

Water Sharing Rules

Upper Richmond River Water Source

Water Sharing Plan	
Plan	Richmond River Area Unregulated, Regulated and Alluvial Water Sources
Plan Commencement Date	October 2010
Term of the Plan	10 years
Water Sharing Rules	These rules apply to all surface waters in the water source, as well as the alluvial groundwater that is highly connected to the surface waters.

Rules Summary

The following rules are a guide only. For more information please contact WaterNSW on 1300 662 077.

Access Rules	
Cease to pump	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All access licence holders must cease to pump when: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) there is no visible flow in the vicinity of the pump site, or (b) flows are at or below 1 ML/day at the reference point. ▪ NB: From year 6 of the Plan the cease to pump condition will apply to aquifer access licences extracting from all alluvial aquifers within 40 m of an unregulated river. ▪ For an aquifer access licence, no visible flow in the vicinity of the pump site shall be taken to mean no visible flow in the river immediately adjacent to the water supply work.
Reference point	Staff gauge on the Richmond River @ Lavelles Road

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Amendment provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When a telemetered gauge is fully established within the water source, the cease to pump will increase to the 95th percentile if it is greater than 1 ML/day. ▪ When a telemetered gauge is fully established within the water source, pumping restrictions will be implemented such that when flows are equal to or less than the 85th percentile and greater than the cease to pump at the reference point, pumping is permitted for a maximum of 6 hours per day. ▪ An environmental flow rule may be implemented within the life of the Plan for the purposes of providing habitat flows for the Eastern Freshwater Cod. This rule may be implemented based on the availability of new information that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Identifies the flow requirements of the Eastern Freshwater Cod; (b) Identifies the hydrology, instream barriers, levels of water extraction and geomorphological characteristics of the water source; and (c) considers the socio-economic impacts of any proposed change to licence holder access conditions as a result of implementing an environmental flow rule.
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Trading rules	
INTO water source	Not permitted
WITHIN water source	Permitted, subject to assessment
Conversion to High Flow Access Licence	Permitted at the ratio of 1:5 for entitlement conversion.
Conversion to Aquifer Access Licence	Permitted, subject to assessment

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Managing Groundwater Alluvial Access Licences	
<p>Granting water supply works approvals – rules to minimise interference between neighbouring bores</p> <p>These rules apply to new bores.</p> <p>These rules do not apply to replacement bores.</p> <p>These rules do not apply to a bore which is solely for basic landholder rights.</p> <p>These rules do not apply to bores constructed for the purpose of monitoring, environmental management or remedial work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New water supply works (bores) are not to be located within the following distances of existing water supply works (bores): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 400 m from an water supply work (bore) that is nominated by another access licence on another landholding; ○ 200 m from a water supply work (bore) that is used to extract basic landholder rights (BLR) on another landholding; ○ 100 m from the boundary (unless negotiated with neighbour); ○ 500 m from a water supply work (bore) nominating a local or major utility access licence; or ○ 100 m from a water supply work (bore) that is used by the Office for monitoring purposes (unless agreed to by the Office). ▪ The distances rules may be varied if in the Minister’s opinion the location of the water supply work (bore) at a lesser distance would result in no more than minimal impact on existing extractions within the water source. Other variations will only be considered if the applicant undertakes a hydrogeological study, assessed as adequate by the Minister, which demonstrates that a lesser distance will have no more than minimal impact on existing extractions within the water source.
<p>Granting water supply works approvals – Rules to manage location of bores away from contaminated sites</p> <p>These rules apply to new bores.</p> <p>These rules do not apply to replacement bores.</p> <p>These rules do not apply to a bore which is solely for basic landholder rights.</p> <p>These rules do not apply to bores constructed for the purpose of monitoring, environmental management or remedial work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New bores are not to be located within 250 m of contaminated sites as identified within the Plan. ▪ Granting of an approval for a new water supply work (bore) located within 250 – 500 m of contaminated sites identified within the Plan will require evidence that no drawdown of groundwater within 250 m of the contamination source will occur, and the approval of the Minister. ▪ Granting of an approval for a new water supply work (bore) located greater than 500 m from a contaminated site may be restricted if the Minister determines it necessary to protect the water source, environment or public health or safety. ▪ The Minister may vary these rules if an applicant can demonstrate there will be no more than minimal harm to the groundwater source, no impact on the environment and no threat to public health ▪ These rules may also be applied to contaminated sources not identified within the Plan, but which are identified as a result of a site inspection or other relevant information provided to the Minister. ▪ Contaminated sites may be added or removed from the Plan by the Minister based on results of a site inspection or other relevant information provided to the Minister on a contamination source.

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Managing temporary local impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Section 324 of the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> provides for the management of local impacts in groundwater sources. The Minister may, for a specified period prohibit or restrict the taking of water from a water source, as the case requires to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ maintain or protect water levels in an aquifer;○ maintain, protect or improve the quality of water in an aquifer;○ prevent land subsidence or compaction in an aquifer;○ to protect GDEs; or○ to maintain pressure, or to ensure pressure recovery, in an aquifer.
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More information about the planning process for the Richmond River Area Regulated, Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources is available at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

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