



### Upper Barwon DRAFT Seasonal Watering Proposal 23-24 Comments Register

The Upper Barwon Seasonal Watering Proposal 2023-24 was presented and distributed to EMAC, WTOAC and UBSWAG in March 2023. Individuals had two weeks to provide feedback to Corangamite CMA. See the feedback and associated response from CCMA below.

Who	Comment	CCMA Response
<b>Brett Smith on behalf of the Geelong Field Naturalist Club</b>	<p><i>(P v) States that "The river appears to have been disappearing to ground in the mid-Barwon between Winchelsea and Inverleigh gauges; the cause is unknown, but it is likely the water is going underground."</i></p> <p><i>(P 68) States "U/S River King Creek Junction gauge was installed on the east branch near Forrest, however it could only record low flow events" and "Boundary Road near Forrest gauge was also installed by Barwon Water on the west branch ..... but can only record low flow events."</i></p> <p><i>Several references are made in the document about data gaps including those above.</i></p>	<p>Thanks for your feedback.</p> <p>Yes, the Seasonal Watering Proposal acknowledges that the river appears to be disappearing to ground mid-Barwon between Winchelsea and Inverleigh. The current entitlement in the West Barwon Reservoir isn't large enough to deliver the volumes of water required to influence flow between Winchelsea and Inverleigh. For this reason, this issue is outside the scope of the 2023-24 Seasonal Watering Proposal and could be considered as a separate body of investigative work that could help the case to recover more water for the Barwon River. As part of this future body of work, new and existing gauging techniques and investigative processes would be explored.</p> <p>The Seasonal Watering Proposal also acknowledges that gauges in the Upper Barwon River were designed to detect low flows and not higher flows. This gap prevents assessment of flow compliance at higher flow rates on the East and West branch of the Upper Barwon River.</p> <p>Barwon Water provided Corangamite CMA with feedback after the UBSWAG meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March that a second gauge called West Barwon River@Compensation Weir that is located upstream of West Barwon River@Boundary Road Forrest could be referred to when the gauge reverts to zero during high</p>

	<p><i>I wonder if there are new gauging techniques and investigative processes that utilise any new technology available that will better or more efficiently measure instream flow and provide information on how and where water is being lost from the river system (but maybe not the hydraulic cycle) to gain a greater understanding of how we are meeting the intention and targets in returning water back to the Barwon River.</i></p>	<p>flow. This new information has helped fill in some of the data gaps that existed in the 2022-23 water year.</p> <p>Corangamite CMA will continue to review the data required to deliver the Upper Barwon Environmental Entitlement more effectively and will work closely with Barwon Water when there are proposed upgrades to flow gauges or funding opportunities to install additional flow gauges.</p>
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