

Media statement



Ensuring sustainable use of Lockyer's groundwater

15 June 2009

Further progress towards licensing the take of groundwater throughout the whole of the Lockyer Valley will be made in the Ma Ma and Tenthill Creek catchment areas this month.

Over 2000 property owners across the two catchments will receive letters from the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM), requesting information about water bores, wells and associated works on their property

DERM is seeking this information to develop a framework for sustainable long term use of the Lockyer's groundwater resources.

Under the Moreton and Great Artesian Basin Water Resource Plans (WRP's), any groundwater taken in the Lockyer Valley, other than for stock or domestic purposes, must be licensed.

DERM Water Services Regional Manager Jill Pfingst said licensing of groundwater would be a new process for the majority of groundwater users in the Lockyer Valley.

"The Central Lockyer area has had groundwater licences for over 20 years while licensing in the Gatton Esk Road area is nearing completion."

The licensing process will occur in stages, with the Valley divided into a number of Implementation areas.

Once initial information is obtained from property owners in the Ma Ma and Tenthill Creek catchment areas, a more detailed questionnaire will be mailed out. DERM staff will be available to answer any questions that arise.

"It is important that landowners respond to the letter and questionnaire and provide the correct information so that their existing take of groundwater can continue," Ms Pfingst said.

"Water licences, based on information from the questionnaires, will be issued. The licences will enable management of the take of groundwater within the Lockyer Valley, and in time ensure sustainable use of the groundwater resource."

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The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) is an amalgamation of the former Department of Natural Resources and Water and the Environmental Protection Agency.

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