Environmental Water Reform in the Northern Murray-Darling Basin
Water Reform Action Plan

- Water Renewal Taskforce – Small team, defined objectives and timeframe (30 June 2020)
- Drive significant water policy reform resulting from the Matthews Report and the MDB compliance review
- Catalysing change to Metering, Environmental Water and Transparency

Better management of environmental water

- Develop interim solution to manage environmental water whilst a lasting framework is established
- Developing enduring solutions to address issues in the management of environmental water through amendments to the Barwon-Darling, Macquarie Bogan and Gwydir unregulated water sharing plans:
  1. Resumption of flows
  2. Individual daily extraction components (IDEC)
  3. Active management
Resumption of flow

In the Barwon-Darling resumption of flow rules will:

- Protect critical first flow after an extended period of low or no flows,
- Protect additional flows in the low flow regime at socially and ecologically important times

Graphic: Concept of Resumption of Flow Rule
Individual Daily Extraction Component (IDEC)

In the Barwon-Darling IDECs will:

- limit the volume of water that can be taken from the river every day
- provide local and downstream environmental impacts

Other factors may limit an individual’s capacity to take water, including account balances, annual take limits and work approval conditions, plus authorised work capacities.
Active Management

From 1 December 2020 in the Barwon-Darling, Macquarie Bogan and Gwydir active management will:

- Protect held environmental water to be used for environmental purposes
- Reduce the need for temporary water restrictions
- Make it clearer for licence holders and the public to know when water can and cannot be taken
Sean Smith

sean.smith@dpie.nsw.gov.au