

Water Resource Plan assessment report

Proposed Wimmera-Mallee (Groundwater)
Water Resource Plan

August 2019

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Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners of the Murray–Darling Basin

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority pays respect to the Traditional Owners and their Nations of the Murray–Darling Basin. We acknowledge their deep cultural, social, environmental, spiritual and economic connection to their lands and waters.

The guidance and support received from the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations, the Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations and our many Traditional Owner friends and colleagues is very much valued and appreciated.

Aboriginal people should be aware that this publication may contain images, names or quotations of deceased persons.

This document forms the report of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority’s assessment of the Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater) proposed water resource plan for the Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater) WRP area (proposed WRP) against the requirements of Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan version F2017C00078.

At the end of this document, an assessment against each of the Chapter 10 – Water resource plan requirements of the Basin Plan is set out. That assessment is supported by a detailed consideration of the accredited content of the WRP and its supporting evidence. An assessment framework including the Water Resource Plan Assessment Manual, position statements, guidelines and other material, guide and inform the formal WRP assessment. The purpose of the text in the “streamlined assessment test” and “detailed summary of assessment test” columns is to assist the assessor and reader to identify which Basin Plan requirement is being assessed, without reproducing the test in full. The “streamlined assessment test” and “detailed summary of assessment test” columns assist with the Authority’s assessment but does not in any way supersede or replace the requirements of the Commonwealth Water Act 2007 and Basin Plan.

Table explaining the abbreviations used throughout this document

Term	Expansion/Explanation of the Term
ANZECC	Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council
Authority, the	Refers to the six-member Murray-Darling Basin Authority
Basin Plan	Refers to the relevant version of the Basin Plan 2012 (Cth) against which this WRP has been assessed, being F2017C00078.
BDL	Baseline Diversion Limit
BWS	Basin-wide Environmental Watering Strategy (MDBA 2014)
CEWH	Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder
Comprehensive Report	<p>The document titled ‘Wimmera-Mallee Water Resource Plan Comprehensive Report’, containing supporting information and accreditable material for the purpose of the proposed WRP</p> <p>Note: where the term ‘Comprehensive Report’ is used in this assessment, this is taken to mean the main body of the report (<i>i.e.</i> Parts 1-15), and not the Appendices unless explicitly stated.</p>
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Victoria)
EWP	Environmental Watering Plan
GAB	Great Artesian Basin
GL	Gigalitre (1,000 Megalitres)
GWMWater	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water
HEW	Held Environmental Water
Index Table / Accredited Text Table	The table titled ‘Wimmera-Mallee Water Resource Plan Accredited Text Table’, containing the accreditable text for the purpose of the proposed WRP.
LTAA	Long-term average annual
LTWP	Long-term Watering Plan
MDBA	Refers to the agency known as the Murray-Darling Basin Authority
ML	Megalitre (1,000,000 Litres)
MLDRIN	Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations
PEA	Priority Environmental Assets
PEF	Priority Ecosystem Functions

Term	Expansion/Explanation of the Term
PEW	Planned Environmental Water
Proposed WRP	The WRP drafted and submitted for assessment by States, as per the date stipulated on cover page of assessment report
SDL	Sustainable Diversion Limit
SEPP (Waters)	State Environment Protection Policy (Waters)
The Authority	Murray-Darling Basin Authority
VEWH	Victorian Environmental Water Holder
Victorian Water Act	<u>Water Act 1989 (VIC)</u>
VWR	Victorian Water Register
Water Act 2007	<u>Water Act 2007 (Cth)</u>
Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater) WRP area	The geographical area defined by the Basin Plan
Wimmera-Mallee WRP	All submitted documents of the WRP Package that constitute the WRP for the Wimmera-Mallee (Groundwater)
WQM	Water Quality Management
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan
WRP	Water Resource Plan

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Overview

1. This Water Resource Plan assessment report summarises the reasons supporting the Murray Darling Basin Authority's recommendation to accredit the proposed Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater) water resource plan provided by Victoria on 3 July 2019 ('the proposed WRP').
2. This report includes:
 - a. a short outline of the structure of the proposed WRP;
 - b. a summary of key issues the proposed WRP presents;
 - c. an assessment of the consistency of the proposed WRP with each Chapter of the *Basin Plan 2012* ('the Basin Plan'); and
 - d. an assessment of the way in which the proposed WRP addresses each requirement in Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan.

Requirements of the *Water Act 2007* (Cth) ('the Act')

3. Section 54(1) of the Act provides that there is to be a WRP for each water resource plan area and section 55(1) of the Act requires that a WRP must provide for the management of the water resources of the WRP area. The proposed WRP is for the Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater) WRP area and provides for the management of the water resources of that area.
4. The Act requires that a WRP must be consistent with the relevant Basin Plan, including:
 - a. section 55(2)(a) of the Act requires that a WRP must be consistent with the requirements for WRPs - these are set out in Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan; and
 - b. section 55(2)(b) of the Act requires that a WRP must be consistent with 'any long-term annual diversion limit for the water resources of the WRP area (or for a particular part of those water resources)' - these limits are set by Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan.
5. In considering whether a WRP is consistent with the relevant Basin Plan, the Authority must have regard to the legislative framework within which a proposed WRP operates (section 55(3) of the Act).
6. The relevant version of the Act is C2018C00505, registered on 19 December 2018, Corrected Authorised Version registered 22 February 2019.

Relevant version of the Basin Plan

7. The term 'relevant Basin Plan' is defined as the version of the Basin Plan that the Minister applies in relation to a WRP under section 56(2) (section 55(2) of the Act).
8. The Act provides that the relevant version will be the version of the Basin Plan in effect 2 years before a proposed WRP is given to the Minister under section 63(3) (per Item 1 of the table in section 56(2A) of the Act) or, the version of the Basin Plan which is nominated by a Basin State in writing at the time a proposed WRP is provided (per Item 4 of the table in section 56(2A) of the Act). A version nominated by a Basin State must sit within certain bounds, meaning that the Basin Plan which is nominated must not be one in effect more than 2 years earlier than when the WRP is given.
9. In this case Victoria nominated a version of the Basin Plan for the purposes of section 56(2A).

10. The relevant Basin Plan is version F2017C00078, registered on 23 January 2017 and ending on 13 November 2017 when the next version of the Basin Plan was registered.

Legislative framework within which the proposed WRP operates

11. Section 55(3) of the Act requires that in determining whether a proposed WRP is consistent with the Basin Plan, regard must be had to the legislative framework within which the WRP operates.
12. The *Water Act 1989* (Vic) provides the main legislative framework in Victoria within which the proposed WRP will operate. It establishes rights and obligations in relation to water resources, provides mechanisms for the allocation of water resources, establishes the Victorian Water Register and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, governs the statutory powers and functions of all water authorities outside the metropolitan area, and provides for integrated management of the water resources and for environmental and consumer protection.
13. The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (Vic) establishes the framework for the integrated and coordinated management of catchments and outlines content and development criteria for Regional Catchment Strategies.
14. The *Environmental Protection Act 1970* (Vic) establishes the Environment Protection Authority and makes provision for the Authority's powers, duties and functions relating to improving the air, land and water environments by managing waters, controlling noise and controlling pollution. It also provides for State Environmental Protection Policies.
15. The *Groundwater (Border Agreement) Act 1985* (Vic), which gives effect to the Border Groundwaters Agreement between South Australia and Victoria, provides for the management of groundwater adjacent to the border of South Australia and Victoria.
16. The *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* (Vic) provides for the advancement of reconciliation, and the promotion of good relations between the state and Traditional Owners. This Act provides for natural resource agreements and other related Aboriginal protections.
17. The Authority has had regard to this legislative framework within which the proposed WRP operates in considering whether it is consistent with the Basin Plan, as is required by section 55(3) of the Act.

Structure of the proposed WRP

18. The proposed WRP consists of a number of documents that have been presented together in one package of material called the Wimmera-Mallee Water Resource Plan Comprehensive Report.
19. For information, the key component is the Accredited Text Table, which identifies the content of the proposed WRP. This is supported by the remaining components of the Comprehensive Report (and its appendices) that provides a fuller explanation of water management arrangements in the water resource plan area. The Comprehensive Report contains information that is common to both the proposed WRP and the Wimmera-Mallee (surface water) WRP, and contain content that is common to both plans, and content which is specific to each. It is clearly indicated in the Accredited Text Table which material pertains to the proposed WRP.

20. Note that the Accredited Text Table (also referred to in the proposed WRP as the Index Table) and the Comprehensive Report and appendices have been combined into a single document by Victoria, reflecting the intended structure of the proposed WRP as provided, however for the purposes of referencing in this report they are treated as separate documents.

Consultation

21. The proposed WRP contains a description of the consultation undertaken in relation to the proposed WRP. This has included community consultation as contemplated by Part 6 of Chapter 10, consultation with affected States in satisfaction of the requirement in section 63(2) of the Act and consultation with relevant Indigenous organisations in relation to Part 14 of Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan.

Part 14 consultation with relevant Indigenous organisations

22. There are several traditional owner and nation groups including representative Aboriginal corporations in the WRP area. The expectation is that a Basin State has undertaken effective and appropriate consultation with all relevant Aboriginal Nation groups in a WRP area during the development of a WRP and has consulted with relevant Indigenous organisations. This assessment report does not generally distinguish between the terms Aboriginal and Indigenous. Consistent with s 4 of the Act references to Aboriginal or Indigenous people include both Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islanders who may have connection to the WRP area. The term Aboriginal is used frequently in this assessment as MLDRN and NBAN have expressed a preference for that term.
23. The Authority sought advice from the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations ('MLDRIN') on whether the proposed WRP is consistent with the requirements regarding Indigenous values and uses in Part 14 of Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan. As a result of this process, MLDRIN have recommended that the proposed WRP is consistent with the requirements in that Part, with the exception of several matters identified in the MLDRIN advice and reflected in the Part 14 assessment.
24. These matters do not prevent the recommendation for accreditation, and the Authority notes MLDRIN concluded these matters were partially met.
25. During the development of the proposed WRP, the first round of consultation with affected Aboriginal people was not considered to be appropriate as not all affected groups were involved at all stages of the consultation process nor was the consultation approach consistent enough. However, after being provided with advice from MLDRIN, Victoria conducted an improved second round of consultation that MLDRIN remark was appropriate.

Consultation with adjacent states

26. Section 63(2) of the Act requires that if a WRP area is adjacent to a WRP area in another Basin state, the proposed WRP must be prepared in consultation with that State. The WRP area is adjacent to water resource plan areas in South Australia. The MDBA is satisfied that the proposed WRP was prepared in consultation with South Australia. This is demonstrated in the material put forward to meet the requirements in s 10.07 and s 10.35 of the Basin Plan.

Key issues

27. The Wimmera-Mallee area is in the west of Victoria, adjacent to the South Australian border. The groundwater resources of the area are largely saline, and subject to minimal extraction for productive use as a result. The exception is groundwater resources in the West Wimmera Groundwater Management Area, however these resources are excluded from the Murray-Darling Basin due to limited hydrological connectivity.

Part 6 – No planned environmental water

28. It has been established that there is no planned environmental water identified in the WRP area. Instead the proposed WRP includes a description of how ‘above cap’ water in the system achieves environmental outcomes amongst other social, cultural and economic outcomes.

Part 7 – No causes of water quality degradation nor targets for managing water quality

29. Due to hydrogeological reasons, there are no causes of water quality degradation identified nor any targets for managing water quality. The proposed WRP does however provide appropriate measures for managing water quality.

Part 10 – Measuring and Monitoring

30. The proposed WRP does not include the proportion of take in the WRP area which is measured in accordance with the agreed metering standard (AS4747) as recommitted to in the Basin Compliance Compact, to address s 10.44(d) of the Basin Plan.
31. At the time of initial formal submission of the proposed WRP (June 2018) there were no standards for metering agreed by the Basin States and the Commonwealth. As such, the proportion of take in the WRP area, which is measured in accordance with the metering standard, was not provided in the earlier proposed WRP nor in this newly submitted proposed WRP. The Authority is satisfied that not providing a proportion is reasonable, taking into account the initial submission of the proposed WRP occurred prior to the Basin Compliance Compact coming into effect. The Authority also notes that the proposed WRP commits Victoria to undertaking the actions set out in the Basin Compliance Compact which includes all take to be metered to agreed standards (subject to exemptions).
32. The Authority expects that following accreditation of the proposed WRP, and the determination of any exemptions to the metering standard that Victoria chooses to put in place, the proposed WRP will be amended by Victoria to include the proportion of take that is metered to agreed standards.

Consistency with the Basin Plan

33. If a proposed WRP is consistent with the requirements in Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan, it will generally be consistent with the remaining chapters of the Basin Plan. This position recognises the close connections between the requirements in Chapter 10 and the other parts of the Basin Plan. Despite this, to determine whether the proposed WRP is consistent with all parts of the Basin Plan, the proposed WRP has been assessed against each chapter of the Basin Plan.

Chapter 1 – Introduction

- 34. This Chapter sets out preliminary matters relating to the Basin Plan, the structure of the Basin Plan, interpretation provisions, including various definitions and construction provisions, and requirements relating to the entering into of implementation obligations.
- 35. The proposed WRP is consistent with these general provisions.

Chapter 2 – Basin water resources and the context of their use

- 36. This Chapter sets out a description of the Basin water resources and the context in which those resources are used.
- 37. The proposed WRP is consistent with this description.

Chapter 3 – Water resource plan areas and water accounting periods

- 38. This Chapter identifies the particular areas that are to be WRP areas and the periods that are to be the water accounting periods for each of those WRP areas. For s10.02, the proposed WRP identifies the WRP areas and the water resources consistently with this Chapter. The water accounting periods for the proposed WRP align with the water accounting periods in the Basin Plan (i.e. 1 July to 30 June).
- 39. The proposed WRP is consistent with this Chapter.

Chapter 4 – Identification and management of risks to Basin water resources

- 40. This Chapter sets out risks to the condition, or continued availability, of Basin water resources and strategies to manage, or address, those risks. For s 10.41 of the Basin Plan, the risks identified in the proposed WRP have been identified having regard to the risks identified in s 4.02 of the Basin Plan. For s 10.43 of the Basin Plan, the proposed WRP has been prepared having regard to the strategies listed in s 4.03(3) of the Basin Plan. No guidelines have been prepared for s4.04 of the Basin Plan.
- 41. The proposed WRP is consistent with this Chapter.

Chapter 5 – Management objectives and outcomes to be achieved by Basin Plan

- 42. This Chapter sets out the management objectives and outcomes to be achieved by the Basin Plan. The proposed WRP is consistent with these objectives and outcomes. In this respect, it is noted more generally that:
 - a. The accredited text of the proposed WRP provides for environmental watering to occur in a way that contributes to the achievement of the objectives in Part 2 of Chapter 8. Note also that the arrangements in the WRP relevant to water dependent ecosystems and ecosystem

functions are consistent with the objectives in s5.03(1) and contribute to the outcome in s5.03(2).

- b. The water quality management plan ('WQM Plan') in the proposed WRP identifies measures for water quality that are consistent with those set out in Chapter 9 of the Basin Plan. The measures in the proposed WRP are therefore consistent with the objective in s5.04(1) and contribute to the outcome in s5.04(2).
- c. The proposed WRP demonstrates that the long-term sustainable diversion limits on take will be given effect through the provisions in the proposed WRP addressing the operation of Part 3 of Chapter 10, which is consistent with Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan. Therefore, the operation of the proposed WRP is also consistent with the objective in s5.05(1) and contributes towards the outcomes in s5.05(2).
- d. The objective and outcome for the operation of the SDL adjustment mechanism in s5.06 is not relevant to this plan as, at the time of this assessment, no adjustment has been made to the SDLs for the SDL resource units that are covered by this plan.
- e. The proposed WRP includes provisions relating to water trading which are not inconsistent with the requirements for restrictions on trade set out in Chapter 12 of the Basin Plan. These provisions are therefore consistent with the objectives in s5.07(1) and contribute towards the outcome in s5.07(2).

Chapter 6 – Water that can be taken

- 43. This Chapter sets out the long-term average sustainable diversion limits for each SDL resource unit, the method for determining compliance with those limits and how risks are allocated.
- 44. The proposed WRP is consistent with the long-term average sustainable diversion limit that applies to the SDL resource unit of the water resource plan area (section 55(2)(b) of the Act). This is principally because the proposed WRP has met the requirements in Part 3 of Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan, which set out how a WRP must incorporate and apply this limit.
- 45. In this respect, and as is noted in the context of assessing whether the proposed WRP is consistent with Chapter 10:
 - a. the proposed WRP includes a method for s10.10 that has been demonstrated to enable the determination of an annual permitted take which, if applied over the historical climate conditions, meets the long-term average sustainable diversion limits,
 - b. the proposed WRP sets out how the quantity of water actually taken for consumptive use, by each form of take, will be determined at the end of a water accounting period, consistent with s10.15 of the Basin Plan. This generates the annual actual take that is used in the method for SDL compliance under Chapter 6; and
 - c. the proposed WRP includes rules for s10.11 that ensure, as far as practicable, that actual take does not exceed permitted take.
- 46. Section 6.14 of the Basin Plan provides that nothing in the Basin Plan requires a change in the reliability of water allocations of a kind that would trigger Subdivision B of Division 4 of Part 2 of the Act. The Authority has undertaken an assessment of the proposed WRP and considers there to be no reliability impacts of the kind specified in s6.14.
- 47. Therefore, the Authority considers that the proposed WRP is consistent with Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan.

Chapter 7 – Adjustment of SDLs

48. This Chapter details a process for adjusting the SDLs of certain surface water SDL resource units. The Authority considers that this chapter is not relevant for this proposed groundwater WRP.

Chapter 8 – Environmental watering plan

49. This Chapter sets out the environmental watering plan. The proposed WRP contributes to the achievement of the objectives in Part 2 of this Chapter.
50. There is no planned environmental water identified by the proposed WRP as occurring in the WRP area. However, the proposed WRP sets out how Victorian water management policy and legislation provides for environmental benefits from 'above-cap' water, whilst not committing any water to specifically achieving environmental outcomes. This framework operates in conjunction with Held Environmental Water held by both the CEWH and VEWH in the WRP area, noting that there is no groundwater Held Environmental Water in the WRP area.
51. For s10.27 of the Basin Plan, the proposed WRP states that there are no connected water resources for the purposes of environmental watering and for s10.28 of the Basin Plan the proposed WRP does not result in a net reduction in the protection of planned environmental water from the protection provided for under State water management law immediately before the commencement of the Basin Plan on 22 November 2012, as there is no planned environmental water identified in the proposed WRP.

Chapter 9 – Water quality and salinity management plan

52. This Chapter sets out the water quality and salinity management plan. This Chapter sets out the key causes of water quality degradation in the Murray-Darling Basin, water quality targets for Basin water resources and water quality targets.
53. The proposed WRP includes a water quality management plan ('WQM Plan') that is consistent with the requirements in Part 7 of Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan. The WQM Plan identifies for s10.33 of the Basin Plan, measures that contribute towards the achievement of the objectives in Part 3 of Chapter 9.
54. The proposed WRP is consistent with Chapter 9 of the Basin Plan.

Chapter 10 – Water resource plan requirements

55. For the reasons which are elaborated on below, the proposed WRP is consistent with Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan.
56. Note that s 10.04(4) of the Basin Plan requires that a WRP includes a list that specifies and addresses each requirement as set out in Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan. The proposed WRP does this through the document entitled Accredited Text Table.

Chapter 11 – Critical human water needs

57. This Chapter is only relevant to water resource plans which cover part of the River Murray System, as defined in s86A(3) of the Act.
58. The water resources that are covered by the proposed WRP are not part of the River Murray System. Accordingly, the proposed WRP is not inconsistent with Chapter 11 of the Basin Plan.

Chapter 12 – Water trading rules

59. This Chapter sets out specific rules relating to water trading.
60. The Proposed WRP sets out that there is no trade permitted between the groundwater resources of the proposed WRP with surface water SDL resource units. The proposed WRP sets out trading arrangements and requirements which must be met prior to trade between or within groundwater SDL resource units being permitted, which are assessed in Part 8 of this assessment report.
61. When assessing trade arrangements in the proposed WRP the Authority also considered the rules in ss 12.06-12.15 which ensure the right to trade free of certain restrictions. The Authority did not identify any matters of inconsistency with these rules. As such, the Authority is of the view that the proposed WRP is consistent with this Chapter.

Chapter 13 – Program for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Basin Plan

62. This Chapter sets out the program for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Basin Plan.
63. The proposed WRP specifies the monitoring of the water resources of the WRP area that will be done to enable Victoria to fulfil its reporting obligations under s13.14 of the Basin Plan.
64. The proposed WRP is consistent with this Chapter.

Part 2 - Identification of water resource plan area and other matters

Section 10.02 – Identification of water resource plan area and water resources

- (1) A water resource plan must identify:
 - (a) the water resource plan area; and
 - (b) the water resources;
 to which it applies.
- (2) The water resource plan area must be one of the water resource plan areas described in Part 2 of Chapter 3 and must be identified using the same description of that area as is set out in that Part, with any variations permitted by section 3.04.
- (3) The water resources must be those described in Part 2 of Chapter 3 as the water resources of the water resource plan area and must be identified using the same description of those water resources as is set out in that Part.

<u>Streamlined</u> assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Verify that (1) the WRP states a valid reference to the applicable geographic name and description (as listed in ss 3.05, 3.06 or 3.07) of the area and water resources.	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that the Wimmera-Mallee WRP applies to the WRP area and water resources as described under s 3.06(p) (the Wimmera Mallee [groundwater] water resource plan area) of the Basin Plan.</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section describes the WRP area to which the proposed WRP applies by reference to the description provided in Part 2 of Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan (s 3.06 of the Basin Plan). This satisfies the requirement at s 10.02(2).</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section also describes the water resources to which the proposed WRP applies by</p>	MET

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
		<p>reference to the description provided in s 3.06 of the Basin Plan. This is stated as all water resources. As such, this satisfies the requirement at s 10.02(3).</p> <p>The explanatory material in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section states that the version of the Basin Plan which is referred to throughout the proposed WRP is that registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments on 23 January 2017 with reference F2017C00078. The Authority has assessed the proposed WRP for consistency with the version of the Basin Plan referenced above.</p> <p>Please note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria have developed a combined proposed WRP package (Index Table and Comprehensive Report) that covers both the Wimmera-Mallee (surface water) proposed WRP and Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater) proposed WRP. • The Index Table identifies which of the Wimmera-Mallee proposed WRPs (either surface water or groundwater) a particular response applies to. This could be one of three scenarios: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both surface water and groundwater – as signified by the following heading text “<i>Wimmera-Mallee water resource plan area</i>”, or ○ Surface water only – as signified by the following text “<i>Wimmera-Mallee (surface water) water resource plan area</i>”, or 	

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Groundwater only – as signified by the following text “<i>Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater) water resource plan area</i>”. • For simplicity, references in this assessment report to a “proposed WRP” refer only to the Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater) water resource plan (that is, material under scenarios 1 and 3 above). • References to the “Comprehensive Report” in this assessment report refer only to the main body of the document, <i>i.e.</i> Parts 1-15, and not to the Appendices to the Report unless explicitly stated. 	

Section 10.03 – Identification of SDL resource units and water resources

- (1) A water resource plan must identify:
 - (a) each SDL resource unit in the water resource plan area; and
 - (b) the water resources within each SDL resource unit.
- (2) The SDL resource units must be those described in sections 6.02 and 6.03 and Schedules 2 and 4 as the SDL resource units within the water resource plan area, as applicable.
- (3) The water resources within each SDL resource unit must be those described in sections 6.02 and 6.03, and Schedules 2 and 4.

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Verify that the WRP has valid references to the applicable SDL unit name, geographic extent and description.	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section identifies the following groundwater SDL resource units within the Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater) water resource plan area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimmera-Mallee: Highlands (GS9) Wimmera-Mallee: Sedimentary Plain (GS9) Wimmera-Mallee: deep (GS9) <p>This satisfies the requirement at s 10.03(1)(a) and s 10.03(2) as it is consistent with the SDL resource unit descriptions given by s 6.03 and Schedule 4 of the Basin Plan.</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section identifies that all groundwater resources within the three SDL resource units identified are applicable under this proposed WRP. As such, this satisfies the requirement at s 10.03(1)(b) and s 10.03(3) as it is consistent with</p>	MET

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
		the applicable water resources description (all water resources) in s 6.03 and Schedule 4 of the Basin Plan.	

Section 10.04– Form of water resource plan

Water resource plan constituted by 2 or more instruments

- (1) If a water resource plan is constituted by 2 or more instruments or texts, subsections (2) and (3) apply to it.
Note: Subsection 63(1) of the Act states that a water resource plan may be constituted by 2 or more instruments.
- (2) The water resource plan must identify the instruments or texts that constitute the water resource plan.
Note: The same instrument or text may be used for more than one water resource plan.
- (3) If an instrument or text applies only to some of the water resources of the water resource plan area, the water resource plan must:
 - (a) identify the water resources or the parts of the water resources to which the instrument or text applies; and
 - (b) include an indicative map of the water resources identified in paragraph (a).

Water resource plan to include list of requirements

- (4) A water resource plan must include a list that specifies:
 - (a) each requirement set out in this Chapter; and
 - (b) the part of the plan that addresses each requirement; and
 - (c) the parts of the plan that will cease to have effect or are to be reviewed, and the times at which those parts will cease to have effect or are to be reviewed.

Material not forming part of the water resource plan

- (5) If a water resource plan is constituted by an instrument or text which contains additional material that is not part of the water resource plan, the water resource plan must identify that material.

Note: See paragraph (d) of the definition of water resource plan in section 4 of the Act.

10.04 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	The WRP index refers to 2 or more instruments or texts	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.04(2)	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.04(2) states that the proposed WRP is constituted by Columns 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Index Table, Tables A and B of the Index Table and parts of the Comprehensive Report and its Appendices identified in Column 3.	MET

10.04 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				While all these items are contained within a single document titled 'Wimmera-Mallee Water Resource Plan Comprehensive Report', the Index Table and Comprehensive Report are consistently referenced separately throughout the document, indicating that they are treated as separate documents. As such, subsections 10.04(2) and (3) are considered to apply.	
	If 'yes' establish that the WRP addresses the requirements in subsection (2) and (3)	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.04(2) and s 10.04(3)	The proposed WRP addresses subsections (2) and (3). See assessment below at s 10.04(2) and s 10.04(3).	
2	The WRP identifies the instruments or texts that makes up the WRP package	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 3 of the Index Table for each section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that the proposed WRP is constituted by Columns 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Index Table, Tables A and B of the Index Table and the parts of the Comprehensive Report and its Appendices identified in Column 3 of the Index Table. Column 3 of the Index Table for each section clearly identifies where text is only applicable to the Wimmera-Mallee (surface water) WRP and do not form part of the Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater) proposed WRP. This satisfies the requirement at s 10.04(2).	MET

10.04 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
3	The WRP includes an instrument or text that operates for or covers only some of the water resources in the WRP area	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 3 of the Index Table for each section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that this matter is responded to in Column 3 of the Index Table for each section. The Authority is satisfied the requirements of this section have been met.	MET
	(a) The WRP identifies the water resources or the parts of water resources to which the instrument or text applies	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 3 of the Index Table for each section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section notes that this matter is responded to in Column 3 of the Index Table for each section. Where relevant, the water resources to which the instrument or text applies are identified. Due to the nature of the proposed WRP, where two individual Water Resource Plans are contained in the one document, this is predominantly where there is text that applies to either the surface water resources in the Wimmera-Mallee (surface water) WRP area, or the groundwater resources in the Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater) WRP area. The Authority is satisfied the requirements of this section have been met.	
	(b) The WRP includes an indicative map of the water resources identified in letter (a)	Present	Figure 2 of the Comprehensive Report Column 3 of the Index Table for each section	Where the text in Column 3 of the Index Table for a section identifies that the text applies to only the groundwater resources, Column 3 of the Index Table provides reference to a map at Figure 2 of the Comprehensive Report to satisfy this requirement.	

10.04 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
			Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.03(1)	This map identifies the water resources as identified in s 10.03(1) of the Index Table. The Authority is satisfied the requirements of this section have been met.	
4	The WRP has an index that lists all the sections in Chapter 10	True	Column 1 and 2 of the Index Table for each section Column 3 of the Index Table for this s 10.04(4)(a)	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.04(4)(a) states that Columns 1 and 2 of the Index Table list each requirement under Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan. As per the three rows immediately below, the requirements of s 10.04(4) have been satisfied.	MET
	The list references the part of the WRP that addresses each Chapter 10 requirement	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.04(4)(b) Column 3 of the Index Table for each section	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.04(4)(b) states that Column 3 of the Index Table for each section sets out the response that addresses each requirement of the Basin Plan. These responses provide text or a reference to the section of text in the Comprehensive Report or Appendices relevant to addressing each specific requirement.	
	The list specifies date of cessation or review for each part of the WRP that is subject to a time limit for operation	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.04(4)(c)	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.04(4)(c) states that the proposed WRP, as constituted by Columns 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Index Table, will cease to have effect at the end of the accreditation period in accordance with s 64 of the Water Act 2007 (Cth). It is taken that as	

10.04 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>other parts of the Comprehensive Report and its appendices only constitute part of the proposed WRP by way of reference in these columns, they will also cease to have effect in accordance with s 64 of the Water Act 2007 (Cth).</p> <p>The text in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section notes that the proposed WRP will be reviewed if state instruments are changed at any time during its accreditation period to ensure the proposed WRP is consistent with the Basin Plan.</p> <p>This satisfies the requirement at s 10.04(4).</p>	
5	The WRP identifies which parts of instruments and other material that is 'additional material' and excluded from accreditation	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section indicates that there is no reference to any other instruments or material that is 'additional material' and excluded from accreditation.</p> <p>The Authority concludes that s 10.04(5) is therefore not applicable to the proposed WRP.</p>	Not applicable

Section 10.05 – Regard to other water resources

A water resource plan must:

- (a) be prepared having regard to the management and use of any water resources which have a significant hydrological connection to the water resources of the water resource plan area; and
- (b) describe the way in which paragraph (a) was complied with.

10.05 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	There are significant hydrological connections between water resources of the WRP area to water resources outside the WRP area	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.05(b)	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.05(b) describes how the proposed WRP was prepared having regard to the management and use of any water resources which have a significant hydrological connection to the water resources of the WRP area. Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.05(b) identifies water resources with a hydrological connection to water resources outside of the WRP area. Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.05(b) clarifies the significance of these connections, setting out that there is significant hydrological connections in the Tertiary Limestone aquifer within the Wimmera-Mallee: Sedimentary Plain SDL Resource Unit. This significant connection occurs as the resource extends across the South Australia – Victoria border, and is therefore connected to the South Australian Murray Region WRP area. Column 5 of the	MET
	The WRP was prepared having regard to the management and use of the hydrologically connected water resources	True	Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.05(b)		
	The WRP describes how s10.05(a) was complied with	True			

10.05 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>Index Table for s 10.05(b) sets out that while the majority of this aquifer is contained in the West Wimmera Groundwater Management Area and is therefore excluded from the WRP area, a portion is within the Murrayville Groundwater Management Area and is therefore considered a significant connection for the purposes of the Basin Plan.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.05(b) sets out that regard has been had for the management and use of this water resource with a significant hydrological connection through the Border Groundwaters Agreement, and Victoria's groundwater management framework, which includes local management plans.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that sufficient regard has been demonstrated to the use and management of water resources with significant hydrological connections.</p>	

Section 10.06 – Matters relating to requirements of Chapter

- (1) For each matter that this Chapter requires to be dealt with in a water resource plan, the plan must specify the person responsible for the matter.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), if a water resource plan requires a measure or action to be undertaken, the plan must specify the person responsible for undertaking that measure or action.

10.06 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	The WRP identifies each matter arising from Chapter 10	True	Columns 1 and 2 of the Index Table	Columns 1 and 2 of the Index Table identify each matter arising from Chapter 10.	MET
	Each matter nominates a responsible party (or parties)	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that the person responsible for each matter to be dealt with is the Deputy Secretary Water and Catchments, of the Department. This satisfies the requirement of nominating a responsible party (or parties) to each matter identified in Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan.	
2	The WRP nominates a party as 'responsible person' for each Chapter 10 section listed in position statement 1M	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 4 of the Index Table for each section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that the person responsible for any action or measure would be identified in Column 4 of the Index Table for each section. If no one is identified in Column 4 of the Index Table, this indicates that no action or measure is to be undertaken.	MET

				The Authority is satisfied a person responsible has been listed for each required section of Chapter 10.	
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Section 10.07 – Consultation to be demonstrated

- (1) A water resource plan prepared by a Basin State must contain a description of the consultation in relation to the plan (including in relation to any part of the plan), if any, that was undertaken before the State gave the plan to the Authority under subsection 63(1) of the Act.

Note: A water resource plan prepared by the Authority and adopted under section 69 of the Act is a legislative instrument. The Legislative Instruments Act 2003 requires that the explanatory statements for such plans describe the consultation undertaken in relation to the plans.

- (2) If a water resource plan is amended in accordance with section 65 of the Act, the plan must contain a description of the consultation in relation to the amendment, if any, that was undertaken before the relevant Basin State gave the proposed amendment to the Authority under subsection 65(2) of the Act.

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Verify that (1) a description of consultation is included in the WRP, and (2) a reference to supporting evidence is provided.	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.07(1) and s 10.07(2) Appendix D of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.07(1) states that Appendix D of the Comprehensive Report describes the process Victoria undertook to consult in relation to the plan. This includes consultation on parts of the plan, such as the Risk Assessment and strategies in relation to Aboriginal people's involvement in water planning and management contained in the Water for Victoria policy, which form part of the proposed WRP. Appendix D describes the various consultation activities undertaken in relation to the proposed WRP, highlights the main issues raised during these activities, and describes how the proposed WRP was updated to take	MET

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
		<p>into account the views and issues raised in the consultation.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that Appendix D of the Comprehensive Report describes the consultation undertaken in relation to the proposed WRP (and parts of the proposed WRP) during its development, and therefore satisfies the requirement at s 10.07(1).</p> <p>The proposed WRP has not been amended in accordance with s 65 of the Act (Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.07(2)), and therefore the requirement at s 10.07(2) does not apply.</p>	

Part 3 Incorporation and application of long-term annual diversion limit

Section 10.08 – Water access rights must be identified

- (1) A water resource plan must identify:
- (a) each form of take from each SDL resource unit in the water resource plan area;
 - (b) any classes of water access rights that apply to the forms of take identified under paragraph (a);
 - (c) the characteristic of each class of right including, where appropriate, the number of rights and any conditions on the exercise of the rights.
- (2) A water resource plan must require a holder of water access right to comply with the conditions of that right.

10.08 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1(a)	All the forms of take mentioned in Schedule 3 (4 for groundwater resource units) for the SDL resource unit are listed.	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Table B attached to the Index Table	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Table B attached to the Index Table lists: take from groundwater (excluding under basic rights) and take from groundwater (under basic rights), as the relevant forms of take for the SDL resource units in the WRP area. The Authority is satisfied Table B is consistent with Schedule 4 of the Basin Plan (2012) and all forms of take are listed.	MET

10.08 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	Additional forms of take apply to the SDL resource unit	False	Table B attached to the Index Table	No additional forms of take are listed in Table B attached to the Index Table as applying to the SDL resource unit.	
	Additional forms of take in the SDL resource unit are identified	False	Table B attached to the Index Table	Table B attached to the Index Table does not identify any additional forms of take that apply in the SDL resource unit.	
	Changes to the BDL estimate arising from any additional forms of take are stated	False	Not applicable	No additional forms of take are proposed, therefore there are no proposed changes to the BDL estimate arising from any additional forms of take.	
1(b)	Applicable class(es) of water access rights are identified ('attributed') for each form of take (presence/absence <i>for each form of take</i>)	Present	Table B attached to the Index Table	<p>For each form of take the classes of water access rights are identified. Table B attached to the Index Table lists four classes of water access rights (entitlement).</p> <p>Take from groundwater (excluding under basic rights):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bulk entitlement - Take and use licence <p>Take from groundwater (under basic rights):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Domestic and stock - Traditional Owner statutory right 	

10.08 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				The Authority notes that Victoria's entitlement system does not include classes of rights and for the purposes of this section a class of water access right is determined to mean the type of right available under the Victorian Water Act.	
1(c)	The characteristics of each class of water access right are identified ('attributed') for each form of take (presence/absence <i>for each form of take</i>)	Present	Table B attached to the Index Table	The characteristics of each class (type) of water access right are identified in Table B attached to the Index Table under the headings of management and trade.	
	It is appropriate for the WRP to include: (i) the number of rights for each class; (ii) the conditions on exercising rights that apply to each class	True	Table B attached to the Index Table	<p>The number of rights for each class (type) and the general conditions on exercising the rights that apply to each class are included in Table B attached to the Index Table.</p> <p>For a copy of standard s51 licence conditions Table B attached to the Index Table refers to the Victorian Water Register. The number of water access rights in relation to take from groundwater under basic rights (domestic and stock, and Traditional Owner statutory right) is an estimate.</p>	
	The characteristics of each class of water access rights includes the number of rights and/or	Present	Table B attached to the Index Table	Table B attached to the Index Table includes the number of rights and the general conditions in	

10.08 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	conditions on exercising those rights (presence/absence <i>for each form of take</i>)			relation to the characteristics of each class (type) of water access right.	
	The rationale for why it is not appropriate has merit	False	Table B attached to the Index Table	This is not applicable because the proposed WRP includes the number of rights for each class (type) and the general conditions on exercising those rights that apply to each class in Table B attached to the Index Table.	
2	The WRP provision obliges water access right holders to comply with the conditions of a right	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Part 5.7 of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that the holder of a water access right must comply with the conditions specified in the water access right instrument.</p> <p>A note in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section also indicates that the conditions that may be imposed on a water access right are identified in Table B attached to the Index Table. This information references the relevant section of the Victorian Water Act which sets out the conditions that may be imposed for each class of water access right, and notes that the specific conditions can be found on the instruments registered on the Victorian Water Register or individual licence. This provides further evidence of obligations on water access rights holders to comply with the conditions of rights.</p>	

10.08 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>The Authority is satisfied that this provision in the proposed WRP will require water access rights holders to comply with the conditions of their rights, because the provision will become an enforceable obligation under s59 of the Water Act 2007 if the proposed WRP is accredited and commences. In this regard, the Authority notes that the explanatory material in Column 5 of the Index Table notes that the requirement at s 10.08(2) is not expressly addressed under Victorian legislation.</p> <p>The Authority also notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 5.7 of the Comprehensive Report describes how Victoria manages compliance and enforcement under the Victorian Water Act to ensure this obligation will be met, and • The explanatory material in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section notes that enforcement of this obligation will be managed concurrently with the MDBA and Victoria, and that Victorian water corporations will continue to carry out their compliance enforcement functions and manage compliance with the terms and conditions of a water access right, with the MDBA to step in only as a last resort as is anticipated under the Murray-Darling Basin 	

10.08 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				Plan 2012 Implementation Agreement (dated 7 August 2013).	

Section 10.09 – Identification of planned environmental water and register of held environmental water

- (1) A water resource plan must identify the planned environmental water in the water resource plan area and associated rules and arrangements relating to that water.
- (2) A water resource plan must provide for the establishment and maintenance of a register, to be published on a website specified by the plan, of held environmental water for the water resource plan area which records:
 - (a) the characteristics of held environmental water in the water resource plan area (for example, quantity, reliability, security class, licence type, limitations); and
 - (b) who holds that water.
- (3) Subsection (2) is satisfied if the plan identifies a register of held environmental water which records the matters required by subsection (2) and is published on a website.

10.09 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	PEW is identified in the WRP area	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that no PEW exists in the Wimmera-Mallee WRP area and as such no PEW nor any related rules or arrangements associated with PEW are identified.	MET
	There is no PEW in the WRP area, and the supporting evidence validates the claim	True	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section	The explanatory material in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section validates the claim that there is no PEW in the Wimmera-Mallee WRP area. The Authority's analysis confirms this claim.	

10.09 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	The identified PEW is PEW as defined in the Water Act (exhaustive - <i>all</i> PEW is identified)	N/A	Column 3 and 5 of the Index Table for this section	Not applicable as no PEW is identified, per Columns 3 and 5 of the Index Table for this section	
	PEW rules and arrangements to protect PEW operate in the WRP area	N/A	Column 3 and 5 of the Index Table for this section	Not applicable as no PEW is identified, per Columns 3 and 5 of the Index Table for this section.	
2	A register of HEW for the WRP area is (and/or will be) established OR	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.09(3)	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section notes that the response provided at s 10.09(3) satisfies this requirement. The Victorian Water Register is identified as the register of all water entitlements, including HEW, and as such this requirement is met. The Authority is satisfied an appropriate register has been identified, as assessed below.	MET
3	An existing register is identified	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section identifies the Victorian Water Register as the register of HEW to meet this requirement.	MET
If it is verified that a register of HEW is / will be established OR that an identified register of HEW exists: consider the further matters required by subsection (2)					

10.09 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
2	Provides for the maintenance of a / the register	Present	Part 15.3.4 of the Comprehensive Report	Part 15.3.4 of the Comprehensive Report (explanatory material) states that the Victorian Water Register's water entitlement records are reconciled quarterly and finalised at the end of each financial year	MET
	A website for publication is specified	Present	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section identifies the relevant page of the Victorian Water Register at: http://waterregister.vic.gov.au/water-entitlements/bulk-entitlements	
	Characteristics and holders of water are (or will be) included in the register	True	N/A	<p>The Victorian Water Register contains the details of the characteristics of HEW in the Wimmera-Mallee WRP area and identifies holders of entitlements to the water.</p> <p>The Victorian Water Register also contains links to specific details about all HEW held by the CEWH through links to the CEWH records accessed through a link on the Victorian Water Register at: https://www.environment.gov.au/water/cewo/about/water-holdings.</p> <p>Similarly, in relation to HEW held by the VEWH, the Victorian Water Register also contains links to the VEWH web address: http://www.vewh.vic.gov.au/watering-program/how-much-water-is-available</p>	

Section 10.10 – Annual determinations of water permitted to be taken

- (1) For each SDL resource unit in a water resource plan area, and for each form of take, the water resource plan must set out the method for determining the maximum quantity of water that the plan permits to be taken for consumptive use during a water accounting period.
- (2) The method for subsection (1) may include modelling, and must be designed to be applied after the end of the relevant water accounting period, having regard to the water resources available during the period.
- (3) The method must:
 - (a) account for the matters in subsection 10.12(1); and
 - (b) be consistent with the other provisions of the water resource plan.
- (4) The plan must also set out a demonstration that the method relates to the SDL of each resource unit in such a way that, if applied over a repeat of the historical climate conditions, it would result in meeting the SDL for the resource unit, including as amended under section 23B of the Act.

Note 1: Under the Basin Plan, the SDL is the same as the long-term annual diversion limit because the temporary diversion provision for each SDL resource unit is zero. Section 6.04 and Schedules 2 and 4 set out the SDLs for each SDL resource unit.

Note 2: Amendments under section 23B of the Act are made following proposals for adjustment under Chapter 7.
- (5) If, as a result of an amendment under section 23B of the Act, the SDL for a surface water SDL resource unit is expressed as a formula that changes with time, the SDL for subsection (4) is taken to be:
 - (a) for a water accounting period beginning on or after 1 July 2019 – the SDL as it stood on 30 June 2019; and
 - (b) for a water accounting period beginning on or after 1 July 2022 – the SDL as it stood on 30 June 2022; and
 - (c) for a water accounting period beginning on or after 1 July 2024 – the SDL as it stood on 30 June 2024.

10.10 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	A method is set out that determines maximum quantity of water permitted to be taken for consumptive use for each form of take during a water accounting period for each SDL resource unit in the WRP area	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Table 8 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that the method that determines maximum permitted take for consumptive use during a water accounting period is described in Table 8 in Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report. The method sets permitted take from groundwater as equal to the SDL for each SDL resource unit as prescribed in Schedule 4 of the	MET

10.10 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
			Part 2.2 of the Comprehensive Report	<p>Basin Plan, minus the SDL volume for take from groundwater under basic rights.</p> <p>Take from groundwater under basic rights is calculated based on the number of bores less than 30 years old (as at 30 June 2010) times 2 ML/year.</p> <p>The Wimmera-Mallee: sedimentary plain SDL resource unit accounts for take in the West Wimmera Groundwater Management Area (GMA) (as defined in Schedule 4 of the Basin Plan), noting the West Wimmera is excluded from the resources of the Murray-Darling Basin (Part 2.2 of the Comprehensive Report).</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied the methods for determining permitted take are appropriate, and the requirements of this section have been met.</p>	
	The BDL estimate has changed due to better methods	False	Table 4 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report	The estimated BDL volumes for each form of take for the Wimmera-Mallee: Highlands SDL resource unit, Sedimentary Plain SDL resource unit, and deep SDL resource unit are presented in Table 4 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report and are the same as identified in Schedule 4 of the Basin Plan.	

10.10 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>Therefore there has been no change to the BDL estimate.</p> <p>There is agreement between Victoria and the MDBA that the state limit (referred to in the definition of the SDL) is best represented by the permissible consumptive volume (PCV) for the sub-zones of the West Wimmera Groundwater Management Area. This area is excluded from the Murray-Darling Basin as per the PCV Order 2013 for West Wimmera, which is a Ministerial order under the State law of Victoria.</p>	
	The changes to the BDL estimate due to better methods are identified, <i>and</i>	False	Table 4 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report	Not applicable as there is no change to the BDL, as set out above and evidenced in Table 4 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report.	
	The changes are agreed to by MDBA, <i>and either</i>	False	Table 4 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report	Not applicable as there is no change to the BDL, as set out above and evidenced in Table 4 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report.	
	The SDL volume is based on the better estimate of the BDL, <i>and</i>	False	Table 4, Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report	The SDL volume for each form of take for the Wimmera-Mallee: Highlands SDL resource unit, Sedimentary Plain SDL resource unit, and deep SDL resource unit are the same as identified in Schedule 4 of the Basin Plan (see Table 4, Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report).	

10.10 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	The SDL volume is based on the applicable local reduction amount, <i>and</i>	False	Table 4, Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report	The SDL volume for each form of take for the Wimmera-Mallee: Highlands SDL resource unit, Sedimentary Plain SDL resource unit, and deep SDL resource unit are the same as identified in Schedule 4 of the Basin Plan (see Table 4, Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report).	
	The SDL volume is based on the SDL resource unit shared reduction amount, <i>or</i>	False	Table 4, Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report	The SDL volume for each form of take for the Wimmera-Mallee: Highlands SDL resource unit, Sedimentary Plain SDL resource unit, and deep SDL resource unit are the same as identified in Schedule 4 of the Basin Plan (see Table 4, Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report).	
	The SDL volume is based on the SDL adjustment amount written as a formula that changes over time to 2024	False	Table 4, Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report	The SDL volume for each form of take for the Wimmera-Mallee: Highlands SDL resource unit, Sedimentary Plain SDL resource unit, and deep SDL resource unit are the same as identified in Schedule 4 of the Basin Plan (see Table 4, Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report).	
	The method represents and operates as 'best available information'	True	Table 8 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report	The Authority is satisfied that the method in Table 8 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report represents the best available information as it is the same as the Basin Plan and based on current discussions with states and the MDBA to	

10.10 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				determine the annual permitted take method for groundwater.	
2	The method (which may be modelling) calculates max quantity of water available for consumptive take at the end of the water accounting period	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Column 3 of the Index Table for this section notes that the method is designed to be applied at the end of each accounting period having regard to the water resources available during that period. 	MET
	The method (or modelling) has regard to availability of water resources during the accounting period	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Table 8 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section notes that the method is applied at the end of each accounting period having regard to the water resources available during that period.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that the method as described in the Table 8 of the Methods Report (Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report) is designed to be applied after the end of the relevant water accounting period, having regard to the water resources available during the period.</p>	
3	All matters listed under s10.12 are identified as either relevant or not relevant, and relevant matters are accounted for in the method (exhaustive)	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(a)-(i)</p>	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that this requirement is responded to in the response for section 10.12(1) of the Index Table.	MET

10.10 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				The responses for s 10.12(1)(a)-(i) in Column 3 of the Index Table set out which matters are relevant, and how they are accounted for in the method.	
	s10.12(1) letter (a) is relevant and accounted for	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(a) Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(a) Part 4.2 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(a) states that all forms of take and all classes of water access right are accounted for by the method in s 10.10(1). The explanatory material in Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(a) states that Part 4.2 in the Methods Report in Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report describes how the method specified for determining permitted take accounts for all forms of take for each of the SDL resource units in the Wimmera-Mallee groundwater WRP area, and all classes of water access right for those forms of take.	
	s10.12(1) letter (b) is relevant and accounted for	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(b)	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(b) sets out that carryover of groundwater take is permitted in some groundwater management areas and is recorded in the Victorian Water Register. It further sets out that carryover is taken into account in the annual permitted take method, as permitted take reflects the long-term	

10.10 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>average determined as the SDL for the relevant SDL resource unit. As such, it is accounted for in the method but will not result in annual variations to the method.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied the approach described is valid, and the matters in s 10.12(1)(b) have been appropriately accounted for.</p>	
	s10.12(1) letter (c) is relevant and accounted for	N/A	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(c)</p> <p>Table 9, Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report</p>	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(c) states there are no return flows in the Wimmera-Mallee WRP area and therefore this requirement is not applicable. Item (c) of Table 9 in Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report further states that this matter is not relevant for the Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater) WRP area.	
	s10.12(1) letter (d) is relevant and accounted for	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(d)	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(d) sets out that trade of groundwater is permitted in some groundwater management areas and is recorded in the Victorian Water Register. It further sets out that trade is taken into account in the annual permitted take method, as permitted take reflects the long-term average determined as the SDL for the relevant SDL resource unit, and trade cannot change the maximum volume of permitted take in a system.	

10.10 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>As such, it is accounted for in the method but will not result in annual variations to the method.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied the approach described is valid, and the matters in s 10.12(1)(d) have been appropriately accounted for.</p>	
	s10.12(1) letter (e) is relevant and accounted for	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(e)</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(e)</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for Part 4</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.05(b)</p> <p>Table 9, Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Part 2.2 of the Comprehensive Report</p>	<p>The Basin Plan requires that the annual permitted take methods must account for certain matters, including water resources which have a significant hydrological connection to the water resources of each SDL resource unit (s 10.12(1)(e)).</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(e) indicates that, for the purposes of s 10.12(1)(e), connectivity is not relevant to the groundwater component of the proposed WRP.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(e) and Table 9, Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report clarifies that any significant hydrological connections identified in response to s 10.05(b) were taken into account when determining the SDL. As permitted take is equal to the SDL for each relevant SDL resource unit, the significant connectivity between Victoria and South Australia across the Tertiary Limestone aquifer</p>	

10.10 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>(as identified in Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.05(b)) does not need to be expressly accounted for in the determination of permitted take, as it has already been accounted for in determination of the SDL.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(e) also references Column 5 of the Index Table for Part 4, which sets out the basis for there being no water resources with significant hydrological connectivity between groundwater and surface water.</p> <p>The groundwater SDL does not include groundwater take within the West Wimmera groundwater management area as this has been excluded from the Murray-Darling Basin (see Part 2.2 of the Comprehensive Report).</p> <p>The Authority considers that the proposed WRP has demonstrated how hydrologically connected water resources were accounted for in the method, and the requirements of this section have been met.</p>	
	s10.12(1) letter (f) is relevant and accounted for	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(f)	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(f) states that this matter is not relevant.	

10.10 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
			Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(g)	<p>The Authority understands that this is because the method assumes full utilisation of entitlements, and entitlement holders are free to take and hold water in accordance with the conditions on their entitlements, as set out in Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(g).</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that this is the case, and therefore that the method need not account for the matters in s 10.12(1)(f).</p>	
	s10.12(1) letter (g) is relevant and accounted for	False	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(g)</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(g)</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(g) states that this matter is not relevant. The method for permitted take assumes full utilisation of water allocations, as stated in Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(g). As such, changes over time to the extent to which water allocations are utilised does not impact on the methods for determining annual permitted take.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that this is the case, and therefore that the method need not account for the matters in s 10.12(1)(g).</p>	
	s10.12(1) letter (h) is relevant and accounted for	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(h)	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(h) states this requirement is not relevant in the Wimmera-Mallee groundwater WRP area, as no	

10.10 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>water is sourced from the Great Artesian Basin (GAB).</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that this is the case, and therefore that the method need not account for the matters in s 10.12(1)(h).</p>	
	s10.12(1) letter (i) is relevant and accounted for	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(i)	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(i) states that there are no current or proposed managed aquifer recharge schemes. The Authority is satisfied that this is the case. Accordingly, no water needs to be accounted for to satisfy this requirement.	
	The method is consistent with other provisions of the water resource plan	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states the methods are consistent with the other provisions of the proposed WRP.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that this is the case.</p>	

10.10 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
4	The method has been applied over the historical climate conditions in the demonstration	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Table 10 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report	<p>The Basin Plan requires that a WRP must demonstrate that the method for determining annual permitted take (APT), if applied over a repeat of historical climate conditions, would result in meeting the long term average sustainable diversion limit (or SDL) (s10.10(4)).</p> <p>The SDL for each SDL resource unit which is covered by the proposed WRP is set out in Schedule 4 (items 6-8) of the Basin Plan.</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Table 10 in Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report presents the SDL volumes for each SDL resource unit and each form of take. Column 3 of the Index Table for this section also indicates that the methods for determining take for all forms of take are identical to the method for determining SDL and are based on identical climate sequences.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that the proposed WRP has demonstrated that the SDL of each resource unit would be met if the method were applied over a repeat of historical climate conditions.</p>	MET
	The results show that the method will result in the SDL for the unit, (including as amended under s23B of the Act) is met	True			
5	An adjustment under WA s23B has resulted in the SDL being	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that this matter is not relevant to the	Not applicable

10.10 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	expressed as a formula that changes with time		Column 5 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Wimmera-Mallee proposed WRP as there are no proposed SDL offset projects or efficiency measures to be implemented within the Wimmera-Mallee WRP area following accreditation of the Plan.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section states that while nothing is proposed now, if this changes the process for amending the Plan under s 10.48 would apply and that the proposed WRP would be updated accordingly.</p> <p>The Authority agrees with this statement. Furthermore, SDL offset projects or efficiency measures relate to surface water only and as the proposed WRP relates to groundwater resources only this requirement is not applicable.</p>	
	The WRP area comprises surface water SDL resource units that constitute an 'affected unit' under the SDLAM	False			
	The formula that comprises the method applies the water accounting dates and SDLs in letters (a-c)	False			

Section 10.11 – Rules for take, including water allocation rules

- (1) A water resource plan must set out rules (including, if applicable, rules for water allocations) that ensure, as far as practicable, that the quantity of water actually taken from each SDL resource unit for consumptive use in a water accounting period that beginning on or after 1 July 2019 does not (after making any adjustments for the disposal or acquisition of held environmental water) exceed the unit's annual permitted take for the period.

Note 1: Water resource plans are not required to give effect to the long-term average sustainable diversion limits until 1 July 2019. Compliance with the long-term annual diversion limit will then be measured using the annual permitted take (see Part 4 of Chapter 6). The annual permitted take is defined in subsection 6.10(1).

Note 2: Water allocations can be made during or before a water accounting period. The annual permitted take is usually worked out after the end of a water accounting period.

A water resource plan may provide for less water to be taken

- (2) To avoid doubt, the rules may be designed to ensure that the quantity of water that is actually taken for consumptive use from an SDL resource unit in a water accounting period is less than the annual permitted take.

10.11 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	Rules are included in the WRP	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.08(2)	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section imposes an obligation on the Victorian Minister to not amend or issue new entitlements to take water, or make rules regarding allocations or restrictions to entitlement holders in the WRP area, if to do so would cause permitted take or the SDL to be exceeded. This provision will operate as a rule that require the Victorian Minister to exercise the decisions specified in the WRP consistently with the obligation in the proposed WRP, because the	MET

10.11 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>provision will become an enforceable obligation under s59 of the Water Act 2007 once the proposed WRP is accredited and commences.</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section also refers to the response provided in Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.08(2), which requires water access rights holders to comply with the conditions of their rights, and states that this will support the obligation imposed in the proposed WRP to address s 10.11(1). The provision under s 10.08(2) will therefore operate as a rule that requires water access rights holders to comply with the conditions on their rights.</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section also sets out that if annual actual take equals or exceeds annual permitted take, Victoria must provide a report containing proposed actions to ensure annual permitted take is not exceeded in the future, in accordance with s 71.(1)(h) of the Water Act 2007 (Cth).</p>	
	The rules ensure that the quantity of water actually taken does not exceed annual permitted take	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	The rules described in the row above, as prescribed in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section, will ensure that, as far as practicable, actual take does not exceed permitted take, by	

10.11 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requiring water access rights holder to comply with the conditions of their rights, which may include volumetric or other limitations on taking water, and by implementing a strategy to ensure compliance with the SDL if it becomes necessary. 	
	Rules for water allocation are included in the WRP	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	The obligation imposed in the Column 3 of the Index Table for this section will ensure that water cannot be allocated in a way that results in permitted take to be exceeded.	
	Rules for water allocation ensure that take does not exceed annual permitted take	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	By requiring water access rights holders to comply with the conditions of their rights, including limitations on the quantity of water that can be taken through allocations, the obligations imposed in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section will ensure that, as far as practicable, actual take does not exceed permitted take.	
	The rationale for not applying rules for water allocation has merit	N/A	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	This requirement is not applicable because the proposed WRP applies rules for the purposes of this section, as set out in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section.	

10.11 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	The rationale for 'as far as practicable' has merit.	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	The Authority is satisfied that, by imposing obligations to not make decisions in relation to entitlements which would cause actual take to exceed annual permitted take, the rules included in the proposed WRP will prevent take from exceeding permitted take as far as practicable.	
2	The rules for take will result in actual take being less than permitted take	True	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.11(1)	The explanatory material in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section notes that Victoria's annual permitted take is set equal to the SDL. Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.11(1) operates as an obligation on the Minister to not issue any entitlement to take water or make rules regarding allocations or restrictions to entitlement holders that would allow the actual take to exceed the permitted take or SDL.	MET
	Actual take will realistically be less than permitted take	True	Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.11(1) Table 16 of the Comprehensive Report	The explanatory material in Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.11(1) notes that Victoria's water management framework sets the permitted take to the level of the SDL. Table 16 of the Comprehensive Report sets out that the BDL for each SDL Resource Unit is significantly less than the SDL, and as permitted take is equal to the SDL (with the exception of take under basic rights as set out in the	

10.11 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				assessment for s 10.10(1)) it is considered unlikely that actual take will approach permitted take.	

Section 10.12 – Matters relating to accounting for water

(1) For paragraph 10.10(3)(a), the following matters must be accounted for:

- (a) all forms of take from the SDL resource unit and all classes of water access right;
- (b) water allocations that are determined in one water accounting period and used in another, including water allocations that are carried over from one water accounting period to the next;
- (c) for a surface water SDL resource unit—return flows, in a way that is consistent with arrangements under the Agreement immediately before the commencement of the Basin Plan;
- (d) subject to subsection (3)—trade of water access rights;
- (e) water resources which have a significant hydrological connection to the water resources of the SDL resource unit;
- (f) circumstances in which there is a change in the way water is taken or held under a water access right;
- (g) changes over time in the extent to which water allocations in the unit are utilised;
Note: Paragraph (g) includes what is commonly known as a growth-in-use strategy.
- (h) water sourced from the Great Artesian Basin and released into a Basin water resource, by excluding that water;
- (i) water resources which are used for the purpose of managed aquifer recharge.

(2) Subject to this section, the method may account for other matters.

(3) For paragraph (1)(d), the water resource plan must account for the disposal and acquisition of held environmental water separately and in a way that does not affect the method under section 10.10.

10.12 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1 (a) – (i)	The WRP states which of the matters in letter (a) to (i) are and are not applicable	True	S 10.12(1)(a)-(i) of the Index Table	The responses for s 10.12(1)(a)-(i) of the Index Table state which are and are not applicable. An assessment of the responses for (a)-(i) is provided above under s 10.10(3)(a) of this assessment report.	MET

10.12 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	The WRP explains why the matters in letter (a) to (i) that are stated as 'not be applicable' do not apply	True	S 10.12(1)(a)-(i) of the Index Table	See assessment undertaken in Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.10(3)(a). The responses for s 10.12(1)(a)-(i) of the Index Table sets out why matters identified as 'not applicable' are considered to be such.	
	Each of the relevant matters in letters (a) to (i) is accounted for in s10.10(3)(a)	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(a)-(i)	As set out in the assessment above for s 10.10(3), each relevant matter is accounted for through the responses in Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(a)-(i).	
2	The method in 10.10 accounts for matters other than those under 10.12(1)	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that this matter assists the interpretation of s 10.10 of the Basin Plan and does not contain a water resource plan requirement. The Authority is satisfied that because the permitted take method is simply the SDL, other matters are not accounted for and therefore this provision is not relevant.	Not applicable
	The other matter(s) accounted for under the section is (are) permissible and the accounting treatment appropriate	N/A	As above	As noted above, this section is not considered to be applicable.	

10.12 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
3	The method in s10.10 accounts for disposal and acquisition of HEW separately	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section refers to the response provided in Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(d), which states there is no groundwater HEW in the WRP area. The Authority notes that the method does not need to account for the disposal and acquisition of HEW.	MET
	The disposal and acquisition of HEW does not affect the method under s.10.10	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(d)		

Section 10.13 – Limits on certain forms of take

- (1) Subject to this section, a water resource plan must require that the long-term annual average quantity of water that can be taken from a surface water SDL resource unit for consumptive use by:
- (a) take under basic rights; or
 - (b) take by runoff dams; or
 - (c) net take by commercial plantations;
- does not exceed the level specified in column 2 of Schedule 3 for that form of take.
- (2) The quantity specified in subsection (1) for a form of take may be increased above the level specified in column 2 of Schedule 3 for that form of take if:
- (a) the long-term annual average quantity of water that can be taken by another form of take from the same SDL resource unit is changed at the same time so that there is no overall change in the total long-term annual average quantity of water that can be taken; and
 - (b) take by the forms of take affected by the changes are capable of:
 - (i) being accurately measured (for example, through the use of a meter); or
 - (ii) in the case of a form of take that is not capable of being accurately measured at the time the water resource plan is submitted for accreditation or adoption—being reasonably estimated using the best available method immediately before the water resource plan is submitted; and
 - (c) the changes are not expected to result in the take from the SDL resource unit ceasing to be an environmentally sustainable level of take.

10.13 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	The LTAA quantity of take is stated as a volume for each form of take described in column 2 of Schedule 3 as follows:	False	N/A	Section 10.13 is not relevant to this groundwater proposed WRP as it deals with surface water.	Not applicable
	take under basic rights	False	N/A	Section 10.13 is not relevant to this groundwater proposed WRP as it deals with surface water.	

10.13 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	take by runoff dams	False	N/A	Section 10.13 is not relevant to this groundwater proposed WRP as it deals with surface water.	
	net take by commercial plantations	False	N/A	Section 10.13 is not relevant to this groundwater proposed WRP as it deals with surface water.	
	The limits (volume) for each form of take in subsection 1 letter (a) to (c) does not exceed the corresponding levels stated in column 2 of Schedule 3 for that form of take	False	N/A	Section 10.13 is not relevant to this groundwater proposed WRP as it deals with surface water.	
	The provision states that the LTAA quantity (volume) does not (and will not) exceed the levels	False	N/A	Section 10.13 is not relevant to this groundwater proposed WRP as it deals with surface water.	
	The provision states that one or more limits (volumes) exceeds the	False	N/A	Section 10.13 is not relevant to this groundwater proposed WRP as it deals with surface water.	

10.13 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	levels, and that s10.13(2) is applied				
2	Section 10.13(1) identifies that the LTAA quantity (volume) (i.e. for basic rights, runoff dams and/or commercial plantations) has increased, and/or will increase over the life of the WRP	False	N/A	Section 10.13 is not relevant to this groundwater proposed WRP as it deals with surface water.	Not applicable
2(a)	The increase in take above the levels set out under s10.13(1) is offset in full by reduction in level for another form(s) of take in the same SDL resource unit	N/A	N/A	Section 10.13 is not relevant to this groundwater proposed WRP as it deals with surface water.	
2(b)	Accurate measurement (metering) is applied to affected forms of take	N/A	N/A	Section 10.13 is not relevant to this groundwater proposed WRP as it deals with surface water.	
	The method of estimate is reasonable; and applies best available information	N/A			
2(c)	The increase to levels of take under subsection 1 are	N/A	N/A	Section 10.13 is not relevant to this groundwater proposed WRP as it deals with surface water.	

10.13 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	not expected to result in take above the limit for environmentally sustainable level of take				
	A process to address future increases to the quantity of take under basic rights, by runoff dams, and/or net take by commercial plantations is provided over the term of the WRP	N/A	N/A	Section 10.13 is not relevant to this groundwater proposed WRP as it deals with surface water.	
	The process to increase quantity is based on a risk assessment, and comprises a trigger for advice to the MDBA that the process will be triggered and that it is necessary	N/A	N/A	Section 10.13 is not relevant to this groundwater proposed WRP as it deals with surface water.	

Section 10.14 – Effects, and potential effects, on water resources of the water resource plan area

- (1) A water resource plan must identify the effect, or potential effect, if any, of the following on the use and management of the water resources of the water resource plan area:
 - (a) the taking of groundwater that is not a Basin water resource resulting in water being removed from a groundwater SDL resource unit in the water resource plan area because of a pre-existing hydrological connection or a hydrological connection created by the process of taking that groundwater;
 - (b) the taking of groundwater that is not a Basin water resource resulting in water that would otherwise flow directly or indirectly into an SDL resource unit in the water resource plan area no longer flowing into that unit.
- (2) If a water resource plan identifies an effect, or potential effect, of the kind referred to in subsection (1), the water resource plan must set out:
 - (a) a process for monitoring that effect or potential effect; and
 - (b) actions that will be taken to respond to that effect or potential effect.
- (3) Without limiting paragraph (2)(b), the water resource plan may require a person to hold a water access right in the water resource plan area in relation to the effect, or potential effect, identified.

10.14 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	There are effects or potential effects of take from non-Basin groundwater resources upon the SDL resource unit water resources	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 5 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that there is no groundwater that is not a Basin resource that has a hydrological connection or pre-existing hydrological connection to the Wimmera-Mallee WRP area which has an effect or potential effect on the use and management of water resources in the WRP area. Column 5 of the Index Table for this section further states that the West Wimmera groundwater area does not have an impact on Basin resources.	MET

				The Authority understands that the portion of the West Wimmera groundwater management area that is excised from the Basin, while geographically within the Basin, is not considered a Basin water resource and is not hydrologically connected to a Basin water resource, and therefore take from the West Wimmera groundwater area does not have effects or potential effects upon the SDL resource unit water resources.	
1(a)	Effects or potential effects of take from a non-Basin groundwater resource with hydrological connection (pre-existing or arising post-take) are identified	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 5 of the Index Table for this section	See justification for s 10.14(1) above.	
1(b)	Effects or potential effects of take from a non-Basin groundwater resource resulting (directly or indirectly) in water no longer flowing are identified	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section does not identify any effects of take from a non-Basin groundwater resource resulting in water no longer flowing into the SDL resource unit.	
	The rationale for 'no effect' as described in s10.14(1) has merit	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	See justification for s 10.14(1) above.	
2	Section 10.14(1) identifies effects or potential effects	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that no effects are identified. Where an effect is identified the proposed WRP must set	MET

				out a process for monitoring that effect or potential effect.	
2(a)	Monitoring of effects is set out	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	No effects are identified.	
2(b)	Action to be taken is set out	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	No effects are identified.	
3	The WRP provides that a person must hold a water access right in the WRP area in relation to the effect (in s10.14(1))	False	s 10.14(1) of the Index Table	This provision is not applicable as no effects are identified in s 10.14(1) of the Index Table.	Not applicable

Section 10.15 – Determination of actual take must be specified

- (1) A water resource plan must set out how the quantity of water actually taken for consumptive use by each form of take from each SDL resource unit will be determined after the end of a water accounting period using the best information available at the time.

Note: The annual actual take for the SDL resource unit is the sum of the quantity of water actually taken by each form of take for consumptive use: see subsection 6.10(2). Paragraph 71(1)(c) of the Act requires the annual actual take to be set out in a report to the Authority within 4 months after the end of the water accounting period.

- (2) For a particular form of take, and subject to the requirement that a determination use the best information available at the time, a determination may be made by:
- (a) measuring the quantity of water actually taken; or
 - (b) estimating the quantity of water actually taken; or
 - (c) a combination of the above.
- (3) Where a determination for a form of take is made by estimating the quantity of water actually taken, the water resource plan must provide for the estimate to be done consistently with the method under subsection 10.10(1) that relates to that form of take.
- (4) The quantity of water actually taken must:
- (a) include water that was held environmental water which was disposed of and then used in the SDL resource unit for consumptive use; and
 - (b) exclude water sourced from the Great Artesian Basin and released into and taken from a Basin water resource.

10.15 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	A method for determining annual actual take is set out for each form of take from each SDL resource unit	Present	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Table 8 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section refers to Table 8 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report, where a method for determining annual actual take for each form of take is set out.	MET

10.15 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	The method applies best available information	True	Table 8 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report	<p>For take from groundwater (excluding basic rights) the water actually taken is stated to be equal to the water taken under entitlement for this form of take (Table 8, Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report). The Victorian Water Register is put forward as the best available information in relation to entitlement use. The Authority is satisfied that this is best available information for take from groundwater (excluding basic rights).</p> <p>Take from groundwater under basic rights is estimated and is based on Victoria's assessment of bores and reasonable domestic and stock use, which is 2ML/year for domestic and stock users and is expected to be sufficient to allow for any uptake of Traditional Owner rights. The Authority is satisfied that this is best available information for take from groundwater under basic right.</p>	
2	For each form of take, the method for determining annual actual take is nominated as either 'measuring', 'estimating' or a combination	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Table 8 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report</p>	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section does not provide any content for this provision, rather it states that this matter assists in the interpretation of s 10.15(1) of the Basin Plan and does not contain a water resource plan requirement.	MET

10.15 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>Table 8 in Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report states that actual take from groundwater (excluding basic rights) is determined using metered (measured) entitlement data, on the Victorian Water Register, based on the location of licensed and registered bores in the WRP SDL reporting area.</p> <p>Take from groundwater under basic rights is estimated based on the number of bores in the SDL resource unit less than 30 years old with a rate of 2 ML/year (Table 8, Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report).</p>	
3	All forms of take that use estimation (including in combination) to determine the quantity of annual actual take are identified (exhaustive)	True	Table 8 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report	Table 8 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report identifies take from groundwater under basic rights as using estimation.	MET
	Where estimation is used (includes 'combined'), the estimation is consistent with the method in s10.10(1) for that form of take	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.10(1)</p> <p>Table 8 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report</p>	The estimation for actual take from groundwater under basic rights as specified in Table 8 of Appendix C of the Comprehensive Report is consistent with the method in s 10.10(1) for that form of take, which also refers to Table 8 of Appendix C; it is estimated based on the number of bores in the SDL resource unit less than 30	

10.15 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				years old with a rate of 2 ML/year for both, permitted and actual take.	
4	The WRP describes whether the circumstances in letters (a) and/or (b) are relevant in the WRP area	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section does not provide any content for this provision, rather it states that this matter assists in the interpretation of s 10.15(1) of the Basin Plan and does not contain a WRP requirement. However, as described in s 10.15(4)(a)&(b) below in this assessment report, neither (a) nor (b) are relevant.	MET
	The WRP provides a method that is capable of accounting for the quantity of actual annual take in a way that:	False			
	(a) includes HEW that was disposed of and used for consumptive use	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(d)	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(d), as referenced above, states that there is no HEW in the WRP area.	
	(b) excludes water sourced from the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) and released into and taken from a Basin water resource	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(h)	The Authority is of the opinion that it is not possible to take water from the GAB and use it in the WRP area due to GAB resources being located many hundreds of kilometres away at its closest point. This is supported by a statement in Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(h), which states that there is no water sourced from the GAB in the WRP area.	

Part 4 The sustainable use and management of water resources

Section 10.16 – Sustainable use and management

This part sets out the requirements in relation to the sustainable use and management of water resources of the water resource plan area within the long-term annual diversion limit for an SDL resource unit.

**Section 10.16 is a simplified
outline of Part 4 only and
therefore there is no
requirement to assess**

Section 10.17 – Priority environmental assets and priority ecosystem functions

- (1) A water resource plan must be prepared having regard to whether it is necessary for it to include rules which ensure that the operation of the plan does not compromise the meeting of environmental watering requirements of priority environmental assets and priority ecosystem functions.

Note: The environmental watering requirements of priority environmental assets and priority ecosystem functions will be set out in long-term watering plans and may also be set out in the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy. Long-term watering plans are required to use the methods in Part 5 of Chapter 8 to identify those requirements.

- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), regard must be had to whether it is necessary for the rules to prescribe:
- (a) the times, places and rates at which water is permitted to be taken from a surface water SDL resource unit; and
 - (b) how water resources in the water resource plan area must be managed and used.
- (3) If the outcome of the requirement in subsection (1) is that such rules are necessary, the water resource plan must include those rules.

10.17 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	Regard was had to the need for rules to ensure that the operation of the WRP does not compromise the desired flow regimes (as expressed by the environmental watering requirements) that are needed to protect PEAs/PEFs	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Parts 12.2.3 and 12.2.4 of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Column 3 of s 10.27(1) of the Index Table</p>	The text provided in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that no accredited text is needed for a requirement to “have regard to” and instead it refers to the supporting material in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section explaining how regard has been had to whether it is necessary for a WRP to include rules which ensure that the operation of the plan does not compromise the meeting of environmental watering requirements of PEAs and PEFs.	MET

10.17 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section explains that the environmental watering requirements for PEAs and PEFs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be found in the Wimmera-Mallee Long-Term Environmental Watering Plan and a web link is provided to this document. • Are met through HEW controlled and managed by the VEWH, and that Victoria's water corporations manage water resources and access to water to ensure that all users in the system are supported including the VEWH. <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section states that, as the only rules relating to rights to take water included in the proposed WRP are those that require entitlement holders to comply with the conditions of their entitlements, there is nothing in the proposed WRP that compromises the meeting of environmental watering requirements.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section also states that other water in the system provides for the meeting of environmental outcomes and states that Parts 12.2.3 and 12.2.4 of the Comprehensive Report discuss how such water is protected and how it contributes to</p>	

10.17 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
			<p>environmental outcomes. Parts 12.2.3 and 12.2.4 of the Comprehensive Report provides such descriptions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Above-cap water – which is essentially unregulated natural flows and how environmental water managers consider such flows in order to make the most efficient use of their HEW portfolios in order to achieve the necessary outcomes • System water – including minimum passing flows as required by bulk entitlements which provides for a range of social, environmental and economic benefits – not solely for environmental purposes. • Consumptive water deliveries en-route and where possible how river operators deliver such flows to also meet environmental outcomes – including enabling HEW deliveries to piggy-back on consumptive flows. <p>This provides an adequate description of how environmental watering requirements are met/environmental outcomes are achieved using ‘all water’ in the systems – particularly in the absence of PEW.</p> <p>Connectivity with other surface water systems is not a factor for consideration, as there is no</p>	

10.17 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>significant connectivity with adjacent surface water SDL resource units (as per Column 3 of s 10.27(1) of the Index Table) – for example the Victorian Murray, as there is only limited connectivity during large flood events (and as such environmental watering activities would not be occurring)</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that the proposed WRP has had appropriate regard for the need to include rules to ensure the meeting of environmental watering requirements for PEAs and PEFs are not compromised.</p> <p>The Authority concludes that the information provided adequately demonstrates why such rules are unnecessary for this proposed WRP.</p>	
	Regard was had to the need for rules to prescribe:				

2	<p>(a) times, places and rates for permitted take from a surface water SDL resource unit</p> <p>(b) how water resources in the WRP area must be managed and used</p>	<p>(a) True</p> <p>(b) True</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Parts 6.3.2-6.3.3 of the Comprehensive Report</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section refers to the material in Column 5 for this section to explain how regard was had to the need for rules to prescribe the matters listed under s 10.17(2)(a) and (b).</p> <p>The supporting evidence in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section claims that rules were considered, to inform the analysis for s 10.17(1), that prescribe times, places and rates of take and how water resources must be managed and used.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section provides an outline of how bulk entitlements are managed and the role of storage managers. Both of these govern how water resources in the WRP area must be managed and used. Further details are provided in Parts 6.3.2-6.3.3 of the Comprehensive Report, and how rules and conditions are imposed for their use and management, including on the times, locations and rates of take.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table also states that such rules are currently included as conditions on individual 'take and use' licences where appropriate and that these conditions support the reliability of all entitlements in the system, including the water entitlements held by the VEWH and the CEWH. Column 5 of the Index Table for this section also explains that all licences, bulk entitlements and environmental</p>	MET
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				<p>entitlements can be found on the Victorian Water Register.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Authority is satisfied that appropriate regard has been demonstrated for the matters in s 10.17(2).</p>	
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10.17 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
3	Rules are included	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that it is not necessary for rules to be included and consequently no rules are included.	MET
	A rationale is provided for the application of section 10.17(2)	True	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section		
	A rationale is provided for why rules are not necessary	True	Column 5 of s 10.17(1) and (2) of the Index Table	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section refers to Column 5 of the Index Table for s10.17 (1) and (2) for a rationale as to why such rules are not necessary. The Authority has reviewed the information contained in these sections, and has concluded that it demonstrates an appropriate consideration of the need for rules, and sufficient rationale as to why rules are not necessary given the context of existing water management rules in the WRP area.	
	A rationale is provided for why rules are not included	True			

Section 10.18 – Priority environmental assets dependent on groundwater

- (1) A water resource plan must be prepared having regard to whether it is necessary for it to include rules which ensure that, for priority environmental assets and priority ecosystem functions that depend on groundwater, the operation of the plan does not compromise the meeting of environmental watering requirements.

Note: The environmental watering requirements of priority environmental assets and priority ecosystem functions will be set out in long-term watering plans and may also be set out in the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy. Long-term watering plans are required to use the methods in Part 5 of Chapter 8 to identify those requirements.

- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), regard must be had to whether it is necessary for the water resource plan to include rules that specify:
- (a) the times, places and rates at which water is permitted to be taken from a groundwater SDL resource unit; and
 - (b) resource condition limits, being limits beyond which the taking of groundwater will, for a priority environmental asset that depends on groundwater, compromise an environmental watering requirement; and
 - (c) restrictions on the water permitted to be taken (including the times, places and rates at which water may be taken) in order to prevent a resource condition limit from being exceeded.
- (3) If the outcome of the requirement in subsection (1) is that such rules are necessary, the water resource plan must include those rules.

10.18 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	Regard was had to the need for rules to ensure that the operation of the WRP does not compromise the surface water flow regimes, and/or groundwater PEW or groundwater HEW (as expressed by the environmental watering requirements) that are needed to protect groundwater dependent PEAs/PEFs	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 5 of the Index Table for this section s 10.17 of the Index Table	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section notes that there are no major rivers or surface water features that receive significant groundwater discharge. The Authority therefore concludes that there is no requirement for rules to ensure surface water flow regimes are not compromised be included in respect to this provision.	MET

10.18 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
			Part 12.7 of the Comprehensive Report	<p>The text provided in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Column 5 of the Index Table for this section provides an explanation of how regard was had to this requirement.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section refers to the response for s 10.17 of the Index Table saying that the s 10.17 response also 'meets the requirements of s 10.18 for the Wimmera-Mallee (surface water) Water Resource Plan'.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section sets out additional information detailing how groundwater connections were considered, concluding that there are no PEAs or PEFs which are dependent on groundwater within the WRP area, concluding that there is therefore no need to include rules in regards to this section. Part 12.7 of the Comprehensive Report provides additional detail on environmental watering in the WRP area.</p> <p>The Authority has reviewed the information provided and is satisfied the conclusion there are no PEAs or PEFs that are reliant on</p>	

10.18 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				groundwater is correct, and therefore there are no rules required to be included.	
2	Regard was had to the need for rules to specify:	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>The text provided in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Column 5 of the Index Table for this section provides an explanation of how regard was had to this requirement.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section states, as part of the reason why rules are not necessary, that 'there are no priority environmental assets or priority ecosystem functions that depend on groundwater'. This is supported by reference to Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.18(1).</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section also notes that due to the current level of take being well below the SDL, no PEAs or PEFs dependent on groundwater, and existing measures to ensure take remains within resource conditions limits, it is not necessary to include rules such as those listed in s 10.18(2) of the Basin Plan.</p> <p>The Authority has considered the evidence provided, and agrees with this conclusion. Therefore this requirement has been met.</p>	MET
	(a) times, places and rates for permitted take from a groundwater SDL resource unit		Column 5 of the Index Table for this section		
	b) limits for groundwater take beyond which the condition of the groundwater resource would compromise the desired flow regimes, groundwater HEW and PEW (environmental watering requirements) needed to protect priority groundwater dependent PEAs	True	Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.18(1)		
	(c) restrictions on water permitted to be taken (including times, places and rates of take) that prevents take from exceeding the resource condition limits	True			

10.18 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
3	Rules are included	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that rules are not necessary to meet the environmental watering requirements of PEAs and PEFs that depend on groundwater.	MET
	A rationale is provided for the application of section 10.18(2)	True	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section		
	A rationale is provided for why rules are not necessary	True	Columns 3 and 5 of s 10.18(1) and (2) of the Index Table	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section refers to s 10.18 (1) and (2) for a rationale as to why such rules are not necessary. The Authority is satisfied these sections provide an adequate rationale as to why it is not necessary to include rules in this proposed WRP.	
	A rationale is provided for why rules are not included	True			

Section 10.19 – Groundwater and surface water connections

- (1) A water resource plan must be prepared having regard to whether it is necessary for it to include rules which ensure that, for groundwater that has a significant hydrological connection to surface water, the operation of the plan does not compromise the meeting of environmental watering requirements (for example, base flows).
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), regard must be had to whether it is necessary for the water resource plan to include rules that specify:
 - (a) the times, places and rates at which water is permitted to be taken from a groundwater SDL resource unit; and
 - (b) resource condition limits, being limits beyond which the taking of groundwater will compromise the discharge of water into any surface water resource; and
 - (c) restrictions on the water permitted to be taken (including the times, places and rates at which water may be taken) in order to prevent a resource condition limit from being exceeded.
- (3) If the outcome of the requirement in subsection (1) is that such rules are necessary, the water resource plan must include those rules.

10.19 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	Regard was had to the need for rules to ensure that the operation of the WRP does not compromise flows and recharge (environmental watering requirements) between groundwater and surface water including for groundwater HEW and PEW	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>s 10.17(1) and (2) of the Index Table</p> <p>s 10.05(b) of the Index Table</p>	<p>The text provided in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Column 5 of the Index Table for this section provides an explanation of how regard was had to this requirement.</p> <p>The text provided in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section refers to the response for s 10.17 (1) and (2) of the Index Table saying that it also 'meets the requirements of s 10.19 for the Wimmera-Mallee (surface water) Water</p>	MET

10.19 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>Resource Plan'. The assessment of the response to s 10.17 also applies in this context.</p> <p>The response to s 10.17 sets out how Victoria has had regard generally to whether it is necessary for it to include rules which ensure that the operation of the Plan does not compromise the meeting of environmental watering requirements of PEAs and PEFs.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section provides information describing the insignificant nature of surface-ground water connectivity in the WRP area, providing a supporting reference to s 10.05(b) and 10.17(1) of the Index Table.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that there is sufficient evidence provided to demonstrate there are no significant connections between groundwater and surface water resources in the WRP area, and therefore no additional rules are necessary to be included.</p>	
2	Regard was had to the need for rules to specify:	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section		MET

10.19 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	(a) times, places and rates for permitted take from a groundwater SDL resource unit		Column 5 of the Index Table for this section	The text provided in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Column 5 of the Index Table for this section provides an explanation of how regard was had to this requirement.	
	(b) limits for groundwater take beyond which the condition of the groundwater resource would compromise the discharge of water into any surface water resource	True	S 10.17(2) of the Index Table		
	(c) restrictions on permitted take (including times, places and rates of take) that prevents take from exceeding the resource condition limits	True	S 10.18(2) of the Index Table Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.19(1)	<p>The supporting text refers to the responses to s 10.17(2) and s 10.18(2). The assessment of those subsections also applies in the context of s 10.19(2). As assessed above, appropriate regard was demonstrated, and it was concluded rules were not necessary.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.19(1) justifies that as there is no significant surface-ground water connectivity in the WRP area it is not necessary to include rules such as those listed in s 10.19(2) of the Basin Plan. As such the appropriate level of regard to the requirements of this section has been demonstrated.</p>	
3	Rules are included	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that rules are not necessary.	MET
	A rationale is provided for the application of section 10.19(2)	True	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section refers to s 10.19 (1) and (2) of the Index Table	

10.19 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	A rationale is provided for why rules are not necessary	True	Columns 3 and 5 of s 10.19(1) and (2) of the index Table	for a rationale as to why such rules are not necessary. The Authority is satisfied these sections provide an adequate rationale as to why it is not necessary to include rules in this proposed WRP.	
	A rationale is provided for why rules are not included	True			

Section 10.20 – Productive base of groundwater

- (1) A water resource plan must be prepared having regard to whether it is necessary for it to include rules which ensure that:
 - (a) there is no structural damage to an aquifer (whether within or outside the water resource plan area) arising from take within the long-term annual diversion limit for an SDL resource unit; and
 - (b) hydraulic relationships and properties between groundwater and surface water systems, between groundwater systems, and within groundwater systems are maintained.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), regard must be had to whether it is necessary for the water resource plan to include rules that specify:
 - (a) the times, places and rates at which water is permitted to be taken from a groundwater SDL resource unit; and
 - (b) any zones in the water resource plan area where continued groundwater extraction will result in a long-term decline in groundwater levels; and
 - (c) measures to prevent any long-term decline in groundwater levels in that zone, except where the groundwater is a non-renewable groundwater resource; and
 - (d) for a non-renewable groundwater resource—the planned rate of decline in groundwater levels and the anticipated groundwater levels after 50 years from the commencement of the water resource plan; and
 - (e) resource condition limits, being limits beyond which the taking of groundwater from the SDL resource unit will compromise the objectives in paragraphs (1)(a) and (b); and
 - (f) restrictions on the water permitted to be taken (including the times, places and rates at which water may be taken) in order to prevent a resource condition limit from being exceeded.
- (3) If the outcome of the requirement in subsection (1) is that such rules are necessary, the water resource plan must include those rules.

10.20 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	Regard was had to the need for rules to ensure that:	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	The text provided in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Column 5 of the Index Table for this section provides an explanation of how regard was had to this requirement.	MET
	(a) there is no structural damage to aquifers (e.g. within or outside the WRP area) arising from take within the long-term annual diversion limit for the SDL resource unit		Column 5 of the Index Table for this section s 10.05 of the Index Table s 10.18 of the Index Table		
	(b) hydraulic relationships and properties are maintained within and between groundwater systems, and between surface water and groundwater systems	True	s 10.19 of the Index Table	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section states that there are no risks of structural damage to aquifers or to the hydraulic relationships between and within groundwater systems, or between surface water and groundwater systems. Column 5 of the Index Table for this section also contains the evidence to support these claims, as set out below. In relation to structural damage to aquifers (s 10.20(1)(a)), Column 5 of the Index Table for this section notes that risks of this nature are required to be considered before issuing licences to take. Given these existing rules, and the low risk of any damage, the proposed WRP concludes it is not necessary to include rules. In relation to hydraulic relationships (s 10.20(1)(b)), Column 5 of the Index Table for this section refers to s 10.05, s 10.18 and s 10.19 of the Index Table for discussion of connectivity	

10.20 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>(hydraulic relationships) between groundwater systems and between groundwater and surface water systems respectively.</p> <p>The Authority has reviewed the information provided, and is satisfied appropriate regard has been demonstrated in concluding that no rules are necessary. As such, the requirements provided by s 10.20(1)(a)&(b) have been met.</p>	
2	Regard was had to the need for rules to specify:	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>The text provided in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Column 5 of the Index Table for this section provides an explanation of how regard was had to this requirement.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section refers to ss 10.17(2), 10.18(2) and 10.19(2) of the Index Table as providing discussion on rules on existing licences, including restrictions on the times, places and rates of permitted take as per s 10.20(2)(a), (e) and (f). The Authority is satisfied the information provided in these</p>	MET
	(a) times, places and rates for permitted take from a groundwater SDL resource unit		Column 5 of the Index Table for this section		
	(b) zones where extraction will result in long-term decline in groundwater levels	True	ss 10.17(2), 10.18(2), 10.19(1) & (2) of the Index Table		
	(c) measures to prevent long-term decline in groundwater levels in the zone, but with the exception provided in letter (d)	True	Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.20(1) Part 12.7.2 of the Comprehensive Report		

10.20 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	(d) non-renewable groundwater resources that has a planned rate of decline in groundwater levels after 50 years (of the commencement of the WRP)	True		sections demonstrates regard for the matters outlined in s 10.20(2). Part 12.7.2 of the Comprehensive Report notes that the Border Groundwaters Agreement sets limits on rates of decline in groundwater levels covered by the Agreement. This is considered to be evidence of regard for the matters in s 10.20(2)(b), as the Agreement specifies existing rules.	
	(e) limits for groundwater take beyond which the condition of the groundwater resource (resource condition limits) would compromise the objectives in subsection (1)	True		As Column 5 of the Index Table for:	
	(f) restrictions on permitted take in order to prevent exceedance of resource condition limit	True		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s 10.19(1) justifies that as there is no significant surface-ground water connectivity in the WRP area, and • s10.20(1) justifies that there are no risks of structural damage to aquifers or to the hydraulic relationships and that potential risks of this nature are required to be considered before issuing licences to take (s 10.20(2)(c) and (d)), <p>it is not necessary to include rules such as those listed in s 10.20(2)(a)-(f) of the Basin Plan.</p> <p>As such, the appropriate level of regard to the requirements of this section has been demonstrated.</p>	

10.20 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
3	Rules are included	False	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section refers to Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.20(1) and (2) of the Index Table as providing discussion on rules on existing licences.</p> <p>As assessed above, the Authority is satisfied the information contained in these sections demonstrates an appropriate regard for whether rules are necessary, and therefore constitutes an adequate rational for why rules are not necessary in relation to this section.</p> <p>The Authority therefore considers the requirements of this section to be met.</p>	MET
	A rationale is provided for the application of section 10.20(2)	True	Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.20(1) and (2)		
	A rationale is provided for why rules are not necessary	True			
	A rationale is provided for why rules are not included	True			

Section 10.21 – Environmental outcomes relating to groundwater

- (1) A water resource plan must be prepared having regard to whether it is necessary for it to include rules to prevent elevated levels of salinity and other types of water quality degradation within a groundwater SDL resource unit.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), regard must be had to whether it is necessary for the water resource plan to include rules that specify:
 - (a) the times, places and rates at which water is permitted to be taken from a groundwater SDL resource unit; and
 - (b) resource condition limits, being limits beyond which the taking of groundwater from the groundwater SDL resource unit will result in an elevated level of salinity or another type of water quality degradation; and
 - (c) restrictions on the water permitted to be taken (including the times, places and rates at which water may be taken) in order to prevent a resource condition limit from being exceeded; and
 - (d) a requirement to establish and maintain a register which identifies the sites of bores used to monitor salinity or other water quality characteristics in the groundwater SDL resource unit.
- (3) If the outcome of the requirement in subsection (1) is that such rules are necessary, the water resource plan must include those rules.

10.21 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	Regard was had to the need for rules to prevent water quality degradation (including salinity) of groundwater resources within the SDL resource unit	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.21(1)-(2) s 10.19 of the Index Table Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report	The text provided in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.21(1)-(2) provides an explanation of how regard was had to this requirement. Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.21(1)-(2) sets out the existing management framework in Victoria which works to prevent water quality degradation of groundwater resources. A reference is also made to s 10.19 of the Index Table in regards to connectivity between surface water and groundwater. As assessed in that	MET

10.21 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>section, the Authority is satisfied there is no significant connectivity between the surface water and groundwater resources in the WRP area.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.21(1)-(2) sets out that licences to take water from groundwater are issued with conditions which limit how water may be used to manage impacts to the system. It is also stated that any future allocations require the impacts on streams to be assessed, including water quality.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.21(1)-(2) also notes that compliance with the Basin Salinity Management Strategy means it is not necessary to include additional rules.</p> <p>The Water Quality Management Plan at Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report is also noted as containing measures to meet water quality objectives.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that due regard has been demonstrated, and existing management strategies are sufficient without the requirement for rules to be included in the proposed WRP.</p>	

10.21 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
2	Regard was had to the need for rules to specify:	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>The text provided in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.21(1)-(2) provides an explanation of how regard was had to this requirement.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.21(1)-(2) notes that rules regarding time, place and rate of take are already included on each individual take and use licence, and therefore it is not necessary to include rules in the proposed WRP such as those listed in s 10.21(2)(a).</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.21(1)-(2) sets out the details of an existing register of bores used to monitor water quality; The State Observation Bore Network, which is maintained on a register, concluding that it is therefore not necessary to establish a second such register. This demonstrates regard for s 10.21(2)(d).</p> <p>As Column 5 of the Index Table for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> s 10.19(1) justifies that as there is no significant surface-ground water connectivity in the WRP area, and s10.20(1) justifies that there are sufficient existing rules and strategies to manage impacts of take on groundwater quality degradation (which serve the 	MET
	(a) times, places and rates for permitted take from a groundwater SDL resource unit		Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.21(1)-(2)		
	(b) resource condition limits for salinity levels and other water quality degradation	True	Column 5 of the Index Table s 10.19(1)		
	(c) restrictions on take to prevent exceedance of resource condition limit	True			
	(d) establishment and maintenance of a register of bores to monitor water quality	True			

10.21 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>purpose of rules such as those set out in s 10.21(2)(b) and (c)), it is not necessary to include rules such as those listed in s 10.21(2)(a)-(d) of the Basin Plan.</p> <p>As such, the appropriate level of regard to the requirements of this section has been demonstrated.</p>	
3	Rules are included	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that no response is required as no rules were identified in s 10.21(1) of the Index Table. Column 5 of the Index Table for this section provides a rationale for this, directing to the content provided in Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.21(1) and (2). The Authority is satisfied these sections provide an adequate rationale as to why it is not necessary to include rules in this proposed WRP.</p>	MET
	A rationale is provided for the application of section 10.21(2)	True	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section		
	A rationale is provided for why rules are not necessary	True	Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.21(1) and (2)		
	A rationale is provided for why rules are not included	True			

Section 10.22 – Description of how requirements have been met

A water resource plan must:

- (a) describe what was done to comply with the requirements in this Part; and
- (b) if a risk of a kind referred to in subsection 10.41(1) has been identified in relation to the water resources of the water resource plan area—explain why rules addressing the risk have or have not been included in the plan.

10.22 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
(a)	The WRP describes what was done to comply with the requirements in sections 10.17 to 10.21	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 5 of the Index Table for ss 10.17-10.21	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section provides a high level overview of the categories of matters considered in Victoria's analysis of whether rules are necessary, concluding that no rules are necessary. Column 3 of the Index Table for this section also includes a note stating that Column 5 of Part 4 (ss 10.17-10.21) informed the development of the response in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section. The Authority concludes that an appropriate description has been provided in these sections in order to meet the requirements of this section.	MET
(b)	The WRP explains why rules have (or have not) been included in the WRP to address risks identified in s 10.41(1)	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Table 13, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	The requirement to explain why rules addressing risks identified in s 10.41(1) applies to all the risks of a kind referred to in s 10.41(1), including risks with a risk level of 'low' and risks relating to all parts of Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan. The combination of the following two pieces of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the statement in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section that rules have not been included in the Wimmera–Mallee Water 	

10.22 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
		Tables 15-56, 78, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	<p>Resource Plan as there are no rules considered relevant to address the risks identified because the strategies identified in the Risk Assessment at Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report are considered most appropriate, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the descriptions of strategies provided in Tables 15-56 and Table 78 of the Wimmera–Mallee Risk Assessment at Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report <p>provide an appropriate explanation for why rules have not been included in the proposed WRP.</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section notes that all risks are set out in Table 13 of Appendix B* of the Comprehensive Report and that no rules were considered necessary to address any low risks identified.</p> <p>*The Authority notes that it is not stated that it is Table 13 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report, however the context of the reference in Column 3 of the Index Table for this section, and the content of Table 13 in Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report mean this is considered to be the correct reference.</p>	

Part 5 Interception activities

Section 10.23 – Listing types of interception activity

- (1) A water resource plan must, having regard to the risk identification and assessment conducted for section 10.41, specify whether there are any types of interception activity in the water resource plan area which have the potential to have a significant impact on:
 - (a) the water resources of the water resource plan area; or
 - (b) water resources which are hydrologically connected to the water resources of the water resource plan area;whether on an activity-by-activity basis, or cumulatively.
- (2) If there are any such types of interception activity, the water resource plan must list those types.
- (3) For the purpose of determining whether a type of interception activity is of the kind referred to in subsection (1), regard must be had to the following factors:
 - (a) the location of particular activities of that type in the water resource plan area;
 - (b) the impact of the type of activity on the availability of:
 - (i) the water resources of the water resource plan area; and
 - (ii) any water resources which are hydrologically connected to the water resources of the water resource plan area;
 - (c) the projected growth of the type of activity over the period for which the water resource plan will have effect.

Note: The following are types of interception activity which may have the potential to have a significant impact on the water resources of a water resource plan area:

- (a) interception by runoff dams;
- (b) interception by commercial plantations;
- (c) interception by mining activities, including coal seam gas mining;
- (d) interception by floodplain harvesting.

10.23 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	Interception activities with the potential to have significant impacts within and outside the WRP area have been identified	False	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.05</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that no interception activity was identified in the Risk Assessment to have a significant impact, nor to have the potential to have a significant impact, on water resources that are in or are hydrologically connected to the Wimmera Mallee (groundwater) water resource plan area.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section notes that the water resources in the WRP area are not hydrologically connected to the surface water resources outside the WRP area, and therefore there can be no potential impacts on these other water resources. The Authority supports this conclusion as there is no significant connection identified in Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.05.</p>	MET
	Regard was had to the risks identified and assessed under Part 9/s10.41	True	<p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Part 10 of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Table 24 of the Comprehensive Report</p>	<p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section and Part 10 of the Comprehensive Report describe how regard was had to the Risk Assessment.</p> <p>Medium to high risks to the groundwater water resources in the WRP area in relation to interception activities are identified as land use change in relation to commercial plantations.</p> <p><u>Commercial plantations</u></p> <p>The supporting evidence in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section states that due to the trend of decline in areas under commercial plantations since 2009, it is unlikely that this interception activity will have a significant impact. This is supported by Table 29 of the Comprehensive Report, which shows a decline in the area of plantation from 44.93km² to 41.5km² between 2009 and 2015. The Authority concludes this is sufficient evidence of a declining trend in plantation area and therefore a low likelihood of any significant impacts.</p>	

10.23 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>The supporting evidence in Part 10.2 of the Comprehensive Report notes that risks posed by commercial plantations were assessed under the land use change (affecting availability and condition) cause category in the Risk Assessment. While the Risk Assessment identified medium risks occurring due to land use change (Table 24 of the Comprehensive Report), this result was due to shifts from grazing to cropping and small areas of urbanisation, rather than commercial plantations (Part 10.4.2, Comprehensive Report).</p> <p>The Authority also notes that the explanatory text in Column 5 states that there are no mining activities that intercept significant volumes of water and that if this were the case it would require an entitlement and thus be managed under existing regulatory arrangements.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that risks from mining activities are appropriately managed.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that regard was had to risks identified and assessed under s 10.41 of the Basin Plan.</p>	
2	A list of significant interception activities is provided	Absent	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.23(1)	Given the conclusion in relation to subsection (1), that there are no significant interception activities, the proposed WRP is not required to list impacts for subsection (2).	Not applicable
3	Each of the activities listed for s10.23(1)	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Column 5 of the Index Table demonstrates how regard was had to the factors set out in s 10.23(3) through the Risk Assessment, which considered the risk associated with the growth of each interception activity (except floodplain harvesting), spatial	MET

10.23 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	demonstrates regard as follows:		Column 5 of the Index Table for this section Table 26 of the Comprehensive Report	distribution, magnitude and duration of the impact on the hydrologically connected water resources. Floodplain harvesting is not considered as it is not permitted in the WRP area. Table 26 of the Comprehensive Report identifies catchment activities that may affect the volume of water being intercepted, and Part 10.4 of the Comprehensive Report outlines how regard was had to the potential impacts of these activities. This information demonstrates that regard was had to the factors in s 10.23(3) as set out in (a) to (c) below.	
	(a) The location of each type of interception activity was considered	True	Table 26 of the Comprehensive Report Part 10.4.3 of the Comprehensive Report	Table 26 of the Comprehensive Report notes that a number of farm dams have been decommissioned in areas supplied by the Wimmera-Mallee and West Loddon pipeline systems, and in other areas the dams exist in closed catchments not connected to the Wimmera River. Growth in farm dams is likely to be in the higher rainfall areas upstream of the water harvesting sites of the Wimmera-Mallee regulated system, which could reduce water availability, but the effects of climate change on water use patterns is uncertain. The explanatory material in Part 10.4 of the Comprehensive report states that the Risk Assessment will be updated when uncertainties associated with the estimates of growth in take can be reduced. Commercial plantations are only viable in the upper reaches of the Wimmera and Avon River catchments due to rainfall (Part 10.4.3 of the Comprehensive Report), and as the areas under plantation are in decline, interception by commercial plantations is expected to remain less than or equal to 2009 levels. There are no mining activities in the WRP area that intercept significant volumes of water.	

10.23 subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	(b) The impact of each interception type of activity on water availability was considered	True	Part 10.4 and Table 26 of the Comprehensive Report	<p>Part 10.4 and Table 26 of the Comprehensive Report states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trend for a decline in the area under commercial plantation will potentially reduce interception. • There are no mining activities in the WRP area that intercept significant volumes of water. • increases in runoff dams are likely to be upstream of the water harvesting sites, which could reduce water availability, but the effects of climate change on water use patterns is uncertain. Partly empty dams may also intercept more rainfall events. However, net growth in the number and volume of runoff dams is expected to continue at a low rate due to low reliability, and the additional take due to any growth in runoff dams is small and does not represent a significant risk to water resources (Part 10.4.1 of the Comprehensive Report). 	
	(c) The projected growth for each type of interception activity over the operational period of the WRP was considered	True	Part 10.4 of the Comprehensive Report	<p>Part 10.4 of the Comprehensive Report identifies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current trend is for the area of plantations to decline, and most of the WRP area is unsuitable for commercial plantations due to inadequate rainfall. • Mining activities require an entitlement to the water used for mining activities, so any growth in this interception activity would be regulated under Victoria's current water entitlement framework and henceforth the SDL over the life of the proposed WRP. • The projected growth in take from runoff dams is uncertain with large error margins. The impacts of take on the hydrology of the WRP area are also unknown, and the explanatory material in Part 10.4 of the Comprehensive Report states that the Risk Assessment will be updated when uncertainties associated with the estimates of growth in take can be reduced. This approach is accepted by the Authority. 	

Section 10.24 – Monitoring impact of interception activities

If a water resource plan includes a list of the kind referred to in subsection 10.23(2), the plan must set out, in respect of each type of interception activity listed, a process for monitoring the impact of that type of activity on:

- (a) the water resources of the water resource plan area; and
- (b) water resources which are hydrologically connected to the water resources of the water resource plan area.

<u>Streamlined</u> assessment tests	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Establish if (1) there are significant impacts. If ‘no’ the assessment concludes. If ‘yes’, establish that (2) a process is set out for monitoring impacts on (i) water resources in the plan area, and (ii) hydrologically connected water resources outside the plan area.	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.23(2)</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that this requirement is not relevant as no types of interception activities are listed under s 10.23(2).</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that, as no interception impacts were identified in accordance with s 10.23, no monitoring of impacts is therefore required for s 10.24.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section provides details of a monitoring and review program for the impacts of runoff dams. The Authority notes that this is not put forward as accredited text, however it will contribute to the objectives of this section.</p>	MET

Section 10.25 – Actions to be taken

- (1) A water resource plan must identify actions that will be taken in the event that monitoring under section 10.24 shows that:
- (a) an impact of a type of interception activity compromises the meeting of an environmental watering requirement; or
 - (b) an impact of several types of activity together compromises the meeting of an environmental watering requirement; or
 - (c) there is an increase in the quantity of water being intercepted by a type of activity;
- after the commencement of the water resource plan.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the relevant outcome in paragraph (1)(a), (b) or (c) is accounted for by the method under subsection 10.10(1).

Note 1: This section provides a mechanism to address unanticipated effects of, or changes in, interception activity.

Note 2: Section 10.13 sets out the circumstances in which a water resource plan may allow for an increase in anticipated take by an interception activity.

Streamlined assessment tests	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
<p>Establish if (1) a statement is provided about ‘no significant impacts’. If ‘yes’, the streamlined assessment concludes.</p> <p>If ‘significant impacts’ are identified, establish if (2) a statement is provided to the effect that impacts are accounted for under 10.10(1). If it is the case, verify that (3) information is provided that set out how impacts are accounted for.</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.24</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that this requirement is not relevant as no monitoring was identified in s 10.24.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that, as no monitoring of impacts is required for s 10.24, no actions need be identified in accordance with s 10.25, as no outcomes will be will be identified through monitoring that require action.</p>	MET

Part 6 Planning for environmental watering

Section 10.26 – Planning for environmental watering

- (1) A water resource plan must provide for environmental watering to occur in a way that:
- (a) is consistent with:
 - (i) the environmental watering plan; and
 - (ii) the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy; and
 - (b) contributes to the achievement of the objectives in Part 2 of Chapter 8.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the water resource plan must be prepared having regard to:
- (a) the most recent version of the long-term watering plan prepared in accordance with the requirements of Division 3 of Part 4 of Chapter 8; and
 - (b) the views of local communities, including bodies established by a Basin State that express community views in relation to environmental watering.

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	The WRP has provision for environmental watering that:		Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.09(1) Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(d)	In the Wimmera-Mallee there is no water identified as PEW (Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.09(1)), and there is no groundwater HEW (Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.12(1)(d)), consequently there is no groundwater that falls within the definition of environmental water, and hence there is no active environmental watering from the groundwater systems of the plan area.	MET
	is consistent with the EWP and BWS	False	Not applicable	Not applicable as there is no capacity for environmental watering in the WRP area.	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				The Authority also notes that Position Statement 6D states that s 10.26(1)(a) is not applicable to groundwater resources.	
	contributes to the overall environmental objectives for water dependent ecosystems	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Parts 3 and 4 of the Index Table	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that this requirement has been met through meeting the requirements in Parts 3 and 4 of Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan. Because Parts 3 and 4 of the proposed WRP meet the requirements of Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan, the Authority is satisfied this meets the requirements for groundwater WRPs as expressed in MDBA position statement 6D.</p> <p>The proposed WRP is able to contribute to the overall environmental objectives for water dependent ecosystems despite no environmental watering being directly achievable through groundwater (due to there being no HEW or PEW groundwater within the WRP area), as the operation of Parts 3 and 4 of the proposed WRP operate to prevent any detrimental impacts to environmental watering requirements, as assessed above in response to Parts 3 and 4 of Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan. As these Parts enable the proposed WRP to contribute to the overall environmental objectives for water dependent ecosystems, the Authority is able to conclude that this requirement is met despite no PEW or HEW being identified.</p>	
2	The provisions for environmental	Absent		Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Section 10.26(2)(a) and (b) of the Basin Plan does not	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	watering had regard to the matters in letters (a) and (b)		Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 5 of the Index Table for this section	apply to groundwater resources, and hence this groundwater proposed WRP. The Authority accepts that these provisions only apply to the Surface Water WRP area, as stated in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section, and therefore this provision is not applicable to this Groundwater proposed WRP.	Not applicable
	(a) the most recent version of the LTWP	False			
	(b) the views of local communities in relation to environmental watering	False			

Section 10.27 – Enabling environmental water between connected water resources

(1) This section applies if:

- (a) there are 2 water resource plan areas that contain surface water; and
- (b) there is a surface water connection between the 2 areas.

(2) The water resource plan for each of the areas must provide for the co-ordination of environmental watering between the 2 areas.

<u>Streamlined</u> assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Establish if (1) a statement is provided to the effect that there is no connection.	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that this requirement does not apply to the Wimmera-Mallee groundwater WRP area.</p> <p>As this provision deals with connectivity between surface water WRP areas, the Authority agrees with this conclusion and that this provision does not apply to this groundwater proposed WRP.</p>	Not applicable

Section 10.28 – No net reduction in the protection of planned environmental water

A water resource plan must ensure that there is no net reduction in the protection of planned environmental water from the protection provided for under State water management law immediately before the commencement of the Basin Plan.

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
<p>Establish if (1) a statement is provided that PEW protection levels are unchanged from that which operated on 23/11/2012.</p> <p>Streamlining assumptions: Level of PEW protection is not in dispute.</p>	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that this requirement is not relevant to the Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater) proposed WRP, as no PEW was identified in the WRP area, and therefore there is no PEW that the plan must continue to protect.</p> <p>The Authority has conducted an assessment of Victorian state water management law, and considers Victoria's view, that there is no water identified as PEW in Victorian water management law in the Wimmera-Mallee WRP area, immediately before the commencement of the Basin Plan is defensible. Hence that satisfies the definition of PEW in accordance with s 6 of the Water Act 2007. As such, the Authority is satisfied that this requirement is not applicable in relation to the Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater) proposed WRP.</p>	Not applicable

Part 7 Water quality objectives

Section 10.29 – Water resource plan to include WQM Plan

A water resource plan must include a water quality management plan (WQM Plan). The WQM Plan must be made in accordance with this Part.

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Establish if (1) a WQMP is incorporated in the WRP.	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Specified sections of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for Part 7</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section specifies that the Water Quality Management Plan is comprised of specified sections of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report as indicated in Column 3 for each section of Part 7, and the responses contained in Column 3 of the Index Table for Part 7.</p> <p>As presented in this Part 7 assessment below, the Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Part 7. Therefore, this requirement has been met</p> <p>See assessment of each requirement below.</p>	MET

Section 10.30 – WQM Plan to identify key causes of water quality degradation

The WQM Plan must identify the causes, or likely causes, of water quality degradation in the water resource plan area having regard to the key causes of water quality degradation identified in Part 2 of Chapter 9 and set out in Schedule 10.

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Establish if (1) a statement is present. Verify that (2) that s 10.30 and 10.31 are addressed separately.	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Part 5.2 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Table 10 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.31</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states there are no causes, or likely causes, of groundwater water quality degradation identified in the WRP area.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section and Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report provide the evidence that supports the notion that there are no causes, or likely causes, of water quality degradation to groundwater in the WRP area. This is supported by Part 5.2 in Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report. Part 5.2 provides the technical hydrogeological reasoning to support that there are no causes, or likely causes, of water quality degradation. Part 5.2 and Table 10 in Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report further add to the technical justification of why there are no causes, or likely causes, of water quality degradation in the WRP area.</p>	MET

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
		<p>Elevated levels of salinity in the Murrayville Groundwater Management Area have been considered as a risk to groundwater from consumptive use for both the current and future condition, but because there are strict rules and measures in place such as a volumetric rule which limits the amount of groundwater that can be used, and because salinity in the area is regularly monitored (regular monitoring ensures that any rise in salinity is noted and acted on quickly), this ensures that the quality of the water resource continues to be protected now and into the future. This demonstrates that regard is being had to the water resource and to the risk.</p> <p>The Risk Assessment (Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report), as referred to from Column 5 in the Index Table for s 10.31, provides the demonstration of how regard has been had to the key causes, or likely causes, of water quality degradation at Part 2 of Chapter 9 and Schedule 10 of the Basin Plan. This regard is demonstrated through the Risk Assessment as a complete document, setting out the methodology and framework used to identify risks, and the resulting risks identified.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that given the aquifers are generally highly saline and salinity is monitored</p>	

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
		<p>in key extraction areas, that there are no causes or likely causes of water quality degradation in the WRP area.</p> <p>There are clear and separate entries provided in the Index Table against s 10.30 and s 10.31, indicating that these have been addressed separately. Section 10.31 of the Index Table also references different parts of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report, providing further verification that these sections are addressed separately. An assessment of s 10.31 is provided below.</p>	

Section 10.31 – Measures addressing risks arising from water quality degradation

If a risk of a kind mentioned in paragraph 10.41(2)(d) has been identified in relation to the water resources of the water resource plan area, the WQM Plan must explain why measures addressing the risk have or have not been included in the water resource plan.

Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
For each risk listed under s10.41(2)(d):				MET
an explanation for why a measure is:				
- not included in the WQMP	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Part 5.3.2, Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for Part 4</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section refers to Part 5.3.2 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report for the risks related to the condition (quality) of water resources and an explanation of why or why not measures have been included in the proposed WRP.</p> <p>The information provided at Part 5.3.2 maps the risks to the associated strategies addressing risks to condition of groundwater.</p> <p>No medium and high risk of impacts on environmental uses were identified in the Risk Assessment (Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report) and therefore no measures included in the WQM Plan. This is due to the claim that there are no groundwater-dependent ecosystems identified for the Wimmera-Mallee WRP area, based on a report by CSIRO and SKM (2010), and the Wimmera-Mallee long-term watering plan (LTWP)</p>	

Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
			<p>not identifying any groundwater-dependent ecosystems as priority environmental assets. The Authority is satisfied that this is an accurate conclusion.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section identifies additional information provided in Column 5 of the Index Table for Part 4 in relation to connected resources which further supports this claim.</p>	
- included in the WQMP	True	Part 5.3, Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report	<p>The information provided at Part 5.3.2 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report sets out the measures included in the WQMP for addressing risks.</p> <p>In relation to groundwater condition risks to Aboriginal uses, a statement is included at Part 5.3 of Appendix A noting that in addition to the strategies described in the Risk Assessment, these risks are also specifically addressed by the measure: 'Implementing the State environment protection policy (Waters)'.</p>	
For risks that are identified as having measures, the measure are included	True	Part 5.3.2, Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report	Part 5.3.2 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report includes the measures to address risks arising from water quality degradation.	

Section 10.32 – WQM Plan to identify water quality target values

(1) The WQM Plan must identify the water quality target values for the water resource plan area.

(2) The water quality target values are the following:

- (a) for fresh water-dependent ecosystems—the applicable target values referred to in section 9.16;
- (b) for irrigation water—the target values for water quality characteristics set out in section 9.17;
- (c) for water used for recreational purposes—the values set out in section 9.18.

Note: The ADWG sets out standards for the quality of raw water for treatment for human consumption.

(3) However, if the objectively determined actual value of a water quality characteristic at a site is better than the target value identified in subsection (2), then the target value is that better value.

Note: See the objective in section 9.08.

(4) The WQM Plan may specify an alternative water quality target value if:

- (a) it is consistent with the water quality objectives in Part 3 of Chapter 9; and
- (b) it is determined in accordance with the procedures set out in the ANZECC Guidelines; and
- (c) either:
 - (i) the alternative target value provides a better level of protection than the value that would apply under subsection (2) or (3), as applicable; or
 - (ii) the WQM Plan sets out reasons why the alternative target value will be as effective in achieving the objectives in Part 3 of Chapter 9; or
 - (iii) the WQM Plan sets out reasons why the target value in subsection (2) or (3), as applicable, is inappropriate for the water resource plan area;and
- (d) for a water resource that is also covered by a water resource plan area of another Basin State—it is developed in consultation with that State.

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
<p>Establish if (1) a statement is provided to the effect that target values are as per 10.32(2). Further, establish if (2) a statement is provided to the effect that no <i>better</i> actual value for WQ is objectively determined for a site in the plan area, and verify that (3) MDBA agrees with the claim.</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Part 5.5 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that no water quality targets have been identified for groundwater resources in the Wimmera-Mallee groundwater WRP area.</p> <p>No groundwater water quality targets are required given that the proposed WRP does not identify any fresh water-dependent ecosystems dependent on groundwater.</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section provides the necessary evidence as to why groundwater targets cannot be set for fresh water-dependent ecosystems (s 9.16 of the Basin Plan), for irrigation (s 9.17 of the Basin plan) and water used for recreational purposes (s 9.18 of the Basin Plan). Additional evidence is provided in Part 5.5 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report. Based on the information provided in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section, there are no other better target values that can be provided for s 10.32(2) because of the hydrogeology of groundwater in the WRP area. In particular, due to the high levels of salinity in groundwater resources, there is limited to no capacity to contribute to objectives for fresh water-dependent ecosystems.</p>	<p>MET</p>

Section 10.33 – WQM Plan to identify measures

- (1) The WQM Plan must specify measures to be undertaken in or in relation to the water resources of the water resource plan area that contribute to the achievement of the objectives set out in:
- (a) section 9.04 (Objectives of water-dependent ecosystems); and
 - (b) section 9.05 (Objectives for raw water for treatment for human consumption); and
 - (c) section 9.06 (Objective for irrigation water); and
 - (d) section 9.07 (Objective for recreational water quality); and
 - (e) section 9.08 (Objective to maintain good levels of water quality);
- unless there are no such measures that can be undertaken cost-effectively.
- (2) The measures must be prepared having regard to:
- (a) the causes, or likely causes, of water quality degradation identified in accordance with section 10.30; and
 - (b) target values identified in accordance with section 10.32; and
 - (c) the targets in Division 4 of Part 4 of Chapter 9.

- (3) The measures may include land management measures.

Note 1: Chapter 9 contains both water quality objectives and water quality targets. A WQM Plan must specify measures that contribute to the achievement of the objectives. The targets are relevant only to the extent that subsection (2) requires that the measures be prepared having regard to the targets. This section does not require a WQM Plan to set out measures designed to achieve the targets.

Note 2: See also subsections 22(9) to (12) of the Act.

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	Measures to be undertaken in or in relation to water resources in the WRP area are specified	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Parts 5.4.1 and 5.4.2, Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section refers to Parts 5.4.1 and 5.4.2 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report to identify the measures that contribute to the achievement of the objectives set out in sections 9.04-9.08 of the Basin Plan. Two measures are specified; Measure 1: Implementation of the State	MET

	The measures contribute to each of the objectives in letters (a) to (e)	True	As above	<p>Environment Protection Policy (Waters) (SEPP (Waters)) (Part 5.4.1, Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report), and Measure 3: Implementing the South Australian-Victorian Border Groundwaters Agreement (5.4.2, Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report)</p> <p>The Authority notes that how the measures identified in Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report contribute to each of the objectives (a) to (e) is broadly described at Parts 5.4.1 and 5.4.2 (Appendix A). The relevant sections of Parts 5.4.1 and 5.4.2 of Appendix A are identified against each assessment test for s 10.33(1) and s 10.33(2) below. Note that Measure 1 at Part 5.4.1 does not directly address these objectives, but directs to other Parts of Appendix A to provide these details.</p>	
1(a)	objectives of water-dependent ecosystems	True	<p>Parts 4.4.1.1 and 5.4.2.3, Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Parts 5.4.1 and 5.4.2 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report</p>	Measures 1 (Part 5.4.1, Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report) and 3 (Part 5.4.2, Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report) are identified as contributing to objectives of water-dependent ecosystems at Part 4.4.1.1 and 5.4.2.3 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report respectively.	
1(b)	objectives for raw water treatment for human consumption	True	Part 5.4.2.1	Part 5.4.2.1 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report states that some local use of groundwater does occur in the border management area for domestic use and that the water resource is monitored for salinity. Therefore, the Authority is satisfied the measure put forward for the achievement of this objective, Measure 3: Implementing the South Australian-Victorian Border Groundwaters Agreement, is appropriate.	
1(c)	objectives for irrigation waters	False	Part 5.4.2.5, Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report	Part 5.4.2.5 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report states that 'no such water is distributed in the Wimmera-Mallee, this objective does not apply to this water management plan.' The Authority is satisfied that this objective is not applicable.	

1(d)	objectives for recreational water quality	False	Part 5.4.2.4, Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report	Part 5.4.2.4 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report states that the groundwater resources do not contribute to recreation. The Authority is satisfied that this objective is not applicable for groundwater.	
1(e)	objectives for maintaining good levels of water quality	True	Part 5.4.2.2, Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report	Part 5.4.2.2 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report states that through monitoring of the groundwater resource, the quality of the water will be maintained. The measure identified for the achievement of this objective is measure 3: Implementing the South Australian-Victorian Border Groundwaters Agreement.	
	Where measures to be undertaken are not specified, a cost-based case is provided	False	N/A	Measures are specified against all objectives except where they are identified as not applicable to this proposed WRP. The Authority is satisfied that where measures are not specified due to this reason, it is not necessary to provide a cost-based case.	
2	The measures had regard to each of the matters in (a) to (c)	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 5 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that regard is demonstrated in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section. The text in Column 5 claims that the measures were prepared having regard to the matters at s 10.33(2), see assessment below (s 10.33(2)(a)-(c)) for details.	MET
	Causes or likely causes of water quality degradation, as identified in section 10.30	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.30	Given that no causes or likely causes of groundwater quality degradation were identified at Column 3, s 10.30 of the Index Table there is nothing to have regard to.	

	Target values, as identified in s10.32	True	Part 5.5, Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report	Part 5.5 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report notes that there are no water quality target values for groundwater identified. The Authority is satisfied that regard has been demonstrated in reaching this conclusion.	
	The targets in Division 4 of Part 4 Chapter 9 (i.e. s9.19)	True	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section Part 4.6.5 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section states that the measures were prepared having regard for the targets in Division 4 of Part 4 of Chapter 9 of the Basin Plan. Part 4.6.5 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report states that the targets apply to surface water and that groundwater is not affected by these targets. The Authority is satisfied that regard has been demonstrated in reaching this conclusion.	
3	The WRP permits inclusion of land-based measures to achieve water quality objectives and targets	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 5 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that land management measures have not been included in the WQM Plan. A supporting statement is provided in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section to clarify that while land-based measures were considered, they are not subject to accreditation.	MET

Section 10.34 – WQM Plan to identify locations of targets for irrigation water

The WQM Plan must identify the sites in the water resource plan area at which the target values for irrigation water apply.

<u>Streamlined</u> assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Establish if (1) a site map of locations where target values for irrigation water applies is included. If no map included, establish if (2) a statement and rational to the effect that there is no irrigation activity.	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Part 5.4.2.5 Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report</p>	<p>The Authority is satisfied with the evidence that has been provided in Columns 3 (accredited text) and 5 (explanatory material) of the Index Table for this section and in Part 5.4.2.5 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report that the irrigation target does not apply as there is no irrigation water supplied in the WRP area.</p> <p>The Authority understands that while GWMWater is considered an infrastructure operator in accordance with the definition in s 7 of the Water Act 2007, they do not extract water or provide irrigation services within the WRP area.</p>	Not applicable

Section 10.35 – Impact of WQM Plan on another Basin State

The measures specified in the WQM Plan must be developed having regard to:

- (a) the impact those measures (including the absence of adequate measures) may have on the ability of another Basin State to meet water quality targets; and
- (b) any adverse impacts those measures may have on Basin water resources in the other Basin State.

Note: See also the consultation requirement in subsection 63(2) of the Act.

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Establish if (1) the WQMP includes evidence that demonstrates that consultation with affected (other) Basin state(s) about impacts from measures took place.	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table</p> <p>Part 5.4.5 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section identifies that Column 5 of the Index Table for this section provides evidence of regard for this provision. Column 5 of the Index Table identifies Part 5.4.5 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report, which sets out that groundwater resources on the South Australian border are managed through the South Australian-Victorian Border Groundwaters Agreement. The Authority is satisfied that this agreement represent appropriate evidence of regard and consultation with other states.</p> <p>Note that, in Part 5.2 of Appendix A to the Comprehensive Report there is a reference to s 10.35A of the Basin plan. This particular section is not relevant to this proposed WRP because it is from a different version of the</p>	MET

		Basin Plan to that nominated in s10.02 of the Index Table. Given Part 5.2 of Appendix A to the Comprehensive Report does not constitute creditable material, this does not prevent accreditation of the proposed WRP.	
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Part 8 Trade of water access rights

Section 10.36 – Application of Part

This Part does not apply to water access rights of a kind that are not able to be traded under State water management law.

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Establish if (1) if the WRP has a statement about whether Part 8 applies in the plan area.	<p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Tables A and B attached to the Index Table</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.37, s 10.38, and s 10.39(1)</p>	<p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section refers to the Tables A and B attached to the Index Table for details about tradability of water access rights in Victoria.</p> <p>The text for accreditation in relation to s 10.39(1) states that no trade is permitted between a groundwater SDL resource unit and a surface water SDL resource unit.</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table in relation to s 10.37 and s 10.38 indicates that, subject to meeting certain criteria, trade between two locations within a single Wimmera-Mallee groundwater SDL resource unit is permitted; and trade between two groundwater SDL resource units within</p>	MET

<u>Streamlined</u> assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
		the Wimmera-Mallee WRP area is permitted.	

Section 10.37 – Circumstances in which conditions in section 12.24 are met

- (1) A water resource plan must set out the circumstances in which trade between 2 locations within a groundwater SDL resource unit is permitted. In setting out the circumstances, a water resource plan must ensure that each condition set out in section 12.24 will be met in relation to the proposed trade.
- (2) If the water resource plan applies a conversion rate to meet the condition in paragraph 12.24(d), the water resource plan must either:
 - (a) specify the conversion rate; or
 - (b) set out the way in which the conversion rate will be determined from time to time and made generally available.

Subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	The WRP sets out the circumstances in which trade between 2 locations within a groundwater SDL resource unit is permitted	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Part 6.14.1 of the Comprehensive Report</p>	<p>The proposed WRP identifies the Murrayville Groundwater Management Area as the only current management zone within the groundwater SDL resource units within the Wimmera-Mallee WRP area (Wimmera-Mallee: Highlands, Wimmera-Mallee: deep, and Wimmera-Mallee: Sedimentary Plains) where trade is currently permitted. This is identified in Part 6.14.1 of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>The Authority has reviewed the arrangements in the Murrayville Local Management Plan and are satisfied the plan covers an area of connected water resources, and the trading arrangements outlined are consistent with the requirements of</p>	MET

Subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>the Basin Plan, noting also that the proposed WRP will also impose conditions on trade consistent with the Basin Plan.</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section sets out the general criteria that need to be met for trade between 2 locations within a groundwater SDL resource unit to be permitted.</p> <p>Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report is referenced as providing the process for determining if an application to trade would be permitted, and demonstrating how the Victorian framework aligns with conditions in s 12.24 of the Basin Plan (2012).</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that setting out this process, and how it ensures conditions will be met, is a valid approach to meeting the requirements of this section, and those of section 12.24.</p>	
	When a trade as described in this section occurs, each of the following conditions will be met in relation to that trade:				MET
	sufficient hydraulic connectivity between the 2 locations	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	The process set out in Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report requires that sufficient	

Subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
			<p>Figure 20 of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.38(1)</p> <p>Part 6.14 of the Comprehensive Report</p>	<p>hydraulic connectivity be demonstrated before trade is permitted.</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that a trade is permitted only if there is sufficient hydraulic connectivity established. This proposed WRP commitment ensures that Victoria will only approve trades in cases where there is sufficient hydraulic connectivity between the two locations.</p> <p>The Comprehensive Report at 6.14 states that hydrologic connections of groundwater is defined by groundwater catchments which represent regions of connected resources based on groundwater flow systems. Evidence for how these catchments were defined is included in Column 5 of the Index Table (explanatory material) for s 10.38(1).</p> <p>Accordingly, the Authority is satisfied that the requirement in s 12.24(a) has been met.</p>	
	resource condition limits in the SDL resource unit specified in a water resource plan will not be exceeded as a result of the trade	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that trade is only permitted if the resource condition limit (permissive consumptive volume) is not exceeded. Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report sets out that this is required to be demonstrated before trade is approved, ensuring this condition will be met.</p>	

Subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				Accordingly, the Authority is satisfied that the requirement in s 12.24(b) has been met.	
	<u>and either:</u>				
	water access rights in the 2 locations have substantially similar characteristics of timing, reliability and volume or	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that trade is only permitted if the reliability and other conditions or characteristics of the water access right are not changed due to trade, noting that timing is not a condition on groundwater take in Victoria. Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report sets out that this substantial similarity is required to be demonstrated prior to an approval of trade, thereby ensuring this condition is met. Accordingly, the Authority is satisfied that the requirement in s 12.24(c)(i) has been met.	
	measures are in place to ensure that the water access right to be traded will maintain its characteristics of timing, reliability and volume	N/A	Not applicable	Not required if s 12.24(c)(i) of the Basin Plan is adequately addressed.	

Subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	measures in place to address the impact, as a result of trade, on water availability in relation to a water access right held by a third party	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that regard must be had to adverse effects on other users before trade is permitted. Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report sets out that trade cannot have negative impact on other users, ensuring that this condition is met. Accordingly, the Authority is satisfied that the requirement in s 12.24(d) has been met.	
2	The WRP applies a conversion rate to meet the condition in s12.24(d)	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that no conversion rate is applied in the proposed WRP.	Not applicable
	If 'yes' either of the following:				Not applicable
(a)	The conversion rate is specified	N/A	Not applicable.	Not applicable as no conversion rate is applied.	
(b)	The way in which the conversion rate will be determined from time to time and made generally available is set out	N/A	Not applicable.	Not applicable as no conversion rate is applied.	
The 'no' case in not necessary to re-state					

Section 10.38 – Circumstances in which conditions in section 12.25 are met

- (1) A water resource plan must set out the circumstances in which trade between 2 groundwater SDL resource units is permitted. In setting out the circumstances, a water resource plan must ensure that each condition set out in section 12.25 will be met in relation to proposed trade.
- (2) If the water resource plan applies a conversion rate to meet the condition in paragraph 12.25(e), the water resource plan must either:
 - (a) specify the conversion rate; or
 - (b) set out the way in which the conversion rate will be determined from time to time and made generally available.

Subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	The WRP sets out the circumstances in which trade between 2 groundwater SDL resource unit is permitted	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section sets out the circumstances in which trade between 2 groundwater SDL resource units is permitted. Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report is referenced as providing the process for determination of trade, and demonstrating how the Victorian framework aligns with conditions in s 12.25 of the Basin Plan (2012). The Authority is satisfied that setting out this process, and how it ensures conditions will be met, is a valid approach to meeting the requirements of this section, and those of section 12.25.	MET

Subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	When a trade as described in this section occurs, each of the following conditions will be met in relation to that trade:				MET
	sufficient hydraulic connectivity between the 2 units	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Part 6.14.2 of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that a trade is permitted only if there is sufficient hydraulic connectivity established. This proposed WRP commitment ensures that Victoria will only approve trades in cases where there is sufficient hydraulic connectivity between the two locations.</p> <p>Part 6.14.2 in the Comprehensive Report states that while there has been no trade and is unlikely in the future, trade between SDL resource units will only be allowed where there is sufficient hydraulic connectivity.</p> <p>The Comprehensive Report at Part 6.14 states that hydrologic connections of groundwater is defined by groundwater catchments which represent regions of connected resources based on groundwater flow systems. Evidence for how these catchments were defined is included in</p>	

Subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Authority is satisfied that this requirement in s 10.25(a) has been met.</p>	
	resource condition limits in the SDL resource units specified in a water resource plan will not be exceeded as a result of the trade	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that trade is only permitted if the resource condition limit (permissive consumptive volume) is not exceeded. Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report sets out that this is required to be demonstrated before trade is approved, ensuring this condition will be met.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Authority is satisfied that this requirement in s 10.25(b) has been met.</p>	
	the measures in place to address s10.10 take account of trade	True	<p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>S 10.10 of the Index Table</p>	<p>The measures in place to account for trade require all transfers of entitlements to be recorded on the Victorian Water Register (VWR), as specified in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section. This is consistent with the method set out in s 10.10 of the Index Table to account for trade in the method.</p>	
	<u>and either:</u>				

Subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	water access rights in the 2 units have substantially similar characteristics of timing, reliability and volume <u>or</u>	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report Part 6.14.2 of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section sets out how trade is only permitted if the reliability and any other conditions or characteristics of water access rights are not changed due to the trade, noting that timing is not a condition on groundwater take in Victoria. Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report sets out that this substantial similarity is required to be demonstrated prior to an approval of trade, thereby ensuring this condition is met. The Comprehensive Report states that while there has been no trade, future trades would be allowed and the characteristics will be similar (Part 6.14.2 of the Comprehensive Report). Accordingly, the Authority is satisfied that this requirement in s 10.25(c)(i) has been met.	
	measures are in place to ensure that the water access right to be traded will maintain its characteristics of timing, reliability and volume	N/A	Not applicable.	Not required if s 12.25(c)(i) of the Basin Plan is adequately addressed.	

Subsection	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	measures in place to address the impact, as a result of trade, on water availability in relation to a water access right held by a third party	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that regard must be had to adverse effects on other users before trade is permitted. Figure 21 of the Comprehensive Report sets out that trade cannot have negative impact on other users, ensuring that this condition is met. Accordingly, the Authority is satisfied that this requirement in s 10.25(d) has been met.	
2	The WRP applies a conversion rate to meet the condition in s12.25(e)	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that no conversion rate is applied.	Not applicable
	<i>If 'yes' either of the following:</i>				Not applicable
(a)	The conversion rate is specified	N/A	Not applicable.	As no conversion rate is applied, this is not applicable.	
(b)	The way in which the conversion rate will be determined from time to time and made generally available is set out	N/A	Not applicable.	As no conversion rate is applied, this is not applicable.	
	<i>The 'no case in not necessary to re-state</i>				

Section 10.39 – Circumstances in which conditions in section 12.26 are met

- (1) A water resource plan must set out the circumstances in which trade between a groundwater SDL resource unit and a surface water SDL resource unit is permitted. In setting out the circumstances, a water resource plan must ensure that each condition set out in section 12.26 will be met in relation to proposed trade.
- (2) If the water resource plan applies a conversion rate to meet the condition in paragraph 12.26(e), the water resource plan must either:
 - (a) specify the conversion rate; or
 - (b) set out the way in which the conversion rate will be determined from time to time and made generally available.

<u>Streamlined</u> assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Establish if (1) a statement about the applicability of the section is provided. If ‘not applicable’, verify that (2) the circumstance is correctly stated, and (3) reflects the relevant state law.	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that trade is not allowed between surface water and groundwater in the Wimmera-Mallee WRP area.</p> <p>This requirement only applies where trade is allowed between groundwater SDL resource units and surface water SDL resource units. As such, the Authority is satisfied that this provision does not apply to this WRP area.</p>	Not applicable

Part 9 Risk assessment

Section 10.40 - Definitions

In this Part:

risk means a risk listed in a water resource plan in accordance with subsection 10.41(4).

level of risk has the meaning given in AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management—Principles and Guidelines.

**Section 10.40 lists
definitions for Part 9 only
and therefore there is no
requirement to assess**

Section 10.41 – Risk identification and assessment methodology

- (1) A water resource plan must be prepared having regard to current and future risks to the condition and continued availability of the water resources of the water resource plan area.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the risks include (where applicable):
 - (a) risks to the capacity to meet environmental watering requirements; and
 - (b) risks arising from the matters referred to in subsection 10.20(1); and
 - (c) risks arising from potential interception activities; and
 - (d) risks arising from elevated levels of salinity or other types of water quality degradation.
- (3) In identifying risks for the purposes of subsection (1), regard must be had to:
 - (a) risks identified in section 4.02; and
 - (b) any guidelines published by the Authority in relation to risk identification and risk assessment.
- (4) The water resource plan must list the risks identified for the purposes of subsection (1).
- (5) The water resource plan must assess each risk.
- (6) The water resource plan must define the level of risk of each risk, using the following categories:
 - (a) low;
 - (b) medium;
 - (c) high;
 - (d) if it is considered appropriate, any additional category.
- (7) The water resource plan must describe the data and methods used to identify and assess the risks.
- (8) The water resource plan must describe any quantified uncertainties in the level of risk attributed to each risk, including the results of any sensitivity analysis.

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	The development of the WRP had regard to current and future risks to the water resources in the WRP area	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Column 5 of the Index Table for this section explains how regard was had to current and future risks. Column 5 of the Index Table and Part 2 of the Risk Assessment at Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report describe how the proposed WRP was prepared having regard to current and future risks to the water resources in the WRP area.</p> <p>Current risks represent those threats and causes being experienced now, and future risks represent threats and causes proposed by scenarios of a possible future. The Risk Assessment (Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report) considered potential future risks for a period beyond the life of the proposed WRP up to 50 years.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that the development of the proposed WRP had regard to current and future risks as they are included in the Risk Assessment at Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report.</p>	MET
2	The development of the WRP had regard to the risks in letters (a)-(d) that are relevant to the WRP area	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that the matters identified in s 10.41(2) were considered. Evidence of this regard is provided in Column 5 of the Index Table (explanatory	MET

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
			Column 5 of the Index Table for this section Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	material), which identifies where in the Risk Assessment at Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report regard was had to the risks in letters (a)-(d). The Authority is satisfied that the development of the proposed WRP had regard to the risks in letters (a)-(d) that are relevant to the WRP area. See assessment below for details.	
	The list of risks in s10.41(4) includes each of the risks specified as follows: Risks to the capacity to meet environmental watering requirements is listed in s10.41(4)	True	Tables 60, 72 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	The list of risks identified to meet the requirements of s 10.41(1) includes the risks to the capacity to meet environmental watering requirements. Risks for groundwater are identified in Tables 60 (groundwater availability) and 72 (Part 4 Basin Plan matters) of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report.	
	Risks arising from the matters referred to in subsection 10.20(1) are listed in s10.41(4), as follows: Risks that may cause structural damage to an aquifer (within or outside the water resource plan area) arising from take within the	True	Table 72, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report Part 4.3.6.1 and 4.3.6.2 of Appendix B	The list of risks identified to meet the requirement at s 10.41(1) includes the risks arising from matters referred to in s 10.20(1). The medium or higher risks arising from matters referred to in s 10.20(1) are listed in Part 4.3.6.1 in Table 72 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report.	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	long-term annual diversion limit for an SDL resource unit		of the Comprehensive Report	Part 4.3.6.2 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report identifies that the productive base of groundwater systems was assessed in terms of the ability of the aquifer to provide water for environmental and consumptive purposes in the context of damage to the structural form of the aquifer arising from take across environmental or consumptive users. It is noted by the Authority that no medium or higher level risks associated with changes to the structural form were identified.	
	Risks that may cause damage to hydraulic relationships and properties between groundwater and surface water systems, between groundwater systems, and within groundwater systems	True	<p>Table 6 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Part 2.1.1 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Part 4.3.6.2 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report</p>	<p>Groundwater and surface water connections are considered in the Risk Assessment as a threat category. On this basis, risks arising from damage to hydraulic relationships and properties in relation to groundwater/surface water connections are considered in the Risk Assessment.</p> <p>In the Risk Assessment this is assessed by considering the loss of structural form of an aquifer as an impact from the causes (see Table 6 in Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report).</p> <p>Parts 2.1.1 and 4.3.6.2 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report provide further details</p>	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				considering the risk to hydraulic relationships between groundwater systems, between surface water and groundwater systems and within groundwater systems, concluding there are no medium or higher level risks. The Authority is satisfied that this is the case.	
	Risks arising from potential interception activities	True	Tables 74 and 75, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	Risks arising from potential interception activities are identified in Part 4.3.7 for groundwater in Table 74 (availability) and Table 75 (condition) of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report.	
	Risks arising from elevated levels of salinity or other types of water quality degradation	True	Tables 58-59, 66-70, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	Risks arising from elevated levels of salinity or other types of water quality degradation for groundwater are identified in Tables 58-59 (consumptive uses) and 66-70 (Aboriginal uses) of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report.	
3	<p>Risk identification had regard to risks in letters (a) and (b) as follows:</p> <p>Risks identified in s4.02:</p> <p>Insufficient water available for the environment</p>	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Table 13, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report</p>	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that an explanation of how regard was had is provided in Column 5 of the Index Table. Column 5 of the Index Table for this section refers to Part 2 of Appendix B in the Comprehensive Report to show how regard to risks in letters (a) and (b).	MET

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
			Part 2, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	<p>The Risk Assessment included considerations of water availability for environmental uses (Table 13 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report).</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied appropriate regard has been had.</p>	
	Water being of a quality unsuitable for use	True	Table 13, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	The Risk Assessment included considerations of water condition (Table 13 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report). Accordingly, the Authority is satisfied appropriate regard has been had.	
	Poor health of water-dependent ecosystems	True	Tables 13, 60 and 72, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	<p>The Risk Assessment included considerations of poor health of water-dependent ecosystems in terms of availability of water for environmental watering requirements, see Table 13 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report. The medium or higher risks to the capacity to meet environmental watering requirements in relation to groundwater availability are listed in Part 4.3.2.1 in Table 60 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report.</p> <p>Medium to higher risks to environmental watering requirements for priority environmental assets dependent on groundwater, groundwater and surface water connections and environmental outcomes relating to groundwater from climate</p>	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				change are listed in Table 72 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report. The Authority is satisfied appropriate regard has been had.	
	Insufficient water is available, or water is not suitable for consumptive and other economic uses of Basin water resources	True	Tables 57, 58-59, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	The Risk Assessment considered risks in terms of availability, see Table 57 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report for groundwater consumptive uses; and condition of water for consumptive and other economic uses of water resources; see Tables 58-59 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report. The Authority is satisfied appropriate regard has been had.	
	Insufficient water is available, or water is not suitable to maintain social, cultural, Indigenous and other public benefit values	True	Tables 61-65, 66-70, 71, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	The Risk Assessment considered groundwater risks in terms of availability, see Tables 61-65 and 71 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report; and condition see Tables 66 -70 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report to maintain social, cultural, Indigenous and other public benefit values. The Authority is satisfied appropriate regard has been had.	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	Guidelines published by the Authority in relation to risk identification and risk assessment	False	N/A	The Authority has not published any relevant guidelines for the purpose of s 10.41(3). Therefore, this requirement is not applicable.	
4	The list of risks includes all current and future risks as described in subsection (1)-(3)	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Table 13, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section refers to Table 13 in Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report as the list of risks identified for the purposes of subsection (1). Table 13 includes all future and current risks identified for the groundwater resources of the WRP area. The Authority is satisfied all current and future risks are identified for the purposes of this assessment.	MET
5	Each of the risks listed in subsection (4) has been assessed according to the State's chosen risk assessment method	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Table 13, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report Part 3, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Table 13 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report includes all future and current risks identified for the surface water resources of the WRP area and assessed them using the categories low, medium, high and very high (in line with ISO:31000). For clarity, Part 3 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report describes that risks noted as moderate in the tables correspond to medium level risks under the ISO:31000 and risks identified as high or very high correspond to high level risks under the ISO:31000.	MET

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				The Authority is satisfied that each risk has been assessed according to the State's chosen risk assessment method.	
6	Each of the risks listed in subsection (4) is rated as 'low', 'medium' or 'high'	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Table 13, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report Part 3, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table identifies that Table 13 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report includes all future and current risks identified for the groundwater resources of the WRP area and assessed them using the categories low, medium, high and very high (in line with ISO:31000). For clarity, Part 3 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report describes that risks noted as moderate in the tables correspond to medium level risks under the ISO:31000 and risks identified as high or very high correspond to high level risks under the ISO:31000.	MET
	If used, additional categories of risk rating are appropriate to the State's chosen risk assessment method	True	Table 13, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report Part 3, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	Additional categories are used (see above) and they are appropriate to the State's chosen risk assessment method.	
7	The data and method used to identify and assess risks is described	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Schedule 1 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report provides a list of data used to identify and assess risks.	MET

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
			Schedule 1, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Part 2 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report describes the risk assessment method.	
			Part 2, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	The Authority is satisfied that the data and method used to identify and assess risks have been appropriately identified and described.	
8	Where uncertainties about risks are quantified, a description of the quantification methods is provided	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Table 14, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report Part 2.6, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Table 14 in Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report shows the level of confidence rating attributed to each groundwater risk. Part 2.6 in Appendix B describes the method used to attribute the level of confidence to each risk. The Authority is satisfied that a description of the quantification methods is provided and is appropriate for use, and the uncertainty is quantified for each risk listed in Table 14 in Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report.	MET
	Where sensitivity analysis is used, the results are provided	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Tables 57-77, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states the results of the sensitivity analysis are provided in Column 5 of Tables 57-77 (groundwater risks) in Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report. The Authority has verified and agrees that these results have been provided.	

Section 10.42 – Description of risks

A water resource plan must describe:

- (a) each risk which is defined in accordance with subsection 10.41(6) as having a medium or higher level of risk; and
- (b) factors that contribute to those risks.

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Verify that (1) the list provided under s 10.41 is a consolidated description of each medium and high risk	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Tables 57-77, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that each risk that is defined as having a medium to higher level of risk in relation to surface water is described in Tables 57-77 in Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report and includes the factors that contribute to those risks. The Authority has verified and agrees that Tables 57-77 of Appendix B contains a description for each risk defined as medium or higher, and include the factors that contribute to those risks. This assessment test is therefore considered by the Authority to be met.	MET

Section 10.43 – Strategies for addressing risks

- (1) If a water resource plan defines a risk in accordance with subsection 10.41(6) as having a medium or higher level of risk, the water resource plan must either:
 - (a) describe a strategy for the management of the water resources of the water resource plan area to address the risk in a manner commensurate with the level of risk; or
 - (b) explain why the risk cannot be addressed by the water resource plan in a manner commensurate with the level of risk.
- (2) If the water resource plan identifies a risk which relates to a matter dealt with by a requirement in another Part of this Chapter, the strategy must take account of that requirement.
- (3) A water resource plan must be prepared having regard to:
 - (a) the strategies listed in subsection 4.03(3); and
 - (b) any guidelines published by the Authority in accordance with section 4.04.

Note: The Authority may publish guidelines in accordance with section 4.04 in relation to the implementation of strategies to manage or address risks identified in section 4.02.

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	Each risk rated as 'medium' or higher has either:	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that each medium or higher groundwater risk has strategies assigned to it, in Tables 57-77 in Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report. The strategies are described in Table 78 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report.	MET
	(a) a description of a strategy for management of the water resources that addresses the risk in a manner that is commensurate with the level of risk		Tables 57-77, 78, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report		

	(b) an explanation of why the risk cannot be addressed by the WRP in a manner that is commensurate with the level of risk	False		The Authority is satisfied that each medium or higher groundwater risk is addressed by strategies commensurate with the level of risk and therefore s 10.43(1)(b) is not applicable.	
2	All other parts under Chapter 10 that have provisions to deal with a risk are identified	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Tables 15-77, 78 Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Table 78 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report details each risk strategy identified in response to risks. Tables 15-77 of Appendix B identify whether the strategy applies to surface water or groundwater risks. The Authority is satisfied that the strategies account for all other parts of Chapter 10 which have provisions to deal with a risk.	MET
	The strategies in this s10.43(2) take account of the requirement under those other Chapter 10 parts	True	Table 78, Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report	Table 78 in Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report describes each strategy for identified medium to higher level risks. The following assessment relates to the relevant parts for the requirement under s 10.43(2): <u>Basin Plan Chapter 10 Part 3</u> The relevant strategies can be found in Table 78 against the macro risk cause NC (Non-Compliance). The Authority is satisfied that this identifies the relevant strategies in relation to risks to matters in Part 3 of Chapter 10 in the Basin Plan. <u>Basin Plan Chapter 10 Parts 4 and 6</u>	

				<p>The commitment to deliver the long-term watering plan as required is put forward as the strategy to manage the risks to environmental watering (Measure 3, Table 78 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report).</p> <p><u>Basin Plan Chapter 10 Part 5</u> No significant interception activities were identified and therefore there are no relevant strategies. See Part 5 assessment for further detail.</p> <p><u>Basin Plan Chapter 10 Part 7</u> Measures 29 and 36 in Table 78 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report match those listed in Part 7 for the WQMP (Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report), demonstrating there is a clear link between the relevant strategies and measures.</p> <p><u>Basin Plan Chapter 10 Part 13</u> The Authority is satisfied the strategies set out in Table 78 of Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report have taken account of the critical human water needs requirements set out in Part 13 of Chapter 10.</p> <p><u>Basin Plan Chapter 10 Part 14</u> The proposed WRP states that in developing strategies to address the risks to Indigenous values and uses, the objectives and outcomes of water</p>	
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				<p>resource management desired by Indigenous people were considered.</p> <p>The strategies relevant to Part 14 requirements are identified in Table 78 (Appendix B of the Comprehensive Report) as A for Aboriginal/Indigenous Uses.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that, where the proposed WRP identifies a risk in accordance with s 10.41(6) as medium or higher and the risk relates to a matter dealt with by a requirement in a Part of Chapter 10 other than Part 9, the relevant strategy described for the purposes of s 10.43(1)(a) takes account of that requirement.</p>	
3	<p>The preparation of the WRP had regard to:</p> <p>(a) the strategies listed in subsection 4.03(3)</p> <p>and</p>	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for this section</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Column 5 of the Index Table for this section outlines how regard was had to the strategies listed in subsection 4.03(3).</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied the information provided in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section demonstrates that regard was had to the strategies listed in subsection 4.03(3) of the Basin Plan (2012).</p>	MET
	(b) guidelines published by the Authority in accordance with section 4.04	False	N/A	The Authority has not published guidelines in accordance with s 4.04.	

Part 10 Measuring and monitoring

Section 10.44 – Information relating to measuring take – water access entitlements

A water resource plan must include the following information in relation to each class of water access right relating to the water resources of the water resource plan area:

- (a) the best estimate of the total long-term annual average quantity of water taken that is measured;
- (b) the best estimate of the total long-term annual average quantity of water taken that is not measured;
- (c) how the quantities under paragraphs (a) and (b) were calculated;
- (d) the proportion of the quantity referred to in paragraph (a) that is measured in accordance with standards for measuring agreed by the Basin States and the Commonwealth.

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	The WRP includes the information as described in letters (a) to (d) for each class of water access right that apply to the water resources of the WRP area:	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 5 of the Index Table for this section	Columns 3 (accredited text) and 5 (explanatory material) of the Index Table for this section include information that describes each class of water access right that applies to the WRP area. This information is assessed below for each of s 10.44(a) to (d).	MET

(a)	(a) the best estimate of the total long-term annual average quantity of water taken that is metered	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section specifies that the best estimate of the long-term annual average quantity of water taken that is metered is 68,880 ML.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that this reflects the best estimate of the total long-term annual average quantity of water taken that is metered.</p>	
(b)	(b) the best estimate of the total long-term annual average quantity of water taken that is not metered	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section specifies that the best estimate of the long-term annual average quantity of water not metered is 1,280 ML.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that this reflects the best estimate of the total long-term annual average quantity of water taken that is not metered.</p>	
(c)	(c) how the quantities under letters (a) and (b) were calculated	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that the quantities under s 10.44(a) and (b) have been calculated in accordance with the methods for determining the baseline diversion limit as prescribed by the Basin Plan. Accordingly, the authority is satisfied that this requirement has been met.</p>	
(d)	(d) the proportion of the quantity metered take of water that apply the standards for metering agreed by the Basin States and the Commonwealth	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.45</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section notes that the Basin Compliance Compact constitutes an agreed metering standard by the Basin States and the Commonwealth. Column 3 of the Index Table states that as there are exceptions to this agreed standard still to be determined, it is not possible to determine the proportion of take in the WRP area which is measured in accordance with this standard.</p> <p>The Authority concludes that this justification for not providing a proportion is valid, taking into account the initial submission of the proposed WRP prior to the Basin Compliance Compact coming into effect (see MDBA reference D19/1034).</p>	

				<p>The Authority also notes that commitment (a) in Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.45(1) commits Victoria to undertaking the actions set out in the Compliance Compact, which includes implementing the requirements of Basin Compliance Compact for all take to be metered to agreed standards (subject to the determination of any exemptions to the metering standard that Victoria chooses to put in place).</p>	
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Section 10.45 – Supporting measuring

- (1) A water resource plan must specify measures for maintaining and, if practicable, improving:
 - (a) the proportion of take that is measured in the water resource plan area; and
 - (b) the standard to which take is measured.
- (2) The water resource plan must specify the timeframe for implementing the measures.

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
<p>Establish that (1) measures for maintaining measured proportion of ‘take’ is specified.</p> <p>Establish that (2) the standard to which to which ‘take’ is measured is stated.</p> <p>Establish that (3) measures to improve measures is stated.</p> <p>Establish that (4) measures to improve the standard is stated.</p> <p>Verify that (5) timeframe for implementation is within 5 years.</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.45(1) and s 10.45(2)</p> <p>Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.45(1) and s 10.45(2)</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.45(1) lists a number of measures which Victoria has committed to under their Water for Victoria state policy in order to maintain and improve the proportion of take measured and the standard to which it is measured.</p> <p>The explanatory material in Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.45(1) explains that these measures will improve the standard to which take is measured by increasing metering and monitoring efforts to make available more accurate information regarding take. It also notes that investment in infrastructure will improve the quality of data available.</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.45(2) states that these measures will be implemented over the</p>	MET

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
		<p>next 10 years, and the explanatory material in Column 5 of the Index Table for s 10.45(2) notes that Water for Victoria policy recognises that the measures must be implemented on an ongoing basis to realise continuous improvement.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that appropriate measures have been identified, and a timeline for implementation provided.</p> <p>The Authority has reviewed the timeline and measures for consistency with the Basin Compliance Compact 2018, and is satisfied the measures are in alignment with the Compact (despite the Compact not being finalised prior to original submission of the proposed WRP), and notes that Column 3 of the Index Table for s 10.45(1) directly references implementation of the Compact as one of the measures to be undertaken.</p>	

Section 10.46 – Monitoring water resources

- (1) A water resource plan must specify the monitoring of the water resources of the water resource plan area that will be done to enable the Basin State to fulfil its reporting obligations under section 13.14.
- (2) Nothing in this section limits the capacity of the Basin State to conduct other monitoring of the water resources of a water resource plan area.

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	The WRP specifies monitoring of water resources	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 5 of the Index Table for this section	Columns 3 (accredited text) and 5 (explanatory material) of the Index Table for this section specify the relevant matters against which State reporting obligations under s 13.14/Schedule 12 must be undertaken. The Authority is satisfied that all relevant monitoring to support fulfilment of reporting obligations under s 13.14 of the Basin Plan are satisfied.	MET
	The monitoring is specified in terms of the State's reporting obligation under s13.14/Schedule 12 (exhaustive)	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Table 59 of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section identifies each matter relevant to monitoring of water resources in line with the State's reporting obligation under s 13.14/Schedule 12. Column 3 of the Index Table for this section and Table 59 of the Comprehensive Report outlines monitoring to address the State obligations under	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
			Part 6 of Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report	<p>s 13.14/Schedule 12 in relation to matters 8, 9, 12 and 19, and broadly note the monitoring in relation to matters 4, 10, 14 and 18. In addition to this, the VEWH reports on environmental watering in their annual publication.</p> <p>Further, Part 6 in Appendix A of the Comprehensive Report provides commentary in relation to reporting requirements for Matter 14 (annual reporting), indicators for 14.3 and 14.4 regarding the flow management targets at s 9.14 of the Basin Plan.</p>	
	The monitoring specified will enable the State to fulfil its reporting obligations under s13.14/Schedule 12	True	N/A	The Authority is satisfied that the proposed WRP specifies the monitoring of the water resources of the WRP area that will be done to enable the Basin State to fulfil its reporting obligations under s 13.14 of the Basin Plan.	

Part 11 Review of water resource plans

Section 10.47 – Review of water resource plans

A water resource plan must require that if a review of the plan (or a part of the plan) is undertaken, the report of the review must be given to the Authority within 30 days after the report is completed.

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Verify that (1) the WRP includes model text: <i>‘For section 10.47, if a review of this plan is undertaken, the report of that review must be given to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority within 30 days after the report is completed.’</i>	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that if a review of the proposed WRP is undertaken, the report of that review will be provided to the MDBA within 30 days. The Authority is of the view that this commitment ensures that the proposed WRP satisfies the requirement at s 10.47.	MET

Section 10.48 – Amendment of water resource plan

A water resource plan must require a Basin State that proposes an amendment to the plan arising from a review to give the reasons for the amendment to the Authority.

Note: See also section 65 of the Act.

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Verify that (1) the WRP includes model text: <i>'For section 10.48, if review of this plan results in a proposed amendment to this plan, the reasons for the amendment must be provided to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.'</i>	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that if a review of the proposed WRP results in a proposed amendment, that the reasons for the amendment must be provided to the MDBA. The Authority is of the view that this commitment ensures that the proposed WRP satisfies the requirement at s 10.48.	MET

Part 12 Information used to prepare water resource plan

Section 10.49 – Best available information

- (1) A water resource plan must be based on the best available information.
- (2) The water resource plan must identify and describe the significant sources of information on which the water resource plan is based.

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	The development of the WRP has applied the best available information	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section 'Reference' section of the Comprehensive Report	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that the proposed WRP was prepared using the best available information available at the time of submission. This information is listed in the 'Reference' section of the Comprehensive Report.</p> <p>The Authority notes MLDRIN's assessment report which conveys concerns that in at least one respect best available scientific knowledge appears to be missing. This is in relation to the lack of reference to the Lake Albacutya Ramsar Site Ecological Character Description. This is a function of the Wimmera-Mallee Long-term Watering Plan and not the proposed WRP. There is the requirement for the Long-term Watering Plan to be amended upon accreditation of the Wimmera-Mallee proposed WRP, and the Lake Albacutya Ramsar Site Ecological Character Description can be</p>	MET

				<p>considered in the amended version of the Long-term Watering Plan.</p> <p>While acknowledging these concerns, the Authority is satisfied best available information has been applied in the development of the proposed WRP.</p>	
2	The WRP references the significant sources of information used to develop the plan	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>‘Reference’ section of the Comprehensive Report</p>	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section describes in general terms the significant sources of information used to develop the proposed WRP, identifying the ‘Reference’ section of the Comprehensive Report as containing a list of significant sources of information used in development of the proposed WRP.</p>	MET

Section 10.50 – Methods used to develop water resource plan

A water resource plan must identify any significant method, model or tool that has been used to develop the water resource plan.

<u>Streamlined</u> assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Verify that (1) a list is included that identifies all significant methods, models and tools used to develop the plan.	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section identifies the significant methods, models and tools that have been used to develop the proposed WRP.</p> <p>This satisfies the requirement at s 10.50.</p>	MET

Part 13 Extreme events

Section 10.51 – Measures in response to extreme events

- (1) A water resource plan must describe how the water resources of the water resource plan area will be managed during the following types of events:
 - (a) an extreme dry period;
 - (b) a water quality event of an intensity, magnitude and duration that is sufficient to render water acutely toxic or unusable for established local uses and values;
 - (c) any type of event that has resulted in the suspension of a statutory regional water plan in the past 50 years (including a transitional water resource plan or interim water resource plan).
- (2) If an event of a type listed in subsection (1) would compromise a Basin State's ability to meet critical human water needs in the water resource plan area, the water resource plan must set out measures to meet critical human water needs during such an event.
- (3) The water resource plan must provide that, if new scientific information suggests a change in the likelihood of an event of a type listed in subsection (1) occurring (for example, due to climate change), consideration must be given to whether, as a result of this new information, the water resources should be managed differently.

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	The WRP describes how water resources will be managed during:	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section outlines the procedure for dealing with extreme dry periods, including powers and responsibilities of Victorian water corporations and the Victorian Minister. This includes developing plans for how water will be managed during drought, provision of information on water availability outlooks, the use of permanent and stages of water restrictions, and the ability for the Victorian Minister to qualify	MET
1(a)	an extreme dry period	True	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section		

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
			<p>Part 3.3 of the Comprehensive Report</p> <p>Part 9.3.1 of the Comprehensive Report</p>	<p>rights if these measures are not sufficient to address the impacts during an extreme dry period.</p> <p>The explanatory material in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section notes that rural water users are required to manage their own water availability risks and are provided with a range of tools to do so. The explanatory material also provides reference to Part 3.3 of the Comprehensive Report, which describes the Northern and Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline systems and the function of providing domestic and stock water to farms and towns in the WRP area, and this is further discussed in Part 9.3.1 of the Comprehensive Report.</p> <p>The Authority is of the view that the strategy outlined ensures that the proposed WRP satisfies the requirement at s 10.51(a).</p>	
1(b)	a water quality event that is sufficient to render water acutely toxic or unusable for established local uses and values	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section outlines that water corporations may reduce, restrict or discontinue the supply of water to urban towns, if the water is no longer fit-for-purpose. The water corporations manage the risks associated with water quality and where identified the public is immediately notified of the risks and any restrictions on access to prevent harm to</p>	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>individuals.</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that there is insufficient data on what impact blue-green algae has on domestic and stock use and irrigation, however the proposed WRP does provide a general summary on where procedures are set out in the event of a blue-green algae outbreak and who coordinates the management and monitoring of the outbreaks.</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section outlines the powers of the Environment Protection Authority Victoria in the event of other pollution related events.</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section also notes that information about the impacts on Aboriginal values and uses is not yet sufficient, and management strategies to respond to water quality events in relation to these values and uses will be developed as information about the impacts on these values improve.</p>	
1(c)	The WRP identifies that there has been an event in the past 50 years that resulted in the suspension of a statutory regional plan	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Victoria does not have statutory regional plans and that there are no powers to suspend transitional water resource plans or interim water resource plans.	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	If yes, the WRP describes how water resources will be managed during such events	N/A	Not applicable	Not applicable as the proposed WRP does not identify a suspension event.	
	If no, the WRP states that such an event has not occurred.	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that Victoria does not have statutory regional plans and that there are no powers for Victoria to suspend transitional water resource plans or interim water resource plans.</p> <p>The Authority notes that as there are no statutory regional plans in Victoria, resulting in Victoria having no powers to suspend such a plan, and as such is satisfied that this requirement does not apply.</p>	
2	One or more events listed under s10.51(1) have potential to compromise the State's ability to meet critical human water needs in the plan area	False	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Nowhere in the proposed WRP package does it identify that one or more events listed under s 10.51(1) have potential to compromise the State's ability to meet critical human water needs in the plan area.</p> <p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that measures to meet critical human water needs during extreme dry periods are not required as adequate arrangements are in place so that critical human water needs will not be compromised.</p>	MET

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	If yes, the WRP sets out measures that operate to meet critical human water needs during a type of event listed under subsection (1)	N/A	Not applicable	This criteria is not applicable as the proposed WRP does not identify any events and it states that adequate arrangements are in place so that critical human water needs will not be compromised.	
	If no, the WRP sets out the logic and rationale for why events listed under subsection (1) do not compromise the State's ability to meet critical human water needs in the plan area	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Column 5 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to meet critical human water needs during extreme dry periods are not required as adequate arrangements are in place so that critical human water needs will not be compromised. The situation described at s 10.51(1)(c) is not applicable to the Wimmera-Mallee WRP area. <p>The explanatory material in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section provides a rationale as to why the events listed under subsection (1) do not compromise the State's ability to meet critical human water needs. Reference is made to the Victorian Water Act and powers available to respond to water shortages, which includes circumstances where water availability is reduced due to drought or water quality events. Column 5 of the Index Table for this section also states that there is very low risk of a failure to meet critical human water needs during such an event. This claim is further supported through an example of</p>	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>Victoria's ability to manage water resources through the Millennium Drought without resorting to stage 4 restrictions.</p> <p>The response to s 10.51(1)(a) and (b) provides detail on how water is managed during such events.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Authority is satisfied the provision at s 10.51(2) is met.</p>	
3	The WRP provides for a trigger to consider changes to management in the event that new scientific information suggest a change in frequency of events under subsection (1)	Present	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that if new scientific information suggests a change to the likelihood of an event of a type as listed in s 10.51(1) occurring, consideration will be given as to whether the water resources should be managed differently.</p> <p>The Authority is of the view that this commitment ensures that the proposed WRP satisfies this requirement.</p>	MET

Part 14 Indigenous values and uses

Section 10.52 – Objectives and outcomes based on Indigenous values and uses

- (1) A water resource plan must identify:
- (a) the objectives of Indigenous people in relation to managing the water resources of the water resource plan area; and
 - (b) the outcomes for the management of the water resources of the water resource plan area that are desired by Indigenous people.
- (2) In identifying the matters set out in subsection (1), regard must be had to:
- (a) the social, spiritual and cultural values of Indigenous people that relate to the water resources of the water resource plan area (***Indigenous values***); and
 - (b) the social, spiritual and cultural uses of the water resources of the water resource plan area by Indigenous people (***Indigenous uses***);
- as determined through consultation with relevant Indigenous organisations, including (where appropriate) the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations and the Northern Murray-Darling Basin Aboriginal Nations.
- (3) A person or body preparing a water resource plan may identify opportunities to strengthen the protection of Indigenous values and Indigenous uses in accordance with the objectives and outcomes identified under subsection (1), in which case the opportunities must be specified in the water resource plan.

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1(a)	The objectives of Aboriginal people in relation to managing water resources in the WRP area are listed	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section identifies two sets of objectives of Indigenous people in relation to managing the water	MET

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
			Tables 30, 33, 36, 37, 43, 46 and 47 in Part 11 of the Comprehensive Report	<p>resources of the Wimmera-Mallee water resource plan area.</p> <p>The first set of objectives, under dot point a), are high level objectives sourced from the 2016 report: Water for Victoria: Water Plan. These are not directly related to the development of the proposed WRP, and were developed by the Victorian Government on the basis of consultation for that report. As such, the MDBA does not consider them relevant for the purposes of WRP accreditation.</p> <p>The second set of objectives, under dot points b)-h), consists of the objectives identified by individual Nation groups of the Wimmera-Mallee Water Resource Plan area identified during the Indigenous engagement process for the Wimmera-Mallee Water Resource Plan. Column 3 text refers to the tables in Part 11 the Comprehensive Report that list this second set of objectives (Tables 30, 33, 36, 37, 43, 46 and 47).</p>	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				On the basis of the specific objectives, and confirmed by the advice from MLDRIN, the MDBA is of the view that the proposed WRP identifies the relevant objectives of Aboriginal people in the Wimmera-Mallee, and therefore meets the requirements of s 10.52(1)(a).	
1(b)	The outcomes of water resource management as desired by Aboriginal people are listed	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Tables 30, 34, 36, 37, 44, 46 and 48 of Part 11 of the Comprehensive Report	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section identifies two sets of outcomes desired by Indigenous people in relation to managing the water resources of the Wimmera-Mallee water resource plan area. The first set of outcomes, under dot point a), are high level outcomes sourced from the 2016 report: Water for Victoria: Water Plan. These are not directly related to the development of the proposed WRP, and were developed by the Victorian Government on the basis of consultation for that report. As such, the Authority does not consider them relevant for the purposes of WRP accreditation.	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>The second set of outcomes, under dot points b)-h), consists of the outcomes identified by individual Nation groups of the Wimmera-Mallee Water Resource Plan area and were developed during the Indigenous engagement process for the Wimmera-Mallee Water Resource Plan. Column 3 text refers to the tables in Part 11 the Comprehensive Report that list this second set of outcomes (Tables 30, 34, 36, 37, 44, 46 and 48).</p> <p>On the basis of the second set of outcomes, and confirmed by the advice from MLDRIN, the MDBA is of the view that the proposed WRP identifies the relevant outcomes of Aboriginal people in the Wimmera-Mallee and therefore meets the requirements of s 10.52(1)(b).</p>	
2 (a)	Supporting evidence demonstrates that the objectives and outcomes listed under subsection (1) had regard to the	True	<p>Column 3 of the Index Table for this section</p> <p>Part 11 of the Comprehensive Report</p>	Part 11 of the Comprehensive Report and the Consultation Report at Appendix D of the Comprehensive Report outline how regard was had to	MET

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	social, spiritual and cultural values of Aboriginal people		Appendix D of the Comprehensive Report	<p>the social, spiritual and cultural values of Aboriginal people.</p> <p>The methods used to determine the social, spiritual and cultural values included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Waterway Assessments involving Traditional Owners, and • Meetings and workshops with relevant traditional owner and other representative groups. <p>Once developed and shared these values were used to underpin the development of objectives and outcomes by Traditional Owners.</p> <p>A description of the engagement process with Traditional Owner groups is set out in Chapters 4 and 6 of Appendix D of the Comprehensive Report. Descriptions of the matters discussed, including social, spiritual and cultural values, with each individual Traditional Owner group are set out in Parts 11.3.1 to 11.3.9 of the Comprehensive Report.</p>	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>Accordingly, this satisfies the requirement that the development of the specific objectives and outcomes listed under s10.52 (1) had regard to the social, spiritual and cultural values of Aboriginal people.</p> <p><i>Note</i> - In relation to the high level objectives and outcomes set out in Column 3 of the Index Table for ss 10.52(1)(a) and (b), these were developed in a separate previous state-wide Indigenous engagement process. As such, they are not considered relevant for the purposes of WRP accreditation.</p>	
	The social, spiritual and cultural values of Aboriginal people were determined through consultation with relevant indigenous organisations	True	Parts 11.3.1 to 11.3.9 of the Comprehensive Report	Victoria, in consultation with MLDRIN, has identified the appropriate traditional owner groups with an interest in the water resources of the Wimmera-Mallee Water Resource Plan Area. The discussions with each Traditional Owner group is set out in Parts 11.3.1 to 11.3.9 of the Comprehensive Report. These parts contain tables setting out the objectives and outcomes in relation to managing	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				water resources identified by the traditional owner groups. As such, the Authority considers that the social, spiritual and cultural values of Aboriginal people were determined through consultation with relevant indigenous organisations.	
2(b)	Supporting evidence demonstrates that the objectives and outcomes listed under subsection (1) had regard to Aboriginal people's social, spiritual and cultural uses	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section Part 11 of the Comprehensive Report Appendix D of the Comprehensive Report	<p>Part 11 of the Comprehensive Report and the Consultation Report at Appendix D of the Comprehensive Report outline how regard was had to the social, spiritual and cultural uses of Aboriginal people.</p> <p>The methods used to determine the social, spiritual and cultural uses included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal Waterway Assessments involving Traditional Owners, and Meetings and workshops with relevant traditional owner and other representative groups. <p>Once developed and shared these values were used to underpin the development of objectives and outcomes by Traditional Owners.</p>	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				<p>A description of the engagement process with Traditional Owner groups is set out in Chapters 4 and 6 of Appendix D of the Comprehensive Report. Descriptions of the matters discussed, including social, spiritual and cultural uses, with each individual Traditional Owner group are set out in Parts 11.3.1 to 11.3.9 of the Comprehensive Report.</p> <p>Accordingly, this satisfies the requirement that the development of the specific objectives and outcomes listed under s10.52 (1) had regard to the social, spiritual and cultural uses of Aboriginal people.</p> <p><i>Note</i> - In relation to the high level objectives and outcomes set out in Column 3 of the Index Table for ss 10.52(1)(a) and (b), these were developed in a separate previous state-wide Indigenous engagement process. As such, they are not considered relevant for the purposes of WRP accreditation.</p>	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
	Aboriginal people's social, spiritual and cultural uses were determined through consultation with relevant indigenous organisations	True	Part 11 of the Comprehensive Report	Victoria, in consultation with MLDRIN, has identified the appropriate traditional owner groups with an interest in the water resources of the Wimmera-Mallee Water Resource Plan Area. The discussions with each Traditional Owner group is set out in Parts 11.3.1 to 11.3.9 of the Comprehensive Report. These parts contain tables setting out the objectives and outcomes in relation to managing water resources identified by the traditional owner groups. As such, the Authority considers that the social, spiritual and cultural uses of Aboriginal people were determined through consultation with relevant indigenous organisations.	
3	Opportunities to strengthen the protection of Aboriginal values and Aboriginal uses are identified in the WRP	Present	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section identifies opportunities to strengthen the protection of Aboriginal values and uses. These opportunities are in accordance with the objectives and outcomes identified for s 10.52(1). The listed opportunities, once implemented, could operate to	MET
	The opportunities included under this subsection (3) operate to strengthen protections for Aboriginal values and uses	True			

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				strengthen protections of Aboriginal values and uses.	

Section 10.53 – Consultation and preparation of water resource plan

- (1) A water resource plan must be prepared having regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to the matters identified under section 10.52 and the following matters:
- (a) native title rights, native title claims and Indigenous Land Use Agreements provided for by the Native Title Act 1993 in relation to the water resources of the water resource plan area;
 - (b) registered Aboriginal heritage relating to the water resources of the water resource plan area;
 - (c) inclusion of Indigenous representation in the preparation and implementation of the plan;
 - (d) Indigenous social, cultural, spiritual and customary objectives, and strategies for achieving these objectives;
 - (e) encouragement of active and informed participation of Indigenous people;
 - (f) risks to Indigenous values and Indigenous uses arising from the use and management of the water resources of the water resource plan area.
- Note:** For examples of the principles that may be applied in relation to the participation of Indigenous people, see the document titled ‘MLDRIN and NBAN Principles of Indigenous Engagement in the Murray-Darling Basin’.
- (2) In this section, registered Aboriginal heritage means Aboriginal heritage registered or listed under a law of a Basin State or the Commonwealth that deals with the registration or listing of Aboriginal heritage (regardless of whether the law deals with the listing of other heritage).

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1	Regard was had to the views of relevant Aboriginal organisation with respect to matters identified in section 10.52	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section states that an explanation of how regard was had is provided in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section. The explanatory material in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section points to Part 11 and Appendix D of the Comprehensive Report as	MET
	Regard was had to each of the matters in letters (a) to (f):	True	Part 11 of the Comprehensive Report		

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
1(a)	native title rights, native title claims and Aboriginal Land Use Agreements	True	Appendix D of the Comprehensive Report	evidence that regard was had to the views of relevant Aboriginal organisations with respect to matters identified in s 10.52, and that regard was had to each of the matters in letters (a) to (f).	
1(b)	registered Aboriginal heritage relating to the water resources of the WRP area	True		Part 11 of the Comprehensive Report sets out how Victoria sought the views of the Traditional Owners of the WRP area, being the relevant Indigenous organisations, to seek their views on the matters including those set out in s 10.53(1)(a)-(f).	
1(c)	inclusion of Aboriginal representation in the preparation and implementation of the plan	True			
1(d)	Aboriginal social, cultural, spiritual and customary objectives and strategies for achieving these objectives	True		The engagement approach included several meetings and workshops on Country with Aboriginal representatives.	
1(e)	encouragement of active and informed participation of Aboriginal people	True		In relation to s 10.53(1)(f), the Risk Assessment rates risks to Aboriginal values and uses as medium or higher (Part 11.4.1 in the Comprehensive Report). In line with Basin Plan requirements, Victoria has identified strategies to address these risks and Victoria is obliged to report annually on compliance or progress with the proposed WRP, including strategies to mitigate risks.	
1(f)	risks to Aboriginal values and Aboriginal uses arising from the use and management of the water resources of the WRP area	True		The Consultation Report (Appendix D of the Comprehensive Report) outlines each of the	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
			<p>matters discussed with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians, specifically with respect to s 10.52 and s 10.53 in the development of this proposed WRP. Part 8.4 of the Consultation Report specifically sets out how regard was had to the views of Traditional Owners for each of the matters in s 10.53(1)(a) to (f) when developing the proposed WRP. This demonstrates that the proposed WRP was prepared having regard to the views of Aboriginal people with respect to matters identified in s 10.52, and that regard was had to each of the matters in letters (a) to (f).</p> <p>The Authority has consulted with MLDRIN to seek its advice as to whether the requirements of Part 14, Chapter 10 have been met in the Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater) WRP area. MLDRIN has confirmed that Victoria consulted with Traditional Owners in the WRP area to inform the proposed WRP, and notes three sections identified through its own review process where the demonstration of regard could have been improved and therefore considered the following sections as partially fulfilled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10.53(1)(a) • 10.53(1)(b) • 10.53(1)(e) 	

Sub-section	Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
				Noting these conclusions, the Authority considers the requirements of this section to have been met.	
2	<i>Subsection 2 is not assessed as it only contains a definition of registered Aboriginal heritage with no requirement to be addressed</i>				

Section 10.54 – Cultural flows

A water resource plan must be prepared having regard to the views of Indigenous people with respect to cultural flows.

Detailed summary of assessment test		Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
Cultural flows are relevant to this WRP area	True	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section	Column 3 of the Index Table for this section sets out that an explanation of how regard was had is provided in Column 5 of the Index Table for this section. Column 5 of the Index Table for this section refers to Part 11 of the Comprehensive Report and Appendix D of the Comprehensive Report. Statements of Aboriginal people's views about cultural flows are included in discussions of the engagement with individual Nations. Overarching discussions of cultural flows are included at Part 11.6 of the Comprehensive Report and at Part 8.5 of Appendix D of the Comprehensive Report. The overarching discussion includes a commitment by Victoria to continue this conversation and to be looking at opportunities to use the findings of the National Cultural Flows Research Project (released 30 June 2018) in its future engagement on the Northern Victorian WRPs as well as broader implementation of Victoria's Aboriginal Water Policy. As such, the Authority considers that the development of the proposed WRP had regard to the Aboriginal people's views about cultural flows.	MET
The WRP has regard to the Aboriginal people's views about cultural flows	True	Column 5 of the Index Table for this section Part 11 of the Comprehensive Report Appendix D of the Comprehensive Report		

			This is confirmed by MLDRIN’s Wimmera-Mallee assessment report.	
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Section 10.55 – Retention of current protection


A water resource plan must provide at least the same level of protection of Indigenous values and Indigenous uses as provided in:

- (a) a transitional water resource plan for the water resource plan area; or
- (b) an interim water resource plan for the water resource plan area.

Streamlined assessment test	Where this was observed in the WRP package	Justification	Assessment outcome
<p>Establish (1) the level of protection in a TWRP/IWRP.</p> <p>Establish (2) the level of protection in the WRP.</p>	Columns 3 and 5 of the Index Table	<p>The majority of transitional and interim WRPs in place for the Wimmera-Mallee surface water and groundwater WRP areas are Bulk Entitlements, and the others are strategic planning documents. Neither of these operate to protect Indigenous values and uses.</p> <p>The Authority is satisfied that the same level of protection is provided by this proposed WRP as it continues to recognise the right of Traditional Owners to take water under s8A of the Victorian Water Act.</p> <p>In addition, as identified in Column 5 of the Index Table, other strategies are being implemented to increase the protection of Indigenous values and uses.</p>	MET

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