

# Rule summary sheet for Barwon-Darling Unregulated River Water Source

## Rule summary sheet 1 of 1

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### Plan details

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<b>Water sharing plan:</b>	Barwon-Darling Unregulated River Water Source 2026
<b>Plan commencement:</b>	27 February 2026
<b>Term of plan:</b>	10 years
<b>Extraction Management Unit:</b>	N/A
<b>Application:</b>	These rules apply to all surface water within the boundaries of this water source.

#### Important

This fact sheet summarises the rules contained in the water sharing plan for the Barwon-Darling Unregulated River Water Source. It is intended as a guide only. Consult the [water sharing plan](#) for further details on this water source or other areas covered by this plan.

Alternatively, contact the department on 1300 081 047, or via email at [water.enquiries@dcceew.nsw.gov.au](mailto:water.enquiries@dcceew.nsw.gov.au)

Water access and other water sharing plan rules are implemented through conditions on the “Statement of Conditions” for access licences and “Statement of Approval” for water supply work approvals. These conditions are updated in accordance with any new or amended water sharing plan. However, this can take some time. Licence and approval holders must comply with the conditions on their existing licence condition and approval statements until new statements are provided by the department.

You can access this information from your ‘Statement of Approval’, ‘Statement of Conditions’ or via the [WaterNSW Water Register](#).

## Rules

### Managing access licences

Each water access licence has its own share component (volume of the licence) and a water allocation account that acts like a bank account where water is credited or debited.

- Water is credited to an account by an available water determination or if water is traded in (purchased) during the year from other licence holders.
- Water is debited from the account when water is extracted from a water source or traded out (sold). Total extraction from a work (pump, bore, etc.) is to be measured via metering or logbooks in accordance with the non-urban water metering regulations.

### Carryover and individual account limits

Carryover of account water at the end of each water year is permitted for unregulated river A, B and C class access licences and floodplain harvesting (unregulated river) access licences.

No carryover is allowed for domestic and stock, local water utility or specific purpose access licences (incl. supplementary [Aboriginal environmental] access licences).

For unregulated river A, B and C class access licences, the maximum amount of water that can be taken in any one water year is equal to 3 times the share component of that access licence at the commencement of that water year plus any water assigned under 71T of the *Water Management Act 2000* (WMA). Licences specified in Schedule 3 are exempt from this take limit until 18 February 2030 or until they have reduced the amount of water in their water allocation account to equal to or less than 10 times the share component of their access licence at the time the rule commenced.

Should the Barwon-Darling sub-valley be considered in breach of the trigger threshold for Schedule E of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement, the Minister may announce that for all unregulated river access licences, the maximum amount of water permitted to be taken over 3 consecutive water years shall be equal to the sum of share component for that access licence at the start of each of those water years multiplied by 1 ML/unit share.

For floodplain harvesting (unregulated river) access licence accounts – the maximum amount of water that can be held at any time is 5 ML per unit share. Carryover of water remaining in an account is permitted at the end of each water year subject to the account not exceeding 5 ML per unit share.

There are no individual take limits for specific purpose access licences.

## Non-Urban Water Metering Framework

The NSW Government's non-urban water metering framework, initiated in December 2018, aims to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of water among users, enhancing transparency and efficiency in water management across the state. The framework's implementation was staged to allow water users, suppliers, and installers sufficient time to achieve compliance. The NSW Government has recently completed a review of the non-urban metering rules and has updated the Water Management (General) Regulation 2025 to make compliance quicker, easier and more cost effective.

The new metering rules require water users to assess their compliance requirements using their total entitlement and work size. Large water users must comply with the highest metering standards whilst smaller water users now have less prescriptive metering requirements. There are also measurement/metering obligations for unregulated river access licence holders that take overland flow that are aligned with the floodplain harvesting measurement requirements.

Water users are encouraged to consult the department's [non-urban metering website](#) for detailed information and updates. To verify individual access licence details, please refer to the [WaterNSW Water Register](#).

## Active management

The plan allows for active management in the Barwon-Darling Unregulated River Water Source. Active management is a suite of tools implemented to announce access, manage environmental water, and share water between users when demand is greater than available water. Active management is implemented by WaterNSW in line with the [Barwon Darling Active Management Procedures Manual](#).

Daily announcements are made by WaterNSW for:

- flow classes
- adjusted flow class thresholds cease to pumps
- when daily flow share of less than 1 ML/share is required

Access announcements may be changed by WaterNSW within 24 hours of making an announcement when there are mismatches in observed and forecast flows that result in more water being available for the management zone<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Changes to access announcements within 24 hours will not commence until WaterNSW systems have been upgraded to implement the revised announcements.

## Individual daily extraction components (IDECs)

The IDEC is part of the extraction component of an access licence, specifying the daily volume of water that may be taken under the licence by reference to daily flow shares.

IDECs apply to all Unregulated River A class, B class and C class water access licences (WALs) and WAL36273.

The maximum volume of water that may be taken on any day is 1 ML per daily flow share.

The Minister may make an announcement to reduce the maximum volume of water permitted to be taken per daily flow share if the sum of IDECs for licence holders that have expressed interest to take water that day exceeds the water available to be taken under those licences for the relevant flow class. In these situations, the available water is shared between licence holders that have expressed an interest in taking the water.

## Resumption of flow rules

The plan protects the first flow after an extended period of no flow or low flows from extraction. The rule is applied by river section and is applied when the triggers in Table 1 are met. The rule is relaxed when the triggers in Table 2 are met.

Table 1 Triggers for the resumption of flows rule in each river section in the Barwon Darling 2026 plan

Restriction trigger	Section 1 Mungindi to Walgett	Section 2 Walgett to Brewarrina	Section 3 Brewarrina to Bourke	Section 4 Bourke to Wilcannia
326 ML/day for 150 days at Walgett	Yes	No	No	No
468 ML/day for 150 days at Brewarrina	Yes	Yes	No	No
450 ML/day for 120 days at Bourke	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
200 ML/day for 90 days at Wilcannia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 2 Relaxation triggers for the resumption of flows rule in each river section in the Barwon Darling 2026 plan

Relaxation trigger	Section 1 Mungindi to Walgett	Section 2 Walgett to Brewarrina	Section 3 Brewarrina to Bourke	Section 4 Bourke to Wilcannia
706 ML/day for 10 days at Walgett	Yes	No	No	No
1008 ML/day for 10 days at Brewarrina	Yes	Yes	No	No
972 ML/day for 10 days at Bourke	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Relaxation trigger	Section 1 Mungindi to Walgett	Section 2 Walgett to Brewarrina	Section 3 Brewarrina to Bourke	Section 4 Bourke to Wilcannia
400 ML/day for 10 days at Wilcannia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
The cumulative flow past Bourke is forecast to be greater than 30 GL*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*Note: If the **cumulative flow past Bourke** is forecast to be greater than 30 GL, this supersedes all relaxation threshold rules and restrictions are relaxed.<sup>2</sup>

## Access rules for river sections

Access licence holders may only access water when there are announced flows in the management zone and mandatory conditions are met.

For domestic and stock, local water utility and unregulated river access licences, access is allowed when announced flows are in the low flow class, A class, B class or C Class.

Extraction by domestic and stock access licences must not exceed 0.6 ML/day when the announced flows in the management zone are in the Low Flow Class.

Take of water from in-river pools and off-river pools is not permitted when the pool is below full capacity.

The low flow class for each management zone is more than 0 ML/Day but less than the A class threshold in the table below.

<sup>2</sup> The flow trigger of 30 GL in the Darling River at Bourke is a cumulative total flow. Flows start contributing to the 30 GL target from the start of the most recent low-flow or dry period, when flows have been less than 200 ML/day for more than 90 consecutive days at Wilcannia.

## Flow class access rules for river section 1

### Mungindi to Boomi River Confluence Management Zone

Table 3 Flow class thresholds for the Mungindi to Boomi River Confluence Management Zone (flow class thresholds (ML/day) as at 9:00am)

Type	Rules
<b>Flow Reference Points</b>	<p>Barwon River at Mungindi gauge (416001)</p> <p>Barwon River at Presbury gauge (416050)</p>
<b>Low flow class</b>	<p>More than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mungindi gauge and more than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Presbury gauge, and</p> <p>Less than or equal to 198 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mungindi gauge and less than or equal to 176 ML/day at the Barwon River at Presbury gauge.</p>
<b>A Class</b>	<p>More than 198 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mungindi gauge and more than 176 ML/day at the Barwon River at Presbury gauge, and</p> <p>Less than or equal to 270 ML/day at the Barwon River at Presbury gauge.</p>
<b>B Class</b>	<p>Equal to or more than 230 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mungindi gauge and more than 270 ML/day at the Barwon River at Presbury gauge, and</p> <p>Less than or equal to 1,500 ML/day at the Barwon River at Presbury gauge.</p>
<b>C Class</b>	<p>More than 230 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mungindi gauge and more than 1,500 ML/day at the Barwon River at Presbury gauge.</p>

### Boomi River Confluence to Upstream Mogil Mogil Weir Pool Management Zone

Table 4 Flow class thresholds for the Boomi River Confluence to Upstream Mogil Mogil Weir Pool Management Zone (flow class thresholds (ML/day) as at 9:00am)

Type	Rules
<b>Flow Reference Points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barwon River at Presbury gauge (416050)</li> <li>• Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge (422004)</li> </ul>

Type	Rules
<b>Low Flow Class</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Presbury gauge and more than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge, and</li> <li>2. Less than or equal to 176 ML/day at the Barwon River at Presbury gauge and less than or equal to 220 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge.</li> </ol>
<b>A Class</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More than 176 ML/day at the Barwon River at Presbury gauge and more than 220 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge, and</li> <li>2. Less than or equal to 270 ML/day at the Barwon River at Presbury gauge and less than or equal to 230 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge.</li> </ol>
<b>B Class</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More than 270 ML/day at the Barwon River at Presbury gauge and more than 230 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge, and</li> <li>2. Less than or equal to 1,800 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge.</li> </ol>
<b>C Class</b>	More than 270 ML/day at the Barwon River at Presbury gauge and more than 1,800 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge.

## Mogil Mogil Weir Pool Management Zone

Table 5 Flow class thresholds for the Mogil Mogil Weir Pool Management Zone (flow class thresholds (ML/day) as at 9:00am)

Type	Rules
<b>Flow Reference Point</b>	Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge (422004)
<b>Low Flow Class</b>	More than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge, and Less than or equal to 220 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge.
<b>A Class</b>	More than 220 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge, and Less than or equal to 570 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge.
<b>B Class</b>	More than 570 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge, and Less than or equal to 1,800 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge.
<b>C Class</b>	More than 1,800 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge.

## Downstream Mogil Mogil to Collarenebri Management Zone

Table 6 Flow class thresholds for the Downstream Mogil Mogil to Collarenebri Management Zone (flow class thresholds (ML/day) as at 9:00am)

Type	Rules
<b>Flow Reference Points</b>	Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge (422004) Barwon River at Collarenebri Main Channel gauge (422003)
<b>Low Flow Class</b>	More than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge and more than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Collarenebri gauge, and  Less than or equal to 220 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge or less than or equal to 317 ML/day at the Barwon River at Collarenebri gauge.
<b>A Class</b>	More than 220 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge and more than 317 ML/day at the Barwon River at Collarenebri gauge, and  Less than or equal to 570 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge or less than or equal to 500 ML/day at the Barwon River at Collarenebri gauge.
<b>B Class</b>	More than 570 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge and more than 500 ML/day at the Barwon River at Collarenebri Main Channel gauge, and  Less than or equal to 2,900 ML/day at the Barwon River at Collarenebri Main Channel gauge.
<b>C Class</b>	More than 570 ML/day at the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil gauge and more than 2,900 ML/day at the Barwon River at Collarenebri Main Channel gauge.

## Collarenebri to Upstream Walgett Weir Pool Management Zone

Table 7 Flow class thresholds for the Collarenebri to Upstream Walgett Weir Pool Management Zone (flow class thresholds (ML/day) as at 9:00am)

Type	Rules
<b>Flow Reference Points</b>	Barwon River at Collarenebri Main Channel gauge (422003) Barwon River at Caloola gauge (422025)

Type	Rules
<b>Low Flow Class</b>	More than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Collarenebri Main Channel gauge and more than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Caloola gauge, and  Less than or equal to 317 ML/day at the Barwon River at Collarenebri Main Channel gauge or less than or equal to 275 ML/day at the Barwon River at Caloola gauge.
<b>A Class</b>	More than 317 ML/day at the Barwon River at Collarenebri Main Channel gauge and more than 275 ML/day at the Barwon River at Caloola gauge, and  Less than or equal to 500 ML/day at the Barwon River at Collarenebri Main Channel gauge or less than or equal to 430 ML/day at the Barwon River at Caloola gauge.
<b>B Class</b>	More than 500 ML/day at the Barwon River at Collarenebri Main Channel gauge and more than 430 ML/day at the Barwon River at Caloola gauge, and  Less than or equal to 3,050 ML/day at the Barwon River at Caloola gauge.
<b>C Class</b>	More than 500 ML/day at the Barwon River at Collarenebri Main Channel gauge and more than 3,050 ML/day at the Barwon River at Caloola gauge.

## Walgett Weir Pool Management Zone

Table 8 Flow class thresholds for the Walgett Weir Pool Management Zone (flow class thresholds (ML/day) as at 9:00am)

Type	Rules
<b>Flow Reference Point</b>	Barwon River at Dangar Bridge gauge (422001)
<b>Low Flow Class</b>	More than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Dangar Bridge gauge, and  Less than or equal to 600 ML/day at the Barwon River at Dangar Bridge gauge.
<b>A Class</b>	More than 600 ML/day at the Barwon River at Dangar Bridge gauge, and  Less than or equal to 900 ML/day at the Barwon River at Dangar Bridge gauge.
<b>B Class</b>	More than 900 ML/day at the Barwon River at Dangar Bridge gauge, and  Less than or equal to 5,650 ML/day at the Barwon River at Dangar Bridge gauge.
<b>C Class</b>	More than 5,650 ML/day at the Barwon River at Dangar Bridge gauge.

## Flow class access rules for river Section 2

### Downstream Walgett to Boorooma Management Zone

Table 9 Flow class thresholds for the Downstream Walgett to Boorooma Management Zone (flow class thresholds (ML/day) as at 9:00am)

Type	Rules
<b>Flow Reference Points</b>	Barwon River at Dangar Bridge gauge (422001) Barwon River at Boorooma gauge (422026)
<b>Low Flow Class</b>	More than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Dangar Bridge gauge and more than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Boorooma gauge, and  Less than or equal to 600 ML/day at the Barwon River at Dangar Bridge gauge and less than or equal to 400 ML/day at the Barwon River at Boorooma gauge.
<b>A Class</b>	More than 600 ML/day at the Barwon River at Dangar Bridge gauge and more than 400 ML/day at the Barwon River at Boorooma gauge, and  Less than or equal to 900 ML/day at the Barwon River at Dangar Bridge gauge and less than or equal to 870 ML/day at the Barwon River at Boorooma gauge.
<b>B Class</b>	More than 900 ML/day at the Barwon River at Dangar Bridge gauge and more than 870 ML/day at the Barwon River at Boorooma gauge, and  Less than or equal to 5,500 ML/day at the Barwon River at Boorooma gauge.
<b>C Class</b>	More than 900 ML/day at the Barwon River at Dangar Bridge gauge and more than 5,500 ML/day at the Barwon River at Boorooma gauge.

### Boorooma to Brewarrina Management Zone

Table 10 Flow class thresholds for the Boorooma to Brewarrina Management Zone (flow class thresholds (ML/day) as at 9:00am)

Type	Rules
<b>Flow Reference Points</b>	Barwon River at Geera gauge (422027) Barwon River at Brewarrina gauge (422002)

Type	Rules
<b>Low Flow Class</b>	<p>More than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Geera gauge and more than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Brewarrina gauge, and</p> <p>Less than or equal to 496 ML/day at the Barwon River at Geera gauge or less than or equal to 550 ML/day at the Barwon River at Brewarrina gauge.</p>
<b>A Class</b>	<p>More than 496 ML/day at the Barwon River at Geera gauge and more than 550 ML/day at the Barwon River at Brewarrina gauge, and</p> <p>Less than or equal to 870 ML/day at the Barwon River at Geera gauge or less than or equal to 840 ML/day at the Barwon River at Brewarrina gauge.</p>
<b>B Class</b>	<p>More than 870 ML/day at the Barwon River at Geera gauge and more than 840 ML/day at the Barwon River at Brewarrina gauge, and</p> <p>Less than or equal to 6,800 ML/day at the Barwon River at Brewarrina gauge.</p>
<b>C Class</b>	<p>More than 870 ML/day at the Barwon River at Geera gauge and more than 6,800 ML/day at the Barwon River at Brewarrina gauge.</p>

## Flow class access rules for river section 3

### Brewarrina to Culgoa River Junction Management Zone

Table 11 Flow class thresholds for the Brewarrina to Culgoa River Junction Management Zone (flow class thresholds (ML/day) as at 9:00am)

Type	Rules
<b>Flow Reference Points</b>	Barwon River at Brewarrina gauge (422002) Barwon River at Beemery gauge (422028)
<b>Low Flow Class</b>	More than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Brewarrina gauge and more than 0 ML/day at the Barwon River at Beemery gauge, and  Less than or equal to 550 ML/day at the Barwon River at Brewarrina gauge or less than or equal to 570 ML/day at the Barwon River at Beemery gauge.
<b>A Class</b>	More than 550 ML/day at the Barwon River at Brewarrina gauge and more than 570 ML/day at the Barwon River at Beemery gauge, and  Less than or equal to 840 ML/day at the Barwon River at Brewarrina gauge or less than or equal to 760 ML/day at the Barwon River at Beemery gauge.
<b>B Class</b>	More than 840 ML/day at the Barwon River at Brewarrina gauge and more than 760 ML/day at the Barwon River at Beemery gauge, and  Less than or equal to 8,250 ML/day at the Barwon River at Beemery gauge.
<b>C Class</b>	More than 840 ML/day at the Barwon River at Brewarrina gauge and more than 8,250 ML/day at the Barwon River at Beemery gauge.

### Culgoa River Junction to Bourke Management Zone

Table 12 Flow class thresholds for the Culgoa River Junction to Bourke Management Zone (flow class thresholds (ML/day) as at 9:00am)

Type	Rules
<b>Flow Reference Points</b>	Darling River at Warraweena gauge (425029) Darling River at Bourke Town gauge (425003)

Type	Rules
<b>Low Flow Class</b>	<p>More than 0 ML/day at the Darling River at Warraweena gauge and more than 0 ML/day at the Darling River at Bourke Town gauge, and</p> <p>Less than or equal to 645 ML/day at Warraweena gauge or less than or equal to 605 ML/day at the Darling River at Bourke Town gauge.</p>
<b>A Class</b>	<p>More than 645 ML/day at the Darling River at Warraweena gauge and more than 605 ML/day at the Darling River at Bourke Town gauge, and</p> <p>Less than or equal to 1,330 ML/day at Warraweena gauge or less than or equal to 1,250 ML/day at the Darling River at Bourke Town gauge.</p>
<b>B Class</b>	<p>More than 1,330 ML/day at the Darling River at Warraweena gauge and more than 1,250 ML/day at the Darling River at Bourke Town gauge, and</p> <p>Less than or equal to 11,000 ML/day at the Darling River at Bourke Town gauge.</p>
<b>C Class</b>	<p>More than 1,330 ML/day at the Darling River at Warraweena gauge and more than 11,000 ML/day at the Darling River at Bourke Town gauge.</p>

## Flow class access rules for river section 4

### Bourke to Louth Management Zone

Table 13 Flow class thresholds for the Bourke to Louth Management Zone (flow class thresholds (ML/day) as at 9:00am)

Type	Rules
<b>Flow Reference Points</b>	Darling River at Bourke Town gauge (425003) Darling River at Louth gauge (425004)
<b>Low Flow Class</b>	More than 0 ML/day at the Darling River at Bourke Town gauge and more than 0 ML/day at the Darling River at Louth gauge, and  Less than or equal to 605 ML/day at Darling River at Bourke Town gauge or less than or equal to 555 ML/day at the Darling River at Louth gauge.
<b>A Class</b>	More than 605 ML/day at the Darling River at Bourke Town gauge and more than 555 ML/day at the Darling River at Louth gauge, and  Less than or equal to 1,250 ML/day at Darling River at Bourke Town gauge or less than or equal to 1,130 ML/day at the Darling River at Louth gauge.
<b>B Class</b>	More than 1,250 ML/day at the Darling River at Bourke Town gauge and more than 1,130 ML/day at the Darling River at Louth gauge, and  Less than or equal to 11,150 ML/day at the Darling River at Louth gauge.
<b>C Class</b>	More than 1,250 ML/day at the Darling River at Bourke Town gauge and more than 11,150 ML/day at the Darling River at Louth gauge.

### Louth to Tilpa Management Zone

Table 14 Flow class thresholds for the Louth to Tilpa Management Zone (flow class thresholds (ML/day) as at 9:00am)

Type	Rules
<b>Flow Reference Points</b>	Darling River at Louth gauge (425004) Darling River at Tilpa gauge (425900)

Type	Rules
<b>Low Flow Class</b>	More than 0 ML/day at the Darling River at Louth gauge and more than 0 ML/day at the Darling River at Tilpa gauge, and  Less than or equal to 555 ML/day at the Darling River at Louth gauge or less than or equal to 505 ML/day the Darling River at Tilpa gauge.
<b>A Class</b>	More than 555 ML/day at the Darling River at Louth gauge and more than 505 ML/day at the Darling River at Tilpa gauge, and  Less than or equal to 1,130 ML/day at the Darling River at Louth gauge or less than or equal to 1,010 ML/day the Darling River at Tilpa gauge.
<b>B Class</b>	More than 1,130 ML/day at the Darling River at Louth gauge and more than 1,010 ML/day at the Darling River at Tilpa gauge, and  Less than or equal to 11,000 ML/day at the Darling River at Tilpa gauge.
<b>C Class</b>	More than 1,130 ML/day at the Darling River at Louth gauge and more than 11,000 ML/day at the Darling River at Tilpa gauge.

## Tilpa to Wilcannia Management Zone

Table 15 Flow class thresholds for the Tilpa to Wilcannia Management Zone (flow class thresholds (ML/day) as at 9:00am)

Type	Rules
<b>Flow Reference Points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Darling River at Tilpa gauge (425900)</li> <li>Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge (425008)</li> </ul>
<b>Low Flow Class</b>	More than 0 ML/day at the Darling River at Tilpa gauge and more than 0 ML/day at the Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge, and  Less than or equal to 505 ML/day at the Darling River at Tilpa gauge or less than or equal to 455 ML/day at Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge.
<b>A Class</b>	More than 505 ML/day at the Darling River at Tilpa gauge and more than 455 ML/day at the Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge, and  Less than or equal to 1,010 ML/day at the Darling River at Tilpa gauge or less than or equal to 850 ML/day at Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge.

Type	Rules
<b>B Class</b>	More than 1,010 ML/day at the Darling River at Tilpa gauge and more than 850 ML/day at the Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge, and  Less than or equal to 12,000 ML/day at the Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge.
<b>C Class</b>	More than 1,010 ML/day at the Darling River at Tilpa gauge and more than 12,000 ML/day at the Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge.

### Wilcannia to Upstream Lake Wetherell Management Zone

Table 16 Flow class thresholds for the Wilcannia to Upstream Lake Wetherell Management Zone (flow class thresholds (ML/day) as at 9:00am)

Type	Rules
<b>Flow Reference Points</b>	Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge (425008)
<b>Low Flow Class</b>	More than 0 ML/day at the Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge, and  Less than or equal to 455 ML/day at the Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge.
<b>A Class</b>	More than 455 ML/day at the Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge, and  Less than or equal to 850 ML/day at the Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge.
<b>B Class</b>	More than 850 ML/day at the Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge, and  Less than or equal to 12,000 ML/day at the Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge.
<b>C Class</b>	More than 12,000 ML/day at the Darling River at Wilcannia Main Channel gauge.

## Exceptions to access rules for Barwon-Darling Unregulated River Water Source

Table 17 Exceptions to surface water access rules

Type	Rules
<b>Health and hygiene</b>	For an access licence specified in Schedule 5, Table A of the Plan, no more than 20 kl/day for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fruit and vegetable washing</li> <li>• cleaning of dairy plant and equipment for the purposes of hygiene</li> <li>• poultry watering and misting</li> <li>• cleaning of enclosures used for intensive animal production for the purposes of hygiene.</li> </ul>
<b>Domestic use</b>	For domestic consumption authorised under a domestic and stock access licence, up to 1 kl/day
<b>Harvestable rights</b>	From a run-off harvesting dam.
<b>Local water utility</b>	For an access licence specified in Schedule 5, Table B of the Plan.
<b>Aquifer interference activities</b>	Access rules do not apply to the take of surface water under an access licence for which a planning approval is in force if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the licence holder complies with an approved water management plan, and</li> <li>• in the Minister’s opinion, the licence holder is not reasonably capable of complying with the access rules.</li> </ul>
<b>Floodplain harvesting</b>	Take is not permitted under a floodplain harvesting (unregulated river) access licence when the volume of water in Menindee Lakes Storage available to be delivered from Menindee Main Weir to the Lower Darling Regulated River Water Source is less than 250 gigalitres, unless flows at the Darling River at Wilcannia Gauge will remain at or above 7,900 ML/day.

## Access rules for in-river and off-river pools

Table 18 Access rules for pools

Type	Rules
Take from in-river pools	Take of water is not permitted when the pool is below full capacity.
Take from in-river dam pools	Take of water is not permitted unless the take is in accordance with the conditions on the relevant water supply work approval.
Take from off-river pools	Take of water is not permitted when the pool is below full capacity.

## Water supply works approvals

Water supply work approvals allow you to construct and use a water supply work which takes water from a river, lake or aquifer. Examples of water supply works are water pumps, water bores, spearpoints, dams, weirs, irrigation channels, banks and levees. Approvals are granted through WaterNSW to construct and operate water supply works. Every approval includes conditions that are in place to reduce adverse impacts. For more information, please visit the [WaterNSW works approvals](#) website.

Table 19 Rules for constructing surface water supply works

Type	Rules
In-river dams	Not permitted in third or higher order streams in this water source.  This rule does not apply to replacement works or applications for works used for the purpose of town water supply.
Off-river pools	Not permitted within natural off-river pools unless there will be no more than minimal harm.  This rule does not apply to replacement works.

Type	Rules
Floodplain harvesting	<p>Not permitted if located:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outside the Barwon-Darling Valley floodplain</li> <li>• in management zone A or D (as established in the Barwon-Darling Valley floodplain management plan).</li> <li>• In management zone AD or D (as established in the Lower Namoi Valley floodplain management plan)</li> </ul>

## Trading rules

Trading covers assignment of rights dealings (trading of a licence), share component dealings (trading of entitlement), extraction component dealings (trade of daily flow shares and IDECs), water allocation dealings (trading an annual allocation) and water supply works dealings (relocation of an extraction point).

Table 20 Rules for trading into or within this water source

Type	Rules
Into water source	Not permitted.
Within water source	<p>Permitted subject to specific rules. View Table 21.</p> <p>Prohibited into off-river pools.</p>
Assignment of allocation (account water)	<p>Permitted within the water source to another access licence that is subject to an equivalent or higher cease to take condition.</p> <p>Prohibited into off-river pools, unless assignment of allocation to the off-river pool has occurred during the term of the Water Sharing Plan for the Barwon-Darling Unregulated River Water Source 2012.</p>
Between management zones	<p>Permitted within a river section.</p> <p>Permitted between licences of the same category into a different river section provided the total shares in that section and class do not exceed the total limit specified in Table 21.</p>

Type	Rules
<b>Amendment of extraction component</b>	<p>Permanent trade of daily flow shares is permitted within a river section to licences that have the same or more restrictive take conditions as the seller.</p> <p>Temporary assignments (trade) of IDECs are permitted within a river section to licences that have the same or more restrictive take conditions as the seller<sup>3</sup>. Water can only be accessed under IDECs that are temporarily traded when WaterNSW has announced access for both licences involved in the dealing.</p>
<b>Nomination of works</b>	<p>Prohibited if nominating a work located outside the Barwon-Darling plan area.</p> <p>Prohibited if work is nominated by a licence listed in Schedule 4, Table A, column 1 as of 4 October 2012.</p> <p>Prohibited if being amended to nominate a water supply work located within an off-river pool, unless the dealing will result in no more than minimal harm to the off-river pool.</p> <p>Prohibited if nominating a work in a river section would cause the total share in that section and class to exceed the total specified limit in Table 21.</p>
<b>Rules unique to floodplain harvesting (unregulated river) access licences</b>	<p>Trade of allocation not permitted.</p> <p>Trade of entitlement not permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to a work located outside the Barwon-Darling Valley Floodplain</li> <li>to a work located in management zones A, AD or D (as identified in the relevant floodplain management plan)</li> <li>between river sections.</li> </ul>

Table 21 Limits for trading into or within this water source

River Section	A Class	B Class	C Class
1	3,434	82,940	26,040
2	2,535	38,282	114,197
3	13,515	126,019	34,344
4	5,860	38,246	44,720

<sup>3</sup> Temporary trades of IDECs will not commence until WaterNSW systems have been upgraded to implement the trades.

## Granting new licences

There are limited purposes for which a new licence will be granted. It is anticipated that most water needs will be sourced from the market. One reason a licence may be granted is for Aboriginal cultural purposes. Other reasons are identified in Section 24 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2025.

Table 22 Rules for granting access licences

Type	Rules
<b>Aboriginal cultural access licence</b>	Permitted up to 10 ML/year per licence, subject to assessment.
<b>Supplementary water (Aboriginal environmental) access licences</b>	Individual licences volumes up to 500 ML, but no more than 2,000 ML in total across the water source.

## More information

More information about the planning process and the Water Sharing Plan for the Barwon-Darling Unregulated River Water Source 2026 is available on the [water sharing plan pages](#) of the department's website.