

Prescription of the Central Adelaide Prescribed Wells Area

Groundwater from the Central Adelaide Area is used for industrial, agricultural and commercial uses, including the irrigation of recreational open space. Groundwater is also used by households for domestic use and for watering of stock.

The State Government has a duty of care to sustainably manage the Central Adelaide groundwater resource to ensure that there is enough water to meet the needs of all users and the environment.

Prescription: A Process for More Effective Water Resource Management

The process of establishing formal water resource management for the Central Adelaide area began on 14 October 2005, when the State Government announced its intention to 'prescribe' the area's groundwater resources. The Central Adelaide Prescribed Wells Area (PWA) was officially prescribed on 7 June 2007.

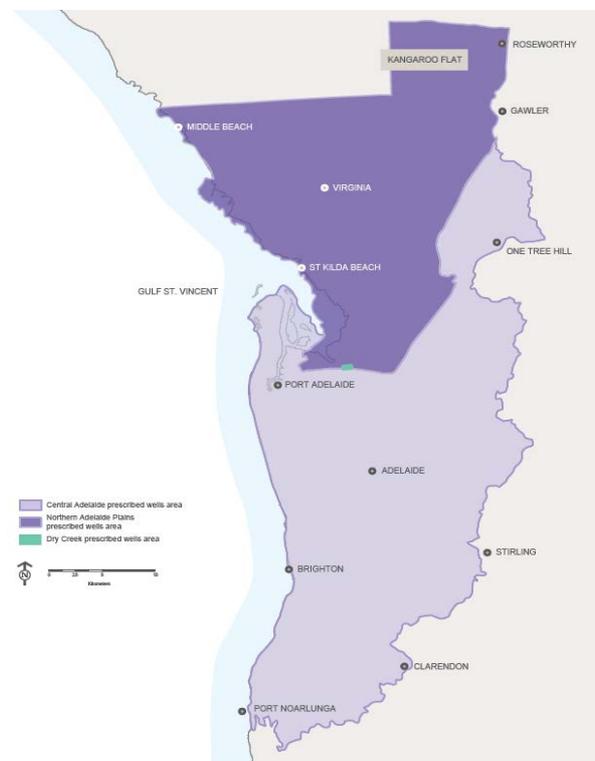
Prescription establishes a water allocation and licensing framework to protect water resources from overuse and to ensure water users are not adversely affected by other water users. It also ensures that the environment gets enough water to support water-dependent ecosystems.

Consistent with the Government's decision to prescribe the resource, the Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources (the Department) is currently implementing processes that will guide the long-term licencing, allocation, use and transfer of groundwater in Central Adelaide. This includes the assessment of groundwater licence applications submitted by users in 2007.

As part of this process, the Department will be issuing water licences to *eligible* water users.

Where is the Central Adelaide Prescribed Wells Area?

The Central Adelaide PWA covers the Adelaide metropolitan area to the east of the foothills of the Mount Lofty Ranges, to the Onkaparinga River in the south, and to Port Adelaide and Gawler in the north and northeast (respectively). It sits adjacent to the Northern Adelaide Plains PWA (to the North) and the Western Mount Lofty Ranges Prescribed Water Resources Area (to the West). A small section of Dry Creek, between the Central Adelaide PWA and Northern Adelaide Plains PWA, is separately prescribed as the Dry Creek PWA.



Location of Central Adelaide PWA, Northern Adelaide Plains PWA and Dry Creek PWA.

Who is an eligible water user?

An *eligible* water user is an individual who, either used Central Adelaide groundwater or committed significant financial, legal or other resources to a project that would require the use of groundwater for a licensable purpose during the period 1 July 2002 to 30 November 2005.

The groundwater resource has been prescribed – what does this mean for me?

Prescription means that you need a water licence (or have applied for a licence during the relevant period) to use



Central Adelaide groundwater for anything other than household domestic use or the watering of stock.

If you are using groundwater for a licensable purpose without having applied for a water licence (or being the holder of an appropriate authorisation) you are in breach of the Natural Resources Management Act (2004).

What is a licensable purpose?

The taking of any groundwater, aside for stock and domestic use, is a licensable purpose and requires a water licence. This would include the taking of water for industrial use, irrigating turf and gardens greater than 0.4 hectares in size, and irrigating crops.

What is stock and domestic use?

'Stock' use means watering stock, other than stock subject to intensive (commercial) farming.

'Domestic' use includes normal household use, including watering up to 0.4 hectares of land solely in connection with a dwelling.

You are not required to have a licence for taking of water used for stock and/or domestic purposes in the Central Adelaide Prescribed Wells Area.

However, if you wish to use groundwater for stock or domestic purposes you are still required to obtain a *Well Construction Permit* prior to the installation of any well.

Do I need a licence to use surface water?

Surface water is found on the surface of land, such as in a dam, stream, river, lake or wetland.

You do not require a licence to use surface water in Central Adelaide. However to ensure surface water is used sustainably, resources such as the River Torrens are protected by prescription. The [Western Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan](#) details how rivers across the plains can be used.

Can I apply for a licence to use groundwater now?

No. At present it is not possible to apply for a licence to use groundwater in Central Adelaide, however the State Government is considering making a Regulation to the Natural Resources Management Act (2004) to allow *eligible* persons that have not previously applied the opportunity to apply for a licence.

Making of a Regulation – have Your Say!

The State Government wants to give South Australians more of a say on matters that affect them, thus the State Government wants to know what you think about the decision to re-open the application window for *eligible* water users.

Go to the YourSAy website www.yoursay.sa.gov.au and tell us what you think. Comments and feedback are welcome, closing 25 November 2016.

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