

Report card for Mooney Mooney Creek Water Source

Background

Water source context		River flows	
Area	135km ²	Low flow index	(80th percentile in December of days with flow) = 3.3 ML/day
Inflowing water source	Nil	Flow records	24/10/1970 to 30/09/1981 (11 yrs)
Receiving water source	Nil	Stream type	Gaining
Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems		Nil at commencement of the Plan.	
Licensed water entitlement			
Total surface water entitlement	20,261 ML/year.		
Proportion of extraction management unit	28% of licences in the Gosford Extraction Management Unit		
Total groundwater entitlement	0 ML/year		

Draft access rules for surface water		
	Current rules	Proposed rules
Cease to Pump	No Cease to Pump rule in current plan	No access when there is no visible flow at the location at which water is being taken
Commence to Pump	No Commence to Pump rule in current plan	Visible flow at the location from which water is proposed to be taken for at least 24 hours, unless the take is from an in-river pool or an off-river pool
Exemptions	The cease to pump rule does not apply to pumping specifically for health and hygiene purposes and others as set out in the draft plan.	
Extraction from an in-river pool	No Cease to Pump rule in current plan	Extraction must cease so there is no drawdown of the pool below full capacity. Commence to pump rules do not apply to in-river pools.
Draft access rules for alluvial groundwater		

Cease to take	No rule in current plan	Groundwater take not permitted if water supply work (bore) is within 40 m of the river bank, and no visible flow in the river at the location closest to the water supply work being used to take groundwater.
Commence to take	No rule in current plan	For groundwater take with a water supply work (bore) within 40m of the river bank of the river bank, flow must be above visible flow at the location closest to the water supply work being used to take groundwater for at least 24 hours.
Exemptions	No rule in current plan	Groundwater take permitted if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water supply work (bore) is greater than 40m from the top of the high bank of a river, • pumping is specifically for health and hygiene purposes, or • other exemptions as set out in the draft plan.

Draft rules for the location of water extraction infrastructure

Rules to minimise interference between bores	<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"> • 200 m from a bore that is nominated on an aquifer access licence on another landholding • 200 m from a bore that is used to extract basic landholder rights on another landholding • 100 m from a property boundary (unless negotiated in writing with neighbour) • 500 m from a bore nominating a local or major water utility access licence • 100 m from a Government monitoring bore. <p>These distance restrictions do not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the bore is used solely for basic landholder rights • the bore is a replacement bore • the bore is used for monitoring, environmental remediation activities or emergency services • the location of the bore at a lesser distance will have no more than minimal detrimental effect on existing extraction.
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<p>Rules for bores located near contamination sources</p>	<p>Water supply works (bores) are not to be granted or amended within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 m of the plume associated with a contamination source identified within the plan • 250m from the edge of a plume of a contamination source listed in the plan • 250 m and 500 m from the edge of a plume associated with a contamination source identified within the plan, unless no drawdown of water will occur within 250 m of that plume • 250 m of an onsite sewage disposal system. <p>These distances restrictions do not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the location of the bore is adequate to protect the water source, the environment and public health and safety • the bore is used for the purpose of monitoring, environmental remediation activities or emergency services.
<p>Rules for bores located near high priority groundwater-dependent ecosystems</p>	<p>Water supply works (bores) are not to be granted or amended within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 m of the top of the high bank of a river • 200 m of any high priority groundwater-dependent ecosystem. <p>These distances restrictions do not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the bore is used for basic landholder rights • the bore is a replacement groundwater work • the bore is used for the purpose of monitoring, environmental remediation activities or emergency services <p>A water supply work approval must not be granted or amended in this water source unless the Minister’s opinion is that there will be no more than minimal harm to any wetland mapped under the <i>State Environment Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018</i>.</p>
<p>Rules for bores located near potential acid sulphate soils</p>	<p>New bores cannot be located in an area classed as having a high probability of occurrence of acid sulphate soils if there is significant risk of acidification of the water sources.</p>
<p>Rules for bores located near groundwater-dependent, culturally significant sites</p>	<p>Water supply works (bores) are not to be granted or amended within 200 m of groundwater-dependent, culturally significant sites.</p> <p>This location distance restriction does not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the bore is used solely for a basic landholder right • the bore is a replacement bore • the bore is used for monitoring, environmental remediation activities or emergency services • the bore replaces an existing bore • the location of the bore at a lesser distance will have no more than minimal harm to any groundwater-dependent, culturally significant sites.

<p>Rules for bores used solely for basic landholder rights</p>	<p>Water supply works (bores) used solely for basic landholder rights must not be granted or amended if the bore is located within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 m of a Government monitoring bore • 40 m from the top of the high bank of a river • 100 m of any other high priority groundwater-dependent ecosystem • 100 m of a groundwater-dependent, culturally significant area. <p>These location distance restrictions do not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the bore is a replacement bore • a lesser distance would result in no more than minimal harm to any high priority groundwater-dependent ecosystem • a lesser distance would result in no more than minimal harm to any groundwater-dependent, culturally significant area.
<p>Replacement groundwater works</p>	<p>A replacement water supply work (bore) is located within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 m of the existing bore • if within 40 m of the top of the high bank of the river then no closer to the river. <p>The replacement bore will not have a greater internal diameter or excavation footprint than the existing bore, unless the existing bore's internal diameter is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no longer manufactured, in which case it may be no greater than 120% of the current internal diameter • less than 100 mm, in which case the internal diameter is to be no more than 100 mm.
<p>Rules for surface water works</p>	<p>Not permitted where there is more than minimal harm to Coastal Wetlands mapped under the <i>State Environment Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018</i>.</p> <p>In-river dams - Not permitted on 3rd order or higher streams, except where the in-river dam is for the purpose of taking water for town or urban water supply</p>

Draft rules for managing access licences	
Water allocation account management rules	<p>No carryover of account water from one water year to the next is permitted for local water utility licences.</p> <p>Carryover of up to 100% of the share component or 1 ML/share is permitted for domestic and stock, unregulated river or aquifer access licences from one year to the next. This means the maximum amount of water that can be taken in any one year is equal to 200% of the share component (depending on the water allocations made each year) plus any water allocation assigned (71T trade) to the individual account.</p> <p>The maximum amount of water permitted to be taken by domestic and stock, unregulated river or aquifer access licences in any three consecutive years is the water allocation credited to the water access licence account in those years, plus water allocation assigned (71T trade) to the individual accounts.</p>

Draft water trading (dealing) rules		
	Current rule	Proposed change
INTO water source	Not permitted	No change
WITHIN water source	Permitted, subject to assessment within the water source, except into the Plateau Management Zone.	No change
Surface to ground	Permitted	<p>Nomination of a groundwater licence to take from a surface water work - Not Permitted</p> <p>Nomination of a surface water licence to take from a groundwater work - Not Permitted</p> <p>Conversion from an unregulated river access licence to an aquifer access licence in the same water source - Permitted</p>
Ground to surface	Not permitted	No change
Convert to high flow	Not permitted	No change

Draft rules for granting access licences		
	Current rule	Proposed change
Aboriginal cultural access licence	Permitted, subject to assessment	No change
Aboriginal community development access licence	Not permitted	No change

Key factors for decisions

- High risk that extraction will impact on low flows,
- High environmental values.

Public exhibition

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment—Water seeks feedback from the public on the suitability of the proposed rules for this water source.

The draft Central Coast water sharing plan and other fact sheets are available from <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/central-coast-wsp>

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