



# **Environmental Water Reform in the Northern Murray-Darling Basin**

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# Water Reform Action Plan

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- 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

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- 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:

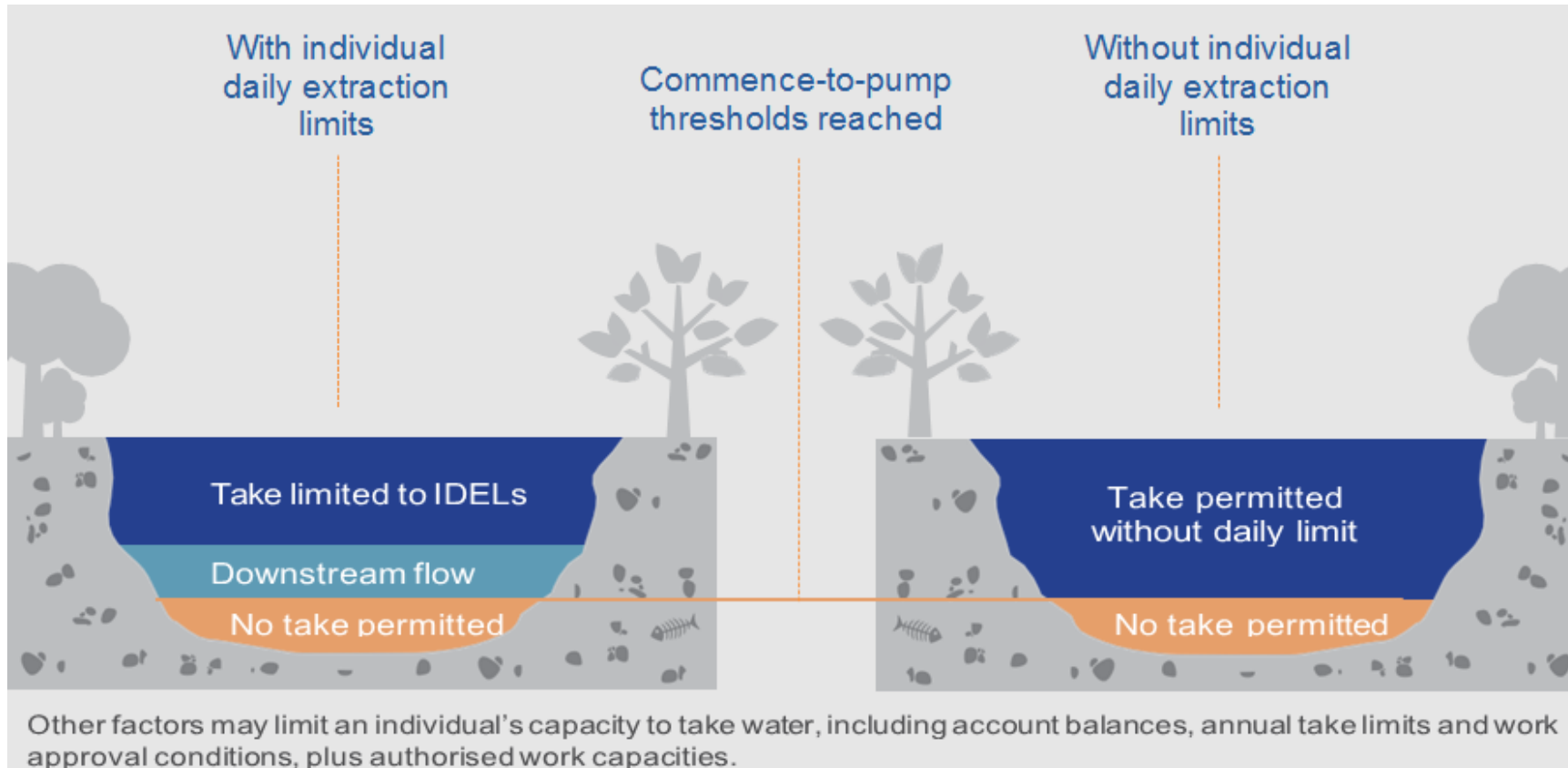
- Protect critical first flow after an extended period of low or no flows,
- Protect additional flows in the low flow regime at socially and ecologically important times



# Individual Daily Extraction Component (IDEC)

In the Barwon-Darling IDECs will:

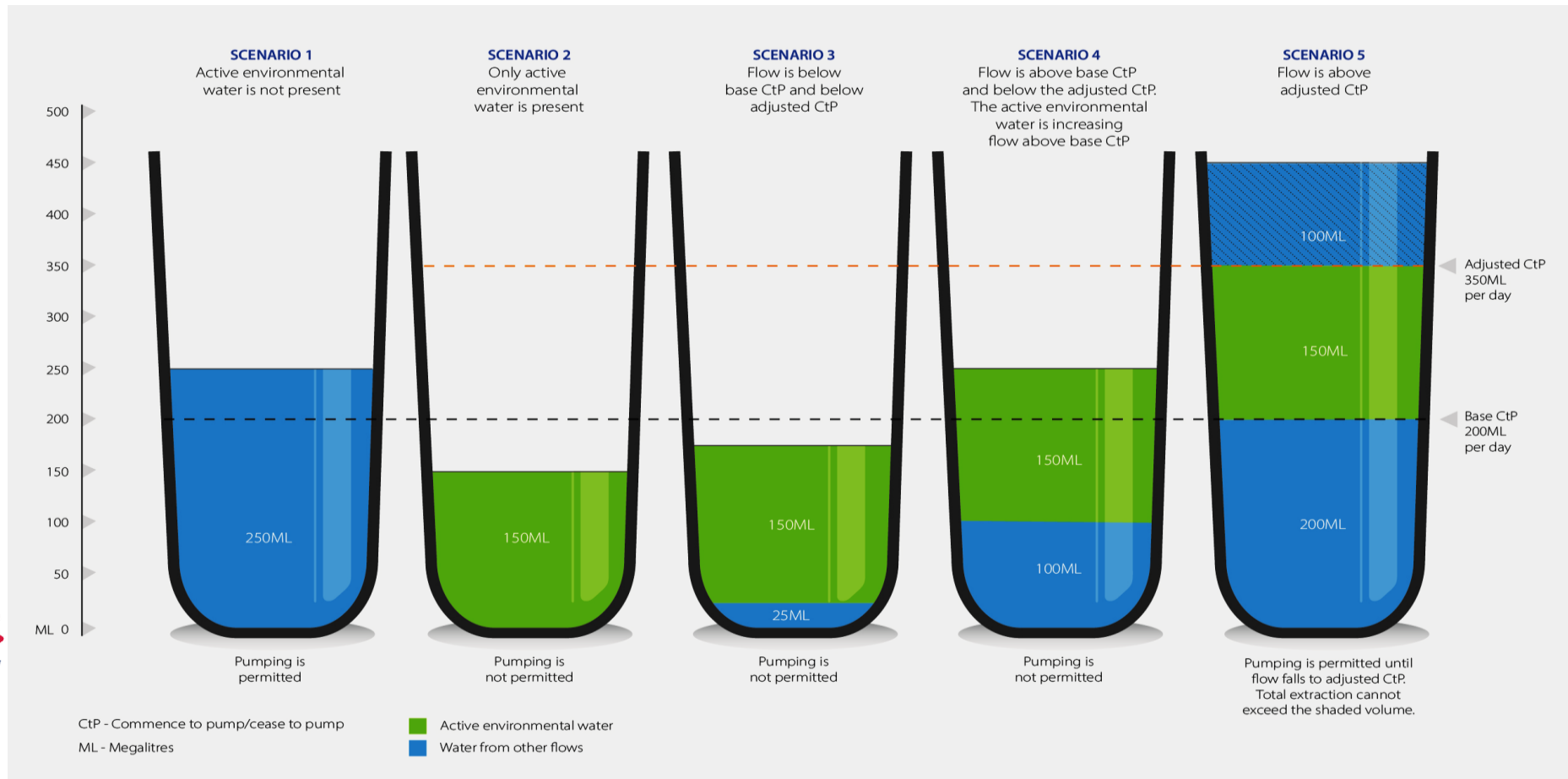
- limit the volume of water that can be taken from the river every day
- provide local and downstream environmental impacts



# 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





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