

Frequently Asked Questions

Why haven't the plans been made, even with a two-year extension?

Water sharing plans are complex documents and require input from a wide range of stakeholders including government agencies and concurrence from Ministers. Due to the complexity of these plans and the additional material that was recently supplied for consideration, the department is still working to ensure the replacement plans are able to be made. This may require further consultation to ensure we get these plans right from the start, which gives everyone assurance about the rules for water sharing in these river systems.

When will the plans be finalised?

As soon as possible.

Was water put in my account on 1 July? Can it be carried over?

Yes, available water determinations were made on 1 July. Allocations legitimately carried over on 30 June remain in accounts.

What happens with my supplementary water allocation?

An available water determination was made on 1 July under the provisions of the Act. No new supplementary access announcements can be made until the new water sharing plan is made.

Can I continue to take water while the plan is not in place?

Yes, subject to the conditions specified on your licence.

Can I trade to or from my licence while the plan is not in place?

At the moment WaterNSW will continue to process trades as per the current plan provisions.

Can I apply for or amend a water supply work approval while the plan is not in place?

At the moment WNSW will continue to apply approval functions as per the current plan provisions.

What rules apply to my licence while the plan is not in place?

The conditions specified on your licence remain in force until the new plan commences and any new conditions (if relevant) are applied.

Will active management of environmental water continue while the relevant plans are not in place?

Active management of environmental water will continue in areas where it has been applied as a condition on licences.

What does this mean for use and protection of environmental water?

Environmental water holders may still use their held environmental water licences and environmental water accounts in the regulated system. In unregulated rivers where active environmental protections have been applied as conditions on licences, this water can be protected from extraction.

What is NRAR's enforcement approach until the situation is resolved?

The Natural Resources Access Regulator is a fair but firm regulator. All licence holders are expected to follow the rules. NRAR will judge any potential breaches of NSW water laws on their merits and respond accordingly.

Will Belubula water users be able to access supplementary or uncontrolled flows after 30 June?

No. There will be no new supplementary announcements or access to uncontrolled flows until the new plan is in place.

Will NRAR pursue water users who take supplementary water or uncontrolled flows while the plan is not in place in the Belubula?

Supplementary water access licence holders cannot legally take water until the new plan commences and a supplementary water announcement is made. Water users are also unable to access uncontrolled flows. All water users must follow the rules.

Will environmental water rules still apply in the Belubula?

Yes. WaterNSW will operate in accordance with its legal 'works' approval that contains the environmental water release rules.

When and how much water can I take in the Barwon-Darling?

While the Barwon-Darling plan is not in place, you may take water in accordance with your existing licence conditions. Holders of an access licence with an individual daily extraction component may take up to 1ML per daily flow share or as announced.