

Rules summary sheet

Lower Murray Shallow Groundwater Source

Water sharing plan	Lower Murray Shallow Groundwater Source
Plan commencement	1 April 2012
Term of the plan	10 years

Management zone descriptions

Western Management Zone	The portion of the Lower Murray Shallow Groundwater Source that extends from the Murray and Wakool River junction in the west to the Edward River and Cobb Highway in the east, but excluding the former Denimien Irrigation District.
Eastern Management Zone	The portion of the Lower Murray Shallow Groundwater Source that includes the former Denimien Irrigation District and the area bound by the Cobb Highway and Edward River in the west to the Corowa-Urana Road in the east.

Rules summary

The following rules are a guide only. For more information about your actual licence conditions, please call the NSW Office of Water on (03) 5898 3900.

Access rules

Limits to the availability of water Assessment of average annual extraction against the long-term average annual extraction limit	<p>Growth in extractions will be assessed against the long-term average annual extraction limit (LTAAEL) over a 5 year period with a 10% tolerance.</p> <p>Assessments of extraction will commence in the sixth year of the plan, using extraction records from the first year of the plan.</p>
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<p>Available water determinations</p>	<p>Available water determinations (AWDs) will be made at the commencement of each water year for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific purpose access licences– 100% of share component • Salinity and water table management – 100% of share component • Aquifer access licences – 1ML/unit of share component or higher amount if required for water table management or lower amount as result of (a) growth in extractions response or (b) prior to completing a growth in extractions assessment. <p>Note: The trigger for when a higher AWD would be required for salinity and water table management will be based on an assessment of area affected by high water table and assessment of what water is already available in users' accounts.</p> <p>Note: During times of critical water shortages, AWDs for specific purpose access licences for stock and domestic (subcategory domestic) may be reduced below 100%.</p> <p>Note: Multiple AWDs may be made in any one year subsequent to the commencing AWD. Additional AWDs may be required to, for example, promote additional pumping to manage groundwater tables or in response to a growth in use assessment.</p>
<p>Granting access licences</p>	<p>Granting of water access licences may be considered for the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific purpose access licences in clause 19 of the <i>Water Management (General) Regulation 2004</i>, including: local water utility, major water utility, domestic and stock, town water supply and Aboriginal cultural licences • Aquifer (Aboriginal cultural) access licences, which are limited to 10 ML/year • Salinity and water table management access licences
<p>Carryover</p>	<p>For aquifer access licences carryover of the balance of a water account up to 100% of entitlement will be permitted at the end of each water year.</p> <p>No carryover is permitted for specific purpose or salinity and water table management licences.</p>
<p>Annual take limit</p>	<p>For aquifer access licences, the maximum amount of water permitted to be taken in any one water year is 150% of entitlement, adjusted for allocation assignments out of or into individual accounts.</p>

<p>Trading rules</p>	
<p>Trading rules INTO the groundwater source</p>	<p>Trades are not permitted into the groundwater source.</p>
<p>Trading rules WITHIN management zones</p>	<p>Trades are permitted within management zones, subject to assessment of potential impacts on other users and the environment.</p>
<p>Trading rules BETWEEN management zones</p>	<p>Trades are not permitted into the Eastern Management Zone.</p> <p>Trades are permitted into the Western Management Zone, subject to assessment of potential impacts on other users and the environment.</p>
<p>Trading rules resulting in change of category</p>	<p>Conversion of access licence from one category to another in the Groundwater Source is not permitted.</p>
<p>Trading rules BETWEEN states</p>	<p>Dealings that result in interstate transfer and assignment of water allocations to or from this Groundwater Source are prohibited.</p>

Rules for granting and amending water supply works approvals	
<p>Rules for water supply works approvals Rules to minimise interference between bores</p>	<p>Water supply works (bores) are not to be granted or amended within the following distances of existing bores:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400m from a bore that is nominated on an aquifer access licence on another landholding. • 400m from a bore that is used to extract basic landholder rights on another landholding. • 1000m from a bore nominating a local or major water utility access licence. • 200m from a bore that is used by the Office for monitoring purposes (unless agreed to in writing by the Office). • 200m from a property boundary (unless negotiated in writing with neighbour). • 100m from an irrigation channel that is operated by a rural service provider (unless negotiated in writing with the service provider). <p><i>The plan lists circumstances in which these distance conditions may be varied and exemptions to these rules.</i></p> <p>Note: The additional restriction of 100 m from an irrigation channel is to minimise interference with irrigation channels that are owned or managed by rural water service providers, as opposed to irrigation channels that are privately managed.</p>
<p>Rules for water supply works approvals Rules to protect groundwater dependent culturally significant sites</p>	<p>Water supply works (bores) are not to be granted or amended within the following distances of groundwater dependent cultural significant sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100m for bores used solely for extracting basic landholder rights • 200m for bores not used solely for extracting basic landholder rights <p><i>The plan lists circumstances in which these distance conditions may be varied and exemptions to these rules.</i></p>
<p>Rules for water supply works approvals Rules for bores located near contamination</p>	<p>Water supply works (bores) are not to be granted or amended within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250m of a contamination source as identified within the plan, or • between 250m and 500m of a contamination source as identified within the plan unless no drawdown of water will occur within 250 m of the contamination, or • a distance greater than 500m of a contamination source as identified within the plan if necessary to protect the water source, the environment or public health or safety. <p><i>The plan lists circumstances in which these distance conditions may be varied and exemptions to these rules.</i></p> <p>Note: A contamination source may be added to 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.</p> <p>Note: Due to the nature of managing contamination, bores may be subject to restrictions as a result of local impact management.</p>

Rules for granting and amending water supply works approvals	
<p>Rules for water supply works approvals Rules for bores located near sensitive environmental areas</p>	<p>Water supply works (bores) used solely for extracting basic landholder rights are not to be granted or amended within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100m of a high priority groundwater dependent ecosystem (GDE) listed in the plan • 100m from the top of the high bank of a river or stream <p>Bores not used solely for extracting basic landholder rights are not to be granted or amended within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200m of a high priority GDE listed in the plan • a distance greater than 200m of a high priority GDE listed in the plan if the bore is likely to cause drawdown at the perimeter of any high priority GDE listed in the plan • 100m from the top of the high bank of a river or stream <p><i>The plan lists circumstances in which these distance conditions may be varied and exemptions to these rules.</i></p> <p>Note: High priority GDEs may be added to or removed from the plan based on further studies of groundwater ecosystem dependency undertaken by the Minister.</p>
<p>Rules for water supply works approvals Rules for the use of existing bores within restricted distances</p>	<p>An existing water supply work (bore) will be able to continue extraction of groundwater with the maximum annual amount extracted equivalent to the share components of access licences nominating that bore at the commencement of the plan within</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500m of contamination listed in the plan, or • any of the distance restrictions listed above <p>Note: The water quality from any bore can be affected by land use activities and inherent water quality in the aquifer. Water quality cannot be guaranteed and may be unsuitable for human consumption and other uses. The quality of water extracted should be tested before being used and appropriately treated. Such testing and treatment is the responsibility of the licence holder.</p> <p>Note: If the distance criteria in the plan are amended, the maximum amount of water that may be taken by a bore within the new criteria in one water year is equal to the sum of share components of access licences nominating that bore at the time of amendment.</p>
<p>Rules for water supply works approvals Rules to manage local impacts</p>	<p>The <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> provides for the Minister to prohibit or restrict the taking of water from a water source in order to manage local impacts in groundwater sources, where required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain or protect water levels in an aquifer, or • maintain, protect or improve the quality of water in an aquifer, or • prevent land subsidence or compaction in an aquifer, or • to protect groundwater dependent ecosystems, or • to maintain pressure, or to ensure pressure recovery, in an aquifer. <p>Local access rules may be applied if salinity in a locality exceeds 3000 EC.</p>

More information about the Water Sharing Plan for the Lower Murray Shallow Groundwater Source is available at the NSW Office of Water website www.water.nsw.gov.au

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