

## Report card for Boggy Creek Water Source

### Background

Water source context		River flows
21.75 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Low flow index*</b>	122 ML/day (80 <sup>th</sup> percentile of November [critical month] days).*
None	<b>Flow records</b>	13 years—Bellinger River at Fosters Gauge (205016).
Bellinger River	<b>Stream type</b>	Gaining
*80% of the time average daily flow exceeds 122 ML/day in the critical month of November and this represents low flows.		
Catchment boundary definition		
Boggy Creek Water Source contains the surface water and upriver alluvial until its confluence with the Bellinger River.		
Upriver alluvial aquifer description		
The upriver alluvial aquifer consists of medium to coarse-grained sand, silts and gravel deposits. Groundwater from the aquifer is typically highly connected to the surface water. As a result of this connection, coupled with the coarser sediments, water quality is typically good with high yields potentially obtainable in some areas.		
<b>Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems</b>	Nil at commencement of the Plan.	
Licensed water entitlement		
<b>Total surface water entitlement</b>	20 ML/year	
<b>Licensed purpose</b>	4 licences to access surface water.	
<b>Proportion of extraction management unit</b>	1% of the Bellinger River Catchment Extraction Management Unit	
<b>Total groundwater entitlement</b>	Nil.	
<b>Licensed purpose</b>	N/A	
Note: Estimated at January 2020		
Existing access arrangements during dry conditions		
<b>Cease to take</b>	16 ML/day (95 <sup>th</sup> percentile).	
<b>Reference point</b>	Bellinger River at Thora gauge (205002).	

## Proposed recommendations

<b>Draft access rules for surface waters</b>	
<b>Cease to take</b>	Less than or equal to 56 ML/day (estimated 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile critical month), or when there is no visible flow at the location point of take.
<b>Commence to take</b>	24 hours after flows have returned above 56 ML/day.
<b>Reference point</b>	Bellinger River at Fosters Gauge (205016).
<b>Draft access rules for groundwater</b>	
<b>Cease to take</b>	Surface water cease to take rule applies
<b>Commence to take</b>	Surface water commence to take rule applies.
<b>Exemptions</b>	Rule does not apply to licensed domestic and stock and town, local water utilities, pumping related to specific food or animal safety/care or extraction from take pool in accordance with conditions of approval.
<b>Draft distance rules for groundwater</b>	
<b>Distance rules</b>	<p>A standard suite of rules have been adopted for the upriver alluvials. Distance criteria will apply to new and replacement bores (not current) in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minimising interference between bores</li> <li>• protecting groundwater dependent culturally significant sites</li> <li>• contaminated sites acid sulphate soils</li> <li>• basic landholder rights</li> <li>• protecting groundwater-dependent, sensitive environmental areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Exemptions</b>	Exemptions to these rules (e.g. for replacement works) apply in specific circumstances.

<b>Draft licence dealing rules</b>	
<b>Rules</b>	<b>Trade</b>
<b>INTO water source</b>	Permitted but only up to a maximum additional annual entitlement of 50 ML in this water source.
<b>WITHIN water source</b>	Permitted.
<b>Rules</b>	<b>Conversion</b>
<b>Surface to ground</b>	Permitted.
<b>Ground to surface</b>	Not permitted.
<b>High flows</b>	Permitted.
<b>Draft rules for granting access licences/works approvals</b>	
<b>Aboriginal cultural access licence</b>	Permitted, no greater than 10ML/yr. per application and subject to assessment.

<b>Aboriginal community development access licence</b>	Permitted, subject to assessment.
<b>In-river dams</b>	Permitted, subject to assessment.
<b>Alluvial bore</b>	Permitted, subject to assessment and distance rules.

## Key factors for decisions

- Medium instream value, low hydrologic stress, low risk to instream value and medium economic dependence.
- Commence to take rule adopted to promote instream value after very low flows have occurred.
- New flow reference point gauge was adopted for the water source, which is more suitably located.
- Applications for Aboriginal community development access licences accepted for consideration.

## Public exhibition

Feedback is particularly sought on the suitability of the proposed access and trading rules.

The draft Bellinger River Area water sharing plan and other fact sheets are available from <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water>

---

© State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (February 2020). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.