

# Report card for the Berowra Creek and Cowan Creek Water Source

Report card 2 of 64

## Water source context

Water Sharing Plan:	Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water Sources
Extraction Management Unit:	Hawkesbury and Lower Nepean Rivers
Area:	43,702.7 ha
Inflowing water source:	Nil
Receiving water source:	Lower Hawkesbury River Water Source

## River flows

Low-flow index:	Visible flow
Flow records:	No gauge in this water source

## Basic landholder rights

Domestic and stock rights estimate:	708.1 ML/yr
Native title rights:	0 ML/yr

## Licensed water entitlements

Total surface water entitlement:	1,146.8 ML/yr (7.8 ML/yr domestic and stock licences, 1,139 ML/yr unregulated river licences)
Local water utilities entitlement:	0 ML/yr
Major utilities entitlement:	0 ML/yr
Proportion of extraction management unit:	<1%

## Rules

### Managing access licences

Each water access licence has its own share component (volume of the licence) and a water allocation account that acts like a bank account where water is credited or debited.

- Water is credited to an account by an available water determination or if water is traded in (purchased) during the year from other licence holders
- Water is debited from the account when water is extracted or traded out (sold). Total extraction from a work (pump, bore, etc.) will be measured via metering or logbooks.

### Carryover and individual account limits

For a major water utility access licence account – carryover is not permitted.

Domestic and stock and unregulated river access licence accounts - carryover is permitted up to 1 ML per unit share or 100% of share component (where expressed in ML) at the end of each water year.

Domestic and stock and unregulated river access licences - the maximum water account debit in any 3 consecutive water years is the volume of water allocated to the account over those 3 years from available water determinations plus any adjustments made for allocation assignments (trades) or water allocation re-credited into the account.

Table 1. Draft rules for granting access licences

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
There are limited purposes for which a new licence will be granted. It is anticipated that most water needs will be sourced from the market. One reason a licence may be granted is for Aboriginal cultural purposes. Other reasons are identified in Clause 10 of the Water Management Act General Regulation 2018.		
Aboriginal cultural access licence	Permitted to a limit of 10 ML/yr.	No change.
Aboriginal community development access licence	Not permitted.	No change.

Table 2. Draft surface water access rules

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Cease to pump	Cease to pump when no visible flow at the pump site.	No change.
Flow classes	None established.	No change.
Extraction from an authorised in-river dam pool	Rules specified on the water supply work approval for the in-river dam.	No change.

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
<b>Extraction from an in-river pool</b>	Must cease pumping if the in-river pool is below full capacity.	No change.
<b>Off-river pools (natural pools, lakes or lagoons)</b>	Extraction from natural pools can only occur if the pool is 100% full.	No change.

Table 3 Exemptions from surface water access rules

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
<b>Health and hygiene</b>	<p>For an access licence specified in Schedule 2 of the plan, no more than 20 kl/day for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fruit washing</li> <li>• cleaning of dairy plant and equipment for the purposes of hygiene</li> <li>• poultry watering and misting</li> </ul> <p>cleaning of enclosures used for intensive animal production for the purposes of hygiene.</p>	Exemption now applies to both fruit and vegetable washing
<b>Domestic use</b>	For domestic consumption under a domestic and stock access licence, up to 1 kl/day.	No change.
<b>Harvestable rights</b>	From a run-off harvesting dam.	No change.
<b>Specific purpose</b>	For an access licence specified in Schedule 2 of the plan.	No change.

Table 4 Draft rules for constructing surface water supply works

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
<b>In-river dams</b>	Prohibited.	No change.
<b>Works near coastal wetlands</b>	No rule in current plan.	Prohibited within 3km upstream of a Ramsar wetland or 200m of a coastal wetland identified on the Coastal Wetlands and Littoral Rainforest Area Map available on the NSW Planning Portal at <a href="http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au">www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au</a>

Table 5 Draft water trading (dealing) rules

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Trading covers conversion of access licence to a new category (for example from unregulated river to aquifer), assignment of rights dealings (trading of a licence), share component dealings between water sources (trading of entitlement between water sources), water allocation dealings (trading an annual allocation) and water supply works dealings (relocation of an extraction point).		
INTO water source	Permitted, with no net gain.	No change.
WITHIN water source	Permitted except to a work taking for a lagoon.	No change.
Surface water to groundwater	Prohibited.	No change.
Groundwater to surface water	Prohibited.	No change.
Convert to high flow	Prohibited.	No change.

## Key factors for decisions

- Berowra Creek and Cowan Creek Water Source has medium ecological values and a low likelihood that water extraction is impacting on low flows with overall low risk to the low flows.
- There is no gauge located in this water source. Access rules reflect this.
- It is proposed to retain the current trade rules into Berowra Creek and Cowan Creek Water Source. These allow trade in as long as the level of entitlement does not increase from the level at the commencement of the water sharing plan (no net gain). This will maintain take at or below current levels, promoting some trade whilst considering the high likelihood value.

## Public exhibition

The Department of Planning and Environment seeks feedback from the public on the suitability of the proposed rules for this water source.

The draft Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water Sharing Plan and supporting fact sheets are available from the department’s [Public Exhibition website](#).