

Approval to take under Temporary Water Restrictions



Responsive management of temporary water restrictions

Approval to take from certain unregulated water sources in the water sharing plans for the Border Rivers, Gwydir, Namoi, and Macquarie unregulated and alluvial water sources, under Temporary Water Restriction (Northern NSW Murray Darling Basin) Amendment (No 2) Order 2020

The holders of access licences in the water sources specified in the Table below are approved to take water while the temporary water restriction is in place but only during the approval period as specified.

The temporary water restriction is in place until 28 February 2020.

Licence Category	Water Source	Approval Period (inclusive)
Unregulated	All unregulated water sources in the Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2012 All unregulated water sources in the Water Sharing Plan for the Gwydir Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2012 All unregulated water sources in the Water Sharing Plan for the Namoi Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2012 All unregulated water sources in the Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie Bogan Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2012 All unregulated water sources in the Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Valley Regulated, Unregulated, Alluvium and Fractured Rock Water Sources 2010 All unregulated water sources in the Water Sharing Plan for the Castlereagh River Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2011	5pm 21 st February 2020 to 28 th February 2020

Further details about the temporary water restriction can be found on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment [website](#).

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Reasons for Decision

As a result of the restrictions in the Northern Basin, the long-awaited flows to the northern parts of NSW are now expected to meet critical needs along the full length of the Barwon-Darling River and the target of 60-80GL in Lake Wetherell.

Flows into the Barwon-Darling are forecast to reach Lake Wetherell in sufficient volumes to achieve full connection to the end of the Lower Darling River and to meet critical needs. This includes some reserves for Lake Wetherell.

Peak flows have now moved out of the unregulated tributaries of the northern regulated rivers, and are no longer included in flow forecasts to meet target volumes in Lake Wetherell.

As a result, the take of water from the unregulated water sources listed above will not impact on reaching the Lake Wetherell flow target.

Due to these conditions, I am satisfied there is sufficient water available for higher priority needs to approve the licence holders specified in the Table to take water during the approval period in accordance with their licence conditions and rules in the relevant water sharing plans.

The restrictions remain in place for the following water sources:

- NSW Intersecting Streams unregulated water sources,
- NSW Barwon Darling unregulated water sources,
- NSW Border Rivers Regulated Water Sources - regulated river (general security A and B class) access licences (unless water is ordered and released from a dam by WaterNSW)
- Gwydir Regulated Water Source - Regulated river (general security) access licences (unless water is ordered and released from a dam by Water NSW)

This approval is given in accordance with the Temporary Water Restriction (Northern NSW Murray Darling Basin) Order 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Solomon', written over a horizontal line.

Emma Solomon

Executive Director, Policy Planning and Sciences, Water Group

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Date: 21/02/2020