



# **Water Resource Plans and water sharing plan**

**NSW Murray and Lower Darling Water Resource Plan Area (SW8)**

# Agenda

1. **Difference between water resource plans and water sharing plans**
2. **NSW Murray and Lower Darling water resource plan and changes to the water sharing plans**
3. **Public exhibition – have your say**



Photo: NSW DPI

# Departments and roles in water management

## Legislation

Water Act 2007 (Cwlth)  
• Principles

Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)  
• Principles  
• Priorities  
• Extreme events

## Instruments

Murray Darling Basin Plan 2012

Water Resource Plans (WRPs)  
• How WRP area meets with the Basin Plan

Water Sharing Plans (WSPs)  
• Rules for managing environmental and consumptive water

## Agencies and roles

### Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)

- Review state WRPs to show states are managing water under the Basin Plan requirements

### Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH)

- Manages held environmental water that has been recovered from licence buybacks and efficiency projects under the Basin Plan

### DPIE – Water

- Prepares and administers WRPs and WSPs

### DPIE – Biodiversity Conservation Division (formerly OEH)

- Manages planned environmental under WSPs and held environmental water that has been recovered

### WaterNSW

- Delivers environmental and consumptive water orders

### Natural Resource Access Regulator (NRAR)

- Compliance with WSPs and water restrictions



# Water resource plans – a Basin Plan requirement



Demonstrate how water resources will be shared and managed to be consistent with the Murray-Darling Basin Plan (2012).



Set out the requirements for annual limits on water take, environmental water and managing water during extreme events.



Provide strategies to protect water quality and manage risks.



Set out the arrangements for measuring ‘take’ and monitoring the resource.

# NSW context

## NSW *Water Management Act 2000*

### Water sharing plans

Specify the rules for sharing water to maintain the health, sustainability and productivity of surface water and groundwater sources across all of NSW.

The water sharing plans form part of the WRP. Relevant parts of a water sharing plan are assessed by the MDBA and accredited by the Commonwealth Minister.

## Commonwealth *Water Act 2007* Murray–Darling Basin Plan 2012

### Water resource plans

Specify the rules for diverting water within specified areas of the Murray–Darling Basin.

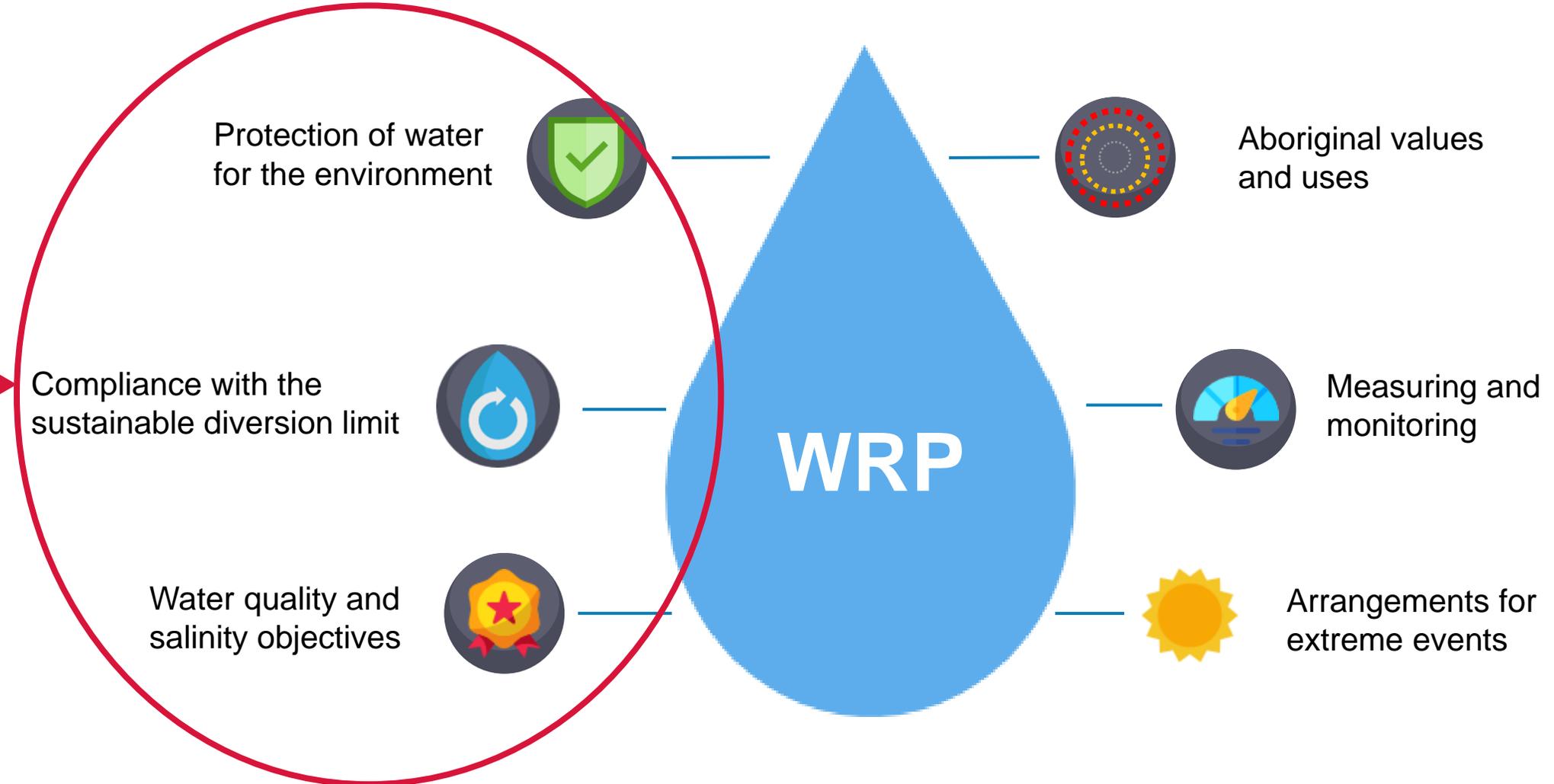
### Elements include:

- Compliance with the sustainable diversion limits and water trade rules
- Protection of water for the environment
- Water quality and salinity management and objectives
- Aboriginal values and uses
- Measuring and monitoring
- Arrangements for managing extreme events.

**Water Sharing Plans remain the primary statutory instruments for water sharing in NSW.**

# The water resource plan and the water sharing plan

**NSW  
statutory 'water sharing  
plans'**



# Questions?



# Process for developing water resource plans

## DEVELOP



Status  
& Issues  
paper

February  
2017



Strategy  
& rule  
development



Draft  
WRP

## CONSULT



Public  
exhibition  
WRP

September -  
October 2019



Final  
WRP

## APPROVE & ACCREDIT



Ministerial  
approval



MDBA  
assessment &  
Commonwealth  
Minister  
accreditation

## IMPLEMENT

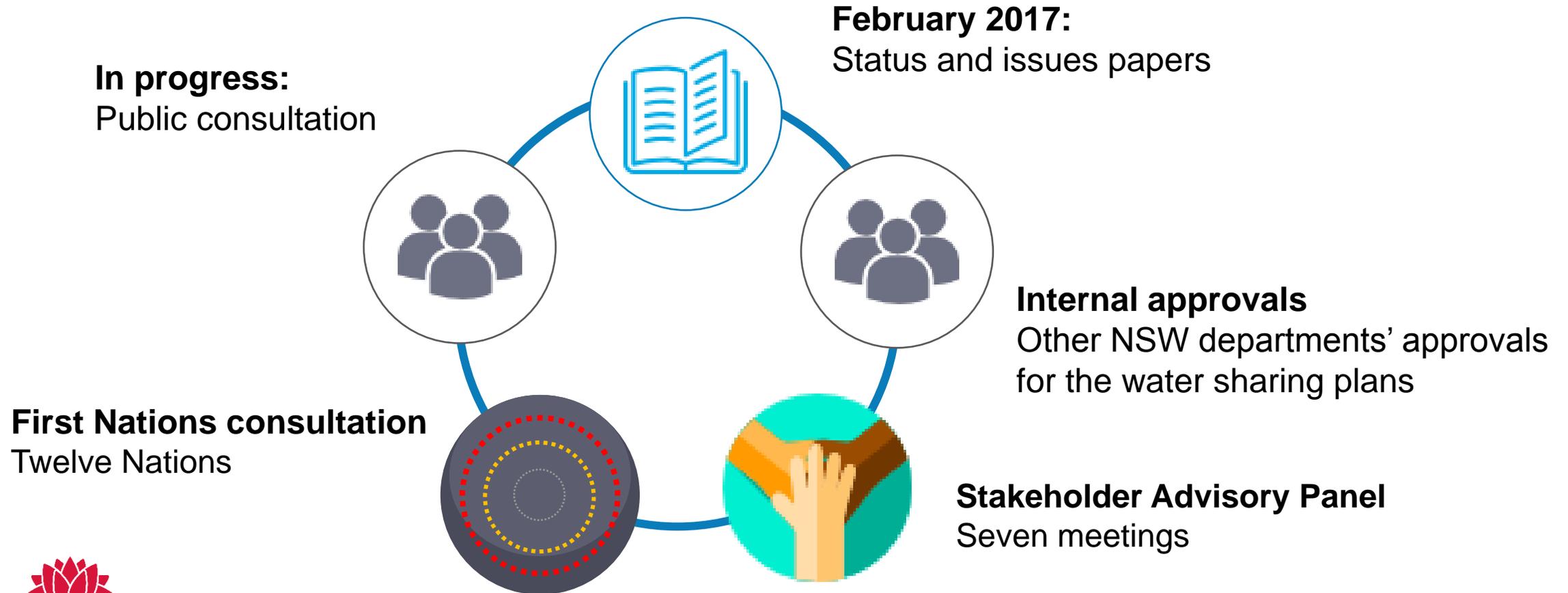


WRP  
Commences

2020



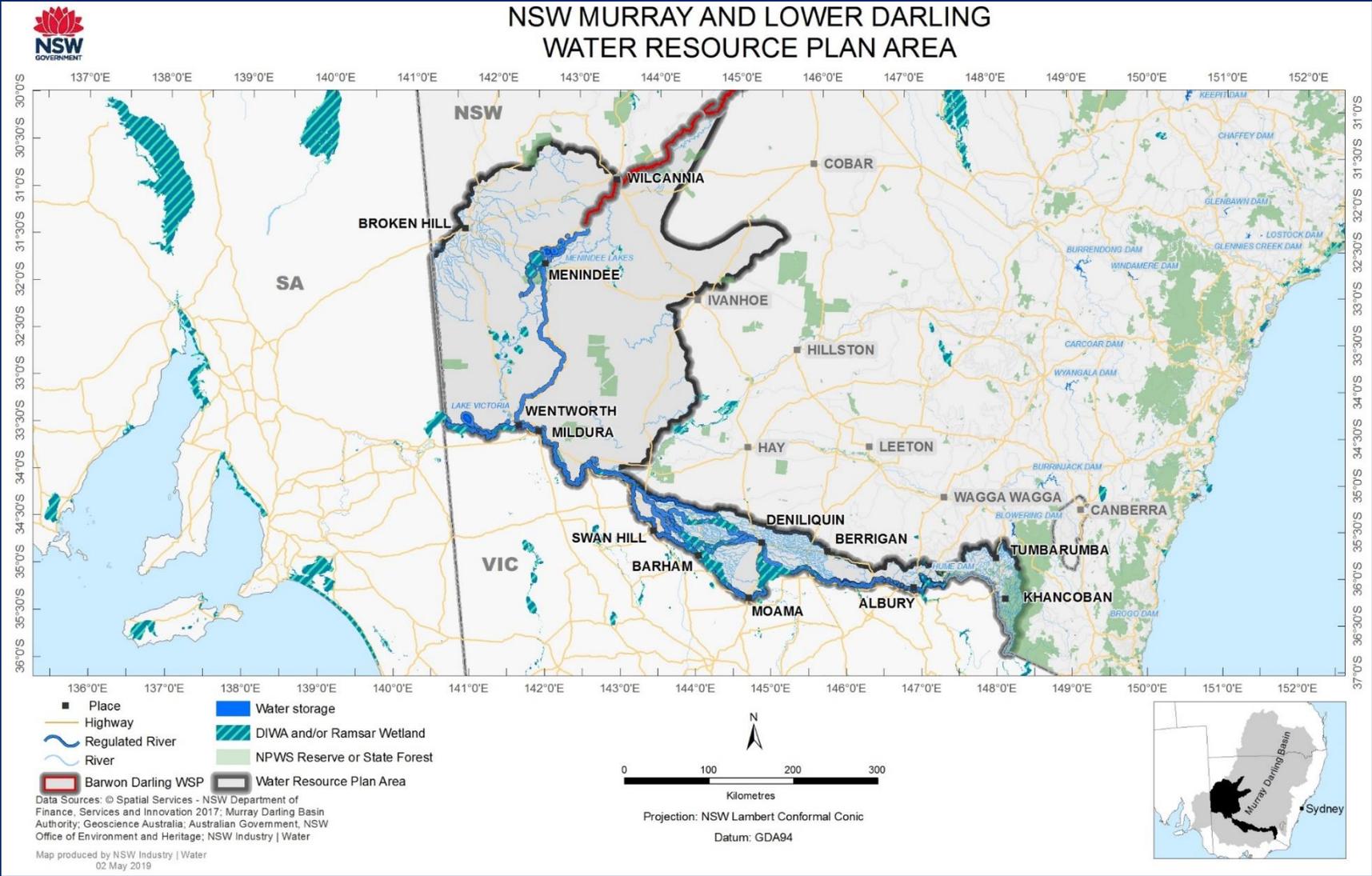
# NSW Murray & Lower Darling WRP – consultation to date



# Surface Water Resource Plans:

- **NSW Murray and Lower Darling**

# NSW Murray and Lower Darling WRP area



# Proposed changes to the water sharing plan

## NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers Water Sources WSP



Objectives, strategies and performance indicators revised



Establish a second extraction limit, which is the sustainable diversion limit specified in the Basin Plan 2012, and incorporate an assessment and compliance framework for this limit



Improve consistency and alignment with policy positions



Standardising provisions for EWAGs and compliance assessment advisory committees (CAACs).

# Proposed changes to the water sharing plan

## NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated River Water Sources WSP



Establishment of a Lower Darling restart allowance



Development of Inter-valley trade procedures to codify current practice



Simplification of the trade clauses to clarify the use of tagged trading between water sources



Refer to the 'Operating rules for the Barmah-Millewa Forest EWA' and provide an exemption to the monthly release triggers when a 4-monthly flood has already occurred.

# Proposed changes to the water sharing plan

## NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated River Water Sources WSP

-  Implementation of pre-requisite policy measures in the River Murray & Lower Darling River
-  Broaden use of the Lower Darling EWA
-  Addition of River Murray increased flows access licence category.

# Proposed changes to the water sharing plan

## Murray Unregulated River Water Sources WSP



Moved groundwater sources and associated rules to Alluvial GW plan



Improve consistency and alignment with policy positions



Objectives, strategies and performance indicators revised



Establish a second extraction limit, which is the sustainable diversion limit specified in the Basin Plan 2012, and incorporate an assessment and compliance framework for this limit.

# Proposed changes to the water sharing plan

## Lower Murray-Darling Unregulated River Water Source WSP



Moved groundwater sources and associated rules to Alluvial GW plan



Improve consistency and alignment with policy positions



Objectives, strategies and performance indicators revised



Establish a second extraction limit, which is the sustainable diversion limit specified in the Basin Plan 2012, and incorporate an assessment and compliance framework for this limit.

# Questions?



# Have your say

## Public Exhibition period

The NSW Murray and Lower Darling Surface Water Resource Plan is on public exhibition from 4<sup>th</sup> September to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

## More information

For more information or to make an online submission on the draft water resource plan, visit:

**[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water-resource-plan-consultation](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water-resource-plan-consultation)**

## Have Your Say

**[www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/have-your-say](http://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/have-your-say)**

