

Report card for the Bega and Brogo Regulated Rivers Water Source

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Water source context

Water Sharing Plan:	Bega River Area Regulated, Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2023
Extraction Management Unit (EMU):	Bega and Brogo Regulated Rivers
Area:	24.7 km ²
Inflowing water sources:	Lower Bega / Lower Brogo Rivers Tributaries, Upper Brogo River, Mid Bega River Sands
Receiving water source:	Bega River Estuary and Tributaries
Groundwater-dependent ecosystems:	Identified at plan commencement
Approximate average annual rainfall:	875 – 975 mm

Basic landholder rights

Domestic and stock rights estimate:	712 ML/year
Native title rights:	0 ML/year

Licensed water entitlements

Total regulated river entitlement:	53.5 ML/year of domestic and stock access licences; 1,113.5 ML/year of high security access licences; 13,907 ML/year of general security access licences 1,300 ML/year of supplementary access licences
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Rules

Managing Access Licenses

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 (AWD) 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

Carryover is permitted for domestic and stock access licences.

Carryover is not permitted for regulated river (general security) or supplementary access licences.

Carryover is permitted for regulated river (high security) access licence accounts up to 0.1 ML per unit share, but only when the commencing AWD for upcoming water year is less than 0.8 ML per unit share.

For regulated river access licences, the maximum volume of water debited from the account is the sum of:

- water credited from the AWD,
- carry-over,
- water taken during “uncontrolled flow” events, and
- any adjustments made for allocation assignments (trades) or water allocation re-credited into the account.

Table 1 Draft rules for granting access licenses

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
<p>There are limited purposes for which a new licence will be granted. It is anticipated that most additional 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 <i>Water Management Act General Regulation 2018</i>.</p>		
Aboriginal cultural access licence	Permitted up to 10 ML/year per licence, subject to assessment	No change.
Aboriginal community development access licence	Not permitted.	No change.

Table 2 Draft surface water access rules

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
<p>Access to uncontrolled flows</p>	<p>Reach 1A (upstream of North Brogo Gauge): Either: (a) the discharge over the Brogo Dam spillway in the immediately preceding 24-hour period has been more than 50 ML/day on a rising river or 20 ML/day on a falling river, or (b) a discharge through the control valves of the Brogo Dam in the immediately preceding 24-hour period has prevented a spillage over the spillway.</p> <p>Reach 1B (between North Brogo & Angledale): Both: (a) the access rule specified for river reach 1A is satisfied, and (b) the flow at the North Brogo gauge (219013) has exceeded 50 ML/day for at least 24 hours on a rising river or 20 ML/day on a falling river.</p> <p>Reach 1C (between Angledale and Bega R): The flow at the Angledale gauge (219025) has exceeded 50 ML/day for at least 24 hours on a rising river or 20 ML/day on a falling river.</p> <p>Reach 2: (downstream of Bega River junction): Either: (a) the flow at the Angledale gauge (219025) has exceeded 50 ML/day for at least 24 hours on a rising river or 20 ML/day on a falling river, or (b) the flows at the Kanoona gauge (219032) have exceeded 65 ML/day for at least 24 hours.</p>	<p>No change.</p>

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
<p>Access to supplementary flows events</p>	<p>Reach 1A: Either: (a) the discharge over the Brogo Dam spillway in the immediately preceding 24-hour period has been more than 100 ML/day, or (b) a discharge through the control valves in the immediately preceding 24-hour period has prevented a spillage over the spillway.</p> <p>Reach 1B: Both: (a) the access rule specified for river reach 1A is satisfied, and (b) the flow at the North Brogo gauge (219013) has exceeded 100 ML/day for at least 24 hours.</p> <p>Reach 1C: The flow at the Angledale gauge (219025) has exceeded 100ML/day for at least 24 hours.</p> <p>Reach 2: Either: (a) the flow at the Angledale gauge (219025) has exceeded 100 ML/day for at least 24 hours, or (b) the flow at the Kanoona gauge (219032) has exceeded 160 ML/day for at least 24 hours.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>Transparency rule</p>	<p>When the volume of water in Brogo Dam is 50% of full capacity or more, all inflows to the dam up to 15ML/day must be released from the dam.</p>	<p>When the volume of water in Brogo Dam is 20% of full capacity or more, all inflows to the dam up to 15ML/day must be released from the dam.</p>

Table 3 Draft rules for constructing surface water supply works

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
In-river dams	Permitted, subject to assessment.	Not permitted
All surface water works	Permitted, subject to assessment.	Not permitted within 200 m upstream of coastal wetlands defined in the <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i> or within 3 km upstream of Ramsar wetlands, unless assessed to pose no more than minimal harm.

Note: the distance rules for groundwater water supply works are detailed in the [Report Card for the Draft Rules for Groundwater Water Supply Works](#).

Table 4 Draft rules for available water determinations

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
<p>A water allocation, which informs licensed water users how much water they can extract, is a type of announcement known as an available water determination (AWD). An AWD is given effect by a statutory water order. AWDs and their associated orders are issued on 1 July and periodically throughout the year.</p>		
Regulated river (high security)	At the start of the water year an AWD of 0.8ML/unit share should be announced. For each additional AWD of 0.1ML/share for high security, an AWD of 0.2ML/share shall be made for general security.	No change
Regulated river (general security)	An opening AWD for general security can be made once an AWD of 0.8ML/share for high security has been made. For each additional AWD of 0.1ML/share above an AWD of 0.8ML/share for high security, an AWD of 0.2ML/share shall be made for general security.	No change

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, subject to assessment	No change
Conversion of high security to general security access licences	Permitted if the dealing will not result in the total volume of share components in all regulated river (general security) access licences exceeding 13,907 unit shares	No change
Conversion of general security to high security access licences	Permitted if the dealing will not result in the volume of water in the regulated river (general security) access licence water allocation account being less than the share component volume of the licence	No change
Supplementary access licences	Trade between supplementary access licences is permitted. Trade to or from a supplementary access licence from another category of access licences is prohibited.	No change

Key factors for decisions

- During the development of the current water sharing plan, the adequacy of the current minimum release rules from Brogo Dam (transparency rule) was raised. In response to these concerns, the Interagency Working Group has proposed that the minimum release requirement of 15ML/day be changed to apply to times when the dam level exceeds 20%. This change reflects current operational procedures for the dam and as such will have no impact on water access and storage levels over time.

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 Water Sharing Plan for the Bega River Area Regulated, Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2023 and supporting fact sheets are available from the department's [Public Exhibition website](#).