

Draft Floodplain Management Plan for the Macquarie Valley Floodplain 2020

Purpose of the plan

The Floodplain Management Plan for the Macquarie Valley Floodplain 2020 (Macquarie Valley FMP) will manage the development of flood works on the Macquarie Valley floodplain to:

- provide clarity for landholders about where flood works can be constructed on the floodplain
- streamline the approval process for new and amended flood works
- manage the passage of floodwaters through the floodplain to minimise the risk to property from the effects of flooding
- maintain flood connectivity to key ecological and cultural assets on the floodplain.

What the plan means for you

All new flood works and modifications to existing flood works will require approval in line with the Macquarie Valley FMP prior to construction. The Macquarie Valley FMP includes management zones, rules and assessment criteria that together provide the framework for:

- the types of flood works that may be considered for approval (for example, access roads and supply channels)
- thresholds that will apply to the construction of flood works (for example, height and size)
- standards for the impacts of the construction of flood works (for example, hydraulic, ecological, and cumulative impacts)
- areas of the floodplain where flood works require advertising as part of the approval process.

How the draft plan was developed

The draft Macquarie Valley FMP has been developed based on consideration of:

- hydraulic factors including the passage, flow and distribution of flood waters
- the distribution and priority of flood-dependent ecological and cultural assets
- current floodplain management planning arrangements.

Who developed the draft plan

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment coordinates the preparation of floodplain management plans. The planning process is guided by a technical manual for rural floodplain management plans under the *Water Management Act 2000*.

Our Environment, Energy and Science Group develops technical content on advice from a technical advisory group. This group includes key experts in water management from the NSW Government and other agencies including the Murray–Darling Basin Authority and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office.

Our Water Group drafts the floodplain management plans. It leads consultation and engagement and facilitates the review process. To get the balance right, an Interagency Regional Panel conducts the review. Key experts from the NSW Department of Primary Industries (agriculture and fisheries interests) and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (water and environmental interests) are represented on this panel. Experts from Local Land Services, the

Draft Macquarie Valley Floodplain Management Plan



Factsheet

Natural Resources Access Regulator and WaterNSW may also attend meetings of the Interagency Regional Panel to provide advice on consultation activities and other matters relevant to their expertise.

Further information

A suite of information has been developed to help you understand the Draft Macquarie Valley FMP. Report cards summarise the rules and key factors for each management zone and are a great place to start. The report cards and other supporting documents are available from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's website, www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Table 1. Supporting documents for the draft Macquarie Valley FMP

Document	Description
Report cards for each management zone of the draft Macquarie Valley FMP	A summary of the draft rules and key factors developed for each management zone of the draft Macquarie Valley FMP
Map of the draft Macquarie Valley FMP	A colour map illustrating the floodplain boundary and management zones contained within the draft Macquarie Valley FMP
Rural floodplain management plans: Technical manual for plans developed under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>	A general description of the method used to develop floodplain management plans across rural New South Wales
draft Background document to the Floodplain Management Plan for the Macquarie Valley FMP	A description of how the method presented in the technical manual has been applied across the Macquarie Valley Floodplain and should be read in conjunction with the technical manual
draft Floodplain Management Plan for the Macquarie Valley Floodplain 2020	The legal document that includes all the rules and requirements, in a statutory format
Floodplain management under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> —a guide to the changes	A guide to the transition of floodplain management planning from the <i>Water Act 1912</i> to the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> in New South Wales
An overview of floodplain management plans under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>	A general, plain English explanation of the key provisions of floodplain management plans. This overview is a summary that should be read in conjunction with the draft Macquarie Valley FMP.

Key contacts

If you have any questions about the draft Macquarie Valley FMP, please email macquarie.fmp@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Background information

Water management in NSW is being transitioned from the *Water Act 1912* to the *Water Management Act 2000*. Floodplain management plans are being prepared under the *Water Management Act 2000* for the Gwydir, Macquarie, Namoi (upper and lower), Border Rivers and Barwon–Darling valleys of NSW. These plans integrate existing floodplain management arrangements into a legal framework for the granting or amending of flood work approvals across the whole of each valley.

An approval is required to construct or use a flood work in NSW under section 91D(1) of the *Water Management Act 2000*. This means that any work that falls under the following criteria must have a flood work approval:

- a) is situated in or in the vicinity of a river, estuary, or lake, or with a floodplain, and
- b) is likely to have an affect on the flow of water to or from a river, estuary or lake, or the distribution or flow of floodwater in times of flood.

Examples of flood works include infrastructure protection works, levees, access roads, storages, supply channels, stock refuges and other earthworks and embankments.

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