

Changes to temporary trade in parts of the Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source

The *Access Licence Dealing Principles Order 2004* has been amended to permit unlimited temporary trades until 30 June 2028.

Temporary trade permitted

Unrestricted temporary trades (71T water allocation dealings) are now permitted until 30 June 2028 into the Gunidgera/Pian system in the Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi Regulated River, after amendments were made to the *Access Licence Dealing Principles Order 2004* (the Order).

The changes provide time for the department to consider long-term solutions to address delivery constraint risks while developing the replacement water sharing plan for the Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source 2016 (the plan), which has been extended to 2028.

The Order overrides the access licence dealing rules in the plan, in accordance with section 71Z of the *Water Management Act 2000*.

This means the Order effectively ‘switches off’ sections 51(1)(c) and (d) of the plan until 30 June 2028. This is set out in sections 17 (12), (13) and (14) of the Order.

The [Order](#) and [the plan](#) are available to view on the department’s website.

Water sharing plan rules

The plan includes rules restricting trades to licences that nominate a water supply work in the Gunidgera/Pian system. The rules limit water allocation trades to licences in the Gunidgera/Pian system in each water year to the total water allocations traded out of the system in that water year.

These rules were introduced to manage delivery constraint issues (e.g., to prevent overbank flows) in the regulated Gunidgera/Pian system, until daily extraction components could be developed.

However, daily extraction components were not developed in the Namoi, and during the intervening years, WaterNSW established water ordering procedures that effectively manage delivery constraint issue risks.

As WaterNSW is now able to manage delivery constraint risks, continuing application of sections 51(1)(c) and (d) of the plan would result in unnecessary socio-economic impacts for water users in the Namoi Valley, particularly in the lead up to the peak irrigation season.