

## Rules summary sheet

### Lower Darling Alluvial Groundwater Source

Water sharing plan	Lower Murray-Darling Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources
Plan commencement	30 January 2012
Term of the plan	10 years

#### 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) 5051 6200.

#### Access rules

<p><b>Access conditions for horticultural licences with 'drought contingency' conditions</b></p>	<p>Groundwater extracted under 'drought contingency' licences can only be accessed when the announced available water determination (AWD) for the regulated river system for that year is zero per cent. When this occurs, the percentage of groundwater entitlement available will be announced by the NSW Office of Water and may vary from year to year.</p> <p>Groundwater with electrical conductivity greater than 3,000 µS/cm is not permitted to be extracted.</p>
<p><b>Access conditions for horticultural licences with no 'drought contingency' conditions</b></p>	<p>Groundwater with electrical conductivity greater than 3,000 µS/cm is not permitted to be extracted.</p>
<p><b>Granting of access licences</b></p>	<p>Granting of new water access licences may be considered for the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local water utility, major water utility, domestic and stock, salinity and watertable management and town water supply</li> </ul> <p><i>These are specific purpose access licences in clause 19 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2004.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aquifer (Aboriginal cultural), up to 10 megalitres a year.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Carryover</b></p>	<p>Carryover is not permitted.</p>
<p><b>Take limit</b></p>	<p>The maximum amount of water permitted to be taken in any one water year is the water allocation accrued in the water access account for that water year, adjusted for allocation assignments out of or into individual accounts.</p>
<p><b>Assessment of average annual extraction against the long-term average annual extraction limit</b></p>	<p>Growth in extractions will be assessed against the long-term average annual extraction limit over a five year period with a 10 per cent tolerance.</p> <p>Assessments will commence in year six of the plan.</p>

<b>Available water determinations</b>	<p>Available water determinations will be made at the start of each water year for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stock and domestic, local and major water utilities and specific purpose access licences – 100 per cent of share component.</li> <li>• Aquifer access licences – one megalitre per unit share or lower amount as a result of a growth in extraction response.</li> </ul>
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<b>Trading rules</b>	
<b>Trading rules INTO the Groundwater Source</b>	Trades are not permitted into the groundwater source.
<b>Trading rules WITHIN the Groundwater Source</b>	<p>Subject to assessment of potential impacts on other users and the environment, trade of entitlement is permitted between water access licences that nominate works that have a 'drought contingency' condition.</p> <p>No trade is permitted to or from Western Murray Irrigation's salinity and water table management access licence.</p>
<b>Trading rules resulting in CHANGE of category</b>	Conversion of access licence from one category to another in the groundwater source is not permitted.
<b>Interstate trading</b>	Dealings that result in interstate transfer and assignment of water allocations to or from this water source are prohibited unless there is an interstate agreement enabling such dealings, and such arrangements are specified in the Minister's access licence dealing principles.
<b>Rules for granting and amending water supply works approvals</b>	
<p><b>Rules for water supply works approvals</b> 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"> <li>• 400 metres from a bore that is nominated on an aquifer access licence on another landholding</li> <li>• 400 metres from a bore that is used to extract basic landholder rights on another landholding</li> <li>• 1,000 metres from a bore nominating a local or major water utility access licence</li> <li>• 500 metres from a bore that is used by the NSW Office of Water for monitoring purposes (unless agreed to in writing by the NSW Office of Water) or</li> <li>• 200 metres from a property boundary (unless negotiated in writing with neighbour).</li> </ul> <p><i>The plan lists circumstances in which these distance conditions may be varied.</i></p>
<p><b>Rules for water supply works approvals</b> 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"> <li>• 100 metres for bores used solely for extracting basic landholder rights, or</li> <li>• 200 metres for bores not used solely for extracting basic landholder rights.</li> </ul> <p><i>The plan lists circumstances in which these distance conditions may be varied and exemptions from these rules.</i></p>

<p><b>Rules for water supply works approvals</b> 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"> <li>• 250 metres of the plume associated with a contamination source as identified within the plan,</li> <li>• between 250 metres and 500 metres of the plume associated with a contamination source as identified within the plan unless no drawdown of water will occur within 250 metres of the contamination, or</li> <li>• a distance greater than 500 metres from the plume associated with a contamination source as identified within the plan if necessary to protect the water source, the environment or public health or safety.</li> </ul> <p><i>The plan lists circumstances in which these distance conditions may be varied and exemptions from these rules.</i></p> <p><b>Note:</b> Due to the nature of managing contamination, bores may be subject to restrictions as a result of local impact management.</p>
<p><b>Rules for water supply works approvals</b> Rules for bores located near sensitive environmental areas</p>	<p>Water supply works (bores) are not to be granted or amended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• within 100 metres of a high priority groundwater dependent ecosystem (GDE) used solely for extracting basic landholder rights, as identified within the plan,</li> <li>• within 200 metres of a high priority GDE not used solely for extracting basic landholder rights, as identified within the plan,</li> <li>• at a distance greater than 200 metres of a high priority GDE as identified within the plan if the bore is likely to cause more than minimal drawdown at the perimeter of any high priority GDE as identified within the plan, or</li> <li>• within 40 metres from the top of the high bank of a river.</li> </ul> <p>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><i>The plan lists circumstances in which these distance conditions may be varied and exemptions from these rules.</i></p>
<p><b>Rules for water supply works approvals</b> 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 access licence share components nominating that bore at the commencement of the plan, adhering to any of the distance restrictions listed above</p> <p><b>Note:</b> 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><b>Note:</b> 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>

**For more information** about the Water Sharing Plan for the Lower Murray-Darling Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources refer to on the NSW Office of Water website: [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

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## Rules summary sheet

### Lower Murray-Darling Water Source

<b>Water sharing plan</b>	Lower Murray-Darling Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources
<b>Plan commencement</b>	30 January 2012
<b>Term of plan</b>	10 years

<b>Rules summary</b>	
<b>The following rules are a guide only. For more information about your actual licence conditions, please call the NSW Office of Water on (03) 5051 6200.</b>	
<b>Cease to pump (CtP)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For access licences extracting from pools or lagoons listed in Schedule 5 of the plan, a CtP will be set at 50 per cent of the average 'full level' volume.</li> <li>2. If environmental water is diverted into Thegoa Lagoon when the water level is below the CtP level, then licensed extractions are not permitted until water enters the lagoon via the western culvert, or water allocated for extraction is diverted into the lagoon.</li> <li>3. For access licences extracting from pools or lagoons not listed in Schedule 5 of the plan, a zero per cent drawdown will apply.</li> <li>4. For access licences extracting from a streambed (not from a lagoon or pool) a CtP will be set at visible flow.</li> </ol>
<b>Reference point</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At a gauge board in the lagoon / pool's environs</li> <li>2. At the pump site in streams</li> </ol>
<b>Trading rules</b>	
<b>INTO water source</b>	Not permitted
<b>WITHIN water source</b>	Trade is not permitted into lagoons. Subject to assessment, water access licences that nominate works on lagoons may be traded to works not located on lagoons.
<b>Conversion to high flow access licence</b>	Not permitted
<b>Interstate trading</b>	Dealings that result in interstate transfer and assignment of water allocations to or from this water source are prohibited unless there is an interstate agreement enabling such dealings and such arrangements are specified in the Minister's access licence dealing principles.

**More information** about the planning process for the Lower Murray-Darling unregulated and alluvial water sources is available on the NSW Office of Water website [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

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