Amending Water Sharing Plans in response to the development of WRPs

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WSP / WRP alignment

NSW unregulated river and alluvial groundwater water sharing plans cover surface and groundwater resources

Basin Plan water resource plans cover surface water or groundwater

This results in complexity as NSW will be referring to one water sharing plan in two water resource plans

In many instances, the surface WRP and groundwater WRP within a single valley have significantly different timing in relation to public exhibition periods and submission for accreditation
Example of complexity

*Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Valley Regulated, Unregulated, Alluvium and Fractured Rock Water Sources 2010*

NSW – one water sharing plan

Basin Plan – three water resource plan areas:
- Namoi surface water
- Namoi Alluvium (groundwater)
- NSW fractured rock (groundwater)

The Peel is the most complex plan in relation to this issue
What are we doing about it?

NSW will be transferring water sources from one water sharing plan to another of the same water resource.

This will split the unregulated and alluvial WSP.

The resultant WSP will be either surface water or groundwater specific.

Modification to the titles of water sharing plans will be required.
Gwydir SW – two surface water WSPs
Namoi Alluvium WSP brings together three WSPs
Outcomes

The proposed transfer of water sources from one WSP to another:

1. **Does not** alter any of the existing rules.

2. Results in a change in the duration of the existing rules for some water sources.

3. Results in a change in the title of some WSP, which is specified on their water access licence.
Water sharing plan duration

Increases:
Two water sources by two years
Two water sources by one year

Decreases
Thirteen water sources by three years
All other a decrease of four years