

How to comply with new water sharing plan rules in the Barwon-Darling

This fact sheet helps licence holders in the Barwon-Darling understand if they are affected and what they must do to comply with the new rules.

On 1 July 2020 the Barwon-Darling unregulated water sharing plan will have new rules to ensure that water for the environment remains in the river.

Licence holders in the Barwon-Darling will receive a new issue of their water access licence and water supply works approval that contain updated mandatory conditions that align with the new rules. The new conditions apply from the day they are issued. Licence holders must comply.

How to know if you are an affected licence holder

You are an *affected licence holder* if you hold a water access licence in a management zone listed in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Affected licence holders in the Barwon-Darling

Management zone	Affected licence categories	New rule	Changes to licence conditions
All zones in the Barwon-Darling unregulated river water source	Unregulated River Unregulated River A Class Unregulated River B Class Unregulated River C Class	Individual daily extraction component (IDEC)	Yes. Licences in these management zones will now include 'daily flow share' (DFS). This is the portion of the individual daily extraction component on your licence.
All zones in the Barwon-Darling unregulated river water source	Domestic and Stock Local Water Utility Unregulated River Unregulated River A Class Unregulated River B Class Unregulated River C Class	Resumption of flow	No. Resumption of flow rules are set in the water sharing plan and will use an announcement system. WaterNSW will make a 'no flow' announcement when resumption of flow rules operate. 'No flow' means pumping is not allowed. Licence holders in these licence categories must only take water in accordance with an announcement.
All zones in the Barwon-Darling unregulated river water source	Unregulated River A Class Unregulated River B Class Unregulated River C Class	Active management (commence/cease-to-pump)	Yes. Commence/cease-to-pump conditions will change. Licence holders in these licence categories must only take water in accordance with an announcement.
All zones in the Barwon-Darling unregulated river water source	Unregulated River A Class Unregulated River B Class Unregulated River C Class	Expression of interest (EOI)	Yes. An expression of interest will be required in situations where water is to be shared between licences. A licence will not receive a distribution of water without a valid expression of interest.

The new rules explained

Table 2. Overview of the new rules

Rules	What the rules do	Rule instrument	Rule start
Individual daily extraction component (IDEC)	Limits how much water is available for pumping on any given day	Water sharing plan for Barwon-Darling unregulated water sources 2020 Water access licence conditions in affected management zones of the Barwon-Darling	1 July 2020
Resumption of flows	Protects the first flow that comes down the river after a prolonged period of low or no flows	Water sharing plan for Barwon-Darling unregulated water sources 2020 Water access licence conditions in affected management zones of the Barwon-Darling	1 July 2020
Active management (commence/ cease-to-pump)	The rules make it clear when pumping can start and when it must stop. This ensures that releases of water for the environment can remain in the river	Water sharing plans for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barwon-Darling unregulated water sources 2012 Gwydir unregulated river water sources 2012 (separate fact sheet) Macquarie Bogan unregulated river water sources 2012 (separate fact sheet) Water access licence conditions in affected management zones	1 December 2020

How do I comply with the new rules in the Barwon-Darling?

If you are an affected licence holder, you will receive a new issue of your water access licence and water supply works approval from WaterNSW that has updated mandatory conditions. You must comply with the new rules from the date your new licence and works approval are issued. Please note that some conditions will start on 1 July 2020, and some will start on 1 December 2020. The announcement system will start on 1 July 2020. Flow share announcements will be added to the system on 1 December 2020. The most important thing to do is to check [announcements](#) from WaterNSW each day that you plan to pump.

Table 3. Complying with new rules and conditions

Rule	New licence conditions	Action you need to take to comply with the rule
Individual daily extraction component (IDEC)	Daily flow share (DFS)	<p>Prior to pumping, know your daily flow share. Up to 1 ML may be pumped per day, per daily flow share <i>unless</i> otherwise announced by WaterNSW. Check flow share announcements¹ from WaterNSW. You must do this each day you plan to pump because the amount you can pump may change.</p> <p>Continue to comply with all other conditions on your water access licence and works approval.</p> <p>Do not use gauge readings to make decisions about pumping when you notice flows in the river. Do not rely on 'word-of-mouth'. Instead, check announcements by WaterNSW to find out the exact share volume and when you can pump.</p>

¹Flow share announcements will start on 1 December 2020. From July to December 2020, up to 1 ML per day per flow share applies.

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Rule	New licence conditions	Action you need to take to comply with the rule
Resumption of flow	Pump in accordance with an announcement	<p>Do not pump when rain breaks a period of low or no flows, without checking if the Minister has made a 'no flow' announcement to protect the first part of the flow. WaterNSW will publish announcements on behalf of the Minister. You must not pump during the 'no flow' period.</p> <p>Continue to comply with all other conditions on your water access licence and works approval.</p> <p>Do not use gauge readings to make decisions about pumping when you notice flows in the river. Do not rely on 'word-of-mouth'. Instead check announcements from WaterNSW to find out when pumping is allowed.</p>
Active Management (commence/ cease-to-pump)	Pump in accordance with an announcement	<p>Prior to pumping, check for the flow class announcement and any flow share announcements from WaterNSW for your area and licence category. If you have a licence under Schedule 2 (or 2A) of the water sharing plan, you must check the announcement for adjustments to the specific commence/cease-to-pump thresholds on your licence. You must check announcements for each day you plan to pump.</p> <p>Look for announcements from WaterNSW – these will specify the flow class that applies in your management zone. A flow share announcement will be made when water is available for extraction but needs to be shared between licences. Announcements will specify the individual daily extraction component daily flow share for a given day. You must follow the instructions in announcements that apply to your licence category and management zone.</p> <p>Have an expression of interest in place. The amount of water available for extraction is called 'available volume', which is calculated each day by WaterNSW. When the available volume is too low to cover the maximum of everyone's daily take ('maximum daily take'), water must be shared between licences within a flow class and between flow classes. In this situation, a licence holder must have an expression of interest in place before pumping. For a licence holder to be certain that they can pump, the simplest strategy may be to submit an EOI that covers the whole water year.</p> <p>An expression of interest is not required when the available volume is larger than the maximum daily take. Then all licence holders can take up to their full individual daily extraction component daily flow share (given they comply with all other licence and works conditions).</p> <p>An expression of interest can be submitted for a period of up to 400 days. Licence holders must submit expressions of interest to WaterNSW through the iWAS system. You can find more information about iWAS is on the WaterNSW website at https://www.waternsw.com.au/.</p> <p>You can contribute to better environmental outcomes for the river. Under the new rules you can choose to contribute your portion of the available volume for the benefit of the river and the environment instead of pumping. Use the expression of interest system to nominate that your portion of water should remain in the river and be protected from extraction.</p> <p>Do not pump unless you have checked for a flow class and flow share announcement. Pump in accordance with the details in the announcement as they apply to your licence category and management zone.</p> <p>Continue to comply with all other conditions on your water access licence and works approval.</p> <p>Do not use gauge readings to make decisions about pumping when you notice flows in the river. Do not rely on 'word-of-mouth'. Instead, check</p>

Rule	New licence conditions	Action you need to take to comply with the rule
		announcements from WaterNSW.

How to find announcements

WaterNSW will publish announcements on its website. You can find announcements and other water-related information at the [Water Insights Portal](#).

WaterNSW's operational announcements will be based on the rules in water sharing plans, such as daily flow shares. Sometimes, water sharing plans or the *Water Management Act 2000* will require the minister to make announcements, such as resumption of flow announcements. WaterNSW will publish these announcements on its website.

More information

You can find information about the new rules in 'What's new' fact sheets for Gwydir, Macquarie and Barwon-Darling. You can also read our fact sheet 'How to find out more'. Fact sheets are available on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's [environmental water hub](#).

Fact sheets in this series:

What's new—Gwydir (fact sheet 1)	What's new—Macquarie (fact sheet 2)	What's new—Barwon-Darling (fact sheet 3)
How to comply—Gwydir (fact sheet 4)	How to comply—Macquarie (fact sheet 5)	How to comply—Barwon-Darling (fact sheet 6)
How to find out more (fact sheet 7)	Worked examples (fact sheet 8)	FAQ (fact sheet 9)

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