

## Report card for Ourimbah Creek Water Source

### Background

Water source context		River flows	
Area	155km <sup>2</sup>	Low flow index*	5.6 ML/day, equal to the 80 <sup>th</sup> percentile of flows
Inflowing water source	Nil	Flow records	19/11/1976 to current
Receiving water source	Wyong River	Stream type	Gaining
Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems		Nil at commencement of the Plan.	
Licensed water entitlement			
Total surface water entitlement	7,171 ML/year.		
Proportion of extraction management unit	15% of licences in the Tuggerah Lakes Extraction Management Unit.		
Total groundwater entitlement	0 ML/year		

Draft access rules excluding local water utilities			
	Current rules		Proposed rules
Flow Classes Cease to Pump	Very Low Flows	when flows are equal to or less than 4 ML/day at the reference point access must cease	No change
	A Class	when flows are more than 4 ML/day and less than or equal to 7 ML/day at the reference point	No change
	B Class	when flows are more than 7 ML/day and less than or equal to 25 ML/day at the reference point	No change
	C Class	when flows are more than 25 ML/day and	No change

		less than or equal to 60 ML/day at the reference point	
	<b>D Class</b>	when flows are more than 60 ML/day and less than or equal to 160 ML/day at the reference point	No change
	<b>E Class</b>	when flows are more than 160 ML/day at the reference point	No change
<b>Commence to Pump</b>	No Commence to Pump rule in current plan		Flow must be above the Very Low Flow class continuously for 24 hours after a cease to pump event before access to water can re-commence and visible flow at the pump site.
<b>Reference point</b>	Ourimbah Creek @ downstream Bangalow (211015) in the Ourimbah Creek Water Source		No change
<b>Exemptions</b>	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.		
<b>Extraction from an in-river pool</b>	Flow class Cease to Pump rules as listed above. No access when there is no inflow or outflow to or from the pool.		Flow class Cease to Pump rules as listed above. 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 local water utilities			
	Current rules		Proposed rules
<b>Flow Classes Cease to Pump</b>	<b>Very Low Flows</b>	when flows are equal to or less than 4 ML/day at the reference point access must cease	No change
	<b>A Class</b>	when flows are more than 4 ML/day and less than or equal to 7 ML/day at the reference point	No change

	<b>B Class</b>	when flows are more than 7 ML/day and less than or equal to 25 ML/day at the reference point	No change
	<b>C Class</b>	when flows are more than 25 ML/day and less than or equal to 60 ML/day at the reference point	No change
	<b>D Class</b>	when flows are more than 60 ML/day and less than or equal to 160 ML/day at the reference point	No change
	<b>E Class</b>	when flows are more than 160 ML/day at the reference point	No change
<b>Commence to Pump</b>	No Commence to Pump rule in current plan		Flow must be above the Very Low Flow class continuously for 24 hours after a cease to pump event before access to water can re-commence and visible flow at the pump site.
<b>Daily flow sharing</b>	The total daily extraction limit (TDEL) for local water utility access licences is set at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A class: 0 ML/day</li> <li>• B class: 8.5 ML/day</li> <li>• C class: 22 ML/day</li> <li>• D and E class: 41 ML/day</li> </ul>		Rules have remained the same but have been moved to the “Specific Access Rules for the taking of surface water under local water utilities access licences” section of the draft Water Sharing Plan.
<b>Reference point</b>	Ourimbah Creek @ downstream Bangalow (211015) in the Ourimbah Creek Water Source		No change
<b>Extraction from an in-river pool</b>	Flow class Cease to Pump rules as listed above.		Flow class Cease to Pump rules as listed above. 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 Water Sharing Plan for the Central Coast Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2021

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<b>Draft access rules for alluvial groundwater</b>		
<b>Cease to take</b>	No rule in current plan	For groundwater take with a water supply work (bore) within 40 m of the river bank, surface water cease to take rules apply and take not permitted if no visible flow in the river at the location closest to the water supply work being used to take groundwater.
<b>Commence to take</b>	No rule in current plan	For groundwater take with a water supply work (bore) within 40m of the river bank, flow must be above the Very Low Flow class continuously for 24 hours after a cease to pump event before access to water can re-commence.
<b>Exemptions</b>	No rule in current plan	Groundwater take permitted if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• water supply work (bore) is greater than 40m from the top of the high bank of a river,</li> <li>• pumping is specifically for health and hygiene purposes or</li> <li>• other exemptions as set out in the draft plan.</li> </ul>

<b>Draft rules for the location of groundwater extraction infrastructure</b>	
<b>Rules to minimise interference between bores</b>	<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>○ 200 m from a bore that is nominated on an aquifer access licence on another landholding</li> <li>○ 200 m from a bore that is used to extract basic landholder rights on another landholding</li> <li>○ 100 m from a property boundary (unless negotiated in writing with neighbour)</li> <li>○ 500 m from a bore nominating a local or major water utility access licence</li> <li>○ 100 m from a Government monitoring bore.</li> </ul> <p>These distance restrictions do not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the bore is used solely for basic landholder rights</li> <li>○ the bore is a replacement bore</li> <li>○ the bore is used for monitoring, environmental remediation activities or emergency services</li> <li>○ the location of the bore at a lesser distance will have no more than minimal detrimental effect on existing extraction.</li> </ul>
<b>Rules for bores located near contamination sources</b>	<p>Water supply works (bores) are not to be granted or amended within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 500 m of the plume associated with a contamination source identified within the plan</li> <li>○ 250m from the edge of a plume of a contamination source listed in the plan</li> <li>○ 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</li> <li>○ 250 m of an onsite sewage disposal system.</li> </ul> <p>These distances restrictions do not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the location of the bore is adequate to protect the water source, the environment and public health and safety</li> <li>○ the bore is used for the purpose of monitoring, environmental remediation activities or emergency services.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Rules for bores located near high priority groundwater-dependent ecosystems</b></p>	<p>Water supply works (bores) are not to be granted or amended within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 40 m of the top of the high bank of a river</li> <li>○ 200 m of any high priority groundwater-dependent ecosystem.</li> </ul> <p>These distances restrictions do not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the bore is used for basic landholder rights</li> <li>○ the bore is a replacement groundwater work</li> <li>○ the bore is used for the purpose of monitoring, environmental remediation activities or emergency services</li> </ul> <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><b>Rules for bores located near potential acid sulphate soils</b></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><b>Rules for bores located near groundwater-dependent, culturally significant sites</b></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"> <li>○ the bore is used solely for a basic landholder right</li> <li>○ the bore is a replacement bore</li> <li>○ the bore is used for monitoring, environmental remediation activities or emergency services</li> <li>○ the bore replaces an existing bore</li> <li>○ the location of the bore at a lesser distance will have no more than minimal harm to any groundwater-dependent, culturally significant sites.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rules for bores used solely for basic landholder rights</b></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"> <li>○ 100 m of a Government monitoring bore</li> <li>○ 40 m from the top of the high bank of a river</li> <li>○ 100 m of any other high priority groundwater-dependent ecosystem</li> <li>○ 100 m of a groundwater-dependent, culturally significant area.</li> </ul> <p>These location distance restrictions do not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the bore is a replacement bore</li> <li>○ a lesser distance would result in no more than minimal harm to any high priority groundwater-dependent ecosystem</li> <li>○ a lesser distance would result in no more than minimal harm to any groundwater-dependent, culturally significant area.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Replacement groundwater works</b></p>	<p>A replacement water supply work (bore) is located within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 20 m of the existing bore</li> <li>○ if within 40 m of the top of the high bank of the river then no closer to the river.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>○ no longer manufactured, in which case it may be no greater than 120% of the current internal diameter</li> <li>○ less than 100 mm, in which case the internal diameter is to be no more than 100 mm.</li> </ul>
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Draft rules for the location of surface water extraction infrastructure		
	Current rule	Proposed change
<p><b>In-river dams</b></p>	<p>Permitted</p>	<p>Not permitted, except where the in-river dam is for the purpose of taking water for town or urban water supply</p>
<p><b>Water supply works near coastal wetlands</b></p>	<p>No rule in current plan</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>

Draft rules for managing access licences	
<p><b>Water allocation account management rules</b></p>	<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
<b>INTO water source</b>	Permitted	Not permitted
<b>WITHIN water source</b>	Permitted, subject to assessment	No change
<b>Surface to ground</b>	Permitted	Nomination of a groundwater licence to take from a surface water work - Not Permitted Nomination of a surface water licence to take from a groundwater work - Not Permitted Conversion from an unregulated river access licence to an aquifer access licence in the same water source - Permitted
<b>Ground to surface</b>	Not permitted	No change
<b>Convert to high flow</b>	Not permitted	No change

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

## Key factors for decisions

- Low risk that extraction will impact on low flows,
- Medium 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 [www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/water)

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