

Report card for Wyong River Water Source

Background

Water source context		River flows	
Area	355km ²	Low flow index	(80th percentile in December of days with flow) = 9.9 ML/day
Inflowing water source	Jiliby Jiliby Creek	Flow records	26/12/1972 to current
Receiving water source	Tuggerah Lakes	Stream type	Gaining
Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems		Present in water source	
Licensed water entitlement			
Total surface water entitlement	39,210 ML/year		
Proportion of extraction management unit	Represents 83% of licences in the Tuggerah Lakes Catchment 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	Flows less than 4 ML/day – Access must cease when flows are in this flow class.	No change
	A Class	flows are at or above 4 ML/day but below 13.5ML/day.	No change
	B Class	flows are at or above 13.5ML/day and below 26 ML/day.	No change
	C Class	flows are at or above 26 ML/day.	No change
Commence to Pump	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.
Daily flow sharing	<p>The total daily extraction limit (TDEL) for access licences (excluding local water utility/major utility access licences) is set at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A class: 8.7 ML/day • B class: 15.6 ML/day • C class: 24.5 ML/day <p>Initial assessment of these volumes to different categories of access licences is as follows:</p> <p>A class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.07 ML/day to domestic and stock access licences. • 8.63 ML/day to unregulated river access licences <p>B class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.12 ML/day to domestic and stock access licences. • 15.48 ML/day to unregulated river access licences. <p>C class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.18 ML/day to domestic and stock access licences. • 24.32 ML/day to unregulated river access licences. 	Removed TDELs
Reference point	Combined flows at Wyong River at Gracemere gauge and Jilliby Jilliby Creek at upstream of Wyong River (Durren Lane) gauge.	No change
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	<p>Flow class Cease to Pump rules as listed above.</p> <p>No access when there is no inflow or outflow to or from the pool.</p>	<p>Flow class Cease to Pump rules as listed above.</p> <p>Extraction must cease so there is no drawdown of the pool below full capacity.</p> <p>Commence to pump rules do not apply to in-river pools.</p>

Draft access rules for local water utilities			
	Current rules	Proposed rules	
Cease to take	Very Low Flows	Flows less than 4 ML/day – Access must cease when flows are in this flow class.	No change
	A class	flows are at or above 4 ML/day but below 13.5ML/day.	No change
	B Class	flows are at or above 13.5ML/day and below 26 ML/day.	No change
	C Class	flows are at or above 26 ML/day.	No change
Daily flow sharing	<p>The TDELs for local water utility/major utility access licences is set at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> combined storage capacity < 40%: A,B,C class: 80% of flow in each flow class combined storage capacity 40-60%: A,B,C class: 80% of flow in each flow class combined storage capacity > 60%: A class 0%, B,C class: 60% of flow in each flow class. 	Rules have remained the same but have been moved to clause 42 - “Specific Access Rules for the taking of surface water under local water utilities access licences”.	
Reference Point	Combined flows at Wyong River at Gracemere gauge and Jilliby Jilliby Creek at upstream of Wyong River (Durren Lane) gauge.	No change	

Draft access rules for alluvial groundwater		
	Current rules	Proposed rules
Cease to take	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.

<p>Commence to take</p>	<p>No rule in current plan</p>	<p>For groundwater take with a water supply work (bore) within 40m of the riverbank, 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.</p>
<p>Exemptions</p>	<p>No rule in current plan</p>	<p>Groundwater take permitted if:</p> <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

<p>Rules to minimise interference between bores</p>	<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.
--	--

<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 to be 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.

Rules for surface water works	<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>Carryover of up to 30% 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, except into the Wyong Plateau Management Zone	No change
Surface water to groundwater	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>

Groundwater to surface water	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 low flows.
- Very high ecological values
- Flow classes in the current water sharing plan were based on 2008 report by SKM, the “Wyong River Environmental Flows Study”.

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

© State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (November 2020). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user’s independent adviser.