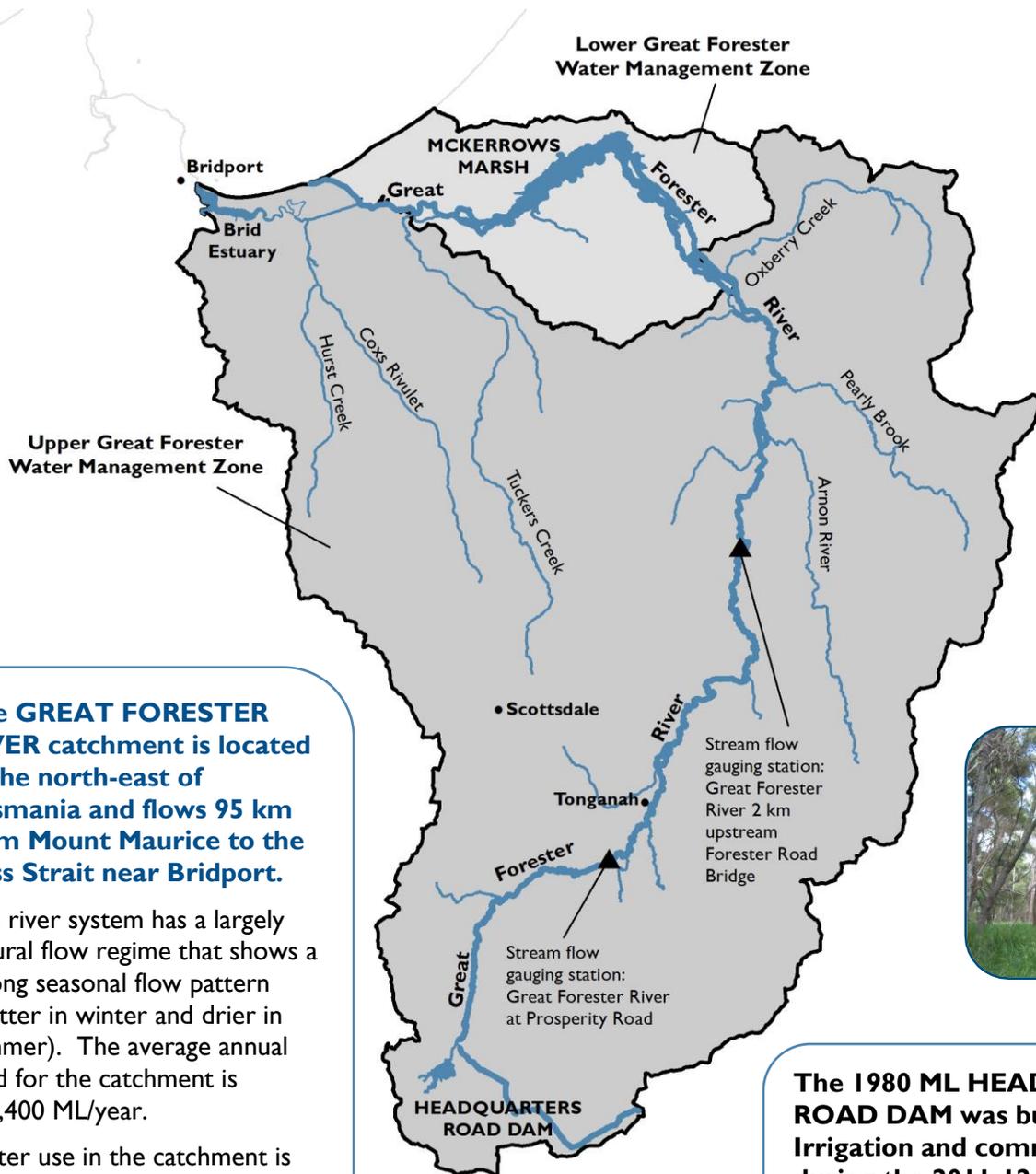


GREAT FORESTER RIVER CATCHMENT WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

November 2017



MCKERROWS MARSH is a blackwood swamp of regional and State significance. Flood flows in the Great Forester are important to maintain the condition of the vegetation in the swamp and protect the habitat of burrowing crayfish and other animals.



The GREAT FORESTER RIVER catchment is located in the north-east of Tasmania and flows 95 km from Mount Maurice to the Bass Strait near Bridport. The river system has a largely natural flow regime that shows a strong seasonal flow pattern (wetter in winter and drier in summer). The average annual yield for the catchment is 149,400 ML/year. Water use in the catchment is primarily for growing vegetables, dairying, raising beef cattle and aquaculture. River flow is also needed to sustain natural values in the river and nearby wetlands.

The 1980 ML HEADQUARTERS ROAD DAM was built by Tasmanian Irrigation and commenced operation during the 2011-12 irrigation season. Water is released from the dam to supply downstream irrigators in the Great Forester Irrigation Scheme.

OVERVIEW

The **Great Forester River Catchment Water Management Plan** was the first water management plan to be developed and adopted in Tasmania. The Plan is prepared in accordance with the *Water Management Act 1999* and was formally adopted in 2003.

The purpose of the Water Management Plan is to outline how we manage the catchment's water resources.

The objectives of the Plan are to:

- Promote sustainable use and economic development of water resources
- Foster social and economic benefits resulting from sustainable use and development of water
- Maintain ecological processes and genetic diversity for aquatic ecosystems
- Provide fair, orderly and efficient allocation of water resources to meet community's needs
- Increase the community's understanding of aquatic ecosystems and the need to use water in a sustainable manner
- Encourage community involvement in water resource management

There are two water managements zones (sub-catchments) set out in the Plan – the Upper Great Forester and the Lower Great Forester.

Monitoring is done in the Great Forester river catchment to collect information on river flow, aquatic ecosystem health and water management activities (for example, water allocations, dam permits).

For the full details of the current Plan go to our website: dipwwe.tas.gov.au/water/water-management-plans/adopted-water-management-plans/great-forester-water-management-plan

REVIEW AND AMENDMENT OF THE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The current Great Forester River Catchment Water Management Plan is outdated and needs updating to reflect changes in the catchment and improve the way we manage water.

We are bringing together information on the current status of water management and the environmental health of the river and its tributaries. We are listening to the community to take the first step towards determining where practical improvements can be made to the Plan.

The review of the Water Management Plan aims to:

- Promote equitable sharing of the water resource
- Assist water users plan for the future by providing certainty of water supply
- Ensure that the health of freshwater ecosystems are maintained

In the **Upper Great Forester zone**, the agreed **MANAGED MINIMUM FLOW** for the summer period is 30 ML/day, measured at DPIPWE's stream flow gauging station on the Great Forester River 2km upstream of the Forester Road Bridge.

This means that once the river flow reaches that level on the gauge, all water users in the upper Great Forester River catchment (upstream of the Oxberry Creek intersection), Tuckers Creek, Coxs Rivulet, Hurst Creek and Brewers Creek cannot take any water from the relevant watercourses until the Great Forester River flow returns above 30 ML/day.

In the **Lower Great Forester zone**, restrictions are currently determined by an expert panel (the Regional Water Management Officer, an irrigator, an aquatic ecologist and a hydrologist) when flow in the Great Forester River drops below 35 ML/day at the gauging station (2 km upstream of the Forester Road Bridge).

Danielle Hardie

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment:

Phone: 03 6165 3226

Email: Danielle.Hardie@dipwwe.tas.gov.au

dipwwe.tas.gov.au/water