

Final progress update – January 2026

Final update on the implementation of the 19 key recommendations from the Claydon Review.

This is the final progress report on the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's project to implement the 9 recommendations from the Claydon Review.

As of August 2025:

- 9 recommendations are complete (or complete pending publication of the revised procedures manual)
- 7 recommendations are in progress, with projects currently under way in the Water Group and WaterNSW
- 3 recommendations are listed as “Complete – ongoing” since they are effectively complete, but ongoing work will continue to support or extend their intent.

The implementation status and actions carried out to date for each recommendation are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Update on 19 key recommendations

ID	Recommendation (paraphrased)	Status	Description of status
R1	Install new meters to fill monitoring gaps WaterNSW and Water Group	In progress	Implementation of Hydrometric Improvement Plan will fill gaps in the real-time flow measurement network within the Barwon–Darling and other water sources.
R2	Improve flow forecasting WaterNSW	In progress	WaterNSW continues to develop more accurate and timely flow forecasting models, updating information with daily data.

ID	Recommendation (paraphrased)	Status	Description of status
R3	<p>Further investigate and describe arrangements to manage ‘mismatch’ in the Barwon–Darling procedures manual</p> <p>WaterNSW and Water Group</p>	Complete	<p>The Water Group and WaterNSW investigated/reviewed the mismatch procedures as part of the active management annual review in 2022. The review revealed questions over the operational feasibility of the procedures. As a result, the Water Group is likely to remove procedure 18 from the Barwon–Darling procedures manual once sub-daily corrective announcements (see R4) are implemented.</p>
R4	<p>Investigate feasibility of sub-daily announcements and amend the procedures manual</p> <p>WaterNSW and Water Group</p>	In progress	<p>The Barwon–Darling water sharing plan has been revised to include a clause enabling sub-daily announcements. The Water Group is working towards updating procedures to implement sub-daily flow announcements in 2026.</p>
R5	<p>Review IDECs for errors</p> <p>Water Group</p>	Complete	<p>A review of IDECs was completed in 2021. The review found IDECs were calculated according to the method in the 2012 Barwon–Darling water sharing plan.</p>
R6	<p>Develop policies, procedures and systems for temporary trade of IDECs</p> <p>WaterNSW and Water Group</p>	In progress	<p>In 2023, the Barwon–Darling water sharing plan was amended to allow temporary trade of IDECs. The Water Group is finalising the specification for how to implement temporary trades. Once this is complete, WaterNSW can build the systems.</p>
R7	<p>Update the 2021 resumption of flows report with additional flow event data</p> <p>WaterNSW</p>	Complete	<p>WaterNSW's WaterNSW's 2021 report is complete. Additional flow data is available through WaterNSW's WaterInsights portal, including the environmental component of flows.</p>
R8	<p>Amend manual to require report after every resumption of flows period</p> <p>Water Group</p>	Complete—pending publication of manual	<p>The revised procedures manual will require WaterNSW to prepare a report within 30 days of the resumption of flows event. The revised manual will be published 2026.</p>

ID	Recommendation (paraphrased)	Status	Description of status
R9	Publish operational documents in the procedures manual WaterNSW and Water Group	In progress	WaterNSW has drafted this information and when finalised it will be published on their WaterInsights portal
R10	Revise manual and fact sheets based on lessons from recent event and present to stakeholders Water Group	In progress	The Water Group revised their fact sheets shortly after the January 2021 resumption of flows event. The procedure is to be updated in 2026.
R11	Remove reference to “conservative estimate” in manual and replace with “best available information” from policy Water Group	Complete—pending publication of manual	Note 2 under Procedure 11 in the revised procedures manual now only refers to “the best available information at the time”. The revised manual will be published in 2026.
R12	Publish resumption of flows compliance outcomes NRAR	Complete	NRAR assessed several sites and found no compliance action was needed.
R13	Consult stakeholders on operational recommendations (R1–R6) WaterNSW and Water Group	Complete—ongoing	The Water Group and WaterNSW are engaging with stakeholders via the Barwon–Darling Customer Advisory Group (CAG). Two of the recommendations (R1 & R2) are being addressed through other projects; R1 through the Hydrometric Improvement Plan and R2 as part of R14. Stakeholders will be consulted on mismatch (R3), sub-daily announcements (R4), IDEC calculations (R5) and temporary trading of IDECs (R6).

ID	Recommendation (paraphrased)	Status	Description of status
R14	<p>Co-develop stakeholder education program on flow modelling</p> <p>WaterNSW</p>	Complete	<p>WaterNSW worked with stakeholders through the Barwon–Darling Customer Advisory Group meetings in December 2023 and March 2024, as well as an out-of-session meeting, to explain and work through modelling concerns with stakeholders. Both WaterNSW and the Water Group will continue to work with the CAG on any flow modelling issues.</p>
R15	<p>Co-develop stakeholder education program on the resumption of flows rule</p> <p>Water Group</p>	Complete–ongoing	<p>A procedure to guide communications during an event has been created. It outlines the roles and responsibilities for community and stakeholder communications.</p> <p>Further education on resumption of flows rules may occur following the department's assessment of the Connectivity Expert Panel's recommendation to extend resumption of flows rules into Barwon–Darling tributaries.</p>
R16	<p>First Nations engagement on the resumption of flows rule and active management</p> <p>WaterNSW and Water Group</p>	Complete–ongoing	<p>The Water Group conducted engagement with First Nations communities on the resumption of flows and other rules when developing the Western Regional Water Strategy.</p> <p>In the longer term, the Water Group plans to progress conversations with relevant First Nations people on matters relating to the resumption of flows and active management via the Regional Aboriginal Water Committees, so the engagement is culturally appropriate.</p> <p>The Water Group will also revise the Barwon–Darling active management procedures manual to facilitate early notification to First Nations people, including the Barkandji Native Title group, when the resumption of flows rule is triggered and WaterNSW are forecasting a substantial flow event.</p>

ID	Recommendation (paraphrased)	Status	Description of status
R17	Form Barwon–Darling EWAG CPHR Group	In progress	The department's CPHR Group currently convenes an informal reference group pending formal appointment of a Barwon–Darling Environmental Water Advisory Group (EWAG).
R18	Communicate progress of the non-urban metering rollout and how it will affect resumption of flow events Water Group	Complete	The non-urban metering rules were introduced in the Barwon–Darling in early 2019. Metering and telemetry will generate extraction data at individual pump sites, which will support improved flow forecasting and compliance monitoring. This in turn will improve implementation of the resumption of flows rule and active management in the Barwon–Darling. Progress with the rollout continues to be communicated through the non-urban metering program.
R19	Consider policy and planning issues raised during this review in future reviews of water sharing plans Water Group	Complete	Seven issues were raised under R19 for possible consideration in future reviews of water sharing plans (see the July 2022 progress update for further information). While most issues were assessed as not requiring changes to WSP rules, the Barwon–Darling WSP was amended in February 2023 to clarify that the 30 GL past Bourke trigger is cumulative during the 90-day period, and that the 90-day trigger can be retriggered within a restriction event.

Further information

- [Read the full Claydon Review](#)
- [Read more information about the review](#)