

# Approval to take under Temporary Water Restrictions



Responsive management of temporary water restrictions

## Approval to take from the water sharing plan for the Border Rivers regulated water source under Temporary Water Restriction (Northern NSW Murray Darling Basin) (Amendment 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)
General security (A and B class) access licences	NSW Border Rivers Regulated Water Sources - regulated river (general security A and B class) access licences	1pm 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2020 to 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2020

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

### 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.

The area listed in the Table was not included in the approval to take on 21 February, as these flows were required to meet targets. However, following intensive rainfall and increased flows over the past 24 hours from Queensland, the forecast flows to Lake Wetherell are now 75-95 gigalitres. Accordingly we can provide access in these water sources listed in the Table without jeopardising the 60-70 gigalitre target at Lake Wetherell.

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,
- Gwydir Regulated Water Source - Regulated river (general security) access licences (unless water is ordered and released from a dam by Water NSW)

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

Supplementary access will be announced in accordance with the relevant water sharing plan rules once we can verify how much access is possible without adversely impacting downstream targets.

Emma Solomon

Executive Director, Policy Planning and Sciences, Water Group

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Date: 23/02/2020