Draft Lachlan Valley Floodplain Management Plan – Stage 2 Public exhibition

A new floodplain management plan under the *Water Management Act 2000* is being developed for the Lachlan Valley floodplain to replace the historical localised floodplain management plans developed under the *Water Act 1912.*

Background information

The NSW Government is continuing to reform the management of water on the floodplains of inland NSW. Floodplain management plans set the rules for the development of flood works, such as levees and banks, on floodplains in rural areas. Work is now underway to transition the remaining *Water Act 1912* floodplain management plans in the Lachlan valley in the southern Murray–Darling Basin.

Purpose of the plan

The Floodplain Management Plan for the Lachlan Valley Floodplain (the draft FMP) will manage the development of flood works on the Lachlan Valley floodplain to:

- provide clarity for landholders about where flood works can be constructed on the floodplain
- standardise the approval process for new and amended flood works on the floodplain
- manage the passage of floodwaters through the floodplain to minimise the risk to life and property from the effects of flooding, and
- maintain flood connectivity to key ecological and cultural assets on the floodplain.

What the plan means for you

All flood works require a flood work approval in line with the *Water Management Act 2000* and the draft FMP. The draft FMP includes management zones, rules and assessment criteria, which together provide the framework for granting or amending flood work approvals. This framework includes:

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- the types of flood works that may be permitted in floodways (for example, access roads, infrastructure protection works, stock refuges and supply channels)
- the specifications that will apply to some flood works (for example, height and size)
- standard assessment criteria and hydraulic assessment criteria that will be used in the assessment of applications for flood work approvals to manage the impacts of flood works
- areas of the floodplain where applications for flood work approvals require advertising as part of the approval process.

How was the plan developed?

The draft FMP has been developed based on consideration of:

- hydraulic factors including the passage, flow and distribution of flood waters
- the identified Aboriginal cultural assets, heritage sites and ecological assets on the floodplain
- previous floodplain management planning arrangements
- feedback received during Stage 1 public consultation as outlined in the What we heard report published on our website.

Who developed the plan?

The draft FMP has been developed by the department's Water Group with input from the Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group.

The key rules in the draft FMP have been reviewed by an Interagency Working Group consisting of representatives from the Department of Primary Industries (agricultural and fisheries interests) and the Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group.

Further information

A suite of supporting information to help you understand the draft FMP is available on our website (Table 1).

Table 1: Supporting information for Stage 2 public exhibition: draft Lachlan Valley Floodplain Management Plan

Document name	Description
Draft Floodplain Management Plan for the Lachlan Valley Floodplain (Legal Order)	The legal document that includes all of the rules and requirements, in a statutory format.

Document name	Description
Report to assist Stage 2 public exhibition	Information to help you understand the draft FMP, including a series of questions to guide feedback and information on how to make a submission.
Interactive spatial map	An online, zoomable map illustrating the proposed floodplain boundary, floodway network, management zones, and ecological assets that form part of the draft FMP.
Submission form	A template that you can use to provide your comments on the draft FMP during public exhibition. **Submissions close 11:59 pm Monday 16 November 2026.**