

Approval to take under Temporary Water Restrictions



Responsive management of temporary water restrictions

Approval to take from the Border Rivers Water Source under Temporary Water Restriction (Northern NSW Murray Darling Basin) Amendment (No 2) Order 2020

The holders of access licences in the water sources specified in the Table below are approved to take water while the temporary water restriction is in place but only during the approval period as specified.

The temporary water restriction is in place until 28 February 2020.

Licence Category	Water Source	Approval Period (inclusive)
Regulated river (high security access licence)	Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source	17 February – 28 February

Further details about the temporary water restriction can be found on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment [website](#).

Reasons for Approval

There have been significant flows into the Border Rivers regulated river water source since 10 February. Forecasts from 14 February indicate that 8,000-15,000ML is expected to pass the flow gauge at the end of system at Mungindi. These forecasts indicate that 15,000-35,000ML is expected to arrive as inflows to Menindee Lakes (Lake Wetherell).

While the Border River flows will contribute to flow in the Barwon-Darling, the material impact of permitting access by high security licence holders is minimal. The total high security entitlement volume is 1,200ML and 100% was allocated on 1 July 2019; however, it is anticipated that not all of this entitlement would be accessed, with the impact of allowing high security take believed to be low risk to meeting flow targets when considered against the flows in the system and forecast flows.

Allowing high security access from uncontrolled flows allows inflows to upstream dams to be retained for future critical water needs in the Border Rivers regulated river water source.

To be consistent with other regulated rivers in the northern NSW Murray Darling Basin, where similar flow rates are being experienced, access to high security take will be allowed. Pump rates will be managed through the water ordering process to mitigate risks to meeting critical needs and connectivity at Mungindi and downstream.

Due to these conditions, I am satisfied that the current critical needs in valley targets will be met and that there is sufficient water available for higher priority needs to approve the licence holders specified in the Table to take water during the approval period in accordance with their licence conditions.

This approval is given in accordance with the Temporary Water Restriction (Northern NSW Murray Darling Basin) Amendment (No 2) Order 2020.

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A. Raine

Allan Raine, 17 February 2020

Director, Water Planning Implementation

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment