

A comparison of individual floodplain harvesting licence limits and surface water extraction limits

Two limits for the amount of water that can be taken apply in NSW: individual licence limits and water source extraction limits. For floodplain harvesting, water source extraction limits are already operational, but individual licence limits will be operational when the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy is implemented.

Individual floodplain harvesting licence limits

(not yet in place)

Water is allocated to **individual licences** according to the rules specified in water sharing plans.

Licence holders **cannot take water in excess of their individual water allocations** as outlined in the *Water Management Act 2000*.



Water sharing plans specify set **rules that constrain the use and carryover of water** allocations within and between years.

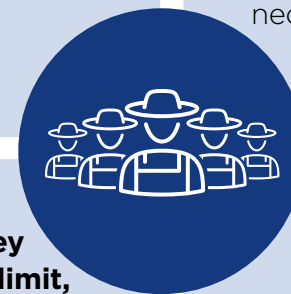
The NRAR enforces compliance with individual licence limits.

Surface water extraction limits inclusive of floodplain harvesting are for all water take within a river valley

(in place now)

Total limit for all forms of water take in a river valley.

Extraction limits set out **how much water can be taken on average**. This means that extractions can be more or less than this in a single year without necessarily exceeding the limit.



Each river valley has an extraction limit, which is established in that valley's water sharing plan. Floodplain harvesting is included in these extraction limits. See infographic 'How surface water legal limits on water take are defined.'

The department enforces compliance with extraction limits. If exceeded, licence holders may receive a reduced allocation in subsequent years to bring long term average take to below the extraction limit.