

Report card for the Broughton Creek Water Source

Report card 4 of 64

Water source context

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Water Sharing Plan: | Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water Sources |
| Extraction Management Unit: | Shoalhaven River Extraction Management Unit |
| Area: | 8,686.3 ha |
| Inflowing water source: | Nil |
| Receiving water source: | Jaspers Brush Creek and Tributaries Water Source |

River flows

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Low-flow index: | 3.1 ML/day (80 th percentile flow) |
| Flow records: | Broughton Creek at Broughton Vale gauge (215018) |

Basic landholder rights

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|--|-------------|
| Domestic and stock rights estimate: | 135.1 ML/yr |
| Native title rights: | 0 ML/yr |

Licensed water entitlements

| | |
|--|---|
| Total surface water entitlement: | 664.5 ML/yr (5.5 ML/yr domestic and stock licences, 659 ML/yr unregulated river licence) |
| Local water utilities entitlement: | 0 ML/yr |
| Major utilities entitlement: | 0 ML/yr |
| Proportion of extraction management unit: | <1% |

Rules

Managing access licences

Each water access licence has its own share component (volume of the licence) and a water allocation account that acts like a bank account where water is credited or debited.

- Water is credited to an account by an available water determination or if water is traded in (purchased) during the year from other licence holders
- Water is debited from the account when water is extracted or traded out (sold). Total extraction from a work (pump, bore, etc.) will be measured via metering or logbooks.

Carryover and individual account limits

For a major water utility access licence account – carryover is not permitted.

Domestic and stock and unregulated river access licence accounts – carryover is permitted up to 1 ML per unit share or 100% of share component (where expressed in ML) at the end of each water year.

Domestic and stock and unregulated river access licences – the maximum water account debit in any 3 consecutive water years is the volume of water allocated to the account over those 3 years from available water determinations plus any adjustments made for allocation assignments (trades) or water allocation re-credited into the account.

Table 1. Draft rules for granting access licences

| Type | Current rules | Proposed rules |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| <p>There are limited purposes for which a new licence will be granted. It is anticipated that most water needs will be sourced from the market. One reason a licence may be granted is for Aboriginal cultural purposes. Other reasons are identified in Clause 10 of the Water Management Act General Regulation 2018.</p> | | |
| Aboriginal cultural access licence | Permitted to a limit of 10 ML/yr. | No change. |
| Aboriginal community development access licence | Not permitted. | No change. |

Table 2. Draft surface water access rules

| Type | Current rules | Proposed rules |
|--|---|----------------|
| <p>River flow can be viewed on WaterNSW Real-time Data website. Search for a gauge under Rivers and Streams.</p> | | |
| Cease to pump | <p>Cease to pump when no visible flow at the pump site.</p> <p>Cease to pump when flows are in the very low flow class.</p> | No change. |

| Type | Current rules | Proposed rules |
|--|--|--|
| Flow classes | <p>Broughton Mill Creek Management Zone</p> <p>Very Low Flow Class: ≤1.8 ML/day A Class: >1.8 – ≤9.8 ML/day B Class: >9.8 ML/day</p> <p>Broughton Creek Management Zone</p> <p>Very Low Flow Class: ≤1.8 ML/day A Class: >1.8 – ≤9.8 ML/day B Class: >9.8 ML/day</p> | <p>No change.</p> <p>Note that both management zones are proposed to be amalgamated into one water source.</p> |
| Extraction from an authorised in-river dam pool | Rules specified on the water supply work approval for the in-river dam. | No change |
| Extraction from an in-river pool | Must cease pumping if the in-river pool is below full capacity. | No change. |
| Off-river pools (natural pools, lakes or lagoons) | Extraction from natural pools can only occur if the pool is 100% full. | No change. |

Table 3. Exemptions from surface water access rules

| Type | Current rules | Proposed rules |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Health and hygiene | <p>For an access licence specified in Schedule 2 of the plan, no more than 20 kl/day for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fruit washing • cleaning of dairy plant and equipment for the purposes of hygiene • poultry watering and misting • cleaning of enclosures used for intensive animal production for the purposes of hygiene. | Exemption now applies to both fruit and vegetable washing |
| Domestic use | For domestic consumption under a domestic and stock access licence, up to 1 kl/day. | No change. |
| Harvestable rights | From a run-off harvesting dam. | No change. |
| Specific purpose | For an access licence specified in Schedule 2 of the plan. | No change. |

Table 4. Draft rules for constructing surface water supply works

| Type | Current rules | Proposed rules |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| In-river dams | Prohibited. | No change. |
| Works near coastal wetlands listed under the <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i> | No rule in current plan. | Prohibited within 3km upstream of a Ramsar wetland or 200m of a coastal wetland identified on the Coastal Wetlands and Littoral Rainforest Area Map available on the NSW Planning Portal at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au |

Table 5. Draft water trading (dealing) rules

| Type | Current rules | Proposed rules |
|--|--|----------------|
| <p>Trading covers conversion of access licence to a new category (for example from unregulated river to aquifer), assignment of rights dealings (trading of a licence), share component dealings between water sources (trading of entitlement between water sources), water allocation dealings (trading an annual allocation) and water supply works dealings (relocation of an extraction point).</p> | | |
| INTO water source | Prohibited. | Permitted. |
| WITHIN water source | Permitted. | No change. |
| Surface water to groundwater | Not permitted. | No change. |
| Groundwater to surface water | Not permitted. | No change. |
| Convert to high flow | <p>Broughton Mill Creek Management Zone Allowed, to a combined limit of 158 unit shares.</p> <p>Broughton Creek Management Zone Allowed, to a combined limit of 158 unit shares.</p> | Not permitted. |

Key factors for decisions

- Broughton Creek Water Source has medium ecological values and a low likelihood that water extraction will impact on low flows with overall low risk to low flows.

- The Broughton Creek Water Source amalgamates the Broughton Mill Creek Management Zone and the Broughton Creek Management Zone. Both management zones had the same risk rating, flowed into the same water source (Jaspers Brush Creek and Tributaries Water Source) and were subject to the same access rules at the same gauge.
- No change is proposed to the current access rules as there is low risk to low flows in this water source
- Risk has reduced in the Broughton Creek Water Source and more broadly across the entire Shoalhaven River Extraction Management Unit. This reduction in risk justifies freeing up trade.
- High flows in this water source are less than 20 ML/yr. This volume is not large enough to sustain high flow extraction. As such high flow conversions are proposed to be no longer allowed in the Broughton Creek Water Source.

Public exhibition

The Department of Planning and Environment seeks feedback from the public on the suitability of the proposed rules for this water source.

The draft Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water Sharing Plan and supporting fact sheets are available from the department's [Public Exhibition website](#).