

Report card for the Upper Shoalhaven Tributaries Water Source

Report card 55 of 64

Water source context

Water Sharing Plan:	Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water Sources
Extraction Management Unit:	Shoalhaven River
Management Zones:	Boro Creek Management Zone Mongarlowe River Management Zone Reedy Creek Management Zone
Area:	99,710.7 ha
Inflowing water source:	Nil
Receiving water source:	Upper Shoalhaven River Water Source

River flows

	Boro Creek Management Zone
Low flow index:	1.5 ML/day (80 th percentile)
Flow records:	Boro Creek at Marlowe gauge (215239)
	Mongarlowe River Management Zone
Low flow index:	18.9 ML/day (80 th percentile)
Flow records:	Mongarlowe River at Mongarlowe gauge (215210)
	Reedy Creek Management Zone
Low flow index:	0.2 ML/day (80 th percentile)
Flow records:	Reedy Creek at Manar gauge (215238)

Basic landholder rights

Domestic and stock rights estimate:	970.9 ML/yr
Native title rights:	0 ML/yr

Licensed water entitlements

Total surface water entitlement:	548.8 ML/yr (1.5 ML/yr domestic and stock licences, 547.3 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, unregulated river and aquifer 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, unregulated river and aquifer 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
<p>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.</p>		
Aboriginal cultural access licence	Permitted to a limit of 10 ML/yr.	No change.
Aboriginal community development access licence	<p>Boro Creek Management Zone Prohibited</p> <p>Mongarlowe River Management Zone Prohibited</p> <p>Reedy Creek Management Zone Prohibited</p>	<p>No change to Mongarlowe River Management Zone of the Reedy Creek Management Zone.</p> <p>Permitted in the Boro Creek Management Zone up to 268ML/yr.</p>

Table 2. Draft surface water access rules

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
<p>River flow can be viewed on WaterNSW Real-time Data website. Search for a gauge under Rivers and Streams.</p>		
Cease to pump	<p>Boro Creek Management Zone</p> <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>Cease to pump for 24 hours after flows have been in the very low flows class.</p> <p>Mongarlowe River Management Zone</p> <p>Cease to pump when no visible flow at the pump site.</p> <p>No take when flows are in the very low flow class.</p> <p>Reedy Creek Management Zone</p> <p>Cease to pump when no visible flow at the pump site.</p> <p>No take when flows are in the very low flow class.</p>	<p>Boro Creek Management Zone</p> <p>No change.</p> <p>Mongarlowe River Management Zone</p> <p>No change.</p> <p>Reedy Creek Management Zone</p> <p>No change.</p>

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Flow classes	<p>Boro Creek Management Zone</p> <p>Very Low Flow Class: ≤ 3.2 ML/day</p> <p>A Class: > 3.2 ML/day</p> <p>Mongarlowe River Management Zone</p> <p>On a falling river:</p> <p>Very Low Flow Class: ≤ 7.6 ML/day</p> <p>A Class: > 7.6 ML/day</p> <p>On a rising river:</p> <p>Very Low Flow Class: ≤ 12.8 ML/day</p> <p>A Class: > 12.8 ML/day</p> <p>Reedy Creek Management Zone</p> <p>On a falling river:</p> <p>Very Low Flow Class: ≤ 0.2 ML/day</p> <p>A Class: > 0.2 ML/day</p> <p>On a rising river:</p> <p>Very Low Flow Class: ≤ 0.6 ML/day</p> <p>A Class: > 0.6 ML/day</p>	<p>Boro Creek Management Zone</p> <p>No change.</p> <p>Mongarlowe River Management Zone</p> <p>No change.</p> <p>Reedy Creek Management Zone</p> <p>No change.</p>
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.
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	<p>Boro Creek Management Zone Prohibited</p> <p>Mongarlowe River Management Zone Prohibited</p> <p>Reedy Creek Management Zone Prohibited.</p>	<p>Boro Creek Management Zone No change.</p> <p>Mongarlowe River Management Zone No change.</p> <p>Reedy Creek Management Zone No change.</p>
Works near coastal wetlands listed under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i>	No current rule.	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	<p>Boro Creek Management Zone – Permitted up to an additional 73 shares</p> <p>Reedy Creek Management Zone – Prohibited</p> <p>Mongarlowe River Management Zone – Prohibited</p>	Permitted - all management zones.
WITHIN water source	<p>Permitted except for into:</p> <p>Sandhills Creek at and above the confluence of Mulloon Creek in the Reedy Creek Management Zone, or</p> <p>Mulloon Creek at and above the confluence of Sandhills Creek in the Reedy Creek Management Zone.</p>	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

- Boro Creek, Mongarlowe River and Reedy Creek Management Zones are proposed to be combined into one water source – the Upper Shoalhaven Tributaries Water Source. Management zones will remain separate allowing access and trade to be managed separately in each zone.
- Boro Creek Management Zone has a low ecologic value and a low likelihood of extraction from low flows impacting the ecological values, with a low overall risk to low flows.
- Mongarlowe River Management Zone has a medium ecologic value and a low likelihood with a low overall risk to low flows
- Reedy Creek Management Zone has a low ecologic value and a medium with a low overall risk to low flows

- No change is proposed to the current access rules in any of the three management zones as there is low risk to low flows in all parts of this water source
- Risk has reduced in the Upper Shoalhaven Tributaries Water Source and more broadly across the entire Shoalhaven River Extraction Management Unit. This reduction in risk justifies freeing up trade.

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](#).