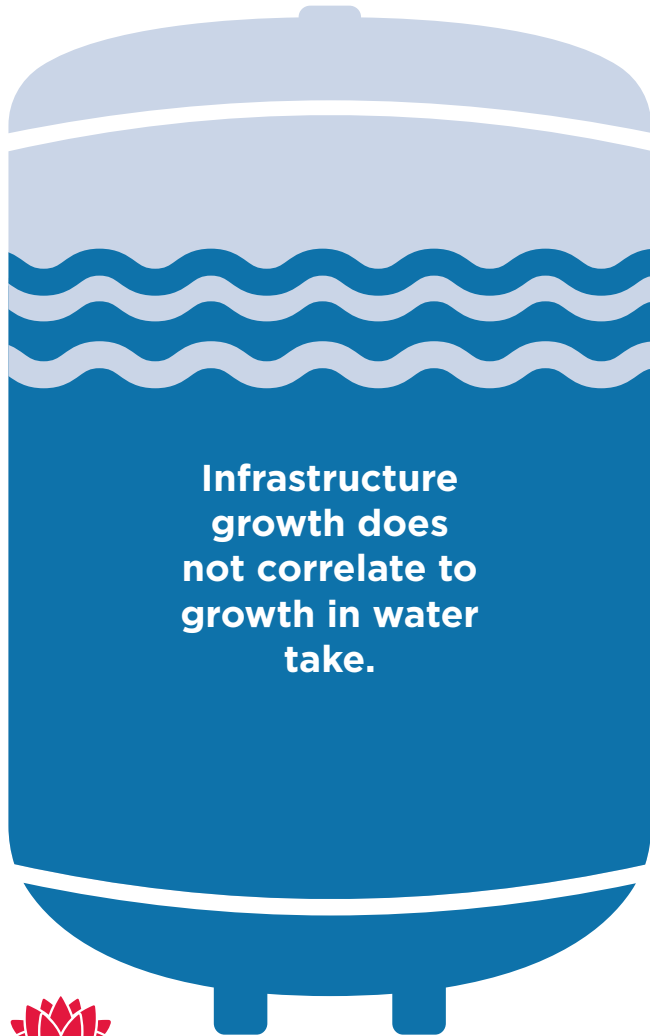




Factors influencing water take

Water take is influenced by factors such as water sharing rules and user behavior, as well as infrastructure. There have been significant changes to each of these factors over the last 20 years.



Infrastructure growth does not correlate to growth in water take.

How and why water is taken and stored



Water stored in on-farm dams comes from many forms of take including floodplain harvesting, water pumped from regulated and unregulated rivers and groundwater.



Irrigators take and store water to **drought-proof and ensure stability** in a highly variable boom-bust system.






Changes to water sharing rules and more conservative water user behavior are **offsetting much of the impact of increased infrastructure.**



Infrastructure includes dams, pipes and pumps. **Most growth in on-farm infrastructure is historic.**

Changes in infrastructure and diversions

 Valley	 On-farm dams	 Total diversions
Gwydir	80% increase in on-farm storage volumes since 1994 (81% of that increase prior to 2008)	12.2% above water source limits
NSW Border Rivers	50% increase in on-farm storage volumes since 1994 (90% of that increase since 2008)	4.3% above water source limits