

# Report card for the Woronora River Water Source

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## Water source context

<b>Water Sharing Plan:</b>	Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water Sources
<b>Extraction Management Unit:</b>	Upper Nepean and Upstream Warragamba
<b>Management zones:</b>	Upper Woronora River Management Zone Lower Woronora River Management Zone
<b>Area:</b>	16,118.8 ha
<b>Inflowing water source:</b>	Nil
<b>Receiving water source:</b>	Lower Georges River and Bunbury Curran Creek Water Source

## River flows

<b>Low flow index:</b>	Flow is dependent on Woronora dam releases
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## Basic landholder rights

<b>Domestic and stock rights estimate:</b>	430.7 ML/yr
<b>Native title rights:</b>	0 ML/yr

## Licensed water entitlements

<b>Total surface water entitlement:</b>	32,090.8 ML/yr (90.8 ML/yr unregulated river licences),
<b>Local water utilities entitlement:</b>	0 ML/yr
<b>Major utilities entitlement:</b>	32,000 ML/yr
<b>Proportion of extraction management unit:</b>	87%

## Rules

### Managing access licences

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

For a major water utility access licence account – carryover is not permitted.

Domestic and stock, unregulated river and aquifer access licence accounts - carryover is permitted up to 1 ML per unit share or 100% of share component (where expressed in ML) at the end of each water year.

Domestic and stock, unregulated river and aquifer access licences - the maximum water account debit in any 3 consecutive water years is the volume of water allocated to the account over those 3 years from available water determinations plus any adjustments made for allocation assignments (trades) or water allocation re-credited into the account.

Table 1. Draft rules for granting access licences

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
<p>There are limited purposes for which a new licence will be granted. It is anticipated that most 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 to a limit of 10 ML/yr.	No change.
Aboriginal community development access licence	Prohibited.	No change.

Table 2. Draft surface water access rules

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
<b>Cease to pump</b>	<p><b>Upper Woronora River Management Zone:</b></p> <p>Cease to pump when no visible flow at the pump site.</p> <p><b>Lower Woronora River Management Zone:</b></p> <p>Cease to pump when no visible flow at the pump site.</p> <p>Cease to pump when flows are in the very low flow class.</p> <p>No take for 24 hours after a cease to pump event.</p>	No change.
<b>Flow classes</b>	<p><b>Upper Woronora River Management Zone:</b></p> <p>No flow class established</p> <p><b>Lower Woronora River Management Zone:</b></p> <p>Very Low Flow Class: flows are less than the daily releases required to be made from Woronora Dam by the water sharing plan</p> <p>A Class: flows are greater than the daily releases required to be made from Woronora Dam by the water sharing plan</p>	<p>No change.</p> <p>No change</p> <p>Whilst there is no change to the rules the flow class will be announced daily through an online system.</p> <p>Announcing a daily flow class will protect the variable daily environmental releases made from Woronora Dam allowing them to flow through the entire Lower Woronora River Management Zone.</p>
<b>Extraction from an in-river pool</b>	Must cease pumping if the in-river pool is below full capacity.	No change.
<b>Extraction from an authorised in-river dam pool</b>	Rules specified on the water supply work approval for the in-river dam.	No change
<b>Off-river pools (natural pools, lakes or lagoons)</b>	Extraction from natural pools can only occur if the pool is 100% full.	No change.

Table 3 Exemptions from surface water access rules

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
<b>Health and hygiene</b>	For an access licence specified in Schedule 2 of the plan, no more than 20 kl/day for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fruit washing</li> <li>• cleaning of dairy plant and equipment for the purposes of hygiene</li> <li>• poultry watering and misting</li> <li>• cleaning of enclosures used for intensive animal production for the purposes of hygiene.</li> </ul>	Exemption now applies to both fruit and vegetable washing
<b>Domestic use</b>	For domestic consumption under a domestic and stock access licence, up to 1 kl/day.	No change.
<b>Harvestable rights</b>	From a run-off harvesting dam.	No change.
<b>Specific purpose</b>	For an access licence specified in Schedule 2 of the plan.	No change.

Table 4 Draft rules for constructing surface water supply works

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
<b>In-river dams</b>	Permitted.	No change.
<b>Works near coastal wetlands listed under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i></b>	No current rule.	Prohibited within 3km upstream of a Ramsar wetland or 200m of a coastal wetland identified on the Coastal Wetlands and Littoral Rainforest Area Map available on the NSW Planning Portal at <a href="http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au">www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au</a>

Table 5 Draft water trading (dealing) rules

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
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).		
<b>INTO water source</b>	Prohibited	No change
<b>WITHIN water source</b>	Permitted	Trade only permitted from Upper Woronora River Management Zone to Lower Woronora River Management zone.
<b>Surface water to groundwater</b>	Prohibited	No change
<b>Groundwater to surface water</b>	Prohibited	No change
<b>Convert to high flow</b>	Prohibited	No change

## Key factors for decisions

- Woronora River Water Source has medium ecologic values and low likelihood of extraction from low flows impacting the ecological values with an overall low risk to low flows.
- Woronora Dam makes variable daily releases for environmental purposes. The Lower Woronora River Management Zone is subject to complex access rules used to protect these releases. These rules will be implemented through a system that announces the daily flow class. Licence holders can use the announcement to determine if they can access water.
- There is no gauge located in the Upper Woronora River Management Zone. Access rules in this zone reflect this.
- The current water sharing plan does not allow trade into either the Upper Woronora River Management Zone or Lower Woronora River Management Zone. It is proposed to allow trade from the upper to the lower zone in a downstream direction to reduce the level of extraction above Woronora Dam and improve dam inflows.

## 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 Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water Sharing Plan and supporting fact sheets are available from the department's [Public Exhibition website](#).