

Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Central Coast Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2021



Submission form

Office use only	Submission number
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How to fill out this form

The department is seeking your comments on the draft replacement Water Sharing Plan for the Central Coast Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2021.

For general background about the draft plan development, proposed changes and the finalisation process please refer to the background and proposed changes documents. For water source specific details including proposed rules, please see the water source report cards.

Key issues and proposed changes from the current plan have been summarised in this submission form, comments may be provided for any or all of the changes mentioned below. Alternatively, you are welcome to provide comments and feedback on all aspects of the water sharing plan in the space provided at the bottom of the form. If more space is required, attachments may be provided.

Send completed submissions to:

Post: Central Coast WSP Submissions,
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
PO Box 2213
Dangar NSW 2309

Email: wsp.centralcoast@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Note: Submissions close 31 January 2021

Information on privacy and confidentiality

All submissions received by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for the proposed draft plan will be reviewed following the public exhibition period to inform the finalisation of the draft water sharing plan. The department values your input and accepts that information you provide may be private and personal.

If you would prefer your submission or your personal details to be treated as confidential, please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below.

If you do not make a request for confidentiality, the department may make your submission, including any personal details contained in the submission, available to the public.

Please note that, regardless of a request for confidentiality, the department may be required by law to release copies of submissions to third parties in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

I would like my submission to be treated as confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Name

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How to fill out this form			
Postal Address			
Telephone			
Email address			
Stakeholder Group (please indicate which of the following best represents your interest by ticking one box)	Irrigation Interests Fishing Interests Local Govt./ Utilities	Aboriginal Interest Local Landholder Other (specify)	Environment Interests Community Member
If your comments refer to a specific water source, which one?			

Attach extra pages if required

Establishing the Central Coast Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish The Central Coast Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source. The long term average annual extraction limit for the proposed water source is greater than current water use levels and will not impact current groundwater users within the proposed water source. Additional water for licensed take may be made available through controlled allocations in the future.

Further details relating to this change can be found in the in Part 1 of the draft plan as well as the background document and the report card for the alluvial water source.

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?

Updated vision, objectives, strategies and performance indicators

The draft plan proposes updates to the vision, objectives and performance indicators. The objectives are better defined and more clearly distinguish between the environmental, economic, social and Aboriginal cultural objectives. The strategies and performance indicators have also been updated and are more clearly linked to objectives so that measuring the success of the plan is easier.

Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 2 of the draft plan and the background document.

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Updated vision, objectives, strategies and performance indicators

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?

Establishing 'no visible flow' cease to pump rules in Mangrove Creek and Mooney Mooney Creek water sources

The current plan already applies 'no visible flow' cease to pump (CtP) rules to 5 of the 7 water sources. The draft plan proposes that these rules are now also applied to the Mangrove Creek Water Source and the Mooney Mooney Creek Water Source.

This will mean that licence holders in those two water sources will have to cease pumping when there is no visible flow at the pumping location. If a pump takes from an in-river pool, the pool must not be drawn down. This requirement does not apply if water is being taken from an off-river pool.

Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 8 Division 3 and 4 of the draft plan, the background document as well as the report card for the water sources.

Do you have any comments about the proposed 'no visible flow' cease to pump rule?

How does the proposed "no visible flow" cease to pump rule impact on your current operations?

Do you think the 'no visible flow' Cease to pump rule is practical to implement? Why/why not?

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Establishing a 24 hour delay for commence to take rule

The draft plan proposes the following first flush rules to assist in mitigating risks to freshwater ecosystems from low flow extractions.

- For Mangrove Creek and Mooney Mooney Creek Water Sources the proposed rule requires that following a cease to pump event, a 24 hour period of continuous visible flow is required at the pump site before water take can resume.
- For Jilliby Jilliby Creek, Ourimbah Creek and Wyong River Water Sources the proposed rule requires that following a cease to pump event, a 24 hour continuous period of flow is required above the Very Low Flow Class threshold before water take can resume.

Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 8 Division 3 and 4 of the draft plan, the background document as well as the report card for the water sources.

Do you have any comments on the proposed 24 hour delay before pumping can commence?	
How does the proposed 24 hour delay impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the 24 hour delay is practical to implement? Why/why not?	

Prohibiting in-river dams in Jilliby Jilliby Creek and Ourimbah Creek water sources

The draft plan proposes to prohibit construction of new in-river dams in Jilliby Jilliby Creek and Ourimbah Creek water sources. This restriction was previously in place for these water sources, however an administrative error resulted in the provision being missed when the management arrangements were merged into the water sharing plan in 2016. This proposed change provides for the original intended management arrangements for these water sources.

These proposed rules are contained in Part 9 Division 2 of the draft plan as well as in the relevant report cards.

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?	
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Prohibiting works approvals near SEPP wetlands

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018* (Coastal SEPP) identifies wetlands in order to protect their ecological values. There is a need for coastal water sharing plans to recognise these same wetlands to ensure protection and alignment between regulatory objectives. The draft plan proposes to prohibit the granting of approvals for surface water or groundwater works if it would result in more than minimal harm to a wetland mapped under the Coastal SEPP.

These proposed rules are contained in Part 9 Division 2 and Division 3 of the draft plan as well as in the relevant report cards.

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?

Prohibiting works approvals near groundwater-dependent ecosystems

Groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDEs) are those that need access to groundwater to maintain their plant and animal communities and ecological processes. The draft plan proposes to simplify the existing GDE protection provisions by replacing three overly complex distance rules with a single 200m distance rule. In addition to continuing to protect the GDEs in the current plan, the draft plan proposes to expand GDE protection and includes a map that identifies potential high priority GDEs for which minimum setback distances may apply. Exemptions for these rules are also proposed.

These proposed rules are contained in Part 9 Division 3 of the draft plan. Please also refer to the background document for GDE map and additional details about this proposed change.

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?

Inter water source trade provisions updated

The current plan allows, within limits, trade of water into Jilliby Jilliby Creek and Ourimbah Creek water sources. The draft plan proposes to prohibit trade into those water sources. This change aims to reduce potential additional extractive stress to high risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

These proposed rules are contained in Part 10 of the draft plan as well as in the relevant report cards.

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?

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Additional feedback

The above sections relate to the key proposed changes from the current water sharing plan. However, comments on all aspects of the plan are welcome and encouraged. Please use the space below, or attachments if required or preferred.

Do you have comments on any aspect of the draft plan?
