Risk Assessment

Adrian Matheson | Ecohydrologist
Overview

• Risk management

• Basin Plan requirements

• Stakeholder feedback from SAPs, including MDBA

• Re-worked risk assessment

• Alignment with other planning process
Risk management

Continuing to advance

- Risk assessments not a new process in NSW
- Assists in management
  - Prioritise highest levels of risk, directs time and effort
- Developed through peer reviewed process
- Basin Plan requirements included in a framework
Basin Plan requirements

Chapter 10, Part 9 “...have regard to current & future risks to the condition & continued availability of the water resources...”

Assess a range of risk types, including:

- Capacity to meet environmental watering requirements and insufficient water for the environment

- Productive base of groundwater - structural damage, change in hydraulic relationships

- Potential interception activities

- Insufficient water available or not suitable for consumptive and other economic uses
Basin Plan requirements

Chapter 10, Part 9 …cont’d

• Medium or high risks must be addressed in a manner commensurate with the level of risk

• Explain why a risk cannot be addressed by the Water Resource Plan in a manner commensurate with the level of risk

• Tolerable risk results – those high or medium risk results NSW considers are acceptable or adequately managed by existing water resource management strategies
Stakeholder feedback

Feedback from SAPs, including MDBA

• Requested improved clarity around data, methods, outcomes

• Improved lines of sight between each risk outcome and mitigation

• Improved presentation of information – suggested examples from MDBA

• Streamline terminology and linkages with assets and functions and Long Term Watering Plan

• Clearer information on connectivity between Water Resource Plan Areas and Sustainable Diversion Limits units
Re-worked risk assessment

Addressing feedback from stakeholders

- Alignment between surface water and groundwater risk assessment frameworks
- Define risk pathways
- Risk treatment options
  - Improve knowledge, adjust/implement strategy, develop new strategy
Final risk assessments

Consolidated risk table

- Brings everything into the one place – “line of sight”

- For each river reach/water source:
  - Consequence, likelihood, outcome and data confidence
  - Identifies any tolerable risks
  - Identifies the existing water management actions and mechanisms and which risk treatment was applied
Alignment with other planning processes

• Key input into the issue assessment process and option development

• Risk assessment outcomes have been discussed in SAPs

• Any new Water Sharing Plan rules consistent with Water Sharing Plan objective setting process and Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting

• Strategies and water management actions provide clear line of sight with Long Term Watering Plan, Basin Plan clauses and relevant Water Sharing Plan objectives

• Available to broader community at public exhibition