

Report card for the Bomaderry Creek Water Source

Report card 3 of 64

Water source context

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Water Sharing Plan: | Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water Sources |
| Extraction Management Unit: | Shoalhaven River Extraction Management Unit |
| Area: | 3,598.8 ha |
| Inflowing water source: | Nil |
| Receiving water source: | Lower Shoalhaven River Water Source |

River flows

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Low-flow index: | 0.7 ML/day (80 th percentile flow) |
| Flow records: | Bomaderry Creek at Bomaderry gauge (215016) |

Basic landholder rights

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Domestic and stock rights estimate: | 58.4 ML/yr |
| Native title rights: | 0 ML/yr |

Licensed water entitlements

| | |
|---|--|
| Total surface water entitlement: | 148.6 ML/yr (1 ML/yr domestic and stock licences, 147.6 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 |
|--|--|----------------|
| River flow can be viewed on WaterNSW Real-time Data website . Search for a gauge under Rivers and Streams. | | |
| Cease to pump | Cease to pump when no visible flow at the pump site. Cease to pump when flows are in the very low flow class. | No change. |

| Type | Current rules | Proposed rules |
|--|---|---|
| Flow classes | When the river is falling: Very low flow class: ≤ 0.4 ML/day A class: > 0.4 ML/day When the river is rising: Very low flow class: ≤ 1 ML/day A class: > 1 ML/day | When the river is falling: Very low flow class: ≤ 0.7 ML/day A class: > 0.7 ML/day When the river is rising: Very low flow class: ≤ 1.3 ML/day A class: > 1.3 ML/day |
| Extraction from an in-river pool | Must cease pumping if the in-river pool is below full capacity. | 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 |
| Off-river pools (natural pools, lakes or lagoons) | 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 |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Health and hygiene | For an access licence specified in Schedule 2 of the plan, no more than 20 kl/day for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fruit washing • cleaning of dairy plant and equipment for the purposes of hygiene • poultry watering and misting • cleaning of enclosures used for intensive animal production for the purposes of hygiene. | Exemption now applies to both fruit and vegetable washing. |
| Domestic use | For domestic consumption under a domestic and stock access licence, up to 1 kl/day. | No change. |
| Harvestable rights | From a run-off harvesting dam. | No change. |
| Specific purpose | 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 |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| In-river dams | Permitted. | No change. |
| Works near coastal wetlands listed under the <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i> | 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 www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au |

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 | Prohibited. | No change. |
| WITHIN water source | Permitted. | No change. |
| Surface water to groundwater | Not allowed. | No change. |
| Groundwater to surface water | Not allowed. | No change. |
| Convert to high flow | Not allowed. | No change. |

Key factors for decisions

- Bomaderry Creek Water Source has medium ecological values and a high likelihood that extraction of water will impact low flows with overall high risk to low flows.
- We propose to change the flow class in the Bomaderry Creek Water Source due to the high risk rating. The very low flow class has been increased from 0.4 ML/day (83rd percentile) to 0.7 ML/day (80th percentile). Unregulated river licence holders will only be able to take water when flows are above this level, approximately 80% of the time. This change has been proposed to help mitigate risks to the environment.
- The current water sharing plan does not allow trade into the Bomaderry Creek Water Source. It is proposed to retain these rules due to the continuing high risk to low flows in this area. Trade is allowed out of the Bomaderry Creek Water Source and should help reduce the overall risk.

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](#).