



# RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST

## WATER STEWARDSHIP PLAN

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This Water Stewardship Plan (**WSP**) has been developed in conjunction with Water Stewardship Asia-Pacific (**AWS Asia-Pacific**), using the Alliance for Water Stewardship (**AWS**) International Water Stewardship Standard (**IWSS**) as a basis (see current Standard 2.0 [here](#)).

The WSP sets out the catchment and site challenges on Trust property as well as the objectives and actions to deal with these challenges. The WSP will be communicated to our stakeholders and reviewed regularly – at least annually.

As Water Stewards, the Renmark Irrigation Trust (**RIT**), is committed to sustainable water management for our site as well as contributing to efforts within our catchment and region.

### 1.1 Leadership Commitment

We commit to supporting the Trust's pursuit of responsible water stewardship.

We will support the Trust's efforts to achieve the outcomes of water stewardship, namely good water governance, good water balance, good water quality and healthy Important Water-Related Areas.

We will respect the right of workers on-site to have access to safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene.

We commit that the Trust will comply with all legal and regulatory requirements as well as respect legal and water-related rights. We will attempt to engage with catchment stakeholders in an open and transparent manner and support public-sector agencies' efforts to implement water-related policies that help to achieve water stewardship outcomes.

We will support the Trust's efforts to continually improve and adapt its water stewardship actions and plans and ensure that there is sufficient organisational capacity to successfully implement the AWS Standard. Lastly, we commit to disclosing material water-related information to all relevant audiences in an appropriate format.



Humphrey Howie  
PRESIDING MEMBER

This commitment is publicly available on our website.

(See signed leadership commitment [here](#))

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## 1.2 Water Stewardship Policy

Renmark Irrigation Trust is committed to continual improvement of its water performance, and to provide sound stewardship of water consistent with the needs of our Members, community and river environment. To achieve the policy goal, we will:

- Communicate and reinforce this policy to all persons working for or on behalf of the Trust;
- Comply with applicable legal and other requirements;
- Consider environmental consequences and water sustainability concepts in planning and decision-making;
- Provide leadership in environmental protection, including areas of high conservation value;
- Strive to use water efficiently and minimize water loss;
- Strive to prevent pollution and promote reduction, reuse, recycle and proper disposal of waste;
- Strive to engage stakeholders in our efforts and communicate regularly with relevant parties.

As Chief Executive Officer, I am committed to this Water Stewardship Policy which is owned and endorsed by the Board of Directors. Responsibility for the successful implementation of this programme belongs with every Trust employee at each level and function in the organisation.



Rosalie Auricht  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This policy is publicly available on our website.

(See signed policy [here](#))

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## 2 SITE AND CATCHMENT DETAILS

### 2.1 Physical Scope

#### 2.1.1 Site boundaries

See maps (Attachment A):

- Water Supply Map
- Drainage Map

#### 2.1.2 RIT water sources

RIT water sources are:

- (Irrigation) Water supply: River Murray, RIT Main Pumping Station, Lot 91 James Ave, Renmark
- Office: SA Water domestic supply (River Murray, SA Water Pumping Station Renmark)

#### 2.1.3 RIT water discharges

RIT water discharge points are:

- Irrigation drainage: RIT Saline drainage system → SA Water drainage pipe → Noora Salt Interception Scheme  
(see [http://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/archived/mdbc-salinity-reports/2073\\_Keeping\\_Salt\\_out\\_of\\_the%20Murray\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/archived/mdbc-salinity-reports/2073_Keeping_Salt_out_of_the%20Murray_fact_sheet.pdf))
- Effluent: Renmark mains sewer system, Renmark Paringa Council  
(see: <https://www.renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au/build-invest/build-with-us/wastewatersystems>)

#### 2.1.4 Catchment

Catchments relevant to the RIT are:

- Water supply catchment: Lower Murray-Darling catchment, Murray-Darling Basin  
(see <https://www.mdba.gov.au/discover-basin/catchments/lower-murray> and <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/cewo/catchment/lower-murray-darling>)
  - Physical location:
    - Riverland district, SA Murray-Darling Basin, NRM Region  
(see <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/about-us/our-regions-plan>)
    - Upper Murray sub-region, Regional Action Plan  
(see <https://www.mdba.gov.au/water-management/catchments/upper-murray>)
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## 2.2 RIT Stakeholders' Water Related Challenges and Sphere of Influence

Stakeholder	Type of Stakeholder	Water Related Concerns (and level of Interest)	Ability To Influence/Be Influenced <sup>1</sup>	Engagement to date	Comments
Local Renmark Community	Community	Water scarcity, inadequate access to water, sanitation and hygiene, water prices, access to water for recreational activities, climate change, ecosystem vulnerability (moderate interest)	Low/Low	Local paper, Local media; system shut-down announcements, notices related to Murray River (e.g. Blackwater event)	Public notice of Audit on AWS website – <a href="http://waterstewardship.org.au/news/auditnotices/">http://waterstewardship.org.au/news/auditnotices/</a>
RIT Members	Members (Irrigation Enterprises)	Continuity of supply, water prices, water allocations	Medium/High	Regular contact, emails, notices, Quarterly in The Pipeline newsletter, Annual Report, AGM, Website.  Introduction of new RIT website in August 2019 (see <a href="http://rit.org.au">rit.org.au</a> ) has led to increased engagement with Members on water related issues, particularly during recent times of heightened interest in water allocations and politics.	Provide notification of audit to Members. Occurrence of audit emailed to Trust Members on 23 November 2022
DEW	SA Public Sector	Water licenses, annual water Allocations  Responsible Minister for Trust	Medium/High  Medium/High	Meter checks, annual water license reconciliation  Annual Report, lobbying	Key stakeholder on Water Balance. Send notification of audit to Dan Jordan (reference group member)
EPA	SA Public Sector	Water quality (environmental spills)	Low/Low	As required (emergency)	Secondary stakeholders to DEW
SA Water	SA Public Sector	Salinity drainage, domestic/staff water	Low/Low	Pay bills	

<sup>1</sup> Sphere of influence definition per the AWS IWSS: “The degree to which a site and the site’s management have the capacity or power to be a compelling force on or produce effects on the actions, behaviours, opinions, etc., of others, formally or informally, and to move or impel stakeholders to some action through non-hierarchical means (e.g., expertise, sanctions, positive reinforcement, persuasion, coaching, relationship building, capacity-building, charisma). Source: Adapted from UN Global Compact.”

Stakeholder	Type of Stakeholder	Water Related Concerns (and level of Interest)	Ability To Influence/Be Influenced <sup>1</sup>	Engagement to date	Comments
	(Domestic Water Supply)	supply			on water quality (apart from reporting emergency incidents) and salinity management.
Renmark Paringa Council	Local Public Sector (Waste Water Service Provider)	Management of the effluent treatment plant/infrastructure. Ecosystem health.  Partner in SEE Renmark 2024: A community's integrated vision for a vibrant future	Low/Low  High/High	Regular meetings, phone calls, emails (regarding bills)  Signed MOU, meetings as required  Legal and Project Manager is an Elected Member of Council.	Provide notification of audit to appropriate RPC contact(s).
Landscapes Board	SA Public Sector	Ecosystem health and management	Low/Medium	Partner in 2016 <i>Riverland Water Productivity and Business Effectiveness; Building Productive Opportunity through Customised Water Stewardship Adoption Project</i> – has reviewed Catchment Analysis (See 2.3)	Send notification of audit to reference group.
PIRSA	SA Public Sector	Support primary industry activity in SA	Low/Medium	Partner in 2016 <i>Riverland Water Productivity and Business Effectiveness; Building Productive Opportunity through Customised Water Stewardship Adoption Project</i> – has reviewed Catchment Analysis (See 2.3.1)  Supporter of Fruit Fly response for local area.	Send notification of audit to reference group.
MDBA	National Public Sector	Implementing MDB Plan	Low/High	Monitoring and evaluation of MDB Plan	Secondary stakeholder to DEW, but WSA contacts at MDBA notified.

Stakeholder	Type of Stakeholder	Water Related Concerns (and level of Interest)	Ability To Influence/Be Influenced <sup>1</sup>	Engagement to date	Comments
CEWH	National Public Sector	MDB Environmental Water Holder, Environmental Watering Partner	High/High	Signed partnership, member of RIT Environmental Watering Committee	Provide notification of audit to Enviro Watering partnership contact(s).
First Peoples Groups <sup>2</sup>	Indigenous Community	Cultural values	Low/Low	Communication on environmental watering intent. COVID-19 impacted engagement in 2020, intent to engage during 2021/22. Facilitated engagement tour 8 November.	Initiate tour of key important water-related areas.
MLDRIN	National Public Sector (MDBA Indigenous Advisory Group)	Cultural flows, community networks, advisory to MDBA	Low/Medium	-	Provide Indigenous stakeholder notification of audit to Will Mooney, Executive Officer.
RP Landcare Committee	Community	Natural environs	High/High	RIT Board Director on Bookmark Creek Action Group	Provide notification of audit to RP Landcare contact(s).
SAMI	Local Industry (SA Murray Irrigators)	Policy, Water Allocation Plan (WAP), water scarcity	High/High	2 RIT Directors as members, Levy contributor, Policy contribution	Send notification of audit to reference group.
NIC	National Industry (National irrigation body)	Policy, Water Allocation Plan (WAP), water scarcity, advocacy and lobbying	Low/Medium	RIT remains a paid Member and has delegates attend NIC meetings.  Chief Executive Officer is a Director on the NIC Board.	Public notice of Audit on AWS website – <a href="http://waterstewardship.org.au/news/auditnotices/">http://waterstewardship.org.au/news/auditnotices/</a>

<sup>2</sup> Per the AWS IWSS: “Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) form the basis for the process to be followed during all consultation with indigenous communities, which should be gender-sensitive and result in consensus-driven negotiated agreements.”



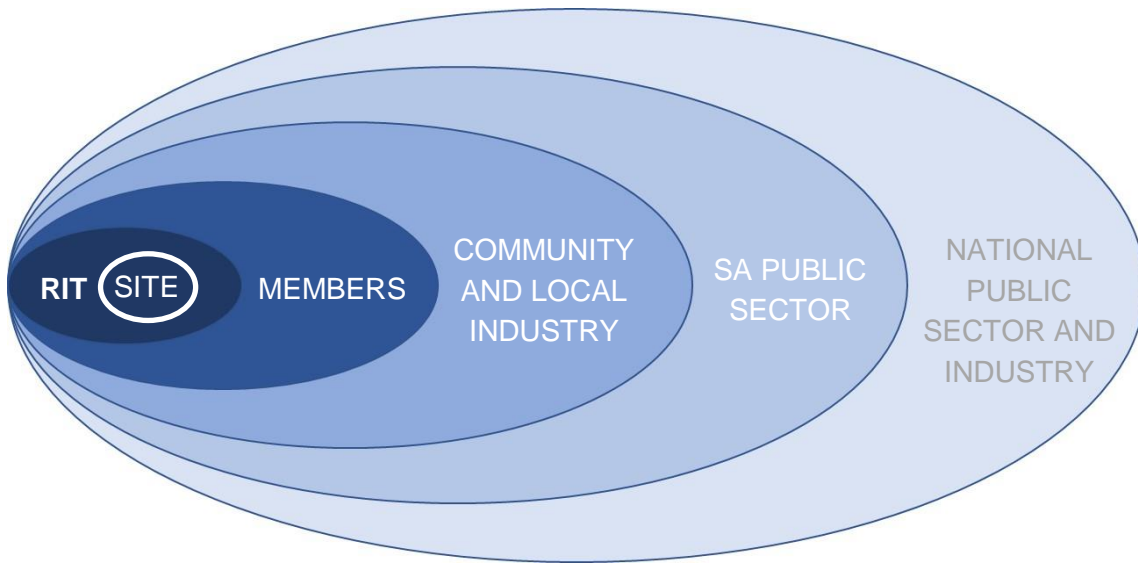


Figure 1: Illustration of RIT Sphere of Influence (adapted from AWS IWWS Figure A5)

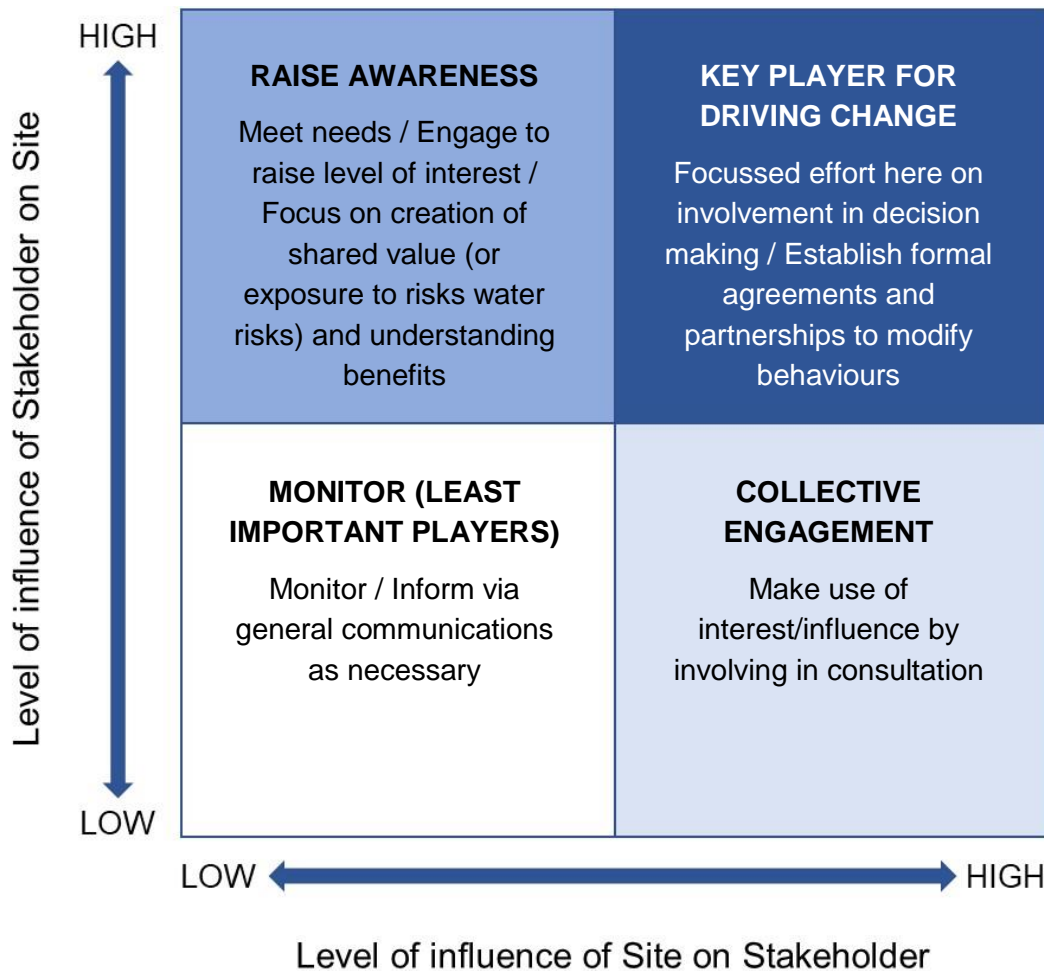


Figure 2: RIT Stakeholder Influence and Engagement Matrix (adapted from AWS IWWS Figures A6 and A7)

## 2.3 Catchment Water-Related Data

In 2015/16 the RIT participated in a Department of Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia (PIRSA) funded cluster project: *Riverland Water Productivity and Business Effectiveness; Building Productive Opportunity through Customised Water Stewardship Adoption*. The aim of the project was to implement a water stewardship pilot project within and including the Renmark Irrigation Trust (RIT). Members of the cluster reference group included: SA Murray Irrigators (SAMI), WSA, RIT, Waterfind, SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resource Management (SAMDB NRM) Board, PIRSA and Department for Environment and Water (DEW). A Catchment Analysis was undertaken (provided in Attachment B) as part of the Project and reviewed by the cluster reference group.

This Section summarises the key catchment data and plans relevant to the RIT and will be updated annually or as RIT becomes aware of changes in catchment conditions.

### 2.3.1 Catchment plans, publicly-led initiatives and public policy goals

- Water programmes in the Murray-Darling Basin (<https://www.mdba.gov.au/about-us/partnerships-engagement>)
    - South Australian River Murray Sustainability Program (complete): administered by PIRSA. The programme aims to increase the efficiency and productivity of South Australian businesses, and secure and return 40 GL of long-term annual average yield 'gap bridging' water to the Commonwealth for environmental water use (<http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/sarms-iiip>)
    - Irrigation Modernisation Planning Assistance (complete): helped irrigation water providers to develop modernisation plans for their districts and assess options to adapt to a future with less water
  - MDBA Basin annual environmental watering priorities (<https://www.mdba.gov.au/publications/mdba-reports/basin-annual-environmental-watering-priorities>)
    - CEWO Water Management Plan 2022-23 (<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/water/cewo/publications/water-management-plan-2022-23>)
  - SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Plan: The Strategic Plan and the Regional Action Plan focus on the critical actions necessary to protect some of the region's most important natural resource assets. Using this approach, the Regional Action Plans identify critical thresholds that are immediate priorities for natural resources management intervention. A new five year regional landscape plan is currently being developed (<https://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin/about-us/our-regions-plan>).
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### 2.3.2 Catchment water-related legal and regulatory requirements

- The Trust is governed by its own legislation, including the *Renmark Irrigation Trust Act 2009* and *Renmark Irrigation Trust Regulations (2009)*. These pieces of legislation are available [here](#).
- Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse:
  - salinity management
  - managing consumptive pools
  - principles for allocating during dry conditions
  - water entitlements
  - water allocations
  - water trading
 (<https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/water/water-allocation-plans/river-murray-wap>)
  - South Australia's River Murray water access entitlement holders received a 100 per cent water allocation in 2022-23  
(<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/water-allocation>)
- Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2015 provides the structure for regulation and management of water quality in South Australian inland surface waters, marine waters and ground waters:
  - what constitutes environmental harm
  - what are the general environmental duty requirements
  - what are the mandatory provisions which constitute offences
 ([http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/data\\_and\\_publications/standards\\_and\\_laws/environment\\_protection\\_water\\_quality\\_policy](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/data_and_publications/standards_and_laws/environment_protection_water_quality_policy))
- Protecting threatened ecological communities  
([http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/plants-and-animals/Threatened\\_species\\_ecological\\_communities/threatened-ecological-communities](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/plants-and-animals/Threatened_species_ecological_communities/threatened-ecological-communities))

### 2.3.3 Catchment water balance, future supply and demand trends

- The Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) provide updates on rainfall, inflows, salinity and river operations  
(<http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-information>)
- The amount of water available for users in a year varies according to rainfall, inflows into storages and how water in storage is managed by the Basin states. At the start of each water year (1 July), each Basin state (DEW responsible in SA) makes water allocation announcements based on seasonal availability  
(<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/water-allocation>)

### 2.3.4 Catchment water quality data, status and future trends

#### a) Salinity

- Salt is a natural feature of the Murray Darling Basin. Because of the flat land, low rainfall and high rate of evaporation, the salt has become concentrated within the soil and groundwater. SA Water monitor the River Murray and provide salinity reports on a daily basis. Salt Interception Schemes divert saline groundwater and drainage water before it enters rivers. SA Water manage these schemes on behalf of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority in South Australia

(<https://www.sawater.com.au/water-and-the-environment/south-australias-water-sources/river-sources/river-reports-daily-salinity>).

- Since the late 1980s until recently, there was an increased focus on measuring water use efficiency (WUE) of irrigation within the River Murray region, particularly after research linked drainage below the root zone of irrigated crops to increased saline regional groundwater flows into the river floodplains and river channel. WUE efficiency targets (85% for the River Murray Irrigation Management Zone) were included in the previous River Murray WAP (2002) and imposed as a condition on site use approvals (i.e. a compliance mechanism) supported by annual reporting requirements. However, the practicalities of imposing the WUE target as a condition on site use approvals (i.e. a compliance mechanism) was described as “difficult” and so the existing WUE targets were replaced with the following principles in the WAP for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse (current fourth WAP adopted 15 April 2020) for the River Murray Irrigation Management Zone:
- All site use approvals for the purposes of irrigation are subject to the following condition:
  - A person who has the benefit of a site use approval must use or apply water using water efficient technologies and techniques appropriate for the particular circumstance and in accordance with industry best practice standards, and/or consistent with the *Pressurised Irrigation Best Management Practice Guidelines* (Rural Solutions 2013a).
- Annual reporting requirements have been retained:
  - If required by way of notice in writing from the Minister, a person who has the benefit of a site use approval, and has used water in the River Murray or Lower Murray Irrigation Management Zones, must provide to the Department by 31 August of each year an annual water use report for the previous water-use year.
  - An annual water use report required by Principle 122 must include the following data:
    - Location, time period or irrigation season dates, rate and volume of water applied;
    - Crop type or purpose for water application;
    - Type of irrigation or other water delivery system;
    - Use and type of soil moisture monitoring equipment, where utilised;
    - Drainage and groundwater salinity information, where measured;
    - Any changes to irrigation systems, equipment, crop type or area, or any other practice change that has contributed to variation in water use; and
    - Any other information required by the Minister.

(<https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/water/water-allocation-plans/river-murray-wap>)

## b) Pollutants

- Generally, water quality within the Renmark to the Border LAP area is fair compared to the lower reaches of the river. Dissolved nutrient (oxidised nitrogen and phosphate) and E coli levels were on average much lower in the RB reach of the river than the Lower Murray (EPA 2001a). Total heavy metal levels at monitoring stations in this LAP area were generally at a low level, with pesticides generally at, or below, detection levels. Turbidity levels in the river are elevated from where the river enters South Australia to its mouth (EPA 2001a). This is significantly influenced by

contributions from the Darling River (which has a high clay colloid level) and flood events

([www.epa.sa.gov.au/files/8590\\_risk\\_1.pdf](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/files/8590_risk_1.pdf) and [www.epa.sa.gov.au/files/8592\\_risk\\_2\\_s2.pdf](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/files/8592_risk_2_s2.pdf))

- No water quality monitoring currently undertaken by SA EPA in the region ([http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/data\\_and\\_publications/water\\_quality\\_monitoring/aquatic\\_ecosystem\\_monitoring\\_evaluation\\_and\\_reporting](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/data_and_publications/water_quality_monitoring/aquatic_ecosystem_monitoring_evaluation_and_reporting) and [http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/reports\\_water/samdb\\_creeks-ecosystem-2015](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/reports_water/samdb_creeks-ecosystem-2015))

### **2.3.5 Location of catchment Important Water-Related Areas (ecosystems and cultural sites), their status and future trends**

- The wetlands, floodplains, anabranches and main river channel of the River Murray are part of the River Murray Prescribed Water Resource. They provide critical ecosystem services to the social, economic and ecological systems of the Riverland district.
- Aboriginal values: This region supported large populations of Aboriginal people, who flourished with fertile hunting grounds. The lakes, rivers, wetlands were highly valued as a food source and life line for Aboriginal people. Along these areas are traditional hunting and camping grounds, the abundance of good food and water allowed for rich cultural practices to develop, the animals in this region are significant to traditional owners through a totem connection, there are many middens, burial sites, scar trees and gathering sites throughout the region. (<http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin/about-us/our-regions-plan>)
- See related plans above in Section 2.3.1

### **2.3.6 Reports or plans assess catchment water-related infrastructure**

- SA Water Domestic supply infrastructure (<https://www.sawater.com.au/community-and-environment/water-quality/in-your-area-whats-in-your-water/renmark>)
-

## 2.4 Site Water-Related Data

### 2.4.1 Incident Record and Response Plan

RIT water-related incidents, mitigations and responses:

Incident and Consequence	Mitigation	Incident Occurrence and Response
Power outage (to pumps) exceeding 24 hours – unable to supply water	For domestic/industrial supply: a condition of meter installation is for site to have minimum 5 days storage onsite	None
Damage to infrastructure – unable to supply water	<p>Infrastructure mostly underground and sections can be isolated.</p> <p>A Water Services staff member is always on duty or on call with the 24 Hour Pipe-breaks/Emergencies phone number diverted to the on-call mobile phone. The on call Water Services staff member has the authority to call in Trust maintenance staff to undertake any required repairs.</p> <p>As part of its core operations, the Trust undertakes regular maintenance of plant and equipment to ensure all plant, equipment, and infrastructure is legally compliant, fit for purpose, and resilient to water related risks that would be potentially amplified by poorly maintained plant and equipment.</p>	None
Fuel/chemical spill – pollution	<p>Diesel storage at Depot, Bookmark Ave, Renmark is held in an above ground 'Dieselmaster Station' (DMD55000R.S/N207856.OLE212922) that enables safe diesel fuel storage outdoors. The Station has been certified to SAI Global's AS/NZS 4766:2006 and manufactured to comply with AS1692-1989, AS1940 and AS1020.</p> <p>Any Chemicals are stored in the Chemical Shed at the Depot and used according to Material Safety Data Sheets held in a folder at the Depot. Chemical containers with decanting facilities are stored over bunding designed to contain spills or leaks.</p> <p>Pollution reporting: Any person (including licensee) who is responsible for a pollution incident is required by law to notify the EPA as soon as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telephone: (08) 8204 2004 or 1800 623 445 (non-metropolitan callers)</li> <li>• Fax: (08) 8124 4670</li> <li>• Email: <a href="mailto:epainfo@sa.gov.au">epainfo@sa.gov.au</a></li> </ul>	None

## 2.4.2 RIT water balance

RIT is South Australia's largest single water licence holder (Licence No 1) to manage and operate an irrigation water supply system on behalf of Renmark irrigators. For the first 80 years, irrigation water was supplied by a network of open channels. However, with foresight RIT privately funded its own metamorphosis in the 1960s to pipeline delivery. Today this 140 km pipeline network covers an irrigated area of 4,974.4 ha as at 30 June 2022.

Irrigation water supply is constantly monitored and reconciled through the Water Management System. Responsible officer: Megan Taylor, Water and Administration Manager.

- Water Supply Balance = Water drawn from River Murray – Water delivered at members' meters
- Water Supply Efficiency = Water delivered at members' meters / Water drawn from River Murray

Annual Water Supply Efficiencies<sup>3</sup>:

Year	Total Take (kL)	Members' Metered Usage (kL)	Efficiency %
2021-22	33,006,795	33,172,449	100.50
2020-21	34,069,460	34,335,947	100.78
2019-20	32,649,703	32,404,562	99.25
2018-19	35,706,613	35,875,587	100.47 <sup>4</sup>
2017-18	35,718,315	35,380,489	99.05
2016-17	30,093,738	29,496,561	98.2 <sup>5</sup>
2015-16	32,270,731	32,997,922	99.73 <sup>6</sup>
2014-15	30,246,504	30,918,136	99.34 <sup>7</sup>
2013-14	29,469,979	29,217,401	99.143
2012-13	32,649,400	32,299,963	98.930
2011-12	24,717,863	24,539,552	99.279

Office/main pump station domestic water usage is supplied and billed by SA Water:

Year	Usage (kL)	Cost
2021-22	1006	\$3,365
2020-21	1412	\$3,861
2019-20	1262	\$4,898
2018-19	911	\$3,675

<sup>3</sup> Some percentage variances (i.e. above 100%) can be attributed to meter variance. Meters have a +/- 5% range for compliance.

<sup>4</sup> An increase of over 100% for the 2018-19 year is attributed to a meter error at the main pump station, due to a fault in the third party supplied meter installed at the diversion point. The relevant authorities (DEW) were contacted and the supplier has been requested to replace the faulty meter. A Trust installed secondary meter was installed behind the third party meter to mitigate metering discrepancies, with the Trust's three tier metering system means only minimal recording discrepancies, within conveyance water loss parameters, were experienced.

<sup>5</sup> Updated figure due to omission of Members' domestic water use not being included in initial figures. The resulting increase in Members' Metered Usage in comparison to Total Take figures has led to retrospectively increased Efficiency percentage figures.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

2017-18	363	\$1,782
2016-17	681	\$2,840
2015-16	1,021	\$3,985

### 2.4.3 RIT water discharge quality

Salinity (EC) is measured at various points in the irrigation area using a RIT EC meter.

- The river EC is measured daily at the main pump station and published on our website
- Two sites on Ral Ral Creek are measured weekly and published on our website
- The EC of discharge water in Caissons/sumps are measured monthly and reported to the Board at their monthly meetings. The latest data at 31 October 2022<sup>8</sup> is as follows:

Caisson No.	Location	1. Caisson	Sump
1	Bookmark Ave.	9,608	3,335
2	25th St.	3,160	2,813
3	21st St.	5,186	4,236
4	27th St.	1,976	235
5	Ral Ral Ave. - Tarcoola St.	14,180	5,180
	- Quarte St.	14,180	4,221
6	Cucamonga St.	6,517	3,966
7	Paroo St.	1,097	-
8	Sixth St.	2,941	-
9	Warrego St.	2,395	-
10	Seventh St.	1,720	-
11	Barwon St.	286	-
12	Goolwa St.	304	-
13	Brewarrina St.	1,055	-

There are no regulatory requirements for water quality monitoring.

### 2.4.4 Possible causes of water pollution

Inventory of RIT fuel and chemical store:

Substance	Volume (L)	Storage
Diesel Fuel	Maximum 5000 litres	Above ground 'Dieselmaster Station' (DMD55000R.S/N207856.OLE212922) at RIT Depot, Bookmark Ave, Renmark
Weedicide (round-up) as per inventory	Maximum 80 litres - Varies depending on time of year	Chemical Shed at RIT Depot, Bookmark Ave, Renmark - prevents spillage into groundwater
Other Chemicals as per inventory	Low Volumes	Chemical Shed at RIT Depot, Bookmark Ave, Renmark - prevents spillage into groundwater

### 2.4.5 Important water-related areas

- Environmental Watering Sites Map (Attachment A).

<sup>8</sup> Taken from Staff Report tabled at October RIT Board Meeting held on 31 October 2022.



- CEWH Environmental Watering Partnership Agreement, Management Guidelines, Environmental Watering Sites Adjacent to Renmark Irrigation District.

#### 2.4.6 Annual water-related costs, revenues and value generation

- RIT Annual Report provided to South Australian Minister responsible for water and Members contains Financial Statement of Profit or Loss detailing water-related revenues and costs.
- Economic value is created through the following:
  - Employment of 27 staff (23.6 FTE) from local area receiving net payments of \$1.62m after tax (2020-21 data)
  - Payment to suppliers of \$1.84m in 2021-22 with use of suppliers in the catchment wherever possible (2021-22 Annual Report)
  - The provision of water for agricultural purposes. The estimated farm gate value of this production is as follows:

Crop Type	Total Hectares Planted	Estimated Value
Citrus	693	\$13.9m (50t/ha @ \$400/t)
Nuts	758	\$12.3m (3.2t/ha @ \$6,000/t)
Vines	1933.38	\$9.8m (20.9t/ha @ \$265/t)
Stone Fruit	187.5	\$14.1m (40t/ha @ \$1700/t)
Tropical Fruits	132.8	\$10.8m (13t/ha @ \$6000/t)
Other (Note 1)	253	\$2.1m
	<b>3958</b>	<b>\$72.8m</b>

Note 1 – Includes windbreaks

Sources: 'Renmark Irrigation Trust 2004/2005 Crop Survey', M DeCol and C Alderton, July 2006; Economics of Almond Production, Table 1 Primary Financial Performance Indicators, growing.australianalmonds.com.au 21 April 2016; RIT Member growers; Riverland Wine Strategic Plan 2021-2025; 2018 Crop Survey, RIT generated GIS Crop Survey Area calculation.

- Global markets have felt the impact of COVID-19 and geopolitical conflict, with trade tariffs in China and supply issues driven by the war in Ukraine having negative economic impacts for primary produces in the Renmark area.
- Value add processes to some of the agricultural production from the area creates additional economic value. In particular:
  - In 2020-21, Australian almond exports were worth \$545m

- In 2020-21, Australian wine sales were \$5.28b of which \$2.1b was exported. In 2022, the value of Australian wine exports decreased by 19 percent to \$2.1 billion, a reflection of global trade barriers and conflict.

A large portion of the value add for almonds and wine grapes produced within the RIT area is undertaken within the region.

Sources: 'Almond Insights 2020-21', Almond Board of Australia; 'Australian wine; production, Sales and inventory 2021-22', Wine Australia November 2022.

- Environmental value is being created through the Renmark Environmental Watering program, facilitated by the RIT. This program has been established to rehabilitate the River Murray floodplains adjacent to Renmark and to maintain them for both future generations and the long-term health of the River ecosystem. The regenerated floodplains are increasing wetland habitat available to frog and bird populations and focussing attention on improving fish passage ways. At 30 June 2020, individual RIT members have returned 7.2GL of water for the environment through a number of government programs including on farm efficiencies. The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder continues to provide some of this water to the RIT to support the rehabilitation and maintenance of the floodplains in the area (as per the Partnership Agreement between the two parties, which was extended to 30 June 2024).
- The new watering schedule agreed with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder provides for 15 watering sites to be connected to RIT infrastructure by 2024 and includes the detailed watering objectives and regimes for each site. The Trust was the second organisation to be granted a five-year watering schedule, with both being in the Riverland. This bodes well for the long-term health of our section of the River Murray ecosystem given that natural flooding events occur less frequently than in the past.
- The watering program continues to be guided by the 2019 Management Guidelines (to be reviewed in February 2023) prepared by wetland ecologist Mike Harper. Commonwealth environmental water applied in 2021-22 totalled 671.1 ML with an estimated inundation of 99.7 hectares (ha) at the following sites:
  - Plushs Bend 33.5 ML inundating 5.7 ha
  - Twentysixth Street 32.7 ML inundating 7 ha
  - Bookmark Creek NW Basin 65.1 ML inundating 7.8 ha
  - Jane Eliza Woodlot 166.7 ML inundating 38 ha
  - Ral Ral Bridge Floodplain 44.0 ML inundating 6.3 ha
  - Johnsons Waterhole 163.9 ML inundating 19.2 ha
  - Namoi Street 42.0 ML inundating 6.8 ha
  - Warrego Street 69.1 ML inundating 8.9 ha
- There have been great ecological outcomes recorded at environmental watering sites in 2021-22. The Southern bell frog, listed as vulnerable in South Australia, was recorded at Johnsons Waterhole in spring 2021. Black swans were also observed nesting at Twentysixth Street once again.
- Trust Presiding member, Humphrey Howie toured the sites with Deputy Mayor Henry DuRieu and said "several weeks after water was first delivered to Warrego Street, we saw mountain ducks with many ducklings. This was the first time either of us had

seen young mountain ducks in all our years living along the river”. The regeneration of red gum and black box saplings and the establishment of native groundcovers has been supported by the environmental water. This vegetation will provide important habitat and food resources for a wide range of species, including birds and frogs. As the habitat continues to improve we can expect to see species diversity increase.

- With the Trust no longer having access to external professional support for the ongoing Renmark environmental watering program, the Trust employed an ecologist in May 2022. The ecologist will coordinate the environmental watering program. This will ensure outcomes and benefits of the program are maximised for the Trust and the community, and that knowledge gained as we learn to irrigate floodplains, is retained within the Trust.
- The RIT strategic vision acknowledges the critical role it plays in “underpinning the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the Renmark Community”. The wellbeing of the Community is dependent on the RIT being leaders in water resource management. Evidence of social value creation is found in the lead role RIT took in the SEE Renmark 2024 process. Objectives of the “community’s integrated vision for a vibrant future” as published in April 2013, included the following:
  - Build community confidence and wellbeing, which results in an increasing percentage of young people remaining in the area;
  - Engage the Renmark community in shaping and delivering a vision for the town that builds a culture of innovation, community confidence and resilience; and
  - Develop a model of integrating social, economic and environmental outcomes which is followed by other communities in the Riverland and the Murray-Darling Basin.

The two key projects to be managed by the RIT to support the objectives, as set out in this document, have been implemented.

The social value created through environmental watering has been evaluated and documented by the Murray Darling Basin Authority in its report “Social and economic benefits from environmental watering” 2017 Basin Plan Evaluation, December 2017.

(<https://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/pubs/BPE-tech-reports-social-economic-EW.pdf>)

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## 2.5 Indirect Water

Electricity is the primary input<sup>9</sup>:

Input	Input Usage by RIT	Source Catchment	Source Water Usage
Energy Australia	2,395,909kWh	Lower Murray-Darling catchment, Murray-Darling Basin	Negligible
Origin Energy	192,280kWh	Lower Murray-Darling catchment, Murray-Darling Basin	Negligible

Source catchment and water usage will be filled in over-time as part of the continual improvement process defined in the AWS IWSS. There is no embedded water use as such, as the Trust is an irrigation infrastructure operation, that delivers water direct from the River Murray to Farm Gate. Minimal water use by staff involved in undertaking Trust operations is outlined in section 2.4.2 above.

## 2.6 Catchment Shared Water-Related Challenges

Based on the Catchment Analysis (Section 2.3, Attachment B) and stakeholder engagements to date (Section 2.2), the shared water-related challenges affecting the catchment(s) are:

Priority	Challenge	Catchment-level Management	Site-level Management
1	Water scarcity	MDBA MDB Plan, DEW water allocations	Compliance
2	Environmental watering	CEWH	Supported through Commonwealth Environmental Watering Partnership Agreement
3	Salinity	DEW/SA Water salt interception schemes  DEW annual irrigation reporting (under WAP)	Supported by RIT drainage linkage to salt interception scheme  Supported by RIT annual reporting on behalf of all irrigating members
4	Bookmark Creek	Renmark Paringa Landcare – Bookmark Creek Action Group	Supported by RIT representation on RP Landcare committee
5	Natural resources	NRM Board Regional Action Plans	Supported by RIT representation on NRM Board, levy payment

<sup>9</sup> Per the AWS IWSS defined as: “The materially important product(s) or service(s) that a site consumes to generate the product(s) or service(s) it provides as its primary function. This can be thought of as the “main ingredients” that a site needs to run (e.g., aluminium, sugar (cane), CO<sub>2</sub>, water and oranges, as well as an outsourced “cleaning service” for a site producing a canned orange drink with bubbles). Note: primary inputs do not include infrastructure. Primary inputs should include any externally procured goods or services that account for over 5 per cent of the total weight of the goods generated, or 5 per cent of the costs of a site. For example, lumber, energy and water likely would be some of the primary inputs for a pulp and paper facility. Aggregate, energy and water likely would be the primary inputs for a mineral smelter. Fertilizer, seeds and water likely would be the primary inputs for a vegetable grower. Note: In the case that there is an input that does not meet this generic threshold (e.g., it is only 3 per cent by cost) but is significant in its water use these should be included (if known).”

## 2.7 Site Water-Related Risks and Opportunities

Irrigated horticulture is of critical importance not only to Renmark, but to the whole Riverland region. High-value crops such as wine grapes, stone-fruit, citrus and nuts dominate these irrigated plantings. In particular, the Riverland region is the largest producer of wine grapes in Australia both in hectares planted and value of production. Exports of irrigated horticultural products originating from the Riverland are significant contributors to the South Australian economy. Industries reliant on irrigated horticulture employ a majority of workers in the Riverland, underpinning the whole economic and social fabric of the community.

RIT embarked on a project in the 1960's to provide what was then state of the art in delivery of water by converting from channel to pipeline supply. In doing so, it enabled irrigators in the district to adopt more efficient on-farm irrigation practices and provided an example and leadership for many other irrigation areas in Australia.

In 2009, the RIT undertook an Irrigation Modernisation Plan study (Attachment D) that sought to provide a blue-print for the future of irrigated horticulture in Renmark. It highlighted a number of key issues facing RIT (and therefore Renmark), including:

- The influence of climate change on water salinity and water security
- The escalating incidence of pipeline breakages in the irrigation water supply system
- The outdated water ordering system, which restricts water supply availability during peak summer demand periods
- A short-term reduction in irrigation area due to irrigator attrition caused by financial pressures arising from the current drought
- The identification of more suitable economic and environmentally sustainable alternative irrigation areas
- The need to reconfigure the irrigation areas in the district to provide irrigators with access to better soils
- The ability to access private and/or Government funding to modernise irrigation infrastructure in order to ensure a sustainable future through efficient irrigation and horticultural practices.

The Irrigation Modernisation Plan presented a suite of options that could underpin the Renmark community's ability to meet future climate change and market threats and opportunities. A modernisation program was adopted from the options, including: modernisation of water ordering/monitoring system, improved variable pumping to meet variable water demand and mitigation of pipe breaks to maximise irrigation water supply availability and reliability and enable all irrigators to adopt "best practice" on-farm irrigation methods. In addition, installation of a high-pressure water supply to "Block X" would mitigate the loss of irrigated land through the Government's Exit program and keep the irrigation district viable. Funding for this modernisation program was received under Round 2 of the SARMS 3IP Program (funded by the Australian Government and administered by PIRSA) and is largely completed.

Based on the status of the RIT, and the catchment challenges identified in Section 2.6, the current water risks and opportunities affecting the site are:

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### 2.7.1 RIT water-related risks

Priority	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Site-level Management	Potential Saving/Value Creation
1	Water scarcity – members not using water	Low-Medium	Low-Medium: financial	Fixed charges based on assessed land	
2	Low river – not being able to supply water	Low	High: financial	Government managed: water allocations	Support implementation of MDB plan
3	Power outage (pumps) exceeding 24 hours – not able to supply water	Low	Low-Medium: financial	For domestic/industrial supply: a condition of member's meter installation is for their site to have minimum 5 days storage onsite	Investigate alternative/back-up energy supply
4	Damage to infrastructure – not able to supply water	Low	High: financial	Infrastructure mostly underground. A Water Services Manager is either on duty or on call 24hrs per day/7 days a week	
5	Exceed allocation	Low	Low: financial/regulatory	Water Management System: balances members' accounts and forwards on charges for over-use	
6	Extreme rain event – flooding	Low	Low: risk mainly to members' assets		RIT can supply and operate portable pumps for members/community

### 2.7.2 RIT water-related opportunities

Priority	Opportunity	Potential Saving/Value Creation
1	Water Stewardship Certification: engagement with government – benchmarking (water performance) across MDB for Government targeting of reward/restriction (e.g. exemption from reduced water allocation) Possible market / trade advantage for area	The RIT's advocacy of its water stewardship platinum certification, and its next steps project to gain its Members access to on-product and off-product AWS branding (through its PIRSA grant and in collaboration with AWS) has (as yet unquantifiable) potential trade and market advantages for Members.

Priority	Opportunity	Potential Saving/Value Creation
2	Reinstatement of abandoned blocks from Exit Grant	Costs spread over a wider group: rates that will be paid (land x rate/ha). Irrigators terminated 276ha through Exit Packages in 2009-2010. 44.4 ha were reinstated in the period to 2021, leaving potential value creation of \$89,073.36 p.a. in revenue to the RIT through irrigation access charges (231.6 ha x \$384.60 annual irrigation access charges).
3	Social license to operate	27 RIT staff (receiving net payments of \$1.62m) + local contractors (payment of \$1.84m to Suppliers in 2021-22 with use of suppliers in the catchment wherever possible). Community Services and Support budget (\$15,000 in 2021-22 Budget presented to Board) District General Maintenance (e.g. council road verge adjacent infrastructure, Trust floodplains) budget (\$15,000 in 2021-22 budget presented to Board) School and Legacy donations Commonwealth Environmental Watering Agreement SEE Renmark 2024 Attendance at Stockholm World Water Week 2019 Attendance Murray Darling Association AGM 2019 and 2022 Hosting of PhD research student Hosting of multiple international student/university/ambassador groups Collaborating with Council re: innovation and sustainability precinct Continued presentations to local government, domestic and international seminars, and written submissions, advocating for both good water stewardship and for good water policy.
4	Revitalisation of adjacent floodplains	Improved community wellbeing and increased tourism.  Tourism is increasing in the Renmark/Parinya area and the RIT's commitment to rejuvenating the natural environment is a contributor.  In 2020/21, the total tourism and hospitality sales in Renmark Parinya Council area was \$40.2m. The total value added through the local tourism industry has increased from \$18.6m in 2011/12 to \$21.1m in 2020/21. <sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> See: <https://economy.id.com.au/rda-murraylands-riverland/tourism-value?WebID=160>. Value-add is defined as the value of sales generated by the tourism industry, minus the cost of its inputs to production (including labour, materials, services purchased, depreciation etc.)

### 3 WATER STEWARDSHIP PLAN

#### 3.1 RIT Water-Related Legal Compliance System

RIT Legal-Compliance Manager: James John, Legal and Project Manager

Water-related compliance requirements:

Regulation (Regulatory Body)	Compliance System	Person Responsible	Compliance at last check?
Water Licence (DEW)	RIT Water Management System (specs available): constant reconciliation (internal), Annual (July) final meter readings submitted to DEW by online form	Water and Administration Manager, Megan Taylor	Yes
<i>Water Act 2007</i> water market rules (ACCC)	Annual Report to ACCC	Water and Administration Manager, Megan Taylor	Yes
<i>Renmark Irrigation Trust Act 2009</i> , <i>Renmark Irrigation Trust Regulations (2009)</i> , <i>Renmark Irrigation Trust Rules</i>	Internal Rules and Policy Committee consisting of a number of Trust Board Directors and staff meet to review and assess governing legislation and Trust Rules and Policies.  The <i>Renmark Irrigation Trust Act 2009</i> and <i>Renmark Irrigation Trust Regulations (2009)</i> are available <a href="#">here</a> .	Chief Executive Officer, Rosalie Auricht  Legal and Project Manager, James John	No mandated compliance checks – constant review and assessment by Trust staff/board
Infrastructure Works Planning Approval (Local Government)	Obtain planning approvals prior to works	Operations Manager, Tim Botten	No infrastructure works requiring approval have been undertaken in 2020.

#### 3.2 RIT Water Stewardship Strategy

In light of the Murray Darling Basin concerns and government management programmes, our water stewardship strategy will focus on working with stakeholders to achieve shared outcomes. This will help lower our regulatory and reputational water risks, and benefit other stakeholders in the Basin – notably local water-environments and RIT Members. Please see information from our submission on Criteria 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7 and our plan in 3.3 for more details.



### 3.3 RIT Water Stewardship Plan and its implementation to date

RIT seeks to achieve and maintain best-practice in terms of water balance and water quality, improve the health of important water-related areas and participate positively in water governance in the following ways:<sup>11</sup>

Objective	Target	Metric(s)	Action/Implementation	Cost/Benefit	Link(s) to catchment/site risks/opportunities (Section 2.6, 2.7)	Responsible	Start Date	End Date
Maintain Best Practice Water Balance	Licence compliance	Water usage within Licenced allocation	Monitor meters, Licence reconciliation (Water Management System)	Cost: \$25,000p.a. (staff time) Benefit: Avoidance of fines for exceeding allocations.	Catchment: water security Managed by MDBA DEW water allocations: Compliance	Water and Administration Manager, Megan Taylor	Ongoing	
	>95% delivery efficiency	Members metered usage/River extraction metered (%)	Maintain infrastructure and monitor meters	Cost: Pumping costs recovered through water charges to members. Maintenance budget allocation. Benefit: Market leader in efficiency.	Catchment: water scarcity Best practice water delivery efficiency	Operations Manager, Tim Botten	Ongoing	
Demonstrate Best Practice Management for Water Quality	Maintain Water Quality within RIT distribution system by ensuring no back	Appropriate backflow prevention devices fitted if RIT irrigator utilising in	Provide Trust information and requirements document to current RIT Irrigators and all	Cost: Staff resource and printing Benefit: Commitment to	Catchment: water quality	Chief Executive Officer, Rosalie Auricht	2017-18 FY	Ongoing

<sup>11</sup> To help achieve and monitor components of the Water Stewardship plan, an operational budget and performance against said budget is reported to the RIT Board monthly, refer to Attachment C.

Objective	Target	Metric(s)	Action/Implementation	Cost/Benefit	Link(s) to catchment/site risks/opportunities (Section 2.6, 2.7)	Responsible	Start Date	End Date
	flow of any potentially harmful farm chemicals	line chemical distribution devices	new irrigators in the future. Make available on website.	Best Practice Management and demonstration of good water stewardship.				
	Maintain drainage system as per Salt Interception Scheme, and EC monitoring	Volume of saline water drained adjusted for volume from CIT area and rain events	Install meters at CIT drainage point and at end of RIT system	Cost: Quote obtained (\$17,457).  Benefit: Cost/Benefit analysis completed, at this stage deemed an excessive expense. Alternatives to be explored.	Catchment: salinity management: managed by DEW: compliance	Operations Manager, Tim Botten	2017-18 FY	Ongoing
		EC monitoring data collected, shared, and used. Drainage capture and delivery as per Salt Interception Scheme	Maintain monitoring at drainage system caissons using accurate methods and share data as requested. Maintain drainage system as per Salt Interception Scheme	Cost: Staff resource and equipment maintenance  Benefit: Share data collection, positively contribution to catchment environment.	Catchment: salinity management / Salt Interception Scheme: managed by DEW/SA Water	Operations Manager, Tim Botten	Ongoing	

Objective	Target	Metric(s)	Action/Implementation	Cost/Benefit	Link(s) to catchment/site risks/opportunities (Section 2.6, 2.7)	Responsible	Start Date	End Date
	0 fuel spill/impact to environment	Volume loss from above ground Fuel Tank	Monitor through reconciliation of fuel supplied/used/stored (or condition reports)	Cost: Staff resource or condition report contractor cost  Benefit: Safe and clean workspace	Catchment: water quality	Operations Manager, Tim Botten	2017-18 FY	Annually
Improved health of Important Water-Related Areas	Implement Commonwealth Environmental Watering Agreement	Acquittal of Agreement by CEWH	Water and monitor as per Agreement (refer Management Guidelines)	Cost: in-kind staff resources  Benefits: Capital grant, Environmental water also used for pipe flushing in off-peak irrigation season (reducing delivery loss further)	Catchment: Environmental Watering (CEWH priorities) resulting in restoration of floodplains adjacent to Renmark Irrigation area (also NRM priorities).	Chief Executive Officer, Rosalie Auricht	2016-17 FY	Ongoing
Participate positively in catchment governance	Nominate a RIT representative for the SAMI (South Australian Murray Irrigators) Committee (if no current representative)	RIT presence on SAMI Committee	Nominate if no current representative	Cost: SAMI levies. Rep's time and travel  Benefit: Member representation on SAMI Matters	Catchment: SAMI priorities  Site: SAMI levies	David Ludas and James Butler (Trust Directors)	Ongoing	
	Promote AWS Water Stewardship to RIT members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of engagements with members about Water Stewardship</li> <li>Number of members</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RIT Certification</li> <li>Develop member engagement plan with member's pathway informed by RIT certification</li> </ol>	Costs: Quantifiable cost to be determined following Member engagement in becoming AWS	Catchment: all of the above  Site: Regional recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RIT Board (Commitment and funding plan for each step)</li> <li>Legal and Project</li> </ul>	30/1/18	Ongoing

Objective	Target	Metric(s)	Action/Implementation	Cost/Benefit	Link(s) to catchment/site risks/opportunities (Section 2.6, 2.7)	Responsible	Start Date	End Date
		registered for self-verification 3. Number of members certified	outcomes (e.g. if any water stewardship requirements are/can be demonstrated to be centrally managed by RIT)	certified. Costs will include: 1. RIT Certification 2. Promotion activities 3. Any RIT involvement in member certification		Manager, James John		
Disclose water-related internal governance	Publicly disclose the general governance structure of the Trust, including the names of those accountable for legal compliance with water-related laws and regulations.	1. The RIT's 2020-21 Annual Report shows the current responsible directors and organisational chart. 2. Board minutes dated 31 October 2016 state that the Board is the governing body for water stewardship.	Continue to disclose general governance structure and the names of those accountable for legal compliance with water-related laws and regulations.	Costs: ~\$5,000: production of Annual Report (occurs during general operations of the Trust).  Benefit: Clearly communicates the governance structure of the Trust and its involvement in good water stewardship.	Catchment: all of the above  Site: Regional recognition	Legal and Project Manager, James John	2018-2019 FY	Ongoing
Achieve best practice results on Important Water-Related Areas through restoration	Achieve best practice results with respect to the site's Important Water-Related targets and complete restoration of	1. Evidence of completed restoration of non-functioning or severely degraded Important	Water and monitor as per CEWH Agreement (refer Management Guidelines)  Share best practice methods with other	Cost: in-kind staff resources  Benefits: Capital grant, Environmental water also used for pipe flushing	Catchment: Environmental Watering (CEWH priorities) resulting in restoration of floodplains adjacent to Renmark Irrigation area (also	Ecologist, Tara Daniell  Chief Executive Officer, Rosalie Auricht	2016-17 FY	Ongoing

Objective	Target	Metric(s)	Action/Implementation	Cost/Benefit	Link(s) to catchment/site risks/opportunities (Section 2.6, 2.7)	Responsible	Start Date	End Date
	non-functioning or severely degraded Important Water-Related Areas as informed by stakeholder consensus or credible expert opinion.	Water Related Areas 2. Evidence showing that actions meet best practice expectations 3. 2019-20 RIT Annual Report noting the water volume delivered to environmental watering sites.	irrigation infrastructure operators who are now pursuing their own environmental watering projects (i.e. Murray Irrigation Limited engaging with CEWH)	in off-peak irrigation season (reducing delivery loss further)	Landcare priorities).			
Maintain or improve indirect water use within the catchment	Understand the RIT's primary product suppliers and water-related service providers' water stewardship stance.	List of suppliers and service providers, along with the actions they have taken as a result of the site's engagement relating to indirect water use	Contact the RIT's primary product suppliers and water-related service providers and request that they take actions to help contribute to the desired water stewardship outcomes.	Cost: \$500 (10hrs staff time)  Benefit: Solidifies RIT's reputation as a leader and proactive participant in good water governance and stewardship.	Catchment: all of the above  Site: Regional recognition	Chief Executive Officer, Rosalie Auricht	2018-2019 FY	Ongoing
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	Ensure continued access to WASH.	Quantifiable provisions made to ensure all workers have access to WASH. Includes toilets, washing facilities, hygienic areas for food and drink consumption.	Maintain adequate WASH facilities, inclusive of toilets, safe drinking water, and showers (where applicable).	Cost: Negligible  Benefit: Maintenance of a hygienic workplace.	While not a water related challenge for the Trust, given high (overall) standards of WASH in our geographical area, it is important to maintain a hygienic workplace.	Legal and Project Manager, James John	Ongoing	

## 4 EVALUATION

### 4.1 EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER STEWARDSHIP PLAN

RIT evaluates its implementation of its water stewardship plan in the following ways:

Core Action	Indicators	Status
<p>Periodic review of the RIT's performance in light of its actions and targets from its water stewardship plan to evaluate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General performance in terms of the water stewardship outcomes (considering context and water risks);</li> <li>• positive contributions to the catchment; and</li> <li>• water-related costs and benefits to the site.</li> </ul>	<p>Post-implementation data and narrative discussion of performance and context. Increased environmental watering sites coming online, increase in advocacy and community engagements/presentations.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>In regard to core legal and operation performance, the evaluation of the sites water use is part of the annual regulatory process that sets allocations.</p> <p>The RIT continues to demonstrate good water stewardship through its continued industry leading water delivery efficiency, its efforts to maintain best water practices, and in conjunction with its commitment to environmental watering programs and proactive catchment governance.</p> <p>In 2021-22, this included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the extension of the Partnership Agreement with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) (to 30 June 2024), continued engagement with the CEWH. This reflects the positive outcomes achieved to date and facilitates the ongoing rehabilitation of the Renmark floodplains and expansion of the program (from 5 active sites to 15);</li> <li>• the drafting of the RIT Operational Monitoring Report 2020-21 and associated collation of evidence of improvement of Important Water Related Areas;</li> <li>• continuing to be a fully paid up AWS Asia Pacific Member;</li> <li>• the RIT 2020-21 Annual Report; and</li> </ul>

Core Action	Indicators	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>participating in multiple presentations to Local Government, domestic and global seminars on best practice in water stewardship in the irrigated agriculture industry.</li> </ul>
<p>Consult stakeholders on water-related performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request input from the site's stakeholders on the site's water stewardship performance and factor the feedback/lessons learned into the updated plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Commentary by the identified stakeholders</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>The current version of the Water Stewardship Plan has just been implemented.</p> <p>The RIT updated Members at the RIT Annual General Meeting on 6 December 2021 about the AWS standard, achieving AWS Platinum Certification, and the plan to gain Members access to the Platinum Certification, with the ongoing development and planned pilot roll out in 2022 noted during the AGM presentation, with a number of grant applications submitted and template documents completed.</p> <p>Current approved water stewardship plan uploaded to Trust website and circulated to key stakeholders.</p>
<p>Conduct of a governance body-level review of water stewardship efforts</p> <p>Review the RIT's water stewardship performance, impacts and risks with the RIT Board.</p>	<p>Board Agenda and minutes noting water stewardship discussion.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The Board has discussed the water stewardship performance and efforts, with a focus on environmental watering and CEWH partnership.</p> <p>Upon reviewing strategies for increasing the Trust's participation in the water stewardship space, including on a governance level/at AWS organisation level, the Trust is now a paid-up Member of AWS Asia Pacific.</p> <p>The Trust has also collaborated with AWS Asia-Pacific in developing a group certification scheme, to be rolled out in 2023 following the Trust's surveillance audit.</p>
<p>Conduct of a formal stakeholder evaluation:</p>	<p>Documentation of formal stakeholder evaluation.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Core Action	Indicators	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Undertake a formal review with the site's stakeholders on the site's efforts to address shared water challenges. This includes reviewing the site's contributions to maintaining good governance, adequate flows for all needs, good water quality status and functioning Important Water-Related Areas, and soliciting suggestions for continuous improvement.</li></ul>		<p>The participation of stakeholders, Members of the RIT, in a formal evaluation process, forms part of the process for the implementation of a "next steps" program, initially partially funded by a grant from the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA, to explore the viability of enabling RIT Members to access the AWS platinum certification standard, under a group certification structure with the RIT as its AWS Group Management representative.</p> <p>To date, two "on-site" trial on boarding consultations have been conducted by James John, Legal and Project Manager, and Megan McLeod, Program Director and Company Secretary at the Alliance for Water Stewardship Asia Pacific.</p> <p>In addition, draft documents, in collaboration with AWS Asia-Pacific, have been prepared to establish template Group Membership Agreements, on boarding checklists, and a group user manual.</p>



## 5 COMMUNICATE AND DISCLOSE

Core Action	Indicators	Status
Reporting restoration of important water related areas	Monitoring, reporting, disclosing in relevant reports.	Continuous. See section 2.4.6 of this WSP and disclosure in 2020-21 Annual Report.
Maintenance of Company Website	Regular posts to News and Announcements page on RIT company website.	Continuous engagement. See RIT News and Announcement Page <a href="#">here</a> .
Community Notice Board (Facebook)	Regular posts to RIT Facebook page with demonstratable (and increasing) engagement.	Creation and development of Trust Facebook Page, with demonstratable increased likes and engagement over the 2020-21 period. See Facebook page <a href="#">here</a> .

**ATTACHMENT A – MAPS (AVAILABLE ON SITE)**

**ATTACHMENT B – CATCHMENT ANALYSIS (AVAILABLE ON SITE)**

**ATTACHMENT C – MONTHLY OPERATIONAL BUDGET UPDATE  
(AVAILABLE ON SITE)**

## **ATTACHMENT D – IRRIGATION MODERNISATION PLAN**

## **ATTACHMENT E – STAKEHOLDER ENDORSEMENT AND FEEDBACK**