

Report card for the Brunswick River Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Source

Report card 10 of 11

Water source context

Water Sharing Plan:	Draft Brunswick Unregulated and Alluvial Water Source 2027
Extraction Management Unit (EMU):	Brunswick River Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Source
Area:	17.6 km ²
Inflowing water source:	Nil
Receiving water source:	Nil
Groundwater-dependent ecosystems:	Groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDEs) are present

Basic landholder rights

Domestic and stock rights estimate:	72 ML/year
Native Title rights:	A native title holder is entitled to take and use water in the exercise of native title rights.

Licences water entitlements

Total groundwater entitlement:	23 unit shares
Local water utilities entitlement:	0 ML/year

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.) will be measured via metering or logbooks.

Carryover and individual account limits

Water allocation which is not used within a water year cannot be carried over in an account to be used in another water year.

Granting new licences

There are limited purposes for which a new licence will be granted. It is anticipated that most additional 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 Clause 23 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2025*.

Table 1. Draft rules for granting access licences

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Aboriginal cultural access licence	Permitted, up to 10 ML/year per licence, subject to assessment.	No change
Aboriginal community development access licence	Permitted, to a limit of 100 ML/year.	No change

Access rules

Table 2. Draft alluvial groundwater access rules

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Cease to pump	No access rules.	No change No access rules are proposed for this water source. Coastal floodplain alluvial groundwater is not considered to be highly connected to surface water

Water supply work approvals

Water supply work approvals allow you to construct and use a 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.

The purpose of water supply work approvals is to ensure that the construction or use of a work does not cause negative impacts on water sources and their dependent ecosystems, or to access of water by other authorised water users.

A water use approval authorises its holder to use water for a particular purpose, such as irrigation, at a particular location (water source). Every approval includes conditions that are in place to reduce adverse impacts. For more information, please visit the [WaterNSW works approvals](#) website.

The distance rules for groundwater water supply works are detailed in the Report Card for Groundwater Works Approvals located on the department's [public exhibition](#) website.

Trading

Trading covers conversion of access licence to a new category (for example from unregulated river to aquifer), assignment of rights dealings (trading of a licence), share component dealings between water sources (trading of entitlement between water sources), water allocation dealings (trading an annual allocation) and water supply works dealings (relocation of an extraction point).

Table 3. Draft water trading (dealing) rules

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
INTO water source	Not permitted	No change
WITHIN water source	Permitted, subject to assessment	No change
Conversion of aquifer to unregulated river access licences	Not permitted	No change

Key factors for decisions

No changes are proposed for this water source apart from the changes to rules for groundwater works (bores). For these changes please see the Report Card for Groundwater Works Approvals located on the department's [public exhibition](#) website.

Public exhibition

The department seeks feedback from the public on the suitability of the proposed rules for this water source.

The draft Brunswick Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2027 Water Sharing Plan, supporting documents and a submission form are available from the department's [public exhibition](#) website.