

Report card for the Wingecarribee River Water Source

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Water source context

Water Sharing Plan:	Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water Sources
Extraction Management Unit:	Upper Nepean and Upstream Warragamba
Management Zones:	Lower Wingecarribee River Management Zone Upper Wingecarribee River Management Zone Medway Rivulet Management Zone
Area:	62,831.7 ha
Inflowing water source:	Nil
Receiving water source:	Lower Wollondilly River Water Source

River flows

	Lower Wingecarribee River Management Zone
Low flow index:	13.7 ML/day (80 th percentile)
Flow records:	Wingecarribee River at Greenstead gauge (212009)
	Medway Rivulet Management Zone
Low flow index:	No visible flow
Flow records:	No gauge in this water source.
	Upper Wingecarribee River Management Zone
Low flow index:	5 ML/day (80 th percentile)
Flow records:	Wingecarribee River at Bong Bong Weir gauge (212031)

Basic landholder rights

Domestic and stock rights estimate:	1,890.8 ML/yr
Native title rights:	0 ML/yr

Licensed water entitlements

Total surface water entitlement:	2,852 ML/yr (27.5 ML/yr domestic and stock licences, 1,924.5 ML/yr unregulated river licences)
Local water utilities entitlement:	900 ML/yr
Major utilities entitlement:	0 ML/yr
Proportion of extraction management unit:	5%

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, unregulated river and aquifer 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, unregulated river and aquifer 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	Lower Wingecarribee River Management Zone Prohibited	Lower Wingecarribee River Management Zone No change.
	Medway Rivulet Management Zone Prohibited.	Medway Rivulet Management Zone No change.
	Upper Wingecarribee River Management Zone Prohibited	Upper Wingecarribee River Management Zone 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	Lower Wingecarribee River Management Zone Cease to pump when no visible flow at the pump site. No take when flows are in the very low flow class.	Lower Wingecarribee River Management Zone No change.
	Medway Rivulet Management Zone Cease to pump when no visible flow at the pump site.	Medway Rivulet Management Zone No change.
	Upper Wingecarribee River Management Zone Cease to pump when no visible flow at the pump site. No take when flows are in the very low flow class No take for 24 hours following a cease to pump event	Upper Wingecarribee River Management Zone No change.

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Flow classes	<p>Lower Wingecarribee River Management Zone</p> <p>Very Low Flow Class: ≤ 16 ML/day A Class: $> 16 - \leq 24$ ML/day B Class: $> 24 - \leq 63$ ML/day C Class: > 63 ML/day</p> <p>Medway Rivulet Management Zone</p> <p>None established.</p> <p>Upper Wingecarribee River Management Zone</p> <p>Very Low Flow Class: ≤ 9 ML/day A Class: $> 9 - \leq 14$ ML/day B Class: $> 14 - \leq 32$ ML/day C Class: > 32 ML/day</p>	<p>Lower Wingecarribee River Management Zone</p> <p>Very Low Flow Class: ≤ 13.9 ML/day A Class: $> 13.9 - \leq 22.9$ ML/day B Class: $> 22.9 - \leq 57.2$ ML/day C Class: > 57.2 ML/day</p> <p>Medway Rivulet Management Zone</p> <p>No change.</p> <p>Upper Wingecarribee River Management Zone</p> <p>No change.</p>
Extraction from an in-river pool	Must cease pumping if the in-river pool is below full capacity	No change.
Extraction from an authorised in-river dam pool	Rules specified on the water supply work approval for the in-river dam.	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	For an access licence specified in Schedule 2 of the plan, no more than 20 kl/day for the following reasons: <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	<p>Lower Wingecarribee River Management Zone Prohibited</p> <p>Medway Rivulet Management Zone Permitted</p> <p>Upper Wingecarribee River Management Zone Prohibited.</p>	<p>Lower Wingecarribee River Management Zone No change.</p> <p>Medway Rivulet Management Zone No change.</p> <p>Upper Wingecarribee River Management Zone No change.</p>
Other water supply works	Prohibited in the hydrological catchment of the Wingecarribee River at or below 241565 Easting and 6191498 Northing.	No change

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Works near coastal wetlands listed under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i>	No current rule.	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	No change
WITHIN water source	Permitted except to the Wingecarribee River at and below 241565 Easting and 619498 Northing	<p>Permitted except to the Wingecarribee River at and below 241565 Easting and 619498 Northing</p> <p>Permitted into the Upper Wingecarribee Management Zone from the Lower Wingecarribee Management Zone.</p> <p>Permitted into the Lower Wingecarribee Management Zone</p> <p>Prohibited into the Medway Rivulet Management Zone.</p>
Surface water to groundwater	Prohibited	No change
Groundwater to surface water	Prohibited	No change
Convert to high flow	<p>Lower Wingecarribee River Management Zone Prohibited</p> <p>Medway Rivulet Management Zone Prohibited.</p> <p>Upper Wingecarribee River Management Zone Prohibited.</p>	<p>Lower Wingecarribee River Management Zone No change</p> <p>Medway Rivulet Management Zone No change.</p> <p>Upper Wingecarribee River Management Zone No change.</p>

Key factors for decisions

Upper Wingecarribee River Management Zone

- The Upper Wingecarribee River Management Zone of the Wingecarribee River Water Source has a medium ecological values, low likelihood of extraction from low flows impacting the ecological values with an overall low risk to low flows.
- No change is proposed to the current access rules as there is low risk to low flows in this management zone
- It is proposed to allow trade into this management zone from the Lower Wingecarribee Management Zone but not from Medway Rivulet. This will maintain or improve current levels of extraction in rivers and creeks receiving water from Wingecarribee Dam.

Lower Wingecarribee River Management Zone

- The Lower Wingecarribee River Management Zone of the Wingecarribee River Water Source has medium ecologic values, medium likelihood of extraction from low flows impacting the ecological values with an overall medium risk to low flows.
- Flow classes have been updated to reflect changes in WaterNSW's operation of Wingecarribee Dam. The very low flow class is proposed to change from 16 ML/day to 13.9 ML/day.
- It is proposed to allow trade into this management zone as it is the furthest downstream management zone in the water source. The downstream movement of entitlement improves likelihood with associated environmental benefits.

Medway Rivulet Management Zone

- The Medway Rivulet Management Zone of the Wingecarribee River Water Source has a medium ecological values, high likelihood of extraction from low flows impacting the ecological values with an overall high risk to low flows.
- There is no gauge located in this management zone. Access rules reflect this.
- The current water sharing plan does not allow trade into the Medway Rivulet Management Zone. It is proposed to retain these rules due to the continuing high risk to low flows in this area. Trade out of the Medway Rivulet Management Zone is allowed and should help reduce the overall risk.

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](#).