



# NSWIC 15 July 2021- WSP & WRP progress

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# Water Sharing Plans



# Water Sharing Plans - regulated

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- Border Rivers Regulated remade 2021
- Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lachlan Regulated to be remade 2021
- Gwydir, Namoi and Macquarie will remade after floodplain harvesting issues resolved
- Peel to be amended 2021 (Basin Plan) and remade in 2022
- Belubula to be amended 2021 (Basin Plan) and extended/remade 2022
- Richmond – extended to 2023
- Bega – extended to 2023
- Inland regulated plans to be audited by the NRC in 2021/22

# Water Sharing Plans – Unregulated & Groundwater

- Barwon Darling to be remade 2022
- All others extensions/remakes commence in 2022 and beyond.
- NRC reviews currently occurring for:
  - Murray Unreg
  - Lower Darling Unreg
  - Intersecting Streams
- Further coastal and inland plans will be reviewed by the NRC

# Water Sharing Plans – Inland Groundwater

- All Inland groundwater plans remade in 2020
- Will be audited by the NRC in 2025
- Reviewed by NRC in 2029/30

# Water Resource Plans





# Water Resource Plan update

- All 20 NSW WRPs submitted before 30 June 2020
- Received 'Notice of Grounds' for 13 plans:
  - 7 surface water
  - 6 groundwater
- None have met the Basin Plan requirements
  - This occurred for ALL WRPs
- Delay due to MLDRIN and NBAN assessment

# WRP feedback

- NSW surprised at the number of issues identified by MDBA
- Feedback from MDBA is lengthy (Murray and Lower Darling – 32 pages, Barwon Darling - 37).
- Referencing and simple errors were identified. These have been largely uncomplicated to address.
- The process of addressing the actual gaps is requiring meetings and direct discussions with MDBA to clarify the issues of their advice.
- NSW continues to develop resolutions in consultation with MDBA
- Good news – no changes to the WSPs as a result of assessment



# WRP issues (surface water)

MDBA in particular have sought additional information on:

- Connectivity between water sources – clarity around a ‘lack of’ connectivity between adjoining surface water resources
- Identification of Planned Environmental Water (PEW) rules
- Clarity about the Annual Permitted Take (APT) method and Baseline Diversion Limit (BDL)
- Risk assessment – clarity around harvestable rights and farm dams
- Consultation with Aboriginal people

# WRP Issues (groundwater)

- Connectivity – identification of groundwater – groundwater connectivity or groundwater – surface water connectivity in adjacent WRP areas – not previously required.
- Trade, including sufficient hydraulic connectivity for groundwater trade previously agreed now identified as an accreditation issue.
- Requests from MDBA to include additional WSP rules to meet Basin plan 10.18, 10.19 and 10.20 requirements, I.e. bore construction standards
- NSW continues to discuss these issues with MDBA

# Questions

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