

Report card for the Capertee River Water Source

Report card 8 of 64

Water source context

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Water Sharing Plan: | Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water Sources |
| Extraction Management Unit: | Hawkesbury and Lower Nepean Rivers EMU |
| Area: | 137,088.6 ha |
| Inflowing water source: | Nil |
| Receiving water source: | Colo River Water Source |

River flows

| | |
|---------------|---|
| First flow: | 0.3 ML/day (75 th percentile flow) |
| Flow records: | Capertee River at Glen Davis gauge (212018) |

Basic landholder rights

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Domestic and stock rights estimate: | 1,244.7 ML/yr |
| Native title rights: | 0 ML/yr |

Licensed water entitlements

| | |
|---|---|
| Total surface water entitlement: | 538.5 ML/yr (24 ML/yr domestic and stock licences, 514.5 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 | Permitted, to a combined limit of 66 ML/yr. | Not permitted |

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 | <p>Cease to pump when no visible flow at the pump site.</p> <p>Cease to pump when flows are in the very low flow class.</p> <p>No take 24 hours after a cease to pump event.</p> | No change. |
| Flow classes | <p>Very low flow class: ≤ 2 ML/day</p> <p>A Class: $>2 - \leq 11$ ML/day</p> <p>B Class: >11 ML/day</p> | No change. |
| 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 | <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"> • 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. |

| Type | Current rules | Proposed rules |
|---------------------------|--|----------------|
| Specific purpose | For an access licence specified in Schedule 2 of the plan. | No change. |
| Harvestable rights | From a run-off harvesting dam. | 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 |
|--|--|----------------|
| <p>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).</p> | | |
| INTO water source | Permitted with no net gain. | Prohibited. |
| WITHIN water source | Generally permitted but no trade into the Crown Creek catchment or into or upstream of a Wild River or 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

- Capertee River Water Source has medium ecological values and low likelihood that water extraction is impacting on low flows with an overall low risk to low flows
- No change is proposed to the current access rules as there is low risk to low flows in this water source
- High flows in this water source are less than 20 ML/yr. This volume is not large enough to sustain high flow extraction. As such it is proposed that the granting of Aboriginal Community Development Licences (which take from high flows) is no longer allowed.
- The Capertee River Water Source contains ‘wild river(s)’ as declared under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Wild rivers are of high conservation value and in near-pristine condition. Trade into the water source is prohibited.

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](#).