

Regional Water Strategy

Gwydir – Implementation Plan

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Acknowledging First Nations people

The NSW Government acknowledges First Nations people as its first Australian people and the traditional owners and custodians of the country's lands and water. We recognise that First Nations people have lived in NSW for over 60,000 years and have formed significant spiritual, cultural, and economic connections with its lands and waters.

Today, they practice the oldest living culture on earth.

The NSW Government acknowledges the Gomeroi people as having an intrinsic connection with the lands and waters of Gwydir Regional Water Strategy area. The landscape and its waters provide the Gomeroi people with essential links to their history and help them to maintain and practice their traditional culture and lifestyle.

We recognise that the Traditional Owners were the first managers of Country and that incorporating their culture and knowledge into management of water in the region is a significant step for closing the gap.

Under this regional water strategy, we seek to establish meaningful and collaborative relationships with First Nations people. We will seek to shift our focus to a Country-centred approach, respecting, recognising and empowering cultural and traditional Aboriginal knowledge in water management processes at a strategic level.

We show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places where First Nations people are included socially, culturally and economically.

As we refine and implement the regional water strategy, we commit to supporting the health and wellbeing of waterways and Country by valuing, respecting and being guided by Traditional Owners/First Nations people, who know that if we care for Country, it will care for us.

We acknowledge that further work is required under this regional water strategy to inform how we care for Country and ensure First Nations people/Traditional Owners hold a strong voice in shaping the future for and non-Aboriginal communities.

Artwork courtesy of Nikita Ridgeway.

About this Implementation Plan

The Gwydir Regional Water Strategy charts the NSW Government's long-term vision and direction for delivering sustainable and resilient water services for the next 20 years. It sets out clear and accountable actions for the NSW Government, local water utilities and industries to tackle the challenges facing the Gwydir region and maximise opportunities arising from the growing agricultural sector, other emerging and expanding industries, and new investments in transport and community infrastructure.

The Gwydir Regional Water Strategy has a 20-year timeframe, and the prioritisation and implementation of actions recognises this. Across the strategy's 20 years, the delivery of actions will span short, medium and longer-term time horizons.

We have already started work on many of the strategy's actions. For those actions that have not been commenced, some we intend to implement in the short term, and others we intend to implement in the medium to longer term. This recognises, that although all actions are important, we cannot implement all actions immediately.

The Gwydir Regional Water Strategy has been designed to be adaptive. This means we will update the strategy and our implementation approach to respond to changing priorities. We will review and update the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy at least every 5 years.

Immediate priorities for the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy

Not all of the actions in the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy will be implemented immediately. The focus of the first stage of implementation will be on:

- **Supporting critical human and environmental needs before we go into the next drought:**

- Supporting town water needs including finalising Uralla Shire Council's groundwater investigations (Action 1.1), Moree Shire Council's demand management strategies (Action 1.2) and securing local water utility groundwater licences for Wyallda (Action 1.3).
- Finalising triggers for implementing temporary water restrictions to improve connectivity and protecting the first flush of water after a drought (Action 1.4), and investigate incorporating relevant triggers into water sharing plans.

- Providing clarity for critical environmental needs in droughts by updating the Extreme Events Policy and developing a WaterNSW operational drought management plan for the Gwydir Valley (Action 3.3).

- **Improving delivery of water held for the environment and flows across floodplains:**

- Fully implementing the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy (Action 3.1).
- Remediating unapproved floodplain structures (Action 3.6).
- Continuing investment to improve our understanding and modelling capability of return flows from floodplains. This is an ongoing foundational action needed to support a range of actions in the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy (Action 3.2).
- Implementing the Gwydir Reconnecting Watercourse Country Program (Action 3.7).

- **Implementing foundational work for innovative water sources and future industries:**

- Fast tracking the development of regulatory frameworks for Managed Aquifer Recharge (Action 2.5) and stormwater harvesting (Action 2.4), to enable communities to invest in and take advantage of innovative water sources.
- Finalising the climate vulnerability assessment for crops in the Gwydir Valley (Action 2.2).
- Setting up the framework to support place-based initiatives to deliver cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people (Action 2.7).

We have prioritised actions based on:

- results of our analyses
- discussions with local councils and other government agencies
- community feedback
- available funding and funding opportunities.

Responsibilities

The implementation plan also outlines responsibilities for delivery. This will allow us to better:

- monitor the progress of actions
- assess the effectiveness of the strategy
- identify areas for improvement.

Key implementation partners

Effectively implementing the actions will require involvement of a diverse group of partners that includes the following government agencies, local government, community groups, industry groups and individuals:

- Department of Planning and Environment Water (DPE Water)
- Department of Planning and Environment – Environment and Heritage (DPE Environment and Heritage)
- Department of Primary Industries Agriculture (DPI Agriculture)
- Department of Primary Industries Fisheries (DPI Fisheries)
- Department of Regional NSW
- Local Land Services – Northern Tablelands and North West regions
- Local councils – Moree Plains Shire Council, Uralla Shire Council and Gwydir Shire Council
- First Nations/Aboriginal peak groups and communities
- WaterNSW
- Regional Development Australia
- Destination NSW
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Office
- TAFE
- National Parks and Wildlife Services
- Natural Resource Access Regulator (NRAR).

Monitoring, evaluation and progress reporting

An integrated monitoring and reporting framework has been developed for the various NSW water strategies. We will confirm and apply this to the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy and regularly report on the progress of implementation.

These progress reports will provide transparency in and accountability for, delivering the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy to the NSW community.

Reading the Plan

The Gwydir Regional Water Strategy is the result of significant analysis and community engagement and builds on a range of existing commitments and work already underway. This work and community feedback is the rationale for how implementation of the actions have been prioritised and is recorded under the heading **Our starting point**.

There is some work that can commence very soon. Programs planned to start in the next 12 months, are recorded under the heading **What we will do next**.

There is some work that will take more time or rely on other actions to be completed first before they can begin. Programs that are not due to commence for more than 12 months are recorded under the heading **What we will do later**. These programs may also be subject to funding approval.

There may be some instances where a column is blank. This is because we cannot begin implementing every action at once. The monitoring framework will help the department and the community assess the progression of implementing the strategy in full.

The NSW Government agency or partner identified as responsible for delivering each program in the strategy is listed as **Lead** under each sub-action.

Agencies or partners who play a supporting role in delivering the program are listed as **Supported by** under each sub-action.

Priority 1

Water for critical human and environmental needs

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 1.1: Investigate innovative water solutions for Uralla	Uralla Shire Council is undertaking groundwater investigations.	As part of local water utility strategic planning, the Department of Planning and Environment Water will support Uralla Council to finalise groundwater investigations to determine if it will provide a sufficient backup supply to meet Uralla's long-term water needs.	If groundwater is unsuitable as long-term solution, support Council to identify the preferred water supply security option for Uralla and develop a business case for related infrastructure.	Uralla Shire Council DPE Water	



Image courtesy of iStock. Dangars Lagoon, Uralla.

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 1.2: Implement urban water efficiency measures in Moree	The NSW Government's Water Efficiency Program is supporting community adoption of water system efficiency, water conservation and demand management measures. This includes publication of the NSW Water Efficiency Framework. It has been designed for government, water utilities, councils and large businesses to use when implementing water efficiency initiatives.	Moree Plains Shire Council will commence public education and programs that encourage household and commercial water-wise behaviour (ongoing). The Department of Planning and Environment Water will provide support to Council in the form of training for Council staff and help with community-focused water efficiency education campaigns. The department will support Moree Plains Shire Council to manage water demand changes arising from the special activation precinct (links to Action 2.4).	Moree Plains Shire Council will develop a Water Efficiency Management Plan with the support of the NSW Water Efficiency Program.	Moree Plains Shire Council DPE Water	

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 1.3: Publish guidance on accessing groundwater for high-priority needs	The NSW Government's Groundwater Strategy identifies state-wide priority actions for how groundwater resources can be managed sustainably into the future.	Finalise the NSW Groundwater Strategy.	Review how critical needs and high priority uses such as local water utility licences are considered when assessing the impacts on the Lower Gwydir aquifer and other users. Prepare a guideline with a series of escalating management actions corresponding to stages of groundwater level decline.	DPE Water	DPE Environment and Heritage
		Gwydir Council will seek to obtain a higher security water licence to supply Warialda.		Gwydir Shire Council	



Image courtesy of Department of Planning and Environment. Groundwater bore pump, NSW.

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 1.4: Investigate ways to improve connectivity with the Barwon–Darling River on a multi-valley scale	The NSW Government is developing the Western Regional Water Strategy which will identify the priority actions for improving connectivity.	Publish the final Western Regional Water Strategy. Finalise the review of the targets in the North West Unregulated Flow Management Plan. Publish flow targets for the Barwon–Darling to guide embargoes on upstream extraction under drought conditions and investigate implementing relevant targets in the Gwydir region water sharing plans. Continue to implement the recommendations of the Independent Panel Assessment of the Management of the 2020 Northern Basin First Flush Event, as outlines in the NSW Government response and provide an update report on implementation annually. Re-make the Barwon–Darling Water Sharing Plan.	Continue investigations to understand whether broader reform is needed for improving connectivity during dry periods to inform the review of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan.	DPE Water	DPE Environment and Heritage DPI Fisheries

Priority 2

Sustainable water resources for new and existing users

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 2.1: Improve public access to climate information and water availability forecasts	WaterNSW have updated the Water Information Dashboards, such as Water Insights, over recent years to provide detailed information to the public.	Improve understanding and modelling capability of return flows from floodplains, as a first step to improving in-event forecasting capabilities. This includes looking at methods and data to identify and undertake pilot projects that will test the methodology and suitability for valley-wide application.	Publish 6, 12 and 24-month water storage outlooks for Copeton Dam.	DPE Water	
	Stakeholders have suggested that the focus of improved information should be on improved forecasting during flow events (in-event forecasting).	This will be a multi-year program.	Develop the Drought Flood Risk Index to provide early warning to water users on whether a regulated valley is at a higher risk of heading into drought, or floods. The Drought Flood Risk Index will be made available on the Water Insights portal.	WaterNSW	



Image courtesy of Destination NSW. Township, Moree.

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 2.2: Support farm climate adaptation and water efficiency measures	The Department of Primary Industries is undertaking a detailed analysis of the risks and opportunities of a changing climate to support resilience and adaptation in the primary production sector.	Complete stage 1 of the Department of Primary Climate Vulnerability Assessment which will include publishing summaries of the assessments of climate risk and opportunities for Gwydir agricultural commodities including cotton, and extensive livestock.	Implement stage 2 of the Climate Vulnerability Assessment which will include integrating water data from the regional water strategies into the analysis and investigating adaptation responses for cotton.	DPI Agriculture	DPE Water
	The NSW Government has funded an expanded Farms for the Future project to support on-farm digital connectivity and encourage farmers to adopt agtech ¹ to boost productivity, including improved water efficiency and drought preparedness.	Continue to roll-out the Farms of the Future project (funded until 2025).	Monitor outcomes of adoption of digital technologies under Farms for the Future project to see if any further gaps remain that may support regional adaptation.	DPI Agriculture	
	NSW Government is running a suite of Natural Capital voluntary programs to assist the primary industries sector to undertake sustainable actions to enable improved productivity, drought and climate resilience.	Offer certification through agreed sustainability actions, including improving land management.		DPE Environment and Heritage	

1. Agtech is the collective term for the tools and technologies – sensors, farm management software, imagery and smart farm equipment – that enables the best practice agriculture.

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 2.3: Assess the potential costs and benefits of event-based trade of supplementary flows	This action relies on foundational activities that need to be completed in Action 2.1 around improvements to in-event flow forecasting capabilities. Improving understanding and modelling capabilities of return flows from floodplains is the first step in improving event-based forecasting and trade. This action also requires ensuring seamless administrative arrangements around trading of licences.	See Action 2.1 around improving in-event forecasting.	Identifying the size of the potential market, the systems needed to ensure compliance with water allocation account rules and support trade approvals. Assessing impacts of supplementary trade on environmental outcomes at a regional and reach by reach scale.	DPE Water	DPE Environment and Heritage

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 2.4: Modernise the water management framework so it can continue to support changing water needs	During consultation on the Draft Gwydir Regional Water Strategy stakeholders identified that the priority for this action should focus on clarifying regulatory arrangements for innovative new water sources such as stormwater harvesting, and that economic diversification needs to be linking to the region's comparative advantages.	Develop a regulatory framework for town stormwater harvesting. Note this will be a multi-year program.		DPE Water	
			Deliver upfront education and clarity to industry and government on potential water sources, given that the region's surface water sources and some groundwater sources are already fully allocated and there is potential for reduced water availability in the future.	DPE Water	DPI Agriculture
		Consider the findings from the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy in the update of the Regional Economic Development Strategy for Upper North West region. Support Gwydir Shire Council to develop a Regional Drought Resilience Plan (by June 2024).		Department of Regional NSW	Local councils Regional Development Australia Destination NSW

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 2.5: Investigate managed aquifer recharge in the Gwydir region	The CSIRO has undertaken initial research to identify managed aquifer recharge opportunities.	Progress development of a NSW managed aquifer recharge policy framework in consultation with stakeholders. This will extend beyond financial year 2022–23.	Implement the managed aquifer recharge policy framework, including the necessary water licensing and accounting systems and any legislative changes needed. Explore the feasibility potential of managed aquifer recharge, including its cost effectiveness and how efficiently the stored water can be accessed. Determine public acceptance, particularly the impacts on and benefits for Aboriginal cultural heritage and environmental flows – including specific pilot schemes.	DPE Water	

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 2.6: Foster ongoing arrangements for participation of local Aboriginal people in water management	The Department of Planning and Environment Water is developing a NSW Aboriginal Water Strategy and an engagement framework that describes when and how we engage with First Nations/Aboriginal people and peak organisations in an inclusive and culturally appropriate way, with continued consultation with peak bodies and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.	Finalise the Aboriginal water engagement framework. Set up a program and function to enable the Department of Planning and Environment Water to fund existing and new local Aboriginal organisations to increase their capacity to be involved in water related matters (consistent with the department's Interim Aboriginal community engagement fee guideline).	Incorporate immediate actions from the engagement framework into business-as-usual activities. Finalise the NSW Aboriginal Water Strategy.	DPE Water	First Nations/ Aboriginal peak groups and communities
	The NSW Government has Environmental Water Advisory Groups which provide advice on watering priorities for environmental water in the Gwydir.	Explore how First Nations people can engage with the Gwydir Environmental Water Advisory Group and how their priorities may be represented in annual environmental water planning.		DPE Environment and Heritage	

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 2.7: Support place-based initiatives to deliver cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people		The Department of Planning and Environment Water will finalise a structure and framework within the department that can support local level place-based initiatives.	Co-design at least one project with Aboriginal people in the Gwydir region that delivers cultural outcomes from improved access to water.	DPE Water	First Nations/ Aboriginal peak groups and communities
		Engage with Gomeroi/ Kamilaroi nation members on how they would like to be involved in place-based actions as part of the Gwydir Reconnecting Watercourses Program and a pilot for a cultural flows program.	Develop and implement a pilot test methodology for cultural flows.	DPE Environment and Heritage DPE Water	Local Land Services



Image courtesy of Belinda Collingburn, Department of Planning and Environment. Gwydir River upstream of Bingara, NSW.

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 2.8: Support Aboriginal business opportunities in the Gwydir region	During consultation on the Draft Gwydir Regional Water Strategy, we heard that immediate priorities for this action should focus on capability building partnerships. In addition, the NSW Government is working with other jurisdictions to finalise a target for the ownership of water entitlements under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.	Identify training and capability partnership priorities with TAFE and Gomeroi/Kamilaroi nation to support the Gwydir Reconnecting Watercourses program.	Work with Aboriginal organisations, businesses, and individuals in the Gwydir River region to identify and support new and existing businesses to explore opportunities and access support or grant funding.	DPE Water	Department of Regional NSW Local councils Regional Development Australia Destination NSW TAFE DPE Environment and Heritage
Action 2.9: Help enable public access to the Gwydir Wetlands	Elements of the National Parks and Wildlife Service-managed areas of the Gwydir Wetlands are already open for public access, including Waterbird Lagoon, Gwydir Wetlands State Conservation Area. The National Parks and Wildlife Service support groups accessing other wetland areas of the reserve on request.	Conduct stakeholder engagement on state-wide management arrangement for Aboriginal joint management of all National Parks and Wildlife Service-managed reserves.	Secure funding to improve visitor experience at existing areas of the wetland open to public access. Secure funding and resources to progress a plan of management for the Gwydir Wetlands.	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Traditional Owners Local councils

Priority 3

Best use of existing water for the environment

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 3.1: Fully implement the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy	The NSW Government has created floodplain licences and entitlements for water users in the Gwydir Valley.	Implement floodplain harvesting water access licences and works approvals, including measurement and reporting requirements, in the Gwydir Valley.		DPE Water	
Action 3.2: Invest in continuous improvement to water modelling the Gwydir region			Transition the Gwydir water system model to the Source modelling platform and update environmental watering behaviour in the model. Recalibrate the Gwydir water system model to account for different components of water take once sufficient floodplain harvesting and unregulated river non-urban water take measurement data are available.	DPE Water	DPE Environment and Heritage DPI Fisheries

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 3.3: Provide clarity and certainty for water users, landholders and environmental water managers during drought	We have heard that this action needs to be escalated as a priority to ensure we are better prepared before we go into the next drought.	Update the Extreme Events Policy.		DPE Water	DPI Fisheries
	The Gwydir Incident Response Guide has been updated to reflect lessons learnt from the recent drought.	Develop procedures for delivery of block releases.			DPE Environment and Heritage
		Develop and deliver the Gwydir Regulated River Drought Management Plan.		WaterNSW	NRAR Commonwealth Environmental Water Officer

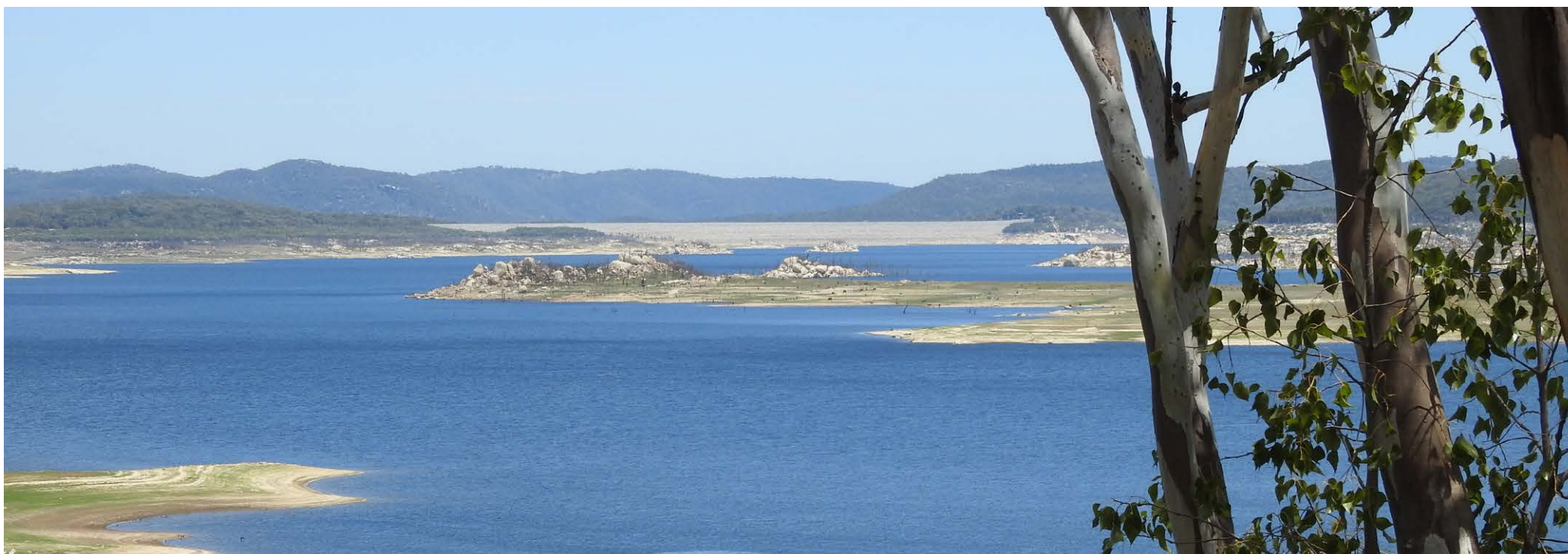


Image courtesy of Belinda Collingburn, Department of Planning and Environment. Copeton Dam, NSW.

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 3.4: Mitigate the impact of water infrastructure on native fish through infrastructure changes	The Australian Government has provided funding for fish passage, cold water pollution and diversion screens as part of the Northern Basin Toolkit.				
	Native fish passage Assessment of barriers to fish passage in the Gwydir has been completed, with 26 sites identified as priority for remediation under the NSW Fish Passage Strategy.	Work is proceeding at 4 sites by 2025: - commence project development, feasibility, designs, and approvals - commence construction and commissioning at one site.	Funding allocated to construction and commissioning of 3 sites for the WaterNSW Dam Safety Upgrade Fishway Offsets Program. Stakeholder engagement. Monitoring evaluation and reporting plan developed for monitoring post construction.	DPE Water DPE Fisheries WaterNSW	
	Cold water pollution Pre-feasibility assessment work completed for potential cold water pollution mitigation actions at Copeton Dam.	Undertake options assessment and preliminary concept design development. Install and maintain temperature monitoring equipment for Copeton Dam.	Identify the preferred infrastructure solution for Copeton Dam and commence a business case for the related infrastructure.	DPE Water DPE Fisheries WaterNSW	
	Fish diversion screens Funding secured through Northern Basin Toolkit to undertake diversion screening at priority sites in the Gwydir Valley (focus on the Mehi River).	Commence implementation of fish friendly diversion works at priority sites in the Gwydir Valley.		DPE Fisheries	

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 3.5: Rehabilitate regionally significant riparian, wetland, and floodplain areas	The NSW Government is running a suite of Natural Capital voluntary programs to assist the primary industries to undertake sustainable actions including regenerating local landscapes.	Offer certification for farms that are implementing sustainable actions by protecting remnant vegetation riparian, areas, or rocky outcrops via fencing or other means.		DPE Environment and Heritage	
			Identify priority sites in the Gwydir to focus riparian and floodplain rehabilitation efforts, based on the learnings from implementing Action 3.6 and Action 3.7 and secure funding to progress the projects.	Local Land Services	DPI Fisheries DPE Environment and Heritage
Action 3.6: Remediate unapproved floodplain structures	The Australian Government has funded the Improving Floodplains Connections program.	Commence implementation of the Improving Floodplain Connections program: field assessments, landholder engagement, functional design, remediation works, evaluate.		Local Land Services	WaterNSW NRAR DPE Environment and Heritage DPI Fisheries

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 3.7: Modify or remove physical and operational barriers to delivering water for the environment in the western Gwydir catchment	The Australian Government has provided funding to implement the Gwydir Reconnecting Watercourse Country Program as part of the Northern Basin Toolkit Measures.	Commence implementation of the Gwydir Reconnecting Watercourse Country Program: - engagement, agreements and approvals, construction - policy and legislation changes.		DPE Water	DPE Environment and Heritage



Image courtesy of iStock. Gwydir River, NSW.

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 3.8: Protect ecosystems that depend on groundwater	Baseline conditions of vegetation, wetland and subterranean groundwater dependent ecosystems have been established. Datasets for the identification and assigning of ecological value for vegetation and wetland groundwater dependent ecosystems are available on the Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED)² website. Water sharing plans and water resource plans set objectives and rules for monitoring, evaluating, reporting and management of groundwater dependent ecosystems.	Monitor ongoing conditions of vegetation, wetland and subterranean groundwater dependent ecosystems. Correlate relationships between condition of vegetation, wetland and subterranean groundwater dependent ecosystems. Research methods to assess dependence on groundwater by vegetation groundwater dependent ecosystems. Review available data on springs and assess cultural and ecological value. Implement a risk-based program to regularly improve groundwater dependent ecosystems data, information products, and adaptive management decisions for the benefit of social-cultural and environmental outcomes.	To be informed by the <i>NSW Groundwater Strategy</i> implementation plan.	DPE Water	DPE Environment and Heritage

2. www.seed.nsw.gov.au

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 3.9: Assess gaps in the flow regime that are preventing achievement of environmental water requirements and identify actions to improve ecological outcomes	This will be a medium-term priority. Implementing actions to improve connectivity with the Barwon–Darling (Action 1.4) will change the base case analysis for this action and may address some of the current gaps in the flow regime.		Identify options for improving water deliveries to achieve environmental outcomes where possible. Work with environmental water managers and technical experts to scope and commence work to improve understanding of impacts of climate change on the management of water for the environment.	DPE Water DPE Environment and Heritage Commonwealth Environmental Water Office	WaterNSW DPI Fisheries



Image courtesy of Daryl Albertson, Department of Planning and Environment. Black winged stilt Gwydir Wetlands, Moree.

Ongoing monitoring, adaptation and reporting

The Gwydir Regional Water Strategy is designed to respond to changing circumstances. We will undertake a formal review of the strategy at least every 5 years or in response to significant changing conditions and government priorities. The formal review will ensure that the key assumptions, such as population and demographics, have not significantly changed.

Amendments may be made in response to key changes in water demand, social preferences, science and technology, economic conditions, or other events,

including how climate change assumptions and responses evolve. These amendments may result in a shift in priorities, and the implementation plan will be updated to reflect this.

We will report every year against actions in the implementation plan, so that the community can track our progress and we can demonstrate which actions have been delivered, or continue to be delivered, in that year.

Figure 1. Regional water strategies process

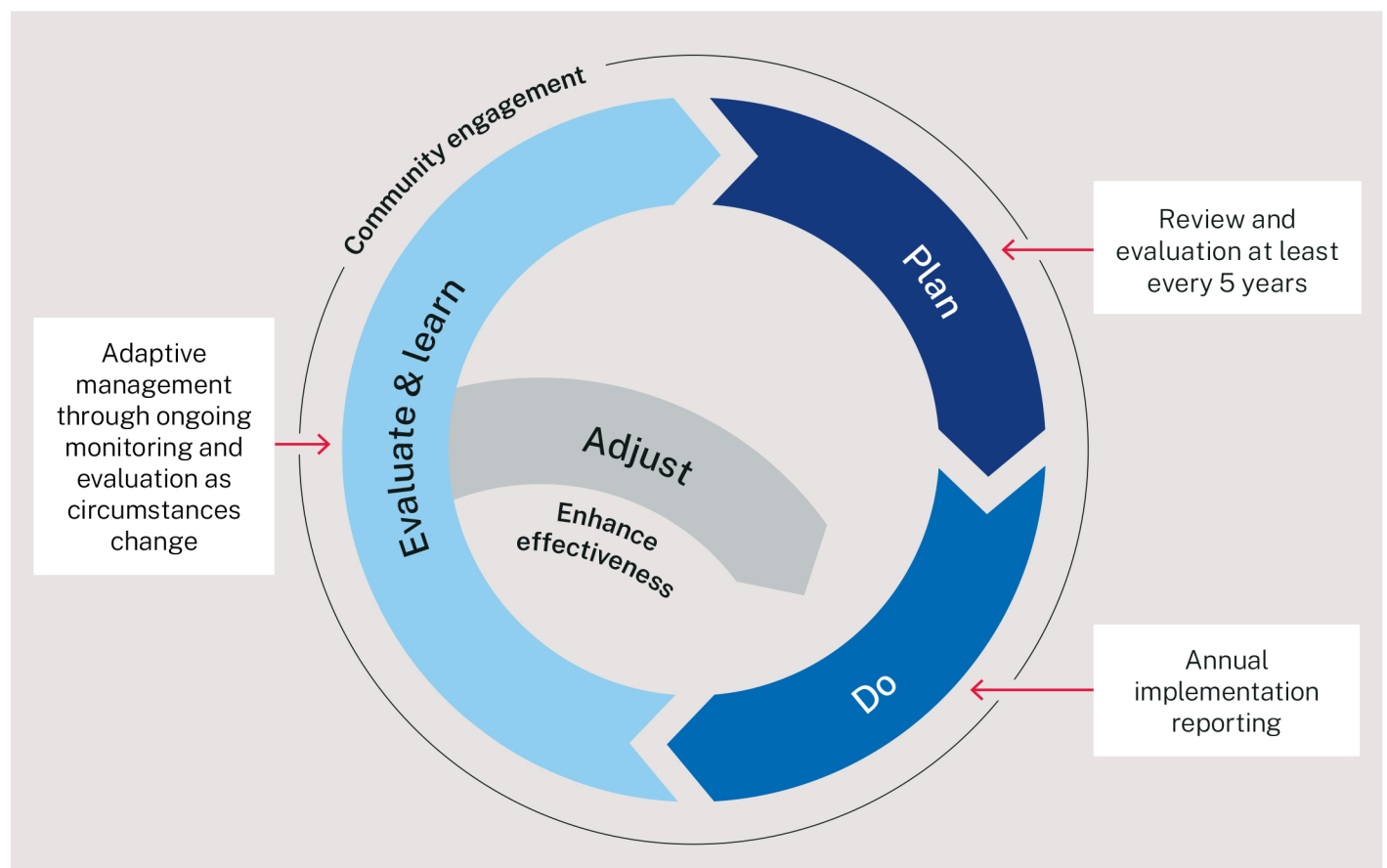


Table 1. Supporting activities

Action	Lead agency	What we'll deliver in the next 5 years
Reporting	DPE Water	Publish an annual progress update on delivery of the actions in the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy Implementation Plan so that the community can track progress.
Monitoring and evaluation	DPE Water	Apply the framework developed for the NSW Water Strategy to monitor, review and report against the actions in the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy.
Review	DPE Water	Undertake a formal review of the strategy at least every 5 years, or in response to changing circumstances. The formal review will ensure that the key assumptions, such as population and demographics, have not significantly changed.



Image courtesy of Destination NSW. Farmer picking cotton on a farm, Moree.

