

Report card for Spicketts Creek Water Source

Background

Water source context		River flows	
Area	41.96 km ²	Low flow index	No suitable gauging stations.
Inflowing water source	None	Flow records	No suitable gauging stations.
Receiving water source	Kalang River	Stream type	Gaining
Catchment boundary definition			
All surface waters and alluvial aquifers in the hydrological catchment of Spicketts Creek. The water source is located in the southern extent of the Plan area and intersects Newry State Forest, Jaaningga Nature Reserve and Bowraville Nature Reserve.			
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.			
Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems		Groundwater dependent vegetation ecosystems present	
Licensed water entitlement			
Total surface water entitlement	7 ML/year.		
Licences	1 licence to access surface water.		
Proportion of extraction management unit	<1% of the Bellinger River Catchment Extraction Management Unit.		
Total groundwater entitlement	Nil.		
Licences	N/A		
Note: Estimated at January 2020.			
Existing access arrangements during dry conditions			
Cease to take	When there is no visible flow at the point of take or in/out of the take pool.		
Reference point	Point of take.		

Proposed rules

Draft access rules for surface waters	
Cease to take	When there is no visible flow at the location of take or in/out of the take pool.
Reference point	Location of take.
Draft access rules for groundwater	
Cease to take	Nil.
Draft distance rules for groundwater	
Distance rules	<p>A standard suite of rules have been adopted for the upriver alluvials.</p> <p>Distance criteria will apply to new and replacement bores (not current) in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimising interference between bores • protecting groundwater dependent culturally significant sites • contaminated sites • acid sulfate soils • basic landholder rights • protecting groundwater dependent sensitive environmental areas.
Exemptions	Exemptions to these rules (e.g. for replacement works) apply in specific circumstances.
Draft licence dealing rules	
Rules	Trade
INTO water source	Permitted, only from Kalang River Water Source (Non-tidal Management Zone).
WITHIN water source	Permitted.
Rules	Conversion
Surface to ground	Permitted.
Ground to surface	Not permitted.
High flows	Not permitted.
Draft rules for granting access licences/works approvals	
Aboriginal cultural access licence	Permitted, no greater than 10ML/yr. per application and subject to assessment.
Aboriginal community development access licence	Not permitted.
In-river dams	Not permitted in all order streams, and subject to assessment.
Alluvial bores	Permitted, subject to assessment and distance rules.

Key factors for decisions

- Medium instream value, low hydrologic stress, low risk to instream value and low economic dependence.
- High risk during low flow periods due to the potential of no flow periods from existing extraction. In-river dams prohibited as a result of this risk.
- No appropriate telemetered gauges available for this water source.
- Aboriginal Community Development Licences not permitted due to lack of telemetered gauge.

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>

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