

Report card for the Bega River Area Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater 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): Extraction Management Unit	Bega River Area Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater
Area:	20.3 km ²
Inflowing water source:	Nil
Receiving water source:	Nil
Groundwater-dependent ecosystems:	Identified at plan commencement
Approximate average annual rainfall:	900 – 1,000 mm

Basic landholder rights

Domestic and stock rights estimate:	6 ML/year
Native title rights:	0 ML/year

Licensed water entitlements

Total groundwater entitlement:	0 ML/year
Local water utilities entitlement:	0 ML/year

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 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 not permitted for aquifer access licences in this water source.

Table 1 Draft rules for granting access licenses

Type	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 Water Management Act General Regulation 2018.</p>	
Aboriginal cultural access licence	Permitted, up to 10 ML/year.
Aboriginal community development access licence	Permitted, up to 343 ML/year.

Table 2 Draft alluvial groundwater access rules

Type	Proposed rules
Take of alluvial groundwater	No access rules are proposed for this water source. Coastal floodplain alluvial groundwater is not considered to be highly connected to surface water.

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 3 Draft water trading (dealing) rules

Type	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
WITHIN water source	Permitted, subject to assessment
Conversion of aquifer to unregulated river access licences	Not applicable

Key factors for decisions

- The coastal floodplain alluvial aquifers are not included in the current water sharing plan.
- The Bega River Area Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source is a new water source. It consists of groundwater found in alluvial aquifers downstream of the mangrove limit. Such aquifers consist of fine-grained sediments and are therefore not highly connected to surface water. Consequently, groundwater works located in this water source are not subject to daily access rules.
- There are currently no licences in this 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 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](#).