisfied with the information provided by G-MW which allowed them to manage their licence entitlement. Some criticism was offered including:

- need for more regular communication of monitoring information and interpretation of results; and
- G-MW has made it increasingly difficult to transfer water to the detriment of farming practices.

The plan should consider appropriate communication means to provide monitoring results to licence holders. The plan should review restrictions on transfers to limit the impact on farm production.

3.10 Groundwater user comments

Space was provided on the survey questionnaire for groundwater users to provide any additional comments. These comments have been grouped into themes and are summarised below:

Success

- The 2001 plan was very timely and saved the area from a disaster.
- The plan achieved its objectives and has been accepted by groundwater users.

Compliance

- G-MW's failure to police domestic and stock bores being used for irrigation is a problem and an insult to licensed groundwater users.
- G-MW has failed to ensure licence holders are complying with licence conditions.
- Neighbouring bore installed in high risk area threatens domestic and stock user's access.
- Irrigators can be wasteful in their use of the resource.

Entitlement

- The Blampied Zone is not over allocated by comparison and more entitlement should be permitted.

-
- Some groundwater users need more licence volume. There are only a handful of licence holders that need to temporarily transfer and entitlement should be taken off large licence holders and given to those that are required to regularly transfer.
 - Many groundwater users in the Newlyn area are experiencing reductions in performance of irrigation bores and the general opinion is that the system is over allocated.
 - Entitlement holders should not have been granted 100% of entitlement in 2006/07.
 - Carryover between seasons should be considered.
 - Boundary line dissects property and restricts transfer of water entitlement.

Restrictions

- The issue of appropriate restriction of licence volume needs further consideration, for example ensuring minimum essential supplies are reserved for following seasons.
- Keep allocations as high as possible during dry seasons to help farms remain viable.
- Concern regarding different risk profiles of the various users in the area.

Environment

- Greater resources should be sought to more fully research, construct and implement the plan and include additional monitoring bores;
- Plan needs to address issues relating to interaction between groundwater and surface water and its ecological significance.
- Shallow watertables and their local and regional importance should be given greater significance in the plan.

Communication and reporting

- Some groundwater users were unaware of the plan while others who were new to the area were unable to answer all the questions with any real knowledge.
- Plan should make provision for more frequent reporting on water use than in the annual report.
- There are plenty of licence holders not using their entitlement. In the report each year G-MW doesn't indicate how much is left over from licence holders.

4 Conclusions

Almost half of the groundwater users surveyed indicated that, in their opinion, the Groundwater Management Plan has not been successful. Reasons stated included lack of active management by G-MW and inequitable distribution of groundwater entitlement. This suggests that the plan should include a communications strategy to keep groundwater users informed of resource management matters and that consideration be given to how permanent trade can be introduced.

A number of groundwater users provided valid reasons for a review of the WSPA boundaries including the need to consider extent of basalt formations and new bores drilled outside the area that are impacting on the available resource. The review of the Groundwater Management Plan should consider these reasons for altering the boundary when conducting a review of technical data.

Most groundwater users indicated that no new licence entitlement should be granted in the Spring Hill WSPA as this would further reduce the security of supply for existing users, particularly in hot spot areas. It was generally recognised that groundwater levels have been declining in the Spring Hill WSPA. Almost half of the groundwater users surveyed have had to alter their pumping arrangements in response to falling groundwater levels. Alterations have included deepening the bore; lowering the pump, abandoning the bore; and limiting pumping rates and/or duration to maintain supply. Greater than half of the respondents indicated that springs had stopped flowing in their local area. The large percentage of users that have had to alter their pump depth suggests that the plan may need to consider groundwater level management in some areas to ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource and protect groundwater dependant ecosystems.

On the other hand, 21% of respondents indicated that water levels in their bore are not influenced by neighbouring pumping bores and additional water should be made available. In some areas groundwater users suggested that levels were '*holding well*'. This suggests that there may be areas in the Spring Hill WSPA where aquifers are not stressed (e.g. Smeaton and Mollongghip Zones) and there may be an opportunity to transfer groundwater entitlement into these areas from hot spot areas. The plan review should consider these claims in terms of groundwater level trends, depth of pumping bores and aquifer screened.

Some springs are still reportedly flowing, which suggests that while the impacts of declining groundwater levels have been widespread, there are areas less affected. These springs should be mapped and some level of protection stated in the plan.

Around half of the respondents claimed that their neighbours bore may be impacting on groundwater levels in their bore. Thirty percent of respondents indicated that, in their opinion, there was too much groundwater pumping in their local area causing increased interference during periods of high extraction and low recharge. This highlights the need to establish rules to limit the degree of bore interference in the plan.

Eight percent of respondents who had lowered their pumps indicated that there is potential to pump more groundwater in the Spring Hill WSPA. This suggests that there are some groundwater users who are willing to invest and 'chase' groundwater to greater depths. However, most groundwater users appear to recognise groundwater is not an infinite resource and would be willing to accept some form of water level response management in the plan.

Only 17% of respondents who claim that surrounding bores are impacting on water levels in their bore also thought that additional monitoring was required. This was in the Mollongghop, Newlyn and Kingston areas. Groundwater users stated that, given

the high variability of groundwater levels across the area, additional monitoring is required. Groundwater users also stressed that there needs to be more feedback on monitoring. The plan review should consider the appropriateness of monitoring in the areas identified. The plan should provide for some form of communication strategy to keep groundwater users informed of resource status.

G-MW should investigate any groundwater salinity increases in the Blampied area as part of the monitoring review. The plan should stress the need for groundwater users to return sample bottles provided by G-MW sent annually to monitor groundwater salinity.

Thirty eight percent of the groundwater users surveyed indicated that they had had problems with their meter. Issues with meters included meter reading too fast; meters wearing out; and the inconvenience of pipe length required to make meters work. Interestingly, 45% of those who indicated that they had meter problems also claimed that there is potential to pump more groundwater from the Spring Hill WSPA. G-MW should consider providing some communication to all licence holders on the operation of meters.

A third of respondents indicated that they had issues with temporary transfer of water entitlement, particularly in 2006/07 when severe restrictions were introduced. The plan should review restriction options to minimise impacts to farm production during periods of low groundwater levels. For example, the plan could seek to identify hot spots where trading should be limited to a volume that the applicant can demonstrate will not have a detrimental impact on surrounding bores (e.g. local intensity rules).

A large majority of surveyed groundwater users indicated that they were in favour of introducing permanent trade of water entitlement in the Spring Hill WSPA to increase security of supply for farms that require more water. However, they would only support permanent transfers if the plan considered appropriate controls to protect neighbouring bores and there was a proven history of temporary transfer.

Most groundwater users were generally satisfied with the information provided by G-MW which allowed them to manage their licence entitlement. G-MW was criticised for failure to police domestic and stock use for irrigation; ensuring licence holders are complying with their licence conditions; and not providing more regular communication of monitoring information.

Other key issues identified by groundwater users for review of the plan included possibility of introducing carryover and better understanding of groundwater use on the environment.

5 Recommendations

This report makes the following recommendations:

1. While there is good support for the Groundwater Management Plan there is strong evidence that the plan requires a '*fine tuning*'. Given the level of groundwater users dissatisfaction with the current plan a new Groundwater Management Plan should be developed.
2. It is obvious that as the level of groundwater management has increased so has the knowledge and expectation of groundwater users. There is a strong demand for regular communications with customers on the status of the resource. The plan should include a communications strategy that will provide a level of information that groundwater users are willing to pay for.
3. The boundary of the WSPA is reassessed with consideration given to the extent of basalt and new bores drilled outside the WSPA that may be impacting on available resource.
4. Groundwater level response management is considered in some areas to ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource given the large percentage of users that have had to alter their pump depth.
5. Springs should be mapped and some level of protection stated in the plan.
6. There is a need to establish rules in the plan to limit the degree of bore interference. Methods of reducing interference might include reducing the maximum pumping rate, introducing a maximum pumping duration; and introducing local intensity rules (i.e. specifying the maximum volume of water that may be extracted annually within a specified area). Such methods may require groundwater users to engage a consultant to undertake a hydrogeological assessment to determine impacts on neighbouring users or the environment when licences are being renewed.
7. The plan should review restriction options to minimise impacts to farm production during periods of low groundwater levels.
8. Investigate areas where the aquifer may not be stressed, including the Blampied, Smeaton and Mollongghip Zones, to determine if there may be an opportunity to transfer groundwater entitlement into these areas from hot spots. Consideration should be given to groundwater level trends, depth of pumping bores and aquifer screened.
9. Review need for additional monitoring in the Mollongghip, Newlyn, Kingston, and Blampied areas.
10. Investigate report of groundwater salinity increases in the Blampied area. The plan should stress the need for groundwater users to return sample bottles provided by G-MW sent annually to monitor groundwater salinity.
11. G-MW provides some communication to licence holders on the operation of meters. Meters are to be installed according to national guidelines and maintenance issues should be referred to G-MW.
12. Development of a new plan should investigate options to introduce permanent trade of water entitlement and carryover to increase security of supply. Consideration should be given to appropriate controls to protect neighbouring bores (e.g. Section 40 of the *Water Act 1989*) and proven history of temporary transfer.

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13. There is a perception among some groundwater users that there is significant illegal pumping which continues in the area without any regulation. The plan should consider, as part of reporting, publicising action taken against groundwater users who do not comply with their licence conditions.

6 References

Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 1998. *Permissible Annual Volume Project. The Spring Hill GMA*. Report prepared by SKM for Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Reference number WC00146

Appendix A

Spring Hill Water Supply Protection Area Groundwater Management Plan 2001 Review – Groundwater User Survey

Name:

Address:

Groundwater user type: Irrigation Domestic& Stock Commercial or Industrial Communal domestic

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Not known	Comment
The current management boundary is appropriate				
The current management zones are appropriate				
In my opinion there is potential to pump more groundwater in the Spring Hill Water Supply Protection Area				

In my opinion there is too much groundwater pumping my the local area				
I have had to lower my pump / deepen my bore				
Groundwater levels have been rising in the local area				
The springs in the local area are no longer flowing				
Monitoring of groundwater levels in the area is satisfactory				

Groundwater salinity appears to be increasing in the local area				
I have not had any problem with the meter on my groundwater pump				
My neighbours bore may be impacting on water levels in my bore				
I have not had any trouble transferring groundwater				
The permanent transfer of groundwater should be an option in the new groundwater management plan				

Goulburn-Murray Water have provided me with all the information that I need to be able to manage my licence entitlement				
In my opinion the Plan has achieved it's objectives to ensure groundwater resources are managed in an equitable and sustainable manner during both normal and drought seasons.				

Please add any additional comments that you would like to make below.
