

How to comply with new water sharing plan rules in the Gwydir

This fact sheet helps licence holders in the Gwydir understand if they are affected and what they must do to comply with the new rules.

On 1 July 2020 the Gwydir unregulated water sharing plan will have new rules to ensure that water for the environment remains in the river.

Licence holders in the Gwydir will receive a new issue of their water access licence and water supply works approval that contain updated mandatory conditions that align with the new rules. The new conditions apply from the day they are issued. Licence holders must comply.

How to know if you are an affected licence holder

You are an *affected licence holder* if you hold a water access licence in a management zone listed in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Affected licence holders in the Gwydir

Management zone	Affected licence categories	New rule	Changes to licence conditions
All zones within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gingham Watercourse Mallowa Creek 	Unregulated River	Active management (commence/cease-to-pump)	Yes. Commence/cease-to-pump conditions will change. Licence holders in these licence categories must only take water in accordance with an announcement

The new rules explained

Although the changed water sharing plans will come into effect from 1 July 2020, the active management rules will not start until 1 December 2020.

Table 2. Overview of the new rules

Rules	What the rules do	Rule instrument	Rule start
Active management (commence/cease-to-pump)	The rules make it clear when pumping can start and when it must stop. This ensures that releases of water for the environment can remain in the river.	Water sharing plans for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gwydir unregulated river water sources 2012 (this fact sheet) Macquarie Bogan unregulated river water sources 2012 (separate fact sheet) Barwon-Darling unregulated water sources 2012 (separate fact sheet) Water access licence conditions in affected management zones	1 December 2020

How to comply with the new rules in the Gwydir

If you are an affected licence holder, you will receive a new issue of your water access licence and water supply works approval that has updated mandatory conditions. You must comply with the new rules from the date your new licence and works approval is issued.

Table 3. Action you need to take to comply

Rule	New licence conditions	Action you need to take
Active management (commence/ cease-to-pump)	Pump in accordance with an announcement	<p>Prior to pumping, check if there are any announcements from WaterNSW that affect your area. You must check announcements for each day you plan to pump.</p> <p>Each time environmental water is released the conditions will be different. Sometimes pumping will not be allowed but at other times limited pumping will be allowed. Announcements from WaterNSW will state if there is water available in your zone. Follow the instructions in announcements from WaterNSW as they apply to your licence and management zone.</p> <p>Continue other compliance requirements as per conditions on your water access licence.</p> <p>Do not use gauge readings to make decisions about pumping when you notice flows in the river. Do not rely on 'word-of-mouth'. Instead, check announcements by WaterNSW to find out if a flow is subject to active management.</p>

How to find announcements

WaterNSW will publish announcements on its website. You can find announcements and other water-related information on the [Water Insights Portal](#).

More information

You can find information about the new rules in our 'What's new' fact sheets for Gwydir, Macquarie and Barwon-Darling. You can also read our fact sheet 'How to find out more'. Fact sheets are available on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's [environmental water hub](#).

Fact sheets in this series:

What's new—Gwydir (fact sheet 1)	What's new—Macquarie (fact sheet 2)	What's new—Barwon-Darling (fact sheet 3)
How to comply—Gwydir (fact sheet 4)	How to comply—Macquarie (fact sheet 5)	How to comply—Barwon-Darling (fact sheet 6)
How to find out more (fact sheet 7)	Worked examples (fact sheet 8)	FAQ (fact sheet 9)

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