

Submission form for the draft Water Sharing Plan for the Brunswick Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2027

Office use only		Submission number	
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How to fill out this form

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is seeking your comments on the draft Water Sharing Plan for the Brunswick Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2027.

Key issues and changes have been summarised in this submission form for the water sharing plan. For water source specific details including rules, please see the water source report cards.

A copy of your submission will be sent to your email address provided in the next section.

Send completed submissions to:

water.enquiries@dcceew.nsw.gov.au

Note: Submissions close, 5pm Monday 26th October 2026.

How to fill out this form

Information on privacy and confidentiality

The NSW Government will consider all submissions received. The Government values your input and accepts that information you provide may be private and personal.

If you want your submission or your personal details to be treated as confidential, please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below. If you do not make a request for confidentiality, the department may make your submission, including any personal details contained in the submission, available to the public.

Be aware that the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water may be required by law to release copies of submissions to third parties in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

1. I give permission for my submission to be publicly available on the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water website *

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. I would like my personal details to be kept confidential

☐ Yes ☐ No

Your details

1. Email address*

2. Name of respondent*

3. Address

4. Contact phone number*

Your details

5. Are you an individual or representing an organisation?* <i>Mark only one</i>	☐ Organisation ☐ Individual (<i>skip to next section</i>)		
6. Name of organisation*			
7. Who are you representing?	☐ Government ☐ Peak representative organisation ☐ First Nation ☐ Environment ☐ Mining industry	☐ Irrigator ☐ Water related industry ☐ Groundwater licence holder ☐ Groundwater user – basic rights	☐ Surface water licence holder ☐ Surface water user – basic rights ☐ Local landholder ☐ Other:
8. Did you attend any of the following?	☐ face to face meeting ☐ public webinar ☐ one-on-one or industry meeting ☐ none of these		
9. Do your comments refer to a specific water source?	☐ No ☐ Yes Please specify which water source:		

Changes to access rules

Changes are proposed to access rules in the Upper Brunswick River Water Source. It is proposed to:

- Introduce a pumping restriction of 6 hours/day when flows are greater than 2 ML/day and less than or equal to 6 ML/day (currently 4 ML/day) at the Durrumbul gauge #202001 during November to May.
- Increase the 24-hour first flush/commence to take rule to 6 ML/day (currently 4 ML/day), which follows a low flow of 2 ML/day, to protect a proportion of fresh flows.
- Introduce a new access rule to enable and enhance the migration of Australian bass and other native fish species. The cease to take (pump) will increase to 8 ML/day for the months of June to October.

Changes to access rules	
Please provide any comments you may have on the proposed changes to access rules. (Attach extra pages if required)	Comment:

Changes to trading rules

The following changes to trade rules are proposed for the following water sources:

- **Kings Creek:** Trade into this water source is proposed to also be permitted from the Lower Brunswick Water Source. This is in addition to the current plan rules which permit trade from the Mullumbimby Creek, Tyagarah Creek and Upper Brunswick River Water Sources. Trade is proposed to now only be permitted to a maximum of 43 ML/year, rather than the current 70 ML/year.
- **Lower Brunswick:** Trade into this water sourced is proposed to remain permitted from the Kings Creek, Mullumbimby Creek, and Upper Brunswick River Water Sources only. The trade limit is proposed to be set to no net gain above the water source entitlement at the new plan's commencement, rather than no limit.
- **Lower Marshalls Creek:** No trade into this water source is proposed to be permitted from any water source. This is a change from the current rule where trade is permitted from the Upper Marshalls Creek Water Source only.
- **Mullumbimby Creek:** Trade into this water source is proposed to also be permitted from the Lower Brunswick River Water Source. This is in addition to the current plan rules which permit trade from the Kings Creek and Upper Brunswick River Water Sources. Trade is proposed to now be permitted to a maximum of 112 ML/year, instead of 105 ML/year.
- **Upper Brunswick River:** Trade into this water source is proposed to also be permitted from the Lower Brunswick River Water Source. This is in addition to the current plan rules which permit trade from the Kings Creek and Mullumbimby Creek Water Sources. All trades are still subject to no net gain above water source entitlement at the new plan's commencement.
- **Upper Marshalls Creek:** Trade into this water source is now proposed to be prohibited. This is a change from trade being permitted up to 302 ML/year.

All trades within water sources are proposed to remain permitted subject to assessment. The current trade rules between and within all other water sources within the water sharing plan area remain unchanged.

Changes to trading rules

Please provide any comments you may have on the proposed changes to trading.

(Attach extra pages if required)

Comment:

Proposed access rules for take of alluvial groundwater

It is proposed that surface water access rules will be applied to groundwater extraction from alluvium within waterfront land (waterfront land is as defined in the Dictionary of the *Water Management Act 2000* and includes the bed and bank of any river, lake or estuary and all land within 40 meters of the highest bank of the river, lake or estuary).

Alluvium within waterfront land holds water that is highly connected to surface water. Extracting water from the alluvium within waterfront land has a similar impact to extracting water from the adjacent river or creek. It is therefore proposed to manage extraction of this water in the same way with the same rules to access water.

Proposed access rules for take of alluvial groundwater

Please provide any comments you may have on the proposed changes to rules for take of alluvial groundwater.

(Attach extra pages if required)

Comments:

Distance rules for water supply works that take groundwater

It is proposed to include new distance restriction rules for water supply works that take groundwater. This reduces the risk of introducing contaminated water into aquifers, protects human health and increases protection for high priority vegetation Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems.

The proposed new rules are:

- Distance restrictions of 500 m from contamination sources and 250 m from an on-site sewerage disposal system included for new works that access groundwater.
- The distance restriction from new production bores to high priority vegetation Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) has been standardised to 200 m, rather than setting a distance based on extraction volume.

Distance rules for water supply works that take groundwater

Please provide any comments you may have on the proposed distance rules for groundwater water supply works.

(Attach extra pages if required)

Comments:

Additional Information

If you would like to provide any additional information in the form of supporting documents or files to help us understand your view, email wspconsultation@dcceew.nsw.gov.au from the same email you provided above referencing the draft Brunswick Unregulated and Alluvial WSP.