



New South Wales

Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source Order 2020

under the

Water Management Act 2000

I, ~~Melinda Pavey, the~~ MELINDA PAVEY MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, ~~do, by this Order,~~ in pursuance of ~~section~~ sections 45(5A) and 50 of the *Water Management Act 2000*, make the following ~~Minister's Plan, being the Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source 2020~~ Order.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2020.

MELINDA PAVEY, MP
37555

Explanatory note

The objects of this Order are to repeal
~~This Plan replaces~~ the *Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source 2009*,
pursuant to section 45(5A) of the Water Management Act 2000 and to make the Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source 2020 pursuant to
~~This Order is made under~~ section 50 of the *Water Management Act 2000*.

The concurrence of the Minister for Energy and Environment was obtained prior to the making of ~~this~~ the Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source 2020.

Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source Order 2020

under the

Water Management Act 2000

1 Name of Order

This Order is the Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source Order 2020.

2 Commencement

This Order commences on the day it is published on the NSW legislation website.

3 Repeal

The Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source 2009 is repealed on XX XXXXXX 2020.

4 Making of Minister's Plan

The Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source 2020 set out at Schedule 1 is made on X XXXXXX 2020.

Note.

This Plan commences on X XXXXXX 2020 in accordance with clause 3 of Schedule 1.

Schedule 1

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FOR INFORMATION

Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source 2020

Part 1 Introduction

Notes.

- 1 In accordance with section 48 of the *Water Management Act 2000*, the Minister must take all reasonable steps to give effect to the provisions of this Plan when exercising functions under the Act.
- 2 In accordance with section 49 of the *Water Management Act 2000*, public authorities must also have regard to the provisions of this Plan to the extent they apply to the public authority.
- 3 The Minister may amend this Plan at any time under section 45 of the *Water Management Act 2000*, including if satisfied it is in the public interest to do so, or in such circumstances, in relation to such matters and to such extent as Part 12 of this Plan provides.

1 Name of Plan

This Plan is the *Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source 2020 (this Plan)*.

2 Nature and status of Plan

- (1) This Plan is made under section 50 of the *Water Management Act 2000 (the Act)*.
- (2) This Plan is a replacement management plan for the purposes of subsection 43(4) of the Act in relation to the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source and replaces the *Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source 2009*.
- (3) This Plan is a plan for water sharing and generally deals with the matters set out in sections 20 and 21 of the Act, as well as other sections of the Act.

Note. Where a provision of this Plan is made under another section of the Act, the section is referred to in the notes to this Plan.

3 Commencement

This Plan commences on ~~1 July~~ 4 July XXXXXX 2020.

Notes.

- 1 This Plan replaces the *Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source 2009*.
- 2 In accordance with section 43 of the Act, this Plan will have effect for 10 years from ~~1 July~~ 4 July XXXXXX 2020. The Minister may extend this Plan for a further period of 10 years after it is due to expire, in accordance with section 43A of the Act.
- 3 Under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin and the associated National Partnership Agreement, NSW has agreed to develop water resource plans for Murray-Darling Basin water resources that are consistent with the requirements of the Basin Plan. This Plan was made in 2020, partly to meet NSW's commitments under these agreements. Certain provisions of this Plan form part of the water resource plan for the NSW Border Rivers surface water resource plan area.
- 4 **Basin Plan** is defined in the Dictionary.

4 Application of Plan

- (1) This Plan applies to the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source within the Border Rivers Water Management Area (the *water source*).

Note. The Border Rivers Management Area was constituted by Ministerial order made under section 11 of the Act and published in the NSW Government Gazette No 180 on 23 November 2001 at page 9389.

- (2) The water in the water source consists of:
- (a) the water between the bed and banks of all rivers, from:
- (i) the Pindari Dam water storage downstream to the Pindari Dam wall,
 - (ii) the Severn River from the Pindari Dam wall downstream to its junction with the Macintyre River,
 - (iii) the Macintyre River from its junction with the Severn River downstream to the junction of the Barwon River,
 - (iv) the Barwon River from its junction with the Macintyre River downstream to Mungindi Weir,
 - (v) the Dumaresq River from its junction with Pike Creek downstream to the junction of the Macintyre River,

that have been declared by the Minister to be regulated rivers and that is available to New South Wales under the terms of the *New South Wales—Queensland Border Rivers Act 1947*, the Border Rivers Agreement 1946 under the Schedule to that Act, and the *New South Wales – Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008 (the IGA)*.

Notes.

- 1 The *NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source Order* was made by the Minister and published in the NSW Government Gazette No 79 of 29 May 2009 at page 2491 and amended by Part 5 of Schedule 12 of the Act.
- 2 The IGA covers water management issues in the Border Rivers and sets out arrangements for the sharing of water between New South Wales and Queensland.
- 3 A separate Water Management Plan and Resource Operations Plan has been developed under the Queensland *Water Act 2000* which covers the water distributed to Queensland under the Border Rivers Agreement 1947.-

5 Interpretation

- (1) Unless otherwise defined in this Plan, words and expressions that are defined in the Act or in the regulations made under the Act have the same meaning in this Plan.
- (2) Words and expressions that are defined in the Dictionary at the end of this Plan have the meaning set out in that Dictionary.
- (3) Unless otherwise specified, a clause that applies to a category of access licence also applies to any subcategories of that category of access licence.

- (4) The Dictionary and Schedules to this Plan form part of this Plan.
- (5) A number in brackets following the name of a gauge is the gauge number.
- (6) Notes in the text of this Plan do not form part of this Plan.
- (7) Appendices to this Plan do not form part of this Plan.

FOR INFORMATION

Part 2 Vision, objectives, strategies and performance indicators

Notes.

- 1 This Part is made in accordance with section 35 (1) of the Act.
- ~~2 A monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) plan has been developed for water sources in the NSW Border Rivers surface water resource plan area, which includes the water source, and is available on the Department's website. The MER plan describes the following:
 - ~~(a) guidelines and principles for developing broad and targeted objectives, strategies and performance indicators~~
 - ~~(b) selection criteria used to identify target ecological populations,~~
 - ~~(c) selection criteria for identifying priority monitoring locations for targeted objectives~~
 - ~~(d) selection criteria used to identify external influences that may affect the success of achieving objectives or implementing strategies~~
 - ~~(e) selection criteria used to determine how the objectives to protect or enhance will be measured for different target populations and performance indicators.~~
 - ~~(f) which strategies contribute to the achievement of which objectives.~~~~
- 32 This Part describes broad objectives, which are the long-term outcomes sought by this Plan and are not directly measured but evaluated by considering the cumulative achievement of the associated targeted objectives. Targeted objectives described in this Part are specific outcomes that can be achieved by the strategies in this Plan and can be directly measured so that success or failure to achieve the objective can be quantified.

6 Acknowledgement

Respect is paid to the traditional owners of this country, who are acknowledged as the first natural resource managers within the NSW Border Rivers Water Management Area.

7 Vision statement

The vision for this Plan is to provide for the following:

- (a) the health and enhancement of the water source and its water-dependent ecosystems,
- (b) the continuing productive extraction of surface water for economic benefit,
- (c) the spiritual, social, customary and economic benefits of surface water to Aboriginal communities,
- (d) social and cultural benefits to urban and rural communities that depend on surface water.

8 Environmental objectives

- (1) The broad environmental objective of this Plan is to protect and ~~where possible, enhance~~ contribute to the enhancement of the ecological condition of the water source and its water-dependent ecosystems over the term of this Plan.

~~Note: The ecological condition of the water source will be assessed by reference to the condition of high ecological value aquatic ecosystems, target species, communities, populations and key ecosystem functions as defined in the MER Plan for the water source. Water dependent ecosystems in the water source include instream, riparian and floodplain ecosystems.~~

- (2) The targeted environmental objectives of this Plan are as follows:
- (a) to protect and, ~~where possible enhance,~~ [contribute to the enhancement of](#) the following over the term of this Plan:

- (i) the recorded distribution or extent, and the population structure of, target ecological populations,

Notes.

- 1 **Target ecological populations** is defined in the Dictionary.
- 2 Target ecological populations in the water source that may be managed by this Plan include known or predicted populations of the following:
 - (a) native fish including golden perch, eel-tailed catfish, Murray cod, purple spotted gudgeon, and olive perchlet,
 - (b) native vegetation including river red gum woodland and black box-coolbah woodland,
 - (c) high diversity hotspots and significant habitat for native fish, frogs, waterbirds and native vegetation.
- 3 Significant wetlands, and the associated ecological communities such as waterbirds and lignum, are primarily managed by the NSW Environmental Water Manager ~~according to the conditions of this Plan. The targeted objectives, management and monitoring activities for these assets and communities are provided in the MER Plan for the water source.~~
- 4 Measures of population structure may include the abundance or spatial extent of a species, different age classes or life stages within a species population, or measures that describe the health and condition of species or populations.

- (ii) the longitudinal and lateral connectivity within and between water source to support target ecological processes,

Notes.

- 1 Longitudinal connectivity means flows along the length of the river and between hydrologically connected rivers. Lateral connectivity means flows between the river and its anabranches, riparian zones, wetlands and floodplains.
- 2 Target ecological processes in the water source include the following:
 - (a) carbon and nutrient transport pathways, which are the connected networks of stream, riparian zones, floodplains and wetlands that transport dissolved and suspended organic material and nutrients throughout the water source,
 - (b) fish movement across significant barriers, as identified by NSW Department of Primary Industries Fisheries ~~and described in the MER Plan for the water source.~~
- 3 Connectivity may be within the water source, and between the water source and water sources in the *Water Sharing Plan for the Border Rivers Unregulated River Water Sources 2012* or the *Water Sharing Plan for the Barwon-Darling Unregulated Water Source 2012*.

- (iii) water quality within target ranges for the water source to support water-dependent ecosystems and ecosystem functions,

Note. Water quality targets for the water source are defined in the Water Quality Management Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Water Resource Plan Area SW16 and the NSW State Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring Plan.

- (b) support environmental watering in the water source to contribute to maintaining or enhancing ecological condition in streams, riparian zones, dependent wetlands and

floodplains.

- (3) The strategies for reaching the targeted environmental objectives of this Plan are as follows:

- (a) ~~reserve all water in excess of~~maintain compliance with the long-term average annual extraction limit and the long-term average sustainable diversion limit ~~for the environment,~~

Notes.

- 1 Part ~~46~~ of this Plan ~~reserves all water remaining above~~sets out the provisions for maintaining compliance with the long-term average annual extraction limit and the long-term average sustainable diversion ~~limit for the environment. This contributes to the protection of target ecological populations.~~
- 2 The long-term average annual extraction limit in Part 6 of this Plan is set to achieve the end-of-system flow target for Mungindi as identified in the IGA between NSW and Queensland.

- (b) reserve a portion share of natural flows water to partially mitigate alterations to natural flow regimes in the water source,

~~(c)(a) reserve a portion of natural flows to maintain longitudinal and lateral connectivity within and between the water sources,~~

~~(d)(a) reserve a share of water to support environmental watering events in streams, riparian zones, floodplains and wetlands connected to the water source,~~

Notes.

- 1 **Flow regimes** is defined in the Dictionary.
- 2 Division 1 of Part 10 of this Plan contains rules that mitigate the alterations to low, medium and high flows by:
 - (i) providing a minimum daily flow of 10 ML/day from Pindari Dam, and
 - (ii) releasing inflows into Pindari Dam to a limit of 50 ML/day or 200 ML/day depending on the month of the year, and
 - (iii) setting aside 4000 ML in Pindari Dam each water year to be used as a stimulus flow.These rules contribute to the objectives in subclauses (2) (a) and (b).

~~(c) reserve a share of water to maintain longitudinal and lateral connectivity within and between the water sources.~~

~~(d) reserve a share of water to support environmental watering events in streams, riparian zones, floodplains and wetlands connected to the water source.~~

Note. The rules in clause 45 of this Plan mitigate the alterations to medium and high flows in the Dumaresq River by protecting 25% of every supplementary water event ~~for the environment~~, as provide for under the IGA. These rules contribute to all the objectives in subclause (2).

- (4) The performance indicator used to measure the success of the strategies for achieving the broad environmental objective in subclause (1) is an evaluation of the extent to which the combined outcomes of the targeted objectives in subclause (2) have contributed to the achieving the broad objective

- (5) The performance indicators used to measure the success of the strategies for achieving the targeted environmental objectives in subclause (2) are the changes or trends in ecological condition during the term of this Plan, as assessed using one or more of following:
- (a) the recorded range, extent or condition of target ecological populations,-
 - (b) measurements of fish movements through priority fish passage areas,
 - (c) the recorded values of water quality measurements including salinity, turbidity, total nitrogen, total phosphorous, pH, water temperature and dissolved oxygen,
 - (d) the magnitude, frequency, timing and water quality of environmental water events.
- (6) In evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies in meeting the objectives in this clause, the following will be relevant:
- (a) the extent to which the strategies in subclause (3) and provisions in this Plan have been implemented and complied with,
 - (b) the extent to which changes in the performance indicators can be attributed to the strategies and provisions in this Plan,-
 - (c) the extent to which the strategies in subclause (3) support achievement of the environmental objectives,
 - (d) the extent to which external influences on the water source during the term of this Plan have affected progress towards achieving the environmental objectives.

Note. External influences may include climate trends, land use patterns, decisions made by the Environmental Water Manager and other factors.

9 Economic objectives

- (1) The broad economic objective of this Plan is to maintain, and where possible improve, access to water to optimise economic benefits for agriculture, surface water-dependent industries and local economies.
- (2) The targeted economic objectives of this Plan are as follows:
- (a) to provide water trading opportunities for water-dependent businesses,
Note. Trading is a generic term referring to dealings under Division 4 of Part 2 of Chapter 3 of the Act.
 - (b) to maintain, and where possible improve, access to water ~~up to the long term average sustainable diversion limit~~ for agriculture, surface water-dependent ~~businesses~~ and landholders, ~~up to the long-term average annual extraction limit and the long-term average sustainable diversion limit~~,
 - (c) to contribute to maintaining water quality within target ranges for agriculture,

water-dependent business and landholders.

(3) The strategies for reaching the targeted economic objectives of this Plan are as follows:

(a) provide for trade of water allocations and share components subject to environmental and system constraints,

Note. The provisions in Part 9 permit a variety of dealings within environmental and system constraints, including assignment of rights under access licences and assignment of water allocations between access licences.

(b) provide a stable and predictable framework for sharing water among water users,

Note. The individual account management rules in Division 1 of Part 8 and priority of extraction rules in clause 60 provide certainty in how water is to be shared between individual access licence holders and different categories of access licences. These rules contribute to all objectives in subclause (2).

(c) provide for flexibility of access to water,

Note. The water allocation account management rules in Part 8 provided flexibility that reflects the characteristics of the licence category.

(d) manage extractions to the long-term average annual extraction limit and the long-term average sustainable diversion limit, while recognising variability in climatic conditions in different years, including during drought,

Note. The application of the long-term average annual extraction limit and the long-term average sustainable diversion limit and the assessment and compliance provisions in Part 6 manage extractions to different climatic conditions in different years.

(e) provide for trade of water allocations and entitlements within the water source, subject to environmental and system constraints,

Note. The rules in Part 10 of this Plan permit a variety of dealings within environmental and system constraints, including assignment of rights under access licences, assignment of water allocations between access licences and the ability to move the share component of an access licence from one water source to another. These rules contribute to the objective in subclause (2) (a).

~~(f)~~ [reserve a provide access for supplementary water access licences to a portion of natural uncontrolled flows, subject to announcements.](#)

Note. [Uncontrolled flows](#) is defined in the Dictionary.

~~(g)~~ [reserve a share of water](#) to partially mitigate deterioration in water quality due to alterations to natural flow regimes.

Notes:

1 ~~Flow regimes~~ is defined in the Dictionary

2 ~~The provisions in Division 2 of Part 9 mitigate the alterations to medium and high flows in the Dumaresq River by protecting 25% of supplementary water events for the environment.~~

(4) The performance indicator used to measure the success of the strategies for achieving the broad economic objective in subclause (1) is an evaluation of the extent to which the combined outcomes of the targeted economic objectives in subclause (2) have contributed to achieving the broad objective.

- (5) The performance indicators used to measure the success of the strategies for achieving the targeted economic objectives in subclause (2) are the changes or trends in economic benefits during the term of this Plan as assessed using one or more of the following:
- (a) the economic benefits of water extraction and use, including the movement of water to higher value uses,
 - (b) the economic benefits of water trading including as demonstrated by:
 - (i) the change in the unit price of water that is subject to a dealing, and
 - (ii) the annual total volume of access licence share components subject to a dealing, and
 - (iii) the weighted average unit price of water traded within the water source,
Note. Weighted average unit price is defined in the Dictionary.
 - (c) the recorded values of water quality measurements including salinity, sodium adsorption ratio, harmful algal blooms, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, pH, and dissolved oxygen.
- (6) In evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies in meeting the objectives of this clause, the following will be relevant:
- (a) the extent to which the strategies in subclause (3) and provisions in the Plan have been implemented and complied with,
 - (b) the extent to which the changes in the economic benefits of water extraction and use can be attributed to the strategies in subclause (3) and provisions in this Plan,
 - (c) the water made available during the term of this Plan through available water determinations and the granting of new licences,
 - (d) the extent to which changes in the economic benefits of water extraction and use can be attributed to the strategies in subclause (3) and provisions in this Plan,
 - (e) the extent to which external influences on surface water-dependent businesses during the term of this Plan have affected progress towards achieving the economic objectives.-

Note. External influences may include trends in urban, agricultural and industrial development, energy costs, commodity prices, interest rates, technology advances, climate and changes in industry policy or regulation.

10 Aboriginal cultural objectives

- (1) The broad Aboriginal cultural objective of this Plan is to maintain, and where possible, enhance the spiritual, social, customary and economic values and uses of water by Aboriginal people.
- (2) The targeted Aboriginal cultural objectives of this Plan are as follows:

- (a) to provide access to water in the exercise of native title rights,
 - (b) to provide access to water for Aboriginal cultural use, including fishing,
 - (c) to protect, and where possible, improve identified water-dependent culturally significant areas, including important riparian vegetation communities,
 - (d) to contribute to the maintenance of water quality within target ranges to ensure suitability of water for Aboriginal cultural use.
- (3) The strategies for reaching the targeted Aboriginal cultural objectives of this Plan are as follows:
- (a) manage access to water consistently with the exercise of native title rights,
 - (b) provide for water associated with Aboriginal cultural values and uses,
Note. The provisions in Part 7 provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to access water by allowing for the granting of an access licence of the subcategory 'Aboriginal cultural'.
 - (c) reserve a [portion share](#) of [natural flows water](#) to partially mitigate alterations to natural flow regimes in the water source,
Note. The provisions in Division 1 of Part 10 partially mitigate the alterations to low, medium and high flows.
 - (d) reserve a [portion share](#) of [natural flows water](#) to maintain longitudinal and lateral connectivity with and between water sources.
~~**Note.** The rules in clause 45 mitigate the alterations to medium and high flows in the Dumaresq River by protecting 25% of supplementary water events for the environment.~~
- (4) The performance indicator used to measure the success of the strategies for achieving the broad Aboriginal cultural objective in subclause (1) is an evaluation of the extent to which the combined outcomes of the targeted Aboriginal cultural objectives in subclause (2) have contributed to achieving the broad objective.
- (5) The performance indicators used to measure the success of the strategies for achieving the targeted Aboriginal cultural objectives in subclause (2) are the changes or trends in Aboriginal cultural benefits during the term of this Plan as assessed using one or more of the following:
- (a) the use of water by Aboriginal people by measuring factors including:
 - (i) the extent to which native title rights are able to be exercised, consistently with any determination of native title or indigenous land use agreement,
 - (ii) the extent to which access to water has contributed to achieving Aboriginal cultural outcomes,
 - (b) the recorded range or extent of target populations of native fish,
 - (c) the recorded range or condition of target populations of riparian vegetation,

- (d) the recorded values of water quality measurements including salinity, harmful algal blooms, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, pH, water temperature and dissolved oxygen.
- (6) In evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies in meeting the objectives of this clause, the following will be relevant:
 - (a) the extent to which the strategies in subclause (3) and provisions in this Plan have been implemented and complied with,
 - (b) the extent to which changes in the performance indicators can be attributed to the strategies in subclause (3) and provisions in this Plan,
 - (c) the extent to which the strategies in subclause (3) support achievement of the Aboriginal cultural objectives,
 - (d) the water made available for Aboriginal cultural values and uses during the term of this Plan through available water determinations and the granting of new access licences,
 - (e) the extent to which external influences on water-dependent Aboriginal cultural activities during the term of this Plan have affected progress toward achieving the Aboriginal cultural objectives.

Note. External influences may include trends in Aboriginal cultural activity, urban, agricultural and industrial development, climate or changes in policy or regulation.

11 Social and cultural objectives

- (1) The broad social and cultural objectives of this Plan provide access to surface water to support water-dependent social and cultural values.
- (2) The targeted social and cultural objectives of this Plan are to maintain and where possible, enhance the following:
 - (a) access to water for basic landholder rights, town water supply and licensed domestic and stock purposes,
 - (b) access to water for water-dependent cultural, heritage and recreational uses, including recreational fishing,
 - (c) water quality within target ranges for critical human needs, town water supply, licenced domestic and stock purposes and water-dependent cultural, heritage and recreational uses, including recreational fishing.
- (3) The strategies for reaching the targeted social and cultural objectives of this Plan are as follows:
 - (a) provide water access for basic landholder rights, town water supply, and for licensed domestic and stock purposes,

- (b) reserve a [portionshare](#) of [natural flows water](#) to partially mitigate alterations to natural flow regimes in the water source,
- Notes.** The provisions of Division 1 of Part 10 partially mitigate alterations to low, medium and high flows.
- (c) reserve a [portionshare](#) of [natural flows water](#) to maintain longitudinal and lateral connectivity within and between water sources,
- Notes.** The rules in Division 2 of Part 8 mitigate the alterations to medium and high flows in the Dumaresq River by protecting 25% of supplementary water events for the environment.
- (4) The performance indicator used to measure the success of the strategies for achieving the broad social and cultural objectives in subclause (1) is an evaluation of the extent to which the combined outcomes of the targeted social and cultural objectives in subclause (2) have contributed to achieving the broad objective.
- (5) The performance indicators used to measure the success of the strategies for achieving the targeted social and cultural objectives in subclause (2) are the changes or trends in social and cultural benefits during the term of this Plan as assessed under one or more of the following:
- (a) the social and cultural uses of water during the term of this Plan by measuring factors including:
- (i) the extent to which basic landholder, licensed domestic and stock rights have been met, and
- (ii) the extent to which major utility and local utility access licence requirements have been met,
- (b) the recorded range or extent of target populations of native fish that are important for recreational fishing,–
- (c) the recorded takes of native fish that are important for recreational fishing within legal age and size classes,
- (d) the recorded values of water quality measurements including salinity, harmful algal blooms, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, pH, water temperature and dissolved oxygen.
- (6) In evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies in meeting the objectives of this clause, the following will be relevant:
- (a) the extent to which the strategies in subclause (3) and provisions in the Plan have been implemented and complied with,
- (b) the extent to which the changes in the performance indicators can be attributed to the strategies in subclause (3) and provisions in this Plan,

- (c) the extent to which the strategies in subclause (3) support achievement of the social and cultural objectives,
- (d) the water made available during the term of this Plan through available water determinations and the granting of new licences,
- (e) the extent to which external influences on water-dependent social and cultural activities during the term of this Plan have affected progress toward achieving the social and cultural objectives.-

Note. External influences may include trends in urban, agricultural and industrial development, social or cultural behaviour, climate or changes in policy or regulation.

Part 3 Bulk access regime

12 Bulk access regime

- (1) This Plan establishes a bulk access regime for the extraction of water under access licences, having regard to the following:
 - (a) the environmental water rules established under Part 4,
 - (b) the requirements for water to satisfy basic landholder rights identified under Part 5,
 - (c) the requirements for water for extraction under access licences under Part 5,
 - (d) the access licence dealing provisions established under Part 9.
- (2) The bulk access regime:
 - (a) establishes rules according to which:
 - (i) access licences are granted as provided for in Part 7,
 - (ii) available water determinations are to be made as provided for in Part 6,
 - (iii) access licences are managed as provided for in Part 8, and
 - (b) establishes provisions with respect to the priorities according to which water allocations are to be adjusted as a consequence of any reduction in the availability of water due to an increase in average annual extraction above the long-term average annual extraction limit or long-term average sustainable diversion limit in Part 6, and
 - (c) recognises, and is consistent with, the following:
 - (i) the limits to the availability of water as provided for in Part 6,
 - (ii) the water management principles set out in section 5 of the Act,
 - (iii) the effect of climatic variability on the availability of water as described in clause 13, and
 - (d) contains provisions with respect to the mandatory conditions imposed on access licences in Part.

13 Climatic variability

This Plan recognises the effects of climatic variability on river flow in the water source through provisions contained in Part 6 that:

- (a) manage the sharing of water within the limits of water availability on a long-term basis, and
- (b) that establish priorities according to which water allocations are to be

adjusted as a consequence of any reduction in the availability of water due to an increase in extraction against the long-term average annual extraction limit or the long-term sustainable diversion limit, and

- (c) manage the sharing of water between categories of access licences on an annual basis through available water determinations.

Note. Other statutory tools are available to manage climatic variability within a water source, for example, temporary water restrictions under section 324 of the Act.

FOR INFORMATION

Part 4 Environmental water provisions

Note. This Part is made in accordance with section 8 of the Act.

14 General

This Part contains environmental water provisions to commit, identify, establish and maintain planned environmental water.

Note. In accordance with the Act, planned environmental water is water that is committed by management plans for fundamental ecosystem health or other specified environmental purposes, either generally or at specified times or in specified circumstances and that cannot, to the extent committed, be taken or used for any other purpose.

15 Commitment and identification of planned environmental water

Water is committed and identified as planned environmental water by reference to the following:

- (a) the physical presence of water in the water source,
- (b) the long-term average annual commitment of water as planned environmental water.

16 Establishment and maintenance of planned environmental water

(1) Planned environmental water is established in the water source as follows:

- (a) the physical presence of water, resulting from the following: [the environmental flow provisions as specified in Division 1 of Part 10](#),
 - ~~(i) the environmental flow provisions as specified in Division 1 of Part 10,~~
 - ~~(ii) the limitations on access to flows for supplementary water access licences in Division 2 of Part 8,~~
- (b) the long-term average annual commitment of water as planned environmental water, resulting from compliance with the long-term average annual extraction limit and the long-term average sustainable diversion limit in Part 6.

(2) The planned environmental water established under subclause (1) (a) is maintained by [the environmental flow provisions specified in Division 1 of Part 10](#).

- ~~(a) the environmental flow provisions specified in Division 1 of Part 10,~~
- ~~(b) the limitations on access to flows for supplementary water access licences as specified in Division 2 of Part 8.~~

(3) The planned environmental water established under subclause (1) (b) is maintained by the provisions in Part 6.

Note. The provisions in Part 6 ensure that there will be water remaining in the water source over the long term by maintaining compliance with the long-term average annual extraction limit and the long-term sustainable diversion limit. The provisions in Part 6 also provide for lower available water

determinations when either of the limits has been assessed to have been exceeded.

FOR INFORMATION

Part 5 Requirements for water

Division 1 General

17 Application

- (1) This Part identifies the requirements for water for basic landholder rights and for extraction under access licences in the water source.
- (2) The volumes of water specified in this Part represent, the requirements for water to satisfy basic landholder rights and the total volumes or unit shares specified in the share components of access licences in the water source on the commencement of this Plan.
- (3) This Plan recognises that requirements for water for basic landholder rights and the total share components of access licences may change during the term of this Plan.

Notes.

- 1 The total share components of access licences in the water source may change during the term of this Plan as a result of:
 - (a) the grant, surrender or cancellation of access licences in the water source, or
 - (b) the variation of local water utility licences under section 66 of the Act.
- 2 Basic landholder rights requirements may increase as provided for under the Act. This Plan manages changes in basic landholder rights and total share components of all access licences through provisions in Part 7 that manage the sharing of water within the limits of water availability.
- 3 Inherent water quality and land use activities may make the water in some areas unsuitable for human consumption. Water should not be consumed or otherwise used, without first being tested and, if necessary, appropriately treated to ensure it is fit for purpose. Testing and treatment is the responsibility of the water user.

Division 2 Requirements for water for basic landholder rights

Note. Under the Act, basic landholder rights are defined as domestic and stock rights, native title rights and harvestable rights. There are no harvestable rights in the water source.

18 Domestic and stock rights

On the commencement of this Plan, the water requirements of persons entitled to domestic and stock rights are estimated to total 8,000 megalitres per year (*ML/year*).

Notes.-

- 1 Domestic and stock rights are set out in section 52 of the Act and must be exercised in accordance with any mandatory guidelines established under the Act on the taking and use of water for domestic consumption or stock watering.
- 2 Under section 331 of the Act, the Minister may direct the holder of a domestic and stock right to take specified measures to protect the environment, to preserve basic landholder rights or to overcome a threat to public health.
- 3 The volumes set out in this clause are separate from any volumes of water that may be taken under an access licence for domestic and stock purposes

19 Native title rights

The requirement for water to satisfy native title rights is the water that may be taken in the exercise of native title rights in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* of the Commonwealth, including:

- (a) any determination of native title, and
- (b) any indigenous land use agreement.

Notes.

- 1 No determinations of native title in relation to the water source have been made in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* of the Commonwealth.
- 2 This Plan provides for its amendment if there is an additional, or change to a, native title determination in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* of the Commonwealth by which water is required.
- 3 Native title rights may be exercised in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* of the Commonwealth, including section 211 of that Act.

Division 3 Requirements for water under access licences

Notes.

- 1 The share components in this Division include licensed environmental water as defined in section 8 of the Act. The Environmental Water Register maintained by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment provides a record of licensed environmental water, as well as other water intended to be used for environmental purposes.
- 2 ~~As at 1 July 2020~~ [On the commencement of this Plan](#), there are ~~6~~^{six} access licences with share components totalling 4,243 ML that are not identified as licensed environmental water but are intended to be used for environmental purposes. These are held by the Commonwealth Government. These access licences are regulated river (general security), regulated river (high security) access licences and supplementary water access licences.
- 3 This Division sets out the total volumes or unit shares in the share components of access licences in the water source ~~as at 1 July 2020~~ [on the commencement of this Plan](#). The actual volume of water available from year to year will depend on climate, access licence priority and the provisions in this Plan.

20 Share components of domestic and stock access licences

On the commencement of this Plan, it is estimated that the share components of domestic and stock access licences total 1,275 ML/year.

21 Share components of local water utility access licences

On the commencement of this Plan, it is estimated that the share components of local water utility access licences total 620 ML/year.

22 Share components of regulated river (high security) access licences

On the commencement of this Plan the share components of regulated river (high security) access licences total 1,500 unit shares.

23 Share components of regulated river (general security—A class) access licences

On the commencement of this Plan, it is estimated that the share components of regulated river (general security—A class) access licences total 22,007 unit shares.

24 Share components of regulated river (general security—B class) access licences

On the commencement of this Plan, it is estimated that the share components of regulated river (general security—B class) access licences total 241,211 unit shares.

25 Share components of supplementary water access licences

On the commencement of this Plan, it is estimated that the share components of supplementary water access licences total 120,000 unit shares.

FOR INFORMATION

Part 6 Limits to the availability of water

Note. This Part sets out the rules for managing the availability of water for extraction in accordance with the following annual extraction limits:

- (a) a long-term average annual extraction limit, and
- (b) a long-term average sustainable diversion limit.

Division 1 Calculations under this Part

26 Exclusions, inclusions and variations in calculations

- (1) This clause applies to the calculation of the following:
 - (a) the long-term average annual extraction limit under clause 27,
 - (b) average annual extraction under clause 28,
 - (c) the annual permitted take under clause 31,
 - (d) the annual actual take under clause 31.
- (2) The calculation by the Minister to which this clause applies must:
 - (a) exclude the following:
 - (i) allocations assigned from an access licence in the water source to an access licence in another water source under section 71T of the Act,
 - (ii) environmental water rules contained in Division 1 of Part 10 of this Plan,
 - (iii) replenishment flows made in accordance with clause 58 of this Plan, and
 - (b) include allocations assigned to an access licence in the water source from an access licence in another water source under section 71T of the Act.
- (3) The calculation by the Minister of the long-term average annual extraction limit under clause 27 must be adjusted by a volume that appropriately reflects the following:
 - (a) the share components of water access licences in the water source that are subject to a dealing under section 71U of the Act
 - (b) any change to the amount of water committed as licensed environmental water under section 8F of the Act.

Division 2 Long-term average annual extraction limit

27 Calculation of the long-term average annual extraction limit

- (1) Following the end of each water year, the Minister must calculate the long-term average annual extraction limit for the water source in accordance with this clause and clause 26.

- (2) The long-term average annual extraction limit is the lesser of the following:
- (a) average annual extraction calculated based on the following:
 - (i) the water storages and water use development that existed in the 2001/2002 water year,
 - (ii) the basic landholder rights and access licence share components that existed on 1 July 2009,
 - (iii) the rules set out in the *Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source 2009* as at 1 July 2009,
 - (iv) the level of development for plantation forestry that existed on 30 June 2009,
 - (v) the level of development for floodplain harvesting that existed in the 2001/2002 water year in connection with extractions from a regulated river in the water source, as assessed by the Minister,
 - (b) average annual extraction calculated under Cap baseline conditions as agreed under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement that was in place at the commencement of the *Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source 2009*.
- (3) For the purposes of subclause (2), the average annual extraction limit is to be calculated over the duration of available climate records using the hydrological computer model approved by the Minister and is separate to the calculation of the average annual extraction under clause 28.

Notes.

- 1 Under section 8F of the Act the long-term average annual extraction limit is to be varied by any change to licensed environmental water, excluding water committed under section 8C of the Act.
- 2 The long-term average annual extraction limit recognises the effect of climatic variability on the availability of water, in accordance with section 20 (2) (c) of the Act as historic climate and river flow information is used in its determination.
- 3 If a NSW water access licence is used in Queensland, by nominating works in Queensland, the extraction is still tagged to NSW when assessing compliance with the long-term average annual extraction limit.
- 4 ***Plantation forestry, water storages*** and ***water use development*** are defined in the Dictionary.

28 Calculation of average annual extraction

The Minister, using the hydrological computer model approved by the Minister, is to calculate the average annual extraction following the end of each water year, calculated over the duration of available climate records and based on the following:

- (a) the water storages and water use development that existed in that water year,
- (b) the basic landholder rights and access licence share components that existed in

that water year,

- (c) the ~~current~~ rules in this Plan [or in the water sharing plan that this Plan replaces, that applied in that water year](#),
- (d) the level of development for plantation forestry in that water year,
- (e) if not included under subclause (b), the level of development for floodplain harvesting in conjunction with extractions under an access licence in the water source in that water year.

[Note. It is intended that the Department's current conditions hydrological computer model will be updated each water year and used to calculate average annual extraction under this clause.](#)

29 Assessment of compliance with the long-term average annual extraction limit

- (1) Following the calculations under clauses 27 and 28, the Minister is to compare average annual extraction against the long-term average annual extraction limit.
- (2) There is non-compliance with the long-term average annual extraction limit if the average annual extraction exceeds the long-term average annual extraction limit by 3% or more.

Division 3 Long-term average sustainable diversion limit

30 Calculation of the long-term average sustainable diversion limit

- (1) Subject to any variation in accordance with subclause (2), the long-term average sustainable diversion limit for the water source is:
 - (a) the component of the baseline diversion limit for the NSW Border Rivers surface water SDL resource unit as determined under Schedule 3 of the Basin Plan, that in the Minister's opinion is attributable to the water source, minus
 - (b) 7,000 ML/year, minus
 - (c) the NSW Border Rivers surface water SDL resource unit shared reduction amount as determined under section 6.05 of the Basin Plan.

Notes.

- 1 **Baseline diversion limit** and **SDL resource unit shared reduction amount** are defined in the Dictionary.
 - 2 The long-term sustainable diversion limit for the Border Rivers surface water SDL Resource Unit as specified in Schedule 2 of the Basin Plan covers extraction from both the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source and the Border Rivers Unregulated River Water Sources.
 - 3 The subtraction of 7,000 ML/year and the SDL resource unit shared reduction amount is prescribed in Schedule 2 of the Basin Plan.
- (2) The long-term average sustainable diversion limit is to be varied as determined under Chapter 7 of the Basin Plan.

31 Calculation of annual permitted take and annual actual take for the water year

- (1) Following the end of each water year, the Minister is to calculate the annual permitted take and annual actual take of water for the previous water year in accordance with Division 2 of Part 4 of Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan.
- (2) For the purposes of the calculation, references to the SDL resource unit in Division 2 of Part 4 of Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan are taken to be references to the water source.

Notes.-

- 1 ~~Annual actual take and Annual permitted take are defined in the Dictionary.~~ Take of licensed environmental water and [take](#) under licences held by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder are not included in the calculation of annual permitted take and annual actual take as they fall outside the definition of take for consumptive use.
- 2 **Take** and **consumptive use** are defined in section 4 of the *Water Act 2007* of the Commonwealth.

32 Assessment of compliance with the long-term average sustainable diversion limit

- (1) Following the calculations under clause 31 after the end of each water year, the Minister is to undertake an assessment of compliance with the long-term average sustainable diversion limit in accordance with the requirements of Division 2 of Part 4 of Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan.
- (2) There is non-compliance with the long-term average sustainable diversion limit in the circumstances set out in Division 2 of Part 4 of Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan.

Division 4 Compliance with extraction and diversion limits

33 Action following non-compliance

- (1) Subject to subclauses (2) to (4), if an assessment under clauses 29 or 32 demonstrates non-compliance with either the long-term average annual extraction limit or the long-term average sustainable diversion limit, the Minister is to take one or both of the following actions:
 - (a) make future available water determinations for supplementary water access licences under clause 40 of less than 1 ML per unit share,
 - (b) reduce the limit on the amount of water allocation that may be taken or assigned from regulated river (general security—A class) access licences and regulated river (general security—B class) access licences as specified in clause 42 (3).
- (2) The Minister may take one or both of the actions specified in [subclauses](#) (1) (a) and (1) (b) if an assessment under clause 32 would have demonstrated non-compliance with the long-term average sustainable diversion limit but for there being a reasonable excuse, as provided for in Division 2 of Part 4 of Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan.

- (3) An action in accordance with subclause (1) and (2) is to be taken to the extent to which, and only for as long as, the Minister considers the following is necessary:
 - (a) in the case of non-compliance with the long-term average annual extraction limit—to return average annual extraction in the water source to the long-term average annual extraction limit, or
 - (b) in the case of non-compliance with the long-term average sustainable diversion limit—to meet the requirements of Division 2 of Part 4 of Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan, or
 - (c) in the case where non-compliance with the long-term average sustainable diversion limit would have occurred but for a reasonable excuse—to meet the requirements of Division 2 of Part 4 of Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan.
- (4) In taking action in accordance with subclause (1) and (2), the Minister must make the same reduction to the water allocation that may be taken or assigned for regulated river (general security—A class) access licences and for regulated river (general security—B class) access licences.
- (5) Before taking action under subclause (1) or (2), the Minister may consult with water user representatives on the following:
 - (a) the data used for the calculations under Divisions 2 and 3,
 - (b) the proposed actions under this Division.

Division 5 Available water determinations

34 General

- (1) Available water determinations for access licences are to be expressed as one of the following:
 - (a) for an access licence specifying the share component in ML/year—a percentage of the share component,
 - (b) for an access licence specifying the share component as a number of unit shares—ML per unit share.
- (2) The sum of available water determinations made for any access licence, other than for regulated river (general security—B class) access licences, must not exceed the following in any water year:
 - (a) for any access licence where share components are specified as ML/year— 100% of the share component,
 - (b) for any access licence specifying the share component as a number of unit

shares— 1 ML per unit share of the share component [or any lower limit determined under clause 33](#).

35 Available water determinations for domestic and stock access licences

Unless the Minister otherwise determines, at the commencement of each water year an available water determination of 100% of the access licence share component is to be made for domestic and stock access licences.

36 Available water determinations for local water utility access licences

Unless the Minister otherwise determines, at the commencement of each water year an available water determination of 100% of the access licence share component is to be made for local water utility access licences.

37 Available water determinations for regulated river (high security) access licences

- (1) Unless the Minister otherwise determines and subject to subclause (3), at the commencement of each water year an available water determination is to be made for regulated river (high security) access licences of 1 ML per unit share.
- (2) The Minister must not make an available water determination in accordance with this clause unless sufficient water is available for all of the following:
 - (a) to meet the provisions in Division 1 of Part 10,
 - (b) to meet the requirements for basic landholder rights,
 - (c) to make available water determinations totalling 100% of access licence share components for both domestic and stock access licences and local water utility access licences,
 - (d) to provide for existing water allocations in the water allocation accounts of regulated river (general security—A class) access licences and regulated river (general security—B class) access licences,
 - (e) to account for water losses associated with holding and delivering the water:
 - (i) to be made available as a result of the available water determinations made in accordance with subclause (1), and
 - (ii) referred to in paragraphs (a) – (d) above.

Note. If the available water determination is less than 1 ML per unit share, the Minister may conduct further assessments of available water resources and may make further available water determinations subject to clause 34 (2).

38 Available water determinations for regulated river (general security—A class) access licences

- (1) The Minister is to assess if water is available for the making of an available water determination for regulated river (general security—A class) access licences, at least monthly.
- (2) For the purposes of the assessment, water is not available unless sufficient water is available for all of the following:
 - (a) to meet the provisions in Division 1 of Part 10,
 - (b) to meet the requirements for basic landholder rights,
 - (c) to make available water determinations totalling 100% of access licence share components for both domestic and stock access licences and local water utility access licences,
 - (d) to make available water determinations totalling 1 ML per unit share for regulated river (high security) access licences,
 - (e) to provide for existing water allocations in the water allocation accounts of regulated river (general security—A class) access licences and regulated river (general security—B class) access licences, and
 - (f) to account for water losses associated with holding and delivering the water:
 - (i) to be made available as a result of the available water determination made in accordance with subclause (3), and
 - (ii) referred to in paragraphs (a) to (e) above.
- (3) If the Minister assesses under subclause (1) that water is available, the Minister is to consider making an available water determination for regulated river (general security—A class) access licences.

39 Available water determinations for regulated river (general security—B class) access licences

- (1) The Minister is to assess if water is available for the making of an available water determination for regulated river (general security—B class) access licences, at least monthly.
- (2) For the purposes of the assessment, water is not available unless sufficient water is available for all of the following:
 - (a) to meet the provisions in Division 1 of Part 10,
 - (b) to meet the requirements for basic landholder rights,
 - (c) to make available water determinations totalling 100% of access licence share components for both domestic and stock access licences and local water utility

- access licences,
- (d) available water determinations totalling 1 ML per unit share for regulated river (high security) access licences,
 - (e) available water determinations totalling 1 ML per unit share for regulated river (general security—A class) access licences,
 - (f) to provide for existing water allocations in the water allocations of regulated river (general security—A class) access licences and regulated river (general security—B class) access licences, and
 - (g) to account for water losses associated with holding and delivering the water:
 - (i) to be made available as a result of the available water determination made in accordance with subclause (3), and
 - (ii) referred to in subclauses (a) to (f) above.
- (3) If the Minister assesses under subclause (1) that water is available, the Minister is to consider making an available water determination for regulated river (general security—B class) access licences.

40 Available water determinations for supplementary water access licences

At the commencement of each water year, the Minister is to make an available water determination for supplementary water access licences of 1 ML per unit share, unless a lower amount is determined under clause 33.

Note. Taking of water under a supplementary water access licence is subject to Division 2 of Part 8.

Part 7 Rules for granting access licences

Notes.

- 1 This Part is made in accordance with sections 61 and 63 of the Act. Section 61 of the Act provides for applications for specific purpose access licences in accordance with the regulations and the relevant water sharing plan.
- 2 Access licences granted in the water source will be subject to mandatory conditions required to be imposed by this Plan, the regulations and the Act, and may also be subject to discretionary conditions.

41 Specific purpose access licences

- (1) The Minister must not grant a specific purpose access licence unless satisfied that the share and extraction components of the access licence are the minimum required for the proposed use.
- (2) A person may make an application for a regulated river (high security) (Aboriginal cultural) access licence only if the share component of the proposed access licence is no greater than 10 ML/year.
- (3) The Minister may only grant a regulated river (high security) (Aboriginal cultural) access licence for the taking of water by an Aboriginal person or Aboriginal community for any personal, domestic or communal purpose, including drinking, food preparation, washing, manufacturing traditional artefacts, watering domestic gardens, cultural teaching, hunting, fishing, gathering and for recreational, cultural and ceremonial purposes.

Note. *Aboriginal person* is defined in the Dictionary.

Part 8 Operation of water accounts and managing access licences

Notes.

- 1 Section 85 of the Act and the regulations provide for the keeping of water allocation accounts for access licences. The provisions in this Part restrict the water that may be taken under, or assigned from, an access licence over a specified period of time, and the unused water allocations in water allocation accounts that may be carried over from one water year to the next. These restrictions are in addition to any other limits on access licences for the taking or assignment of water. It is an offence under section 60C of the Act to take water under an access licence for which there is no or insufficient water allocation.
- 2 The provisions in this Part apply to the following [persons](#):
 - (a) the Minister in managing water allocation accounts,
 - (b) the access licence holder, as required by mandatory conditions imposed on the access licence under Part 11.

Division 1 Accounting for water allocation accounts

42 Credits to and debits from an individual water allocation account

- (1) For an access licence other than a supplementary water access licence, the Minister must debit the greater of the following from the water allocation account for that access licence:
 - (a) the volume of water extracted by water supply works nominated by the access licence,
 - (b) the water ordered for extraction under the access licence.
- (2) For a supplementary water access licence, the Minister must, in accordance with any applicable supplementary water announcement, debit the volume of water extracted by the water supply works nominated by the access licence from the water allocation account for that access licence.
- (3) For a regulated river (general security—A class) access licence or regulated river (general security—B class) access licence, the total water allocation that is taken, or assigned under section 71T of the Act, or otherwise debited or withdrawn, from the water allocation account of the licence in a water year must not exceed:
 - (a) 1 ML per unit share or such lower amount determined in accordance with clause 33, plus
 - (b) any water allocations assigned to the water allocation account for the access licence under section 71T of the Act in that water year, plus
 - (c) any water allocations recredited to the water allocation account for the access licence in accordance with section 76 of the Act in that water year.

43 Limits on water allocation accounts and carryover

- (1) The Minister must not allow allocations in a water allocation account to exceed the following at any time:
 - (a) for a domestic and stock access licence or local water utility access licence—100% of the share component,
 - (b) for a regulated river (high security) access licence, regulated river (general security—A class) access licence or regulated river (general security—B class) access licence—1 ML per unit share,
- (2) The Minister must not carry over water allocations remaining in a water allocation account from one water year to the next water year for the following categories of licence:
 - (a) domestic and stock access licence,
 - (b) local water utility access licence,
 - (c) regulated river (high security) access licence,
 - (d) supplementary water access licence.
- (3) The Minister must not allow allocations in a water allocation account of a supplementary water access licence to exceed:
 - (a) 1 ML per unit share of the access licence component, plus
 - (b) any water allocations assigned to the access licence under section 71T of the Act, minus
 - (c) any water allocations assigned from the access licence under section 71T of the Act.
- (4) Water allocations remaining in the water allocation account must be carried over from one water year to the next water year, subject to subclause (1), for the following categories of licence:
 - (a) regulated river (general security—A class) access licence,
 - (b) regulated river (general security—B class) access licence.

Division 2 Supplementary water events

Notes.

- 1 This Division is made under section 70 of the Act.
- 2 **Supplementary water event** is defined in the Dictionary.-

44 Taking of water under supplementary water access licences

The holder of a supplementary water access licence may only take water in accordance with supplementary water event announcements made by the Minister that are relevant to that licence.

45 Announcement of supplementary water event (general)

- (1) The Minister may announce a supplementary water event:
 - (a) if, in the Minister's opinion, there will be uncontrolled flows in the river segment to which the announcement applies, and
 - (b) in accordance with the rules specified in this clause and clauses 46 and 47.

~~(2)~~ The rules in this clause are subject to the rules in clauses 46 and 47.

- ~~(3)~~ A supplementary water event is not to be announced, or is to be limited, for supplementary water access licences nominating water supply works on the Macintyre River when in the Minister's opinion it is necessary to do so to ensure that outflows from the water source contribute to meeting the requirements of the flow targets under clause 2 of Schedule 1 (*the Barwon Darling Flow Targets*).

~~(3)~~ (4) Action under subclause (3) must not substantially alter the long-term average annual total amount of water able to be extracted under supplementary water access licences in the water source.

- ~~(5)~~ The Minister must, in making an announcement:
 - (a) in relation to the Dumaresq River, ensure the volume of uncontrolled flow will be shared equally between NSW and Queensland.

Note. This rule is consistent with section 31 (viii) of the IGA.

- (b) consider whether and how access opportunities can be evenly shared between all holders of supplementary water access licences,
- (c) ensure the amount that may be taken (as required to be specified by subclause ~~(4)~~ (c)) does not allow the extraction of over 75% of the uncontrolled flow volume in the Barwon River at Mungindi gauge (416001),

Note. This rule is consistent with section 33 of the IGA and ensures that 25% of uncontrolled flows are protected for the environment.

- (d) between, and including, 1 September and 31 March, ensure that the amount that

may be taken (as required to be specified by subclause (45) (c)) does not cause the uncontrolled flow (adjusted to account for losses) in the Barwon River at Mungindi gauge (416001) to be less than or equal to 100 ML/day.

Note. This rule is consistent with section 32 of the IGA and has the objective of improving low flows at the end of the Border Rivers system to support a healthy riverine environment.

~~(e) in relation to the Macintyre River, ensure that the amount that may be taken (as required to be specified by subclause (4) (c)) will result in one or more of the Barwon Darling Flow Targets being met in accordance with subclause (2).~~

~~(4) (6)~~ An announcement must include the following:

- (a) the segments of the water source and the licences to which the announcement applies,
- (b) the start or end date, or both, of the supplementary water event,
- (c) the amount of water that may be taken by each holder of a supplementary water access licence to which the announcement applies ~~(for example, in ML per unit share to be expressed as a number of ML per unit share plus any water allocations traded into the account and minus any water allocations traded out of the account).~~

46 Announcement of supplementary water events upstream of the Macintyre River and Dumaresq River junction

- (1) This clause applies to supplementary water event announcements for the following supplementary water access licences:
 - (a) licences that nominate a water supply work located upstream of the junction of the Macintyre River and Dumaresq River, excluding those listed in the Table to Schedule 2, and
 - (b) licences listed in the Table to Schedule 3.
- (2) A supplementary water event must not be announced for supplementary water access licences specified in subclause (1) unless uncontrolled flows are greater than or equal to the volumes specified in Column 3 of Table A for the segment of the water source specified in Column 1 of Table A during the period specified in Column 2 in Table A, when measured at the flow reference point specified in Column 5 of Table A.
- (3) A supplementary water event must cease to be announced for supplementary water access licences specified in subclause (1) when uncontrolled flows are less than the volumes specified in Column 4 of Table A for the segment of the water source specified in Column 1 of Table A during the period specified in Column 2 in Table A, when measured at the flow reference point in column 5 of Table A.

Table A Supplementary water event start and finish flows

Column 1: Segment of the water source	Column 2: Period	Column 3: Supplementary water event start flow (ML/day)	Column 4: Supplementary water event finish flow (ML/day)	Column 5: Flow reference point
Pindari Dam to the Macintyre River and Dumaresq River junction	1 September to 31 March, inclusive	500	150	Severn River at Ashford gauge (416006)
		1,000	250	Macintyre River at Holdfast (Yelarbon crossing) gauge (4126012)
	1 April to 31 August, inclusive	100	50	Severn River at Ashford gauge (416006)
		150	50	Macintyre River at Holdfast (Yelarbon crossing) gauge (4126012)
Dumaresq River and Pike Creek junction to the Dumaresq River and Macintyre River junction	1 September to 31 March, inclusive	750	250	Dumaresq River at Glenarbon Weir gauge (416040)
	1 April to 31 August, inclusive	150	50	

- (4) For the purposes of this clause, the supplementary water access licences listed in the Table to Schedule 3, are to be considered to be part of the following segments of the water source:
- (a) Pindari Dam to the Macintyre River and Dumaresq River junction if the uncontrolled flow originates from the Macintyre River, and
 - (b) Dumaresq River and Pike Creek junction to the Dumaresq River and Macintyre River junction if the uncontrolled flow originates from the Dumaresq River.
- (5) Supplementary water event announcements made in accordance with this clause must specify that the water taken under a supplementary water access licence:

- (a) may only be used for irrigation directly after being taken-, and
- (b) must not be pumped into on-farm storages, and
- (c) must not exceed 6 ML/day per water supply work (pump).

47 Announcement of supplementary water events downstream of the Macintyre River and Dumaresq River junction

- (1) This clause applies to supplementary water event announcement for the following supplementary water access licences:
 - (a) licences that nominate a water supply work located downstream of the junction of the Macintyre River and Dumaresq River, excluding those listed in the Table to Schedule 3, and
 - (b) licences listed in the Table to Schedule 2.
- (2) A supplementary water event must not be announced for the licences to which this clause applies unless the uncontrolled flows that originate from the segment of the water source specified in Column 1 of Table B, are or, in the Minister’s opinion, will be greater than or equal to the volumes specified in Column 2 of Table B over two consecutive days for the segment of the water source specified in Column 1 of Table B, when measured at the reference point in Column 4 of Table B.
- (3) A supplementary water event must cease to be announced for supplementary water access licences specified in subclause (1) when uncontrolled flows are less than the volumes specified in Column 3 of Table B over two consecutive days for the segment of the water source specified in Column 1 of Table B, when measured at the reference point in Column 4 of Table B.

Table B — Supplementary water event start and finish flows

Column 1: Segment of the water source	Column 2: Supplementary water event start flow (ML over two consecutive days)	Column 3: Supplementary water event finish flow (ML over two consecutive days)	Column 4: Flow reference point
Upstream of Goondiwindi	10,000	3,650	Goondiwindi gauge (416201A)
Downstream of Goondiwindi	2,000	1,550	Combined flow from Boomi River at Kanowna gauge (416029416048) and Weir River at Mascot gauge

Notes.

- 1 These flow targets are consistent with section 3 (iii) and (iv) of Schedule D of the IGA.

- 2 The two-day flow at Goondiwindi is the 24-hour flow at Goondiwindi on the day of the assessment plus the flow for the previous 24 hours in the Macintyre Brook at Booba Sands plus the Dumaresq River at Glenarbon Weir plus the Macintyre River at Holdfast.
 - 3 The supplementary water event finish flow volume for upstream of Goondiwindi was developed to ensure an end of system flow consistent with section 23 of IGA.
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FOR INFORMATION

Part 9 Access licence dealing rules

Notes.

- 1 Access licence dealings in the water source are subject to the provisions of the Act, the regulations, any access licence dealing principles established by order made under section 71Z of the Act and the access licence dealing rules established under this Part.
- 2 At the commencement of this Plan the *Access Licence Dealing Principles Order 2004* applies. The access licence dealing principles prevail over the access licence dealing rules in this Plan to the extent of any inconsistency, as provided by section 71Z (3) of the Act.
- 3 An application for a dealing may be refused or conditions imposed on an access licence or water supply work approval at the time of a dealing, to give effect to the provisions of this Plan.
- 4 This Part may be amended if individual daily extraction components are imposed on access licences in the water source.

48 Conversion of access licence to new category

Dealings under section 71O of the Act are prohibited.

49 Assignment of rights dealings (within the water source or within a water management area)

- (1) A dealing under section 71Q of the Act is prohibited if:
 - (a) the dealing involves an assignment of rights to a supplementary water access licence that nominates a water supply work located upstream of the junction of the Macintyre River and Dumaresq River, and
 - (b) that assignment would cause the sum of the share components of all supplementary water access licences that nominate a water supply work located upstream of the junction of the Macintyre River and Dumaresq River to exceed 40,000 unit shares.

Note. The 40,000 unit shares specified in the clause above represents the total share components of supplementary water access licences that nominated a water supply work upstream of the junction of the Macintyre and Dumaresq rivers at the commencement of the *Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source 2009*.

- (2) A dealing under section 71Q of the Act that is from or to an access licence in another water source is prohibited.

50 Amendment of share components dealings (change of water source)

Dealings under section 71R of the Act are prohibited.

51 Assignment of water allocations dealings

A dealing under section 71T of the Act is prohibited in any of the following circumstances:

- (a) the dealing involves the assignment of water allocation to a supplementary water access licence from an access licence of any another category,

Note. At the commencement of this Plan, dealings under section 71T of the Act involving the assignment of water allocations from a supplementary water access licence

to an access licence of any other category under are also prohibited under clause 17 of the *Access Licence Dealing Principles Order 2004*.

- (b) the dealing involves an assignment of water allocation to or from an access licence in the water source to or from an access licence in another water source.

52 Interstate access licence transfer and assignment of water allocation

- (1) Dealings under section 71U of the Act are prohibited unless administrative arrangements have been put in place by New South Wales and Queensland and the interstate transfer of access licences is made in accordance with these arrangements.
- (2) Dealings under section 71V of the Act are prohibited unless administrative arrangements have been put in place by New South Wales and Queensland and the interstate transfer of access licences is made in accordance with these arrangements.

53 Nomination of water supply works dealings

- (1) A dealing under section 71W of the Act is prohibited if it involves an access licence being amended to nominate a water supply work located in a different water source within NSW to that specified in the share component of the access licence.
- (2) A dealing under section 71W of the Act is prohibited if it involves an access licence being amended to nominate a water supply work located in Queensland, except where:
 - (a) the water supply work in Queensland takes water from a river that is regulated by Glenlyon Dam or Coolmunda Dam, and
 - (b) administrative arrangements have been put in place by New South Wales and Queensland and the nomination of the water supply work is to in accordance with these arrangements.
- (3) A dealing under section 71W of the Act is prohibited if it involves a Queensland water licence or other water entitlement or authorisation nominating a water supply work in the water source, except where:
 - (a) the Queensland water licence or other water entitlement or authorisation is permitted to extract water from a river that is regulated by Glenlyon Dam and Coolmunda Dam, and
 - (b) administrative arrangements have been put in place by New South Wales and Queensland and the nomination of the water supply work in the water source is made in accordance with these arrangements.

Part 10 System operation rules

Notes

~~1 The approximate location of the relevant gauges and other locations referred to in this Part are in the overview map at Appendix 1.~~

Note *NSW Environmental Water Manager* and *operator* are defined in the Dictionary.

Division 1 Environmental flow rules

54 Daily environmental release

(1) The operator must make a daily environmental release from Pindari Dam of either of the following amounts, whichever is greater:

- (a) 10 ML per day,
- (b) the daily inflow to Pindari Dam water storage,

but it must be no more than 50ML per day between, and including, 1 September and 31 May, or 200ML per day between, and including, 1 July and 31 August.

Note. The effect of subclause (1) is that the minimum daily environmental release must be the same as the volume of the inflow into Pindari Dam, up to the maximums set out in paragraph (i) or (ii). However, if the inflow is less than 10 ML/day, a release of 10 ML/day must be made.

(2) The water released under this clause must not be used by the operator to meet basic landholder requirements and access licence water orders between Pindari Dam and the junction of the Severn River and Frazers Creek.

Note. The minimum daily release made under this clause aims to provide connectivity for downstream pools and riffles and curtail issues associated with extended flow recession.

55 Stimulus flow

(1) The operator is to maintain an account of water set aside for a stimulus flow (*stimulus flow account*) as set out in this clause.

Note. The stimulus flow will be used to mirror a naturally occurring hydrograph, target pre-season cues to fish breeding and to regularly wet and inundate interconnected riparian areas.

(2) At the start of each water year, the operator is required to undertake the following:

- (a) credit the stimulus flow account with 4000 ML,
- (b) set aside sufficient water in Pindari Dam water storage to account for the water in the stimulus flow account.

(3) The operator must release water in the stimulus flow account (*stimulus flow*) from Pindari Dam in accordance with an order made by the NSW Environmental Water Manager and any procedures established by the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister for the Environment, but only if:

- (a) an inflow to Pindari Dam water storage of greater than 1,200 ML per day has

- occurred on any day between, and including, 1 April and 31 August,
- (b) the release of water in the stimulus flow account is to be made between, and including, 1 August and 1 December except where subclause (4) applies, and
 - (c) the order for the release of the stimulus flow was made at least 7seven days prior to the release.
- (4) The Minister may permit the release of the stimulus flow outside of the dates specified in subclause (3) (b) if the Minister has sought, and considered, advice from the NSW Environmental Water Manager on the need to permit stimulus flows outside of those dates.
- (5) The NSW Environmental Water Manager must:
- (a) determine, by agreement with the Minister, the timing, rate, volume and duration of the stimulus flow, and
 - (a) submit the order for the release of the stimulus flow water to the operator at least seven days prior to the release.
- Note.** The NSW Environmental Water Manager will consult with the Environmental Water Advisory Group on any releases proposed to be made in accordance with subclause (3) and (4).
- (6) In determining the timing, rate, volume and duration of the stimulus flow released under subclause (5), the Minister and the NSW Environmental Water Manager must consider all of the following:
- (a) antecedent conditions,
 - (b) irrigation demand,
 - (c) flows in the water source,
 - (d) the ability to monitor environmental outcomes.
- (7) The operator is to debit from the stimulus flow account the amount of stimulus flow released under subclause (3).
- (8) The operator is to carryover any water remaining in the stimulus flow account at the end of the water year to the next water year, subject to the total amount of water in the stimulus flow account not exceeding 8,000 ML.
- (9) The stimulus flow must not be used by the operator to meet basic landholder requirements and access licence water orders between Pindari Dam and the junction of the Macintyre River and Dumaresq River.

Division 2 Consultation

56 Consultation

The NSW Environmental Water Manager may consult with any government agency or the EWAG established by the Minister for the Environment for the water source, or both, and consider any relevant advice before taking action under this Plan.

Division 3 General system operation rules

57 Maintenance of water supply

- (1) In this clause, the period of lowest accumulated inflows to the water source is identified by flow information held by the Department prior to 1 July 2009.
- (2) The operator must operate the water supply system in such a way that water would be able to be supplied during a repeat of the period of lowest accumulated inflows to the water source, to meet the following:
 - (a) the annual water requirements of persons exercising domestic and stock rights and native title rights,
 - (b) available water determinations of 100% of share components for domestic and stock access licences and local water utility access licences,
 - (c) available water determinations of 1 ML per unit share for regulated river (high security) access licences.
- (3) For the purpose of subclause (2), the operator must set aside sufficient volumes of water from inflows into the water source and in reserves held in Pindari Dam and Glenlyon Dam water storages.

Note. **Reserves** is defined in the Dictionary.

58 Replenishment flows

- (1) Unless the operator otherwise determines, the operator is to provide a replenishment flow for domestic and stock purposes of up to 10,000 ML per water year to the Boomi River.
- (2) The operator must set aside sufficient volumes of water from inflows into the water source and ensure that water is held in reserves in Pindari Dam and Glenlyon Dam water storages to provide for the replenishment flow referred to in subclause (1).

Notes.

1 ~~Note~~—The circumstances under which the replenishment flow specified in subclause (1) are to be provided will be specified as conditions on the water supply work approval held by Water NSW.

2 [The operator may use tributary inflows to the water sources to provide the replenishment](#)

[flow specified in subclause \(1\).](#)

59 Water delivery and channel capacity constraints

In managing the water supply system, the operator must consider, determine and specify the operating channel capacities throughout the water source [after taking into account](#), in accordance with [any](#) procedures established by the Minister, ~~taking into account~~ the following:

- (a) inundation of private land or interference with access,
- (b) the effects of inundation on the floodplain and associated wetlands,
- (c) the transmission losses expected to occur,
- ~~(d) the capacity of structures in the water supply system.~~

Note. *transmission losses* is defined in the Dictionary.

~~(d)(a) the capacity of structures in the water supply system.~~

60 Priority of delivery for access licences and stimulus flow

- (1) This clause does not apply to supplementary water access licences.
- (2) If supply capability due to channel capacity is insufficient in any segment of the water source to satisfy all water orders, basic landholder rights and the delivery of stimulus flow water, the following rules of priority apply:
 - (a) the operator is to give first priority to the requirements for water to satisfy basic landholder rights,
 - (b) once the requirements in (a) have been met, the operator is to supply water to domestic and stock access licences, local water utility access licences and regulated river (high security) access licences that have placed orders for water, in that order, and
 - (c) once the requirements in (b) have been met, unless otherwise directed by the Minister, any remaining supply capability is to be shared between the following [in accordance with any procedures established by the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister for the Environment](#):
 - (i) regulated river (general security— A class) access licences, and regulated river (general security— B class) access licences, that have placed an order for water, ~~and~~
 - (ii) the stimulus flow water that has been ordered, [in accordance with any procedures established by the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister for the Environment](#).

(3) The operator is to consult with water user representatives, the NSW Environmental Water Manager and relevant government agencies, as the Minister considers appropriate, before determining the method in subclause (2) (c).

Notes.

- 1 **Supply capability** is defined in the Dictionary.
- 2 During periods of channel capacity constraint, the implementation of the above provisions may result in ordering delays and an inability to supply water requirements from regulated water deliveries on a daily basis.

61 Rates of change to storage releases

In changing the rate of the release from a water storage, or other water supply system structure, the operator must consider relevant environmental matters, damage to river banks ~~and~~, public safety, and operational efficiency in accordance with any procedures established by the Minister.

62 Delivery Grouping of water orders when water supplies are low due to high delivery losses

- (1) The operator may group water orders or periodically release water if ~~the operator determines that the total remaining volume of water supplies has been reduced to a level where~~ the continuous delivery of water orders would involve unacceptably high delivery losses.
- (2) The operator is to consult with water user access licence representatives and relevant government agencies, as the operator considers appropriate, before grouping water orders and releasing water in accordance with subclause (1).

63 Dam operation during floods and spills

(1) The operator must operate Pindari Dam and Glenlyon Dam during times of flood and spilling of water from those dams in a manner that maintains the safety of dam infrastructure, and subject to that, in a manner that also:

leaves (2) Providing it is consistent with subclause (1), the operator must aim to:

(a) leave the storage at full supply level after the flood or spilling of water, and

(a) ensures the general rate of increase of outflow does not exceed the rate of increase of inflow,

seeks to (b) minimise downstream flood damage;

reduces flood effects and manages (3) For the purposes of subclause (2) (b), the operator is to consider the temporary storage of water above the normal maximum storage level and manage the rate of release of ~~the~~ this water to avoid aggravating downstream flood damage after considering the temporary storage of water above the normal maximum storage level.

Part 11 Mandatory conditions

Note. Mandatory conditions relating to metering equipment and recording of information are imposed by the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018*. Clauses in this Plan that provided for mandatory conditions to be imposed in relating to metering and reporting mandatory conditions that are prescribed in Part 10 and Part 11 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018*.

Division 1 General

64 Requirement to notify

In this Part, a requirement to notify the Minister in writing will only be satisfied by writing to the email address for enquiries on the Department's website.

Note. As at ~~4 July 2020~~[the commencement of this Plan](#), the email address for enquiries on the Department's website is water.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Division 2 Access licences

Note. This Division is made in accordance with sections 17 (c), 20 and 66 of the Act.

65 Mandatory conditions on access licences

- (1) Each access licence must have mandatory conditions to give effect to the following:
 - (a) upon becoming aware of a breach of any condition of the access licence, the licence holder must:
 - (i) notify the Minister as soon as practicable, and
 - (ii) if the notification under paragraph (i) is not in writing, confirm the notification in writing within seven days of becoming aware of the breach,
 - (b) the taking of water in accordance with the access licence may only occur if the resulting debit to the access licence water allocation account does not exceed the volume of water allocation remaining in the account,
 - (c) any other condition required to implement the provisions of this Plan.
- (2) Each access licence, other than a supplementary water access licence, must have mandatory conditions requiring that the licence holder must not take water unless it has been ordered in accordance with procedures established by the Minister.
- (3) Each supplementary water access licence must have a mandatory condition that gives effect to Division 2 of Part ~~98~~.

Division 3 Water supply work approvals

Note. This Division is made in accordance with sections 17 (c) and 100 of the Act.

66 General conditions

- (1) Each water supply work approval must have mandatory conditions to give effect to:

- (a) the clauses set out in this Division, and
 - (b) any other condition required to implement the provisions of this Plan.
- (2) The water supply work must not be used to take water under an access licence unless in compliance with the relevant access rules for the taking of water as specified in Part 8.
- (3) Upon becoming aware of a breach of any condition of the approval, the approval holder must:
 - (a) notify the Minister as soon as practicable, and
 - (b) if the notification under paragraph (a) was not in writing, confirm this notification in writing within seven days of becoming aware of the breach.
- (4) Flow measurement devices must be installed and maintained on all water supply works used for extraction of water under an access licence and must be of a type and maintained in a manner, which is acceptable to the Minister.
- (5) Water extraction, [property](#) water management infrastructure and cropping details must be provided on request, in the form and in accordance with procedures established by the Minister.
- (6) The taking of water may only occur in accordance with the conditions applying to the access licence that will have its water allocation account debited for that take.
- (7) Despite subclause (1), subclauses (4) to (6) do not apply to approvals for water supply works held by [WaterNSW](#) provided the approval is not nominated by an access licence.
- (8) If an approval for a water supply work is subject to a mandatory condition imposed by Part 10 or Part 11 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018* relating to the recording or reporting of water that is taken by the work, subclause (5) ceases to have effect in relation to the work on the day on which the condition applies to the approval.
Note. The *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018* will impose a mandatory condition requiring record keeping on access licences and approvals in the water source from 1 December 2021.
- (9) If an approval for a water supply work is subject to the mandatory metering equipment condition in relation to the work, subclause (4) ceases to have effect in relation to the work on the day on which the condition applies to the approval.
- (10) Subclauses (4), (5), (8) and (9) are taken to be repealed on the day on which the temporary exemption from the mandatory metering equipment condition ceases to apply to the water source in accordance with clause 230 (1) of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018*.

Notes.

- 1 **Mandatory metering equipment condition** is defined in clause 228 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018*.
- 2 Clause 230 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018* provides that the mandatory metering equipment condition applies to existing and new water supply works required to have a meter from 1 April 2019, and to other approvals in the water source from 1 December 2021.

FOR INFORMATION

Part 12 Amendment of this Plan

Notes.

- 1 This Part sets out the amendments authorised by this Plan.
- 2 For the purposes of section 87 of the Act, the initial period for the water source expired before the commencement of this Plan.
- 3 [The Department intends to consult with relevant stakeholders before making any material amendments to this Plan in accordance with this Part.](#)

67 General

For the purposes of section 45 (1) (b) of the Act, this Part provided for when this Plan may be amended and any such amendment is taken to be authorised by this Plan.

68 Amendments relating to Part 1

Part 1 may be amended to add, modify or remove a river or segment of river to or from the water source provided that:

- (a) any amendment is consistent with any applicable regulated river order, and
- (b) the Minister is satisfied that there will be no impact on the water available to the environment under Division 1 of Part 10, or to any access licence in the water source.

[69 Amendments relating to Part 2](#)

[Part 2 may be amended following a review of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting plan that has been developed for water sources in the NSW Border Rivers surface water resource plan area which considers the need for alternate performance indicators for the environmental, economic, Aboriginal cultural, and social and cultural objectives of this Plan.](#)

[6970 Amendments relating to floodplain harvesting](#)

This Plan may be amended to include rules for the management of floodplain harvesting.

[7071 Amendments relating to individual daily extraction components](#)

This Plan may be amended to provide for individual daily extraction components.

~~71 Amendments relating to SDLAM projects~~

~~This Plan may be amended to provide for the implementation of any NSW sustainable diversion limit adjustment mechanism project in the water source under the Basin Plan.~~

72 Dictionary

The Dictionary may be amended to add, modify or remove a definition.

73 Schedules

- (1) Schedule 1 may be amended to add, modify or remove ~~an access licence, a flow target~~ subject to the following:
 - (a) the amendment relates only to ensuring the taking of water under supplementary water access licences does not jeopardise critical environmental needs or the supply of water to basic rights holders, domestic and stock access licence holders and local water utility access licence holders in the Barwon-Darling River,
 - (b) the amendment does not substantially alter the long-term average annual total amount of water able to be extracted under supplementary water access licences in the water source.
- (2) Schedule 2 may be amended to add or remove an access licence.
- (3) Schedule 3 may be amended to add, ~~modify~~ or remove ~~a flow target~~ an access licence.

74 Other amendments (general)

- (1) This Plan may be amended to include provisions for any of the following:
 - (a) the interception of water before it reaches a stream or aquifer by plantations or other means,
 - ~~(b) the management of salt interception schemes,~~
 - ~~(e)(b)~~ water return flows, as referred to in Division 5 of Part 2 of Chapter 3 of the Act,
 - ~~(c)~~ provide for the conversion of regulated river (high security) licences with share components that specify the water source to access licences with share components that specify connected upstream unregulated water sources.
- (2) This Plan may be amended amended to facilitate total extractions reaching the long-term average annual extraction limit or long-term average sustainable diversion limit ~~should an assessment of compliance with those limits made under Part 6 show that total extractions are in the Minister's opinion significantly less than those limits over the long term,~~ subject to:
 - ~~(3) This Plan may be amended to provide for the conversion of regulated river (high security) access licences with share components that specify regulated river water sources connected to, and downstream of, the water source to access licences with share components that specify the water source~~
 - (a) an assessment of compliance with the limits made under Part 6 verifying that total extractions are less than those limits over the long term

(b) a review and report on the reasons for total extractions being less than the limits over the long term, including recommendations for potential changes to this Plan to increase extractions to the limits and assessment of the impacts of the recommendations on future water allocations to all categories of water access licences, and

(c) there being no net reduction in the protection of planned environmental water established under clause 16 of this Plan.

Note. Section 10.28 of the Basin Plan requires that a water resource plan must ensure there is no net reduction in the protection of planned environmental water from the protection provided under State water management law immediately before the commencement of the Basin Plan.

~~(4)~~(3) Division 3 of Part 6 may be amended to establish a long-term average sustainable diversion limit that combines the long-term average sustainable diversion limits for the water source and the NSW Border Rivers Unregulated River Water Sources.

~~(5)~~(4) This Plan may be amended to give effect to, or in connection with, a determination of native title under the *Native Title Act 1993* of the Commonwealth.

(5) An amendment authorised by this Plan is taken to enable all or part of this Plan to be accredited as all or part of a water resource plan under the *Water Act 2007* of the Commonwealth.

(6) This Plan may be amended to do any of the following in order to provide rules for the protection of water-dependent Aboriginal cultural assets:

(a) identify water-dependent Aboriginal cultural assets.

(b) establish rules for the granting and amending of water supply work approvals.

(c) establish dealing rules.

~~(6)(1) to include any consequential amendments required to be made to this Plan to give effect to that particular amendment.~~

~~(7)(1) Consequential amendments may be made to this Plan as a result of an amendment to the Act or regulations.~~

~~(8)~~(7) This Plan may be amended as a result of any amendments made to the *New South Wales – Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008*, any subsequent agreement made between New South Wales and Queensland and any amendments made to the *New South Wales – Queensland Border Rivers Act 1947*.

(8) An amendment authorised by this Plan is taken to include any consequential amendments required to be made to this Plan to give effect to that particular amendment.

(9) Consequential amendments may be made to this Plan as a result of an amendment to

the Act or regulations.

FOR INFORMATION

Dictionary

Aboriginal person has the same meaning as it has in section 4 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*.

annual actual take has the same meaning as it has in section 6.10 of the Basin Plan.

annual permitted take has the same meaning as it has in section 6.10 of the Basin Plan.

baseline diversion limit has the same meaning as it has in section 1.07 of the Basin Plan.

Basin Plan means the *Basin Plan 2012* made under section 44 (3) (b) (i) of the *Water Act 2007* of the Commonwealth.

IGA means the *New South Wales – Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008*.

floodplain harvesting means the collection, extraction or impoundment of water flowing across floodplains, including rainfall runoff and overbank flow, excluding the take of water pursuant to any of the following:

- (a) a water access licence other than a floodplain harvesting access licence,
- (b) a basic landholder right,
- (c) an exemption from the need to hold a licence to take water under the Act.

flow regimes mean, collectively, the magnitudes, durations, frequency and patterns of flows that characterise a river or water source.

Minister means the Minister administering the Act.

ML means megalitres.

NSW Environmental Water Manager means the NSW Government department or agency with the conservation role for water-dependent assets. This responsibility extends to managing the NSW environmental water portfolio.

Note. As at 1 July 2019 the commencement of this Plan, this is the NSW Office Department of the Planning, Industry and Environment and Heritage – Environment, Energy and Science (EES).

operator means the operator of the water supply system for the water source.

Note. As at the commencement of this Plan, this is [WaterNSW](#) Water NSW.

plantation forestry means a commercial plantation as defined in section 1.07 of the Basin Plan.

replenishment flows are flows provided to effluent river systems downstream of major headwater dams to address the flow related impacts within those systems caused by dam construction.

reserves are volumes of water put aside in a **water storage** to allow the supply of future water requirements.

SDL resource unit shared reduction amount has the same meaning as it has in section 1.07 of the Basin Plan.

stimulus flow is a release that mirrors a naturally occurring hydrograph, targets pre-season cues to fish breeding and to regularly wet and inundate interconnected riparian areas.

supplementary water event, means a period during which the taking of water under supplementary water access licences is permitted in all or part of the water source.

supply capability means the rate at which the Minister determines water can be supplied to a segment of the water source without incurring unacceptable transmission losses.

the water source is as defined in clause 4.

target ecological populations are communities of one or more species that are monitored to evaluate the success of targeted objectives for the environment. Populations must be easily monitored (i.e. not rare or cryptic) and may be linked to conservation or other environmental priorities.

transmission losses means the additional water required to ensure that a specified quantity of water is delivered to a specified delivery point.

uncontrolled flows means flows not able to be captured in a water storage that are in excess of that needed to meet the environmental provisions of this Plan, basic landholder rights, water orders

placed by access licences and the water require to meet transmission losses associated with those water orders, and Queensland water requirement as set out in the IGA.

water storage means a state-owned dam, weir or other structure that is used to regulate and manage river flows in the water source and the water body impounded by this structure.

water supply system includes the water storages and all other infrastructure that can influence water supply controlled by the operator, including regulators and weirs.

water use development includes all privately-owned water management structures, and all aspects of farm, industry, town or private household development which affect the volumes of water taken from the water source, and the management practices that are applied in relation to them.

water year means a period of 12 months commencing on 1 July and ending on 30 June.

weighted average unit price means the total value of all units sold divided by the number of units sold for a monetary value.

FOR INFORMATION

Schedule 1 Flow targets

(Clause 45)

1 Application

The flow targets under clause 2 of this Schedule apply to clause 45 of this Plan.

2 Flow targets

(1) The following are flow targets:

- (a) a flow of 150 ML/day in the Darling River at Wilcannia gauge (425008),
- (b) a flow of 280 ML/day in the Darling River at Louth (gauge 425004),
- (c) a flow of 390 ML/day in the Darling River at Bourke gauge (425003),
- (d) a flow of 550 ML/day in the Darling River at Brewarrina gauge (422002), and
- (e) a flow of 700 ML/day in the Barwon River at Dangar Bridge (gauge 422001).

Note. This subclause is intended to protect flows needed to meet basic landholder rights requirements along the Barwon-Darling River.

(2) Between, and including, 1 September and the last day of February, a flow for five consecutive days of either of the following is a flow target, provided two such flow events have not already occurred during that period in the water year:

- (a) a flow of 14,000 ML/day in the Darling River at Brewarrina gauge (422002),
- (b) a flow of 10,000 ML/day in the Darling River at Bourke gauge (425003).

Note. This subclause is intended to provide opportunity for the passage of fish across the major weirs in the Barwon-Darling River.

(3) Between, and including, 1 October and 30 April, a flow for five consecutive days of 2,000 ML/day in the Darling River at Wilcannia gauge (425008) is a flow target, provided this target has not been reached during the preceding three months.

Note. This subclause is intended to protect flows needed to suppress blue-green algae blooms.

Schedule 2 Licences excluded from supplementary water events upstream of the junction of the Macintyre and Dumaresq rivers

(Clause 46, 47)

On the commencement of this Plan, those licences listed in the Table below, which nominate water supply works located upstream of the junction of the Macintyre River and Dumaresq River are:

- (a) not subject to supplementary water event announcements made in accordance with clause 46, and
- (b) subject to supplementary water event announcements made in accordance with clause 47.

Table

Water access licences
37789
37790
37791
37555
37556
37557
37558
37559
16757
16737
16465

Schedule 3 Licences excluded from supplementary water events downstream of the junction of the Macintyre and Dumaresq rivers

(Clause 46, 47)

On the commencement of this Plan, those licences listed in the Table below, which nominate water supply works located downstream of the junction of the Macintyre River and Dumaresq River are:

- (a) not subject to supplementary water event announcements made in accordance with clause 47, and
- (b) subject to supplementary water event announcements made in accordance with clause 46.

Table

Water access licences
16773
16720
16469
16524
16571
16831