

17 October 2022

# Controlled Allocation October 2022 - Various groundwater sources

## New aquifer access licenses

The Department of Planning and Environment is making new aquifer access licences available in 54 groundwater sources that have unassigned water. Unassigned water exists in groundwater sources where current water commitments, including basic landholder rights, are safely below the average long term annual extraction limits specified in water sharing plans.

Interested parties can bid for the right to apply for an aquifer access licence during the registration of interest (tender) period. The registration period is open from **2 November 2022 to 2 December 2022**. Late applications will not be considered. Participants can register their interest through the process provided, by nominating a groundwater source/s specified in the Controlled Allocation Order (Various Groundwater Sources) 2022, the number of shares sought, and the price per share they are willing to pay.

The highest bids above the minimum price will be successful, and upon full payment, will allow applicants to proceed to apply for an aquifer access licence.

The licence does not guarantee groundwater of a particular yield or quality from a site. Test drilling should be done to prove a water source. Once a licence is granted, licence holders will require a water supply work approval to take the water. The application for an approval will be decided in accordance with the relevant water sharing plan and the *Water Management Act 2000* or under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Therefore, a work can only be operated, and water taken once a license is granted, water supply work or other approval is granted and a water allocation is made to the licence category.

The **Controlled Allocation Order (Various Groundwater Sources) 2022** provides an opportunity for the right to apply for a water access licence where a water source is not fully committed. It provides an alternative to acquiring a water license where water trading opportunities are limited.

For more information please visit: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/controlled](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/controlled)

## Result of the Controlled Allocation Uptake - 2021

In the 2021 tender, new shares in 47 groundwater sources were available. The full number of available shares were taken up in the following eight groundwater sources:

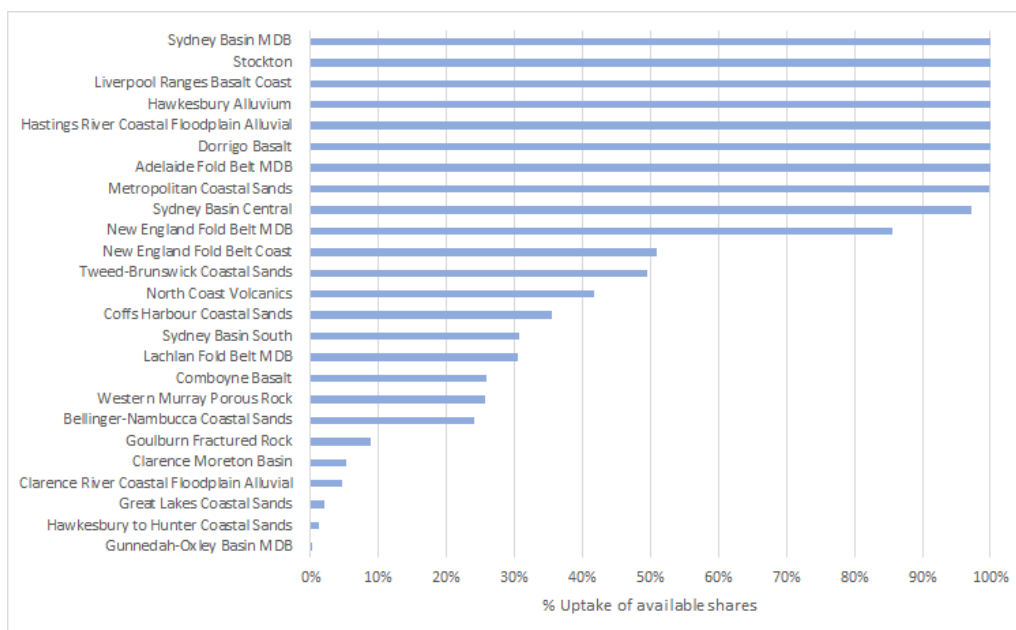
- Adelaide Fold Belt MDB Groundwater Source
- Dorrigo Basalt Groundwater Source
- Hastings River Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Hawkesbury Alluvium Groundwater Source

- Liverpool Ranges Basalt Coast Groundwater Source
- Metropolitan Coastal Sands Groundwater Source
- Stockton Groundwater Source
- Sydney Basin MDB Groundwater Source

For detailed outcomes of the 2021 uptake please visit:

[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/537717/Controlled-Allocation-Order-2021-outcomes.pdf](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/___data/assets/pdf_file/0003/537717/Controlled-Allocation-Order-2021-outcomes.pdf)

**Figure 1. Percentage uptake of available released shares in 2021 tender per groundwater source (nil uptakes not listed)**



### Historical uptake (2013-2020)

Details can be found in the outcomes reports at the controlled allocations website (link above). There has been greater than 70% annual uptake in the following nine groundwater sources:

Comboyne Basalt, Lachlan Fold Belt Coast, New England Fold Belt Coast, North Coast Volcanics, Sydney Basin Cox River, Sydney Basin MDB, Sydney Basin Nepean, Sydney Basin South, Upper Darling Alluvial.

There has been little interest in the 14 water sources below when shares were offered in previous years:

Coastal Macleay Floodplain Alluvial, Coastal Nambucca Floodplain Alluvial, Coffs Harbour Coastal Sands, Great Artesian Basin Warrego Shallow, Great Lakes Coastal Sands, Hastings Coastal Sands, Hawkesbury Alluvium, Kanmantoo Fold Belt North Western, Macleay Coastal Sands, Manning-Camden Haven Coastal Sands, Oxley Basin Coast, Peel Fractured Rock Water Source, South East Coastal Sands, Sydney Basin Blue Mountains.