

Floodplain harvesting licensing & measurement framework - Namoi

Landholder engagement session

Agenda



Topic	Time
1. Welcome, introductions and Acknowledgement of Country	9:40 am
2. Licensing floodplain harvesting activities	9:50 am
3. Measurement methods and metering equipment	10:10 am
4. Approvals, dealings and billing with WaterNSW	10:40 am
<i>Break</i>	<i>11:00 am</i>
5. Water allocations process	11:10 am
6. Who is NRAR? What are our objectives?	11:40 am
7. Final Q&A	12:00 pm
8. Review, key insights and actions	12:50 pm
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>1:00 pm</i>



Acknowledgement of Country



The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and water, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging.

We do this through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

Artist and designer Nikita Ridgeway from Aboriginal design agency – Boss Lady Creative Designs, created the People and Community symbol.

Licensing floodplain harvesting activities

Alastair McKenzie-McHarg & Geoff Cameron – Water Group

Floodplain harvesting licensing & measurement framework in the Namoi



Introduction



The Namoi Valley is the last of the 5 northern inland valleys to implement the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy.

Agencies are continuing to work together to integrate floodplain harvesting (FPH) into the licensing and measurement framework.

Water Group

- Develop and set FPH rules
- Assess, grant, and issue FPH licences and approvals

WaterNSW

- Implement FPH rules – licences, approvals, billing, measurement systems

NRAR

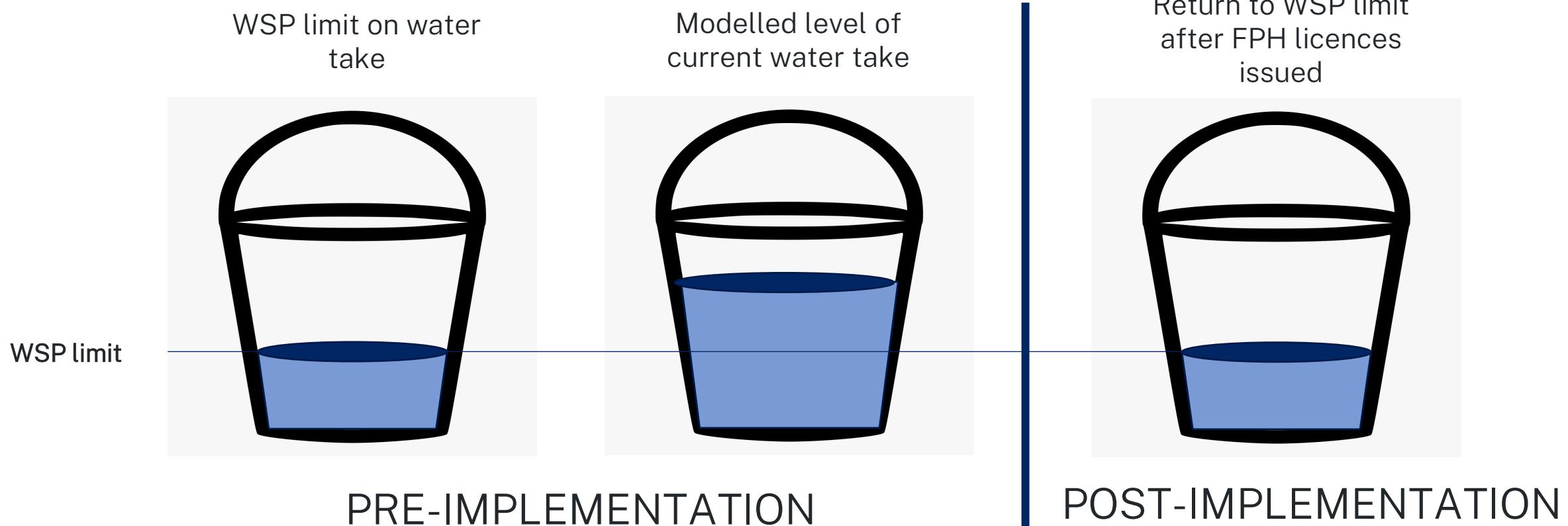
- FPH rule compliance



Purpose

- Share knowledge with you on the licensing and measurement framework.
- Understand what the licensing and measurement framework means for you, Natural Resources Access Regulator's (NRAR) approach to compliance, and process requirements for amending water supply works approvals and dealings.
- Q&A with agency staff questions on floodplain harvesting licensing and measurement requirements.
- Highlight where you believe follow up is required to provide additional clarity on your obligations.

Background: purpose and need for the NSW FPH Policy



Commencement of the licensing and measurement framework



Amendments to the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018

- FPH measurement rules 1 Jul 2022
- Developed area run-off exemption 1 Jul 2022
- FPH licence determination process 3 Feb 2023
- Clarification of FPH and DQP requirements 7 Mar 2025

Water sharing plans (WSP) amended to include the regulation of FPH
15 November 2024

- Trade and dealing rules
- Water allocations
- Access rules

Rules for FPH are set out in the WSP



Namoi Unregulated rules

- Access rules like flow classes don't apply
- Carry over balances may reflect up to 3 consecutive years accrual of 1 ML/y
- Temporary trades are not permitted
- Permanent trades are permitted subject to dealings rules and assessment which generally reflect surface water trading rules
- Trading not permitted to works within flood Management Zones AD or D in the FMP unless they were nominated when the licence was first issued.

Namoi Regulated rules

- Access is triggered when Menindee Main Weir exceeds 250 GL or when local flow rate settings are hit
- Carry over balances accrue over consecutive years to a limit of 5 ML/unit
- Temporary trades are not permitted
- Permanent trades are permitted subject to dealings rules and assessment.
- Trading permitted within water management zones unless the nominated work is within flood Management Zone AD of the Namoi FMP or A, D or D1 of the Gwydir FMP unless they were nominated when the license was first issued.

Update on licensing – Namoi unregulated

Floodplain harvesting licence holders have been advised of their final share components

Final Share components were determined, and Notices of Determination were issued to licence holders on 24 Feb- 2025

Water access licences (WALs) are being ratified and will be issued by the Land Registry Service

Water Infrastructure Plans, Statements of Approval & Statements of Conditions issued to licence holders – emailed 12 March 2025

Water allocations are expected to be credited into water accounts in March 2025



Update on licensing – Namoi regulated

Share components are being determined as an independent reviewer and the Water Group assess final submissions

Submissions on draft share components are being assessed by the department and are also subject to an independent review

Landholders will be sent a response if they made a submission or if their draft share component has changed*

Determination of final share components is expected to be made in May 2025

Water allocations are expected to be credited into water accounts in May 2025



*A 28-day submission period applies if draft share components are reduced.

Q&A session

Floodplain harvesting licensing & measurement framework in the Namoi

Floodplain harvesting measurement

Wayne Andrews
Senior Project Officer, Metering Implementation

March 2025



Floodplain harvesting rule amendments



1. Use of water from a metered storage, during a floodplain harvesting measurement period, now possible with outflow meter
2. Clarifying the start of a floodplain harvesting measurement period
3. Expand duly qualified persons for point-of-intake measurement
4. Measurement period rules to all water supply works on an approval
5. Controlling infrastructure when subdividing a work approval
6. Unregulated river access licence holders who take overland flow from a declared floodplain now to follow FPH metering condition



Who the measurement rules apply to



The measurement rules apply to:

- floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licence
- floodplain harvesting (unregulated river) access licence
- unregulated river access licence, if the water taken is overland flow from a **declared floodplain**.

Water users must measure, and report take in accordance with conditions on their water supply works approval.

Floodplain harvesting can only occur during a notified measurement period and is recorded by the water user (you) in iWAS.

Selecting your measurement method



1. Storage measurement

Measures changes in storage volume



2. Point-of-intake measurement

Measures water inflow at all property entry points





Storage measurement



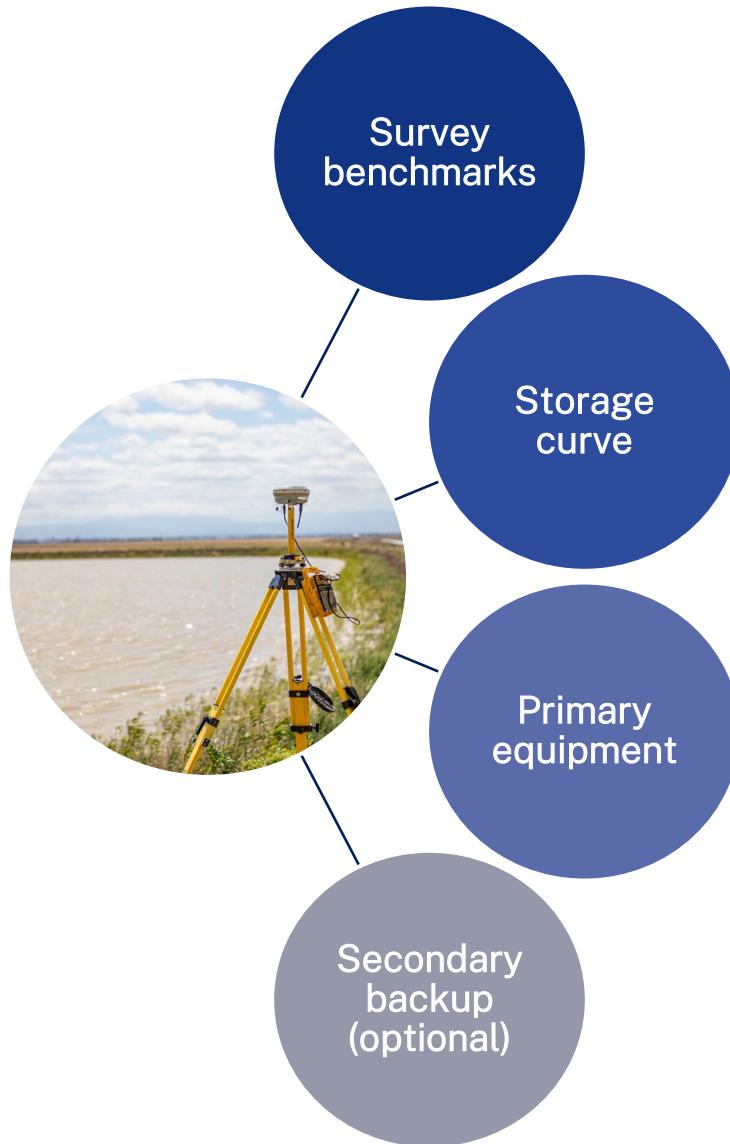
All storages on your work approval require storage measurement, unless marked inactive.

You can apply to make a work inactive through WaterNSW (waternsw.com.au/amendapproval).

If you are using storage measurement, you cannot irrigate from it during a floodplain harvesting measurement period, **unless** you have an outflow meter.

An outflow meter must be pattern approved and installed by a DQP in accordance with AS4747 with an approved LID.

Storage steps



Survey benchmarks

- Provide a permanent reference point for positioning and levelling measurement devices to Australian Height Datum
- Installed by a surveyor, diploma qualified surveyor or trainee working under their supervision. Must be certified by a surveyor
- See department's *Establishing Survey Benchmark Guideline*

Storage curves

- Define the relationship between storage level and volume
- Based on LiDAR or photogrammetry (2014–2018)
- Available in the DQP Portal. Approval holder must check accuracy
- New and replacement curves certified by surveyor or engineer
- See department's *Storage Curve Guideline*

Primary equipment

- Approved radar or pressure sensor and LID connected to the WaterNSW Data Acquisition Service
- Off-take meter (optional) must meet non-urban metering and AS4747
- Method for full storages without a gantry is available

Secondary backup (optional)

- Approved gauge board or automated devices are listed on the department's website. Transmits data to your private cloud server

Point-of-intake measurement

- Measures water inflow at all property entry points.
- Allows irrigation whilst floodplain harvesting.
- Must meet non-urban metering framework, including installation to AS4747 standards, include LID and connection to the DAS.
- A DQP who is a CMI, surveyor, hydrographer or engineer must determine if all water entering water supply work is reasonably able to be measured by point-of-intake metering equipment and if metering equipment has been installed correctly.



Compliance dates



For landholders with a:

- floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licence or
- floodplain harvesting (unregulated river) access licence

Time Period	Requirements
First 12 months	Starts when your FPH licence is credited
	Use an approved secondary device (e.g., gauge board or an approved automated device listed on the department's website)
After 12 months	Compliant primary equipment is required for the chosen measurement method
	Secondary equipment serves as a backup in case the primary fails, allowing continued floodplain harvesting

For landholders with a:

- unregulated river access licence taking overland flow water from a declared floodplain, **metering equipment must be installed before they take overland flow.**

Subdividing your work approval



A water supply work approval can be subdivided.

This enables you to nominate different measurement periods.

You can select the measurement method for each work approval – either storage or point-of-intake measurement.

You need controlling infrastructure (such as roads, levees, pipes), that prevent water movement between approvals during measurement periods.

Applications are made through WaterNSW (waternsw.com.au/amendapproval).



Making a work inactive (constructed – not taking water)



Exempts the work from metering but doesn't mean giving it up. You can reactivate the work later.



An inactive storage can hold other water, like regulated water, groundwater, rainfall runoff, or measured and *accounted* floodplain harvesting water.



Cannot be used to take water directly from a floodplain.

Who can help you



Storage metering

Installation of primary storage sensor	Storage meter installer
Installation of survey benchmarks	Surveyor, Diploma Surveyor Trainee under supervision
Certify survey benchmarks	Surveyor
Certify new or replacement storage curve	Surveyor, Engineer
Install secondary devices	Landholder, Storage meter installer
Validate secondary devices	Storage meter installer
Install outflow meter on storage	Certified meter installer
Point of intake metering	
Determine eligibility	Certified meter installer, Surveyor, Engineer, Hydrographer
Install meter	Certified meter installer



FPH Property Measurement Plan Sessions



- In person sessions with staff from the Water Group and WaterNSW
- Personalised for your property to assist you develop your FPH measurement plan
- Book in for an hour-long session per property
- Bring your business partner/s and farm manager along with you
- Dates: April– May

Q&A session

Floodplain harvesting licensing & measurement framework in the Namoi



Floodplain Harvesting - Approvals, Dealings & Billing

Presentation by Tracey Lawson, Kristin Blain, Chris Shaw

Role of WaterNSW in FPH

Introductions

The initial assessment and determination of FPH licences and approvals is the responsibility of DCCEEW. Once the licences and approvals have been granted, they are transferred across to WaterNSW to process any future approval amendments or dealings.

DCCEEW handover all relevant information and records including ROI data, in-eligible work data, details of works on lands which do not have lawful occupation, details of works which require a FW approval, and all records associated with licences and approvals.

WaterNSW is responsible for processing applications lodged to amend FPH Water Supply Work Approvals, processing dealing applications, and billing.

Rule Summary Sheets

Rule Summary Sheets have been prepared for each Valley - the Namoi Unregulated & Regulated sheets are available in the pack on entry.

Each Rule Summary Sheet will assist you with detailed information on:-

- Approval rules
- Conditions
- Accrual and access rules
- Trading rules

Floodplain harvesting in the Namoi Unregulated River Water Sources

This document summarises the rules for floodplain harvesting in the Namoi Unregulated River Water Sources

This rule summary sheet is a guide only and summarises floodplain harvesting provisions under the Water Sharing Plan for the Namoi and Peel Unregulated Water Sources 2012 (the WSP) and includes [amendments](#) made on 15 November 2024. Refer to the [NSW legislation website](#) for the detailed legal instrument written in the required statutory format.

Visit [Namoi Valley floodplain harvesting](#) for more information about floodplain harvesting in the Namoi Valley.

Floodplain harvesting in the Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

This document summarises the rules established for floodplain harvesting in the Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

This rule summary sheet is a guide only and summarises floodplain harvesting provisions under the [Water Sharing Plan for the Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Sources 2016](#) (the WSP) and includes amendments made on 15 November 2024. Refer to the [NSW Legislation website](#) for the detailed legal instrument written in the required statutory format.

Visit [Namoi Valley floodplain harvesting](#) for more information about floodplain harvesting in the Namoi Valley.

Management Zones

The boundaries for management zones within the Upper Namoi Valley Floodplain, Lower Namoi Valley Floodplain, and southern edge of the Gwydir Valley Floodplain are shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2 of this fact sheet.

WSP Clause	Theme	Rule
4A	Management Zones	<p>The following management zones are relevant to flood plain harvesting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baradine Etoo Management Zone• Lower Namoi Management Zone• Maules Eulah Management Zone• Other (Lower Namoi) Management Zone• Other (Upper Namoi) Management Zone• Pian Creek Management Zone• Thalaba Creek Management Zone.

How to apply for an Amended Approval

Application form and guide available on our website at www.waternsw.com.au

24/25 Application fees:-

New or amended works and/or use approval \$5,240.96

Administrative amendment only - \$624.95
this applies to:-

- Remove lands/works
- Consolidate approvals ONLY where there is no change to the existing works
- Subdivide an approval



Application for a new or amended water supply work approval - Surface water

This is an application for Minister's approval under section 92 of the Water Management Act 2000 and the amendment of a water supply work approval under section 107 of the Water Management Act 2000.

A water supply work approval (surface water) allows you to construct and use a work which takes water from a surface water source together with ancillary works like channels, pipelines, and storage dams. Examples of water supply works (surface water) are pumps, storage dams, and irrigation channels.

Water cannot be legally extracted from a water source unless you have a valid water access licence with an adequate volume linked to the approval, or an exemption exists.

Please note that mandatory metering requirements may affect surface water works, and you may be required to meter all take from the water source. Please refer to our [online metering](#) tool to assist in determining if you will be required to meter the work.

What you need to do

Applicants are advised to read the instructions carefully before filling in this form. Step-by-step instructions on each section are included in the guide to the Application for a new or amended water supply work approval - Surface water.

Completing your application

Please complete the form with a black/blue ink pen and use BLOCK letters. You can also type directly in this form. Once completed, please print and sign the form.

Submit your application form

- email a scanned copy to Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au, or
- by post to WaterNSW, PO Box 398, Parramatta NSW 2124

If there is not enough space in the form, please attach additional pages to the back of the form.

Application fee

The Surface water - new or amended works approvals fee is payable for each application. You can pay the application fee by credit card, cheque or money order.

- If paying by credit card, please do not provide your credit card details in writing to WaterNSW. Once the application is submitted, we will contact you to process payment over the phone for all credit card payments.
- Cheques and money orders to be made payable to WaterNSW and posted to the above address.

Note: If an application has been accepted by WaterNSW, payment has been processed and a receipt has been issued, application fees will not be refunded.

WaterNSW customers are encouraged to book a phone appointment with us to discuss your water licensing enquiries. Visit waternsw.com.au/licensing

WaterNSW ABN 21 147 834 787
PO Box 398, Parramatta NSW 2124
t. 1300 882 077 e. Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au

WaterNSW | We're at the source

Application for a new or amended water supply work approval - Surface water

How-to guide

This guide will assist you in completing the Application for a new or amended water supply work approval - Surface water. A water supply work approval authorises a holder to construct a specified water supply work.

The Application for a new or amended water supply work approval - Surface water must be completed in order to obtain or amend a surface water supply work approval under Section 92 of the Water Management Act 2000 (WMA).

A water supply work approval allows you to install and operate a particular pump or other water management work at a specific location.

It is important to note that a water access licence is required to apply for a water supply work approval. In most circumstances, a water access licence is required to use the water in the manner approved through the use approval. To enquire about availability of water in the market, contact a water broker, a local stock and station agent or someone in your locality who may be able to assist. You should also refer to information on dealings in water and applying for a new water access licence on the WaterNSW website which provides more information on water dealings.

If you wish to apply for an approval for any of the below categories, you will need to make a separate application form for the following types of works:

- **Water use** - The use of water lawfully extracted from a water supply work and applied to the land for a specific purpose i.e. irrigation.
- **Groundwater work** - Allows you to construct and use a work which takes water from an aquifer i.e. water bores, spearpumps, wells and excavations.
- **Surface water work** - Allows you to construct and use a work which takes surface water from a river, lake and estuary i.e. pump, dam, surface water excavation.
- **Flood work** - Allows you to construct and use a work that is situated in or near a river, estuary or lake, or within a floodplain, and is likely to have an effect on the flow of water to or from a river, estuary or lake, or the distribution or flow of floodwater i.e. levee, embankment.
- **Construction dewatering** - Allows for the removal of groundwater which ensures construction work can occur safely and protects the ongoing integrity of the structure and surrounding area.



How to apply for a Floodwork Approval

Application form and guide available on our website at www.waternsw.com.au

FLOOD WORK

Flood work - this fee is inclusive of advertising, if required.	\$3,350.00
Flood work amend approval – administrative (Flood Engineer review NOT required)	\$624.95

Application for a new flood work approval

Use this application form to apply for a new or amended approval to construct and use a specified flood work at a specified location under Section 91D of the Water Management Act 2000. Please refer to the guide for further information.

Before commencing any work, we recommend you view the [Flood work exemptions factsheet](#) or contact WaterNSW to determine if your proposed flood work is exempt or prohibited work. If you intend to take water you must use a different form to apply for a water supply work approval, visit waternsw.com.au/approvals for further information. Please note WaterNSW may contact you to for further information in relation to this application.

What you need to do

Before filling in this form, applicants are advised to read the guide for an 'Application for a new flood work approval', which has step-by-step instructions on each section.

Please complete the form with a black/blue ink pen and use BLOCK letters. You can also type directly in this form. Once completed, please print and sign the form.

Submit your application form

- by post to WaterNSW, PO Box 398, Parramatta NSW 2124, or
- email a scanned copy to Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au

If there is not enough space in the form, please attach additional pages to the back of the form.

Application fee

You can pay the application fee by credit card, cheque or money order.

If paying by credit card, please do not provide your credit card details in writing to WaterNSW. Once the application is submitted, we will contact you to process payment over the phone for all credit card payments.

Cheques and money orders to be made payable to WaterNSW and posted to the above address.

Note: If an application has been accepted by WaterNSW, payment has been processed and a receipt has been issued, application fees will not be refunded.

 WaterNSW customers are encouraged to book a phone appointment with us to discuss your water licensing enquiries. Visit waternsw.com.au/licensing

WaterNSW ABN 21 147 934 787
189 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150
PO Box 398, Parramatta NSW 2124
t. 1300 662 077 e. Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au

WaterNSW We're at the source

Application for a new approval for a flood work

How-to guide

This guide will assist you in completing an [Application for a new flood work approval](#).

Complete the application form to apply for a new approval to construct and use a flood work under Section 92 of the Water Management Act 2000. Note that a new approval is required to amend an existing flood work.

Exemptions apply for the need to obtain an approval for:

- flood work important for the protection of life or certain property or infrastructure; or
- certain minor flood work with low impact.

For more information on exemptions, please view our [Exemption from flood work approval fact sheet](#) or contact our Customer Service Centre at 1300 662 077 or via email at Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au.

You can also visit our website for further information on flood work approvals or to make an appointment to discuss your flood work enquiries.

Note: not all questions in the application form are referred to in this guide.

The Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) oversees the enforcement of water management laws in NSW. Find out how this applies to you at nrar.nsw.gov.au.

This guide provides detailed explanations of each section and question, to help you complete the application form. Applicants are advised to read the instructions carefully before filling in the application form.

If you require further assistance, we encourage customers to book an appointment with us. Visit our website to book a meeting or contact 1300 662 077 to speak with a WaterNSW team member.

How to apply to make an Approval Inactive?

What does it mean if the work is 'inactive'?

If an approval specifies that an authorised work/s is inactive, the approval will include a condition prohibiting the work/s from being used to take floodplain harvesting water from these work/s. It is an offence to use a water supply work to take water when it is prohibited by a condition of the approval.

What does it mean if the work is 'active'?

If the water supply work approval work is active, the approval holder must comply with any mandatory condition on the approval that metering equipment or a storage measurement device be installed, used and properly maintained.

Form is on our website, and until 30 June 2026 the fee is Nil.



How-to guide

Amend approval for inactive or active works – Floodplain harvesting only

This guide is for the amendment of an approval for work/s to specify work/s as 'inactive' or to 'withdraw work/s from an inactive status'.

Why have an inactive work?

An approval holder may not be using an authorised work/s to take water for floodplain harvesting purposes.

In this case, the approval holder may choose to apply to amend work/s as 'inactive', so they do not need to comply with any mandatory condition on the approval. Metering equipment or a storage measurement device be installed, used and properly maintained.

Note: For floodplain harvesting customers, to find out how this will impact your bill, please visit our [fees and charges page](#).

The approval holder can apply to withdraw this 'inactive' status at any time.

If the work/s are no longer 'inactive' the approval holder will need to comply with any mandatory condition on the approval that metering equipment or a storage measurement device be installed, used and properly maintained.

Supply works on their approval may choose to decommission the work and surrender the approval. Once the approval is surrendered it will be cancelled and cannot be re-activated.

How do I know I need a meter for a work/s?
For more information visit our website or contact us on 1300 642 077 or email Customer.Helpdesk@watersnsw.com.au.

What does it mean if the work is 'inactive'?

If an approval specifies that an authorised work/s is inactive, the approval will include a condition prohibiting the work/s from being used to take floodplain harvesting water from these work/s.

It is an offence to use a water supply work to take water when it is prohibited by a condition of the approval.

What does it mean if the work is 'active'?
If the water supply work approval work is active, the



Application to amend approval for inactive or active works – Floodplain harvesting only

This application is for the amendment of an approval for work/s:

- to specify the work/s inactive for metering or storage measurement purposes, or
- to withdraw the work/s inactive status (make a work/s active).

under section 238B of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018.



Note:
A work that has not been constructed does not need to be made inactive.

What you need to do

Prior to completing this application, please read the [guide for an 'Application to amend approval for inactive and active works for floodplain harvesting'](#) and check if you meet an exemption under section 238C of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018.

Please complete the form with a black/blue ink pen and use BLOCK letters. You can also type directly in this form. Once completed, please print and sign the form.

Submit your application form

- by post to WaterNSW, PO Box 398, Parramatta NSW 2124, or
- email a scanned copy to Customer.Helpdesk@watersnsw.com.au

If there is not enough space in the form, please attach additional pages to the back of the form.

Application fee

The amend approval - administrative fee is payable for each approval. You can pay the application fee by credit card, cheque or money order.

- If paying by credit card, please do not provide your credit card details in writing to WaterNSW. Once the application is submitted, we will contact you to process payment over the phone for all credit card payments.
- Cheques and money orders to be made payable to WaterNSW and posted to the above address.

Note: If an application has been accepted by WaterNSW, payment has been processed and a receipt has been issued, application fees will not be refunded.

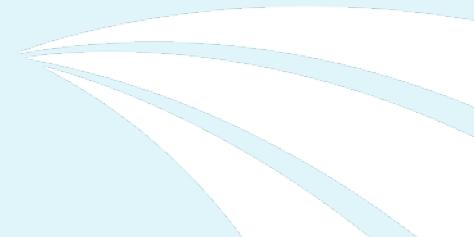


WaterNSW customers are encouraged to book a phone appointment with us to discuss your water licensing enquiries. Visit watersnsw.com.au/licensing

FPH Water Access Licences

- In addition to the grant of a FPH Water Supply Work Approval, a Floodplain Harvesting Water Access Licence will also be granted
- Dealings are permitted subject to the trade rules that are water source specific and set out in the relevant water sharing plans
- Some common dealing transactions may include:-
 - **71W** – nomination of works ie. remove a nominated water supply work approval from a FPH Water Access Licence
 - **71P** – subdividing of a FPH Water Access Licence into two or more access licences, or the consolidation of two or more access licences into a single access licence
 - **71Q** – assignment of share components (permanent trade)
- No temporary trading of allocations is permitted (71T)

Schedule a meeting with us



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Centre**



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appointment**



**Our
local offices**



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Contact Details



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Q&A session

Floodplain harvesting licensing & measurement framework in the Namoi

Break

Floodplain harvesting licensing & measurement framework in the Namoi

Water allocations process

Veronica Silberschneider – Water Group

Floodplain harvesting licensing & measurement framework in the Namoi

Key Points



Floodplain harvesting (regulated river) and floodplain harvesting (unregulated river) licences will both receive an initial available water determination (AWD) of 1 ML per unit share.



New South Wales

Available Water Determination Order for the Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source 2025

under the

Water Management Act 2000

Regulated river:

Total diversions are likely to still be non-compliant with the long-term average annual extraction limit (LTAAEL).



New South Wales

Available Water Determination Order for Unregulated River Water Sources 2024

under the

Water Management Act 2000

Unregulated river:

LTAAEL compliance is currently being assessed but results will not be available for 1 July 2025.

What is a LTAAEL?



Regulated Rivers

The limit in every water sharing plan (WSP) that describes at a water source scale how much water can be taken on average.

For inland regulated systems, this is determined by a computer model.

Averaged over long-term climate period (1895 → now) and compared to long-term average under current conditions.

Compliance assessments are updated each year and published on our website

Unregulated Rivers

For unregulated, the LTAAEL will be determined with metering and remote sensing data. It will include FPH and is generally based on water use 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1999.

By 31 December 2026 determine a numeric LTAAEL

The compliance assessment compares metered or otherwise remote sensing data to the LTAAEL

By 2030, review the LTAAEL to determine whether that LTAAEL ensures a sustainable level of take

How do we assess compliance for Namoi Reg?



- Models to represent Cap, water sharing plan (WSP) limit and current conditions
- Long term average results are used
- The Namoi Source model has been externally assessed as being the best currently available for undertaking both growth in use and floodplain harvesting entitlement assessments

- LTAAEL is lesser of Cap and WSP limit model

- Compare to current conditions + 95% of growth in extractions by Tamworth Regional Council
- WSP defines three non-compliance triggers
 1. Exceed LTAAEL by 3% or more
 2. Exceed average of Cap and LTAAEL
 3. Exceed Cap



Compliance action Namoi Regulated

FPH licences are being designed to remove growth in FPH but not total diversions.

Modelling shows that supplementary access diversions are larger than what they are under LTAAEL and that total diversions are non-compliant.

After FPH licences commence, compliance action will depend on what caused the growth:

- If FPH caused the growth above LTAAEL → reduce FPH AWD
- If other diversions caused the growth above LTAAEL → reduce supplementary water AWD
- Highly likely reduced supplementary water AWD still required after FPH licences are issued
- However, there will be improved access compared to current situation after FPH (reg) licences commence
- We update the LTAAEL compliance assessment each year

Q&A session

Floodplain harvesting licensing & measurement framework in the Namoi

Floodplain Harvesting

Namoi Valley

Keeley Reynolds, Director Education and Engagement

March 2025



Who is NRAR?



- Independent water regulator in NSW
- Responsible for enforcing the NSW water laws
- Established in 2017
- Independent Board leading strategic directions, compliance and enforcement functions



NRAR Objectives



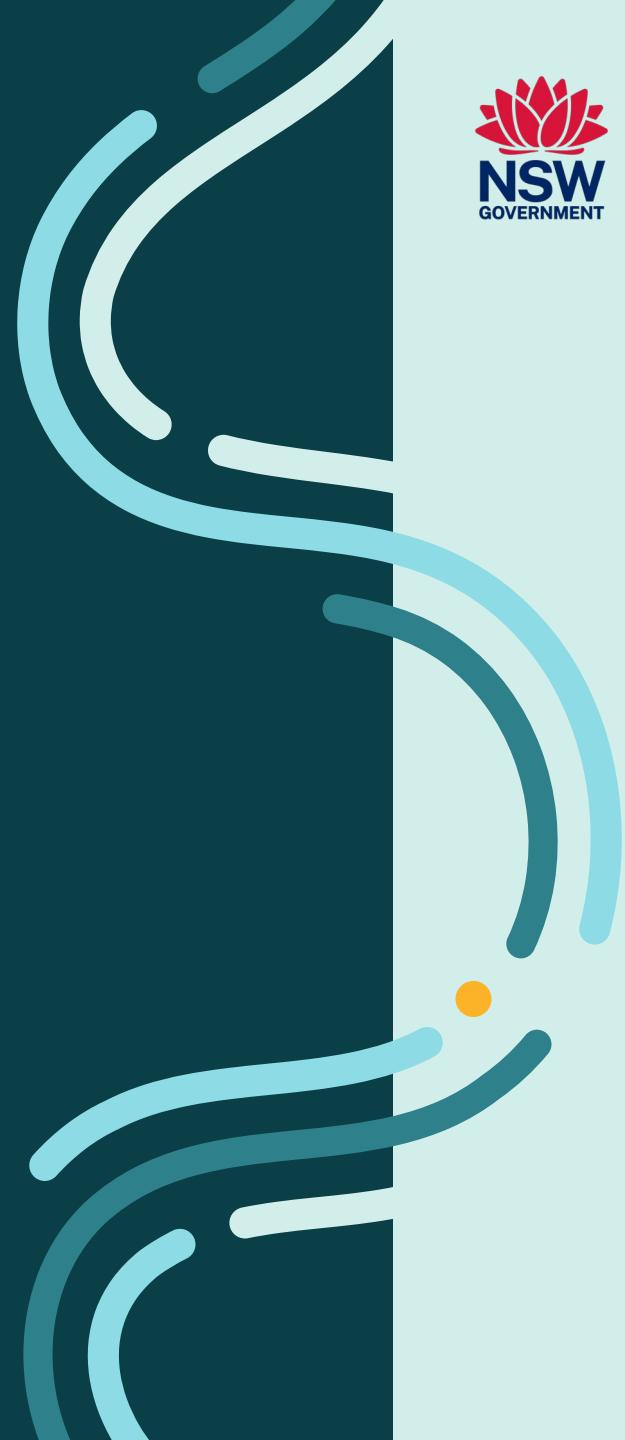
Implement compliance and enforcement measures:

- that are effective, efficient, transparent and accountable

Strengthen public trust by:

- Ensuring fair and consistent enforcement of natural resource management laws

How does NRAR determine compliance?



What happens if I don't comply?

Compliance attitude

Criminal intent and illegal activity; recidivist, reckless, wilful conduct and/or serious harm

Tendency to offend; intentional non-compliance, and/or harm

Unintentional non-compliance; willing to comply, but not sure how to

Knows what is expected and willing/ incentivised to do what is right

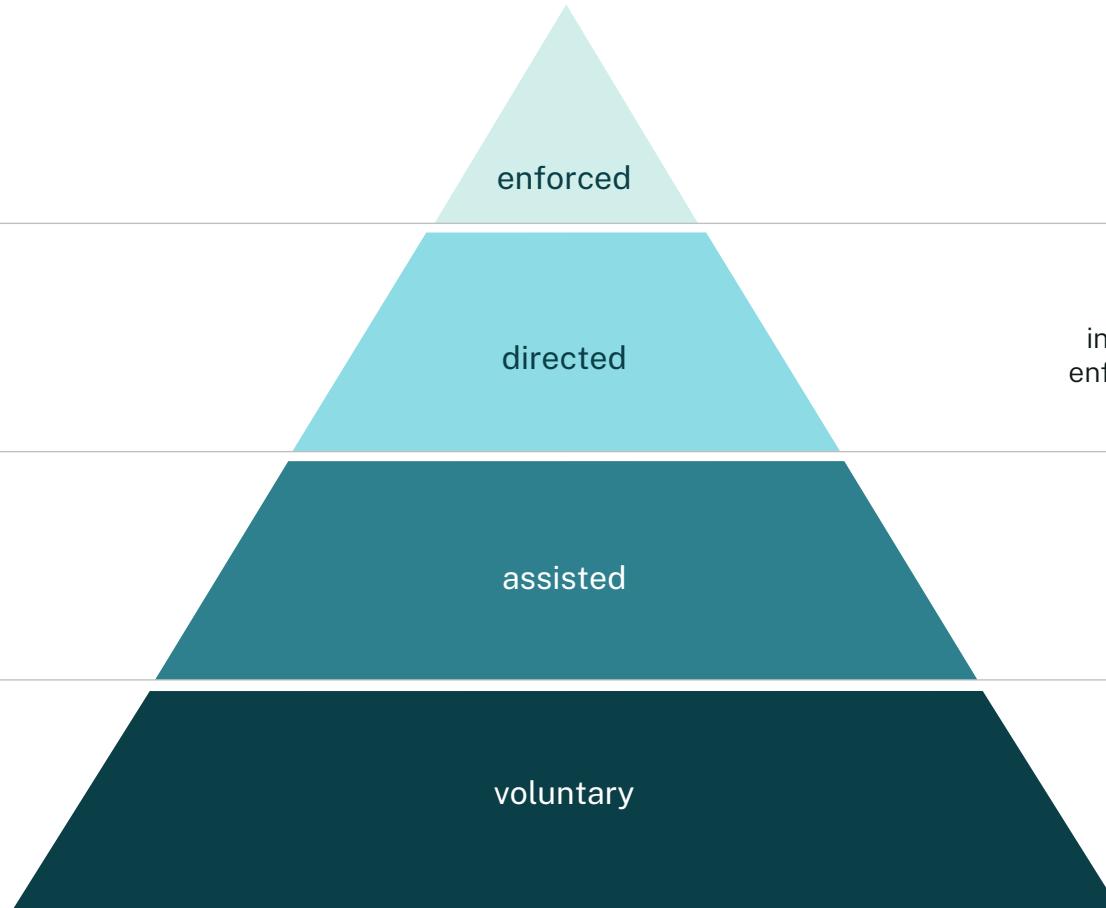
Our regulatory tools

Use full force of the law: prosecution, licence suspension or revocation

Deter by detection then action: penalty infringements, directions, compliance orders, enforceable undertakings, financial recoveries

Assist to comply: use risk-based active monitoring, system audit, corrective actions, guidance and education

Make it easy - offer advice and guidance through stakeholder outreach and promotional campaigns



Actions at the top of the pyramid support actions at the bottom by clarifying expectations and demonstrating that those who don't comply will be held to account

Namoi Valley FPH compliance



NRAR is monitoring compliance with measurement requirements



Border Rivers, Gwydir, Barwon-Darling and Macquarie

- Compliance dates have passed.
- NRAR has verified the compliance status of storages in these valleys.

Namoi unregulated rivers

- Water users have 12 months from the date licences are issued to install primary metering equipment
- In the meantime, secondary metering equipment can be used
- NRAR will verify the compliance status of storages following the deadline
- Monitor any water taken and confirm it is appropriately metered

Image: Jamie Condon/DCCEEW

We're keeping an eye on unlawful take



We use remote monitoring technology to monitor floodplain harvesting.

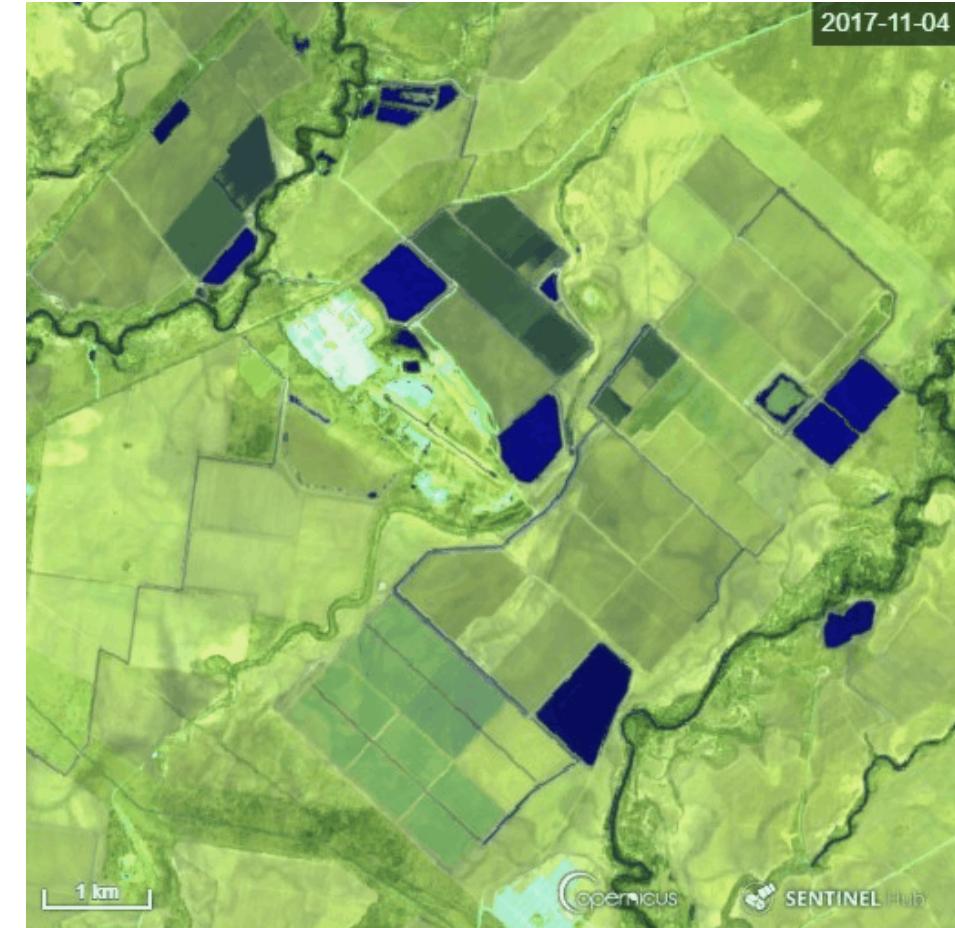
Any person who harvests floodwater unlawfully and/or without appropriate primary or secondary devices may face enforcement action from NRAR.

Remember, all water taken from the floodplain must be taken in accordance in accordance with the conditions of water access licence, works/use approval

How are we remotely monitoring floodplain harvesting?



- Technology driven compliance monitoring
- Greater efficiency and targeted enforcement
- Improved visibility of compliance and non-compliance
- Real time monitoring and continuous improvement





Want to know more?

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Q&A session

Floodplain harvesting licensing & measurement framework in the Namoi

Final Q&A

Floodplain harvesting licensing & measurement framework in the Namoi

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