Report card for the Bulbodney Grahway Creek Water Source

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Water source context

Water Sharing Plan: Macquarie/Wambuul Bogan Unregulated Rivers Water Sources 2025

Area: 10,641 km^2

Inflowing water source: Upper Bogan River Water Source

Receiving water source: Lower Bogan River Water Source

River flows

Flow records: Since 1993 at Bogan River at Nyngan (421138)

Since 1959 at Bogan River at Neurie Plains (421039)

Stream type: Non-perennial

Basic landholder rights

Domestic and stock rights estimate: 171 ML/year

Native title rights estimate: Nil at commencement of plan

Licensed water entitlements

Total surface water entitlement:	10,352 ML/year	(46 licences)
Local water utilities entitlement:	1,324 ML/year	(1 licence)
Unregulated River:	4,942 ML/year	(28 licences)
Unregulated River (special additional high flow):	2,212 ML	(2 licences)
Domestic and Stock:	74 ML	(13 licences)

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Table 1. Access rules for Bulbodney Grahway Management Zone

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Cease to take	Take is not permitted when there is no visible flow at the pump site.	No change

Table 2. Access rules for Lower Nyngan Weir Pool Management Zone

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Cease to take	Take is not permitted when the water level in the Lower Nyngan weir pool is lower than 50 % of its full capacity. Take is not permitted from replenishment flows made according to section 84 of the *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2016*, as notified by WaterNSW.	No change
Reference point	Lower Nyngan weir pool	No change
Commence to take	After a cease to take has been in place, take is not permitted to recommence until there has been a flow in the Bogan River measured at the Neurie Plains gauge and a flow of water over the concrete sill of the Lower Nyngan weir.	No change
Reference point	Lower Nyngan weir sill and Neurie Plains gauge (421039).	No change

Table 3. Access rules for Upper Nyngan Weir Pool Management Zone

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Cease to take	Take is not permitted when the water level in the Upper Nyngan weir pool is 70 centimetres or more below the concrete sill of the weir. Take is not permitted from replenishment flows made according to section 84 of the *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2016*, as notified by WaterNSW.	No change
Reference point	Upper Nyngan weir sill	No change

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Commence to take	After a cease to take has been in place, take is not permitted to recommence until there has been a flow in the Bogan River measured at the Neurie Plains gauge and a flow of water over the concrete sill of the Lower Nyngan weir.	No change
Reference point	Lower Nyngan weir sill and Neurie Plains gauge (421039).	No change

Table 4. Access rules for whole water source

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Take from in-river pools	Comply with the pool capacity based access rule where there is one. Otherwise, take is not permitted when the in-river pool is less than full capacity.	No change
Take from in-river dam pools	Take is not permitted unless it is consistent with the water supply work approval.	No change
Take from off-river pools	Take is not permitted when the off-river pool is less than full capacity.	No change
Exemptions	Some exemptions apply to specific access rules for the water source, including for: • health and hygiene • domestic use • take from a run-off harvesting dam • specific licences listed in Schedule 4 of the plan. The exemption for stock watering ceased to apply after year 5 of the 2012 plan.	No change, however specific licences with exemptions are now listed in Schedule 2 of the plan.

Table 5. Access rules in relation to Unregulated River (special additional high flow) licences

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules

Cease to take	Individual special additional high flow licence conditions as listed in Schedule 3 of the plan.	Take is not permitted when flow at the Bogan River at Neurie Plains gauge (421039) is less than or equal to 635 ML/day.

Table 6. Rules for constructing surface water supply works

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
In-river dams	Not permitted in third or higher order streams in this water source. Exemption for applications for town water supply purposes only.	No change
Protection for wetlands	N/A	No new or amended works permitted within or 3 km upstream of a Ramsar wetland. No new or amended works permitted within wetlands indicated on the WSP Prescribed Wetlands Map of the draft plan unless there will be no more than minimal harm to the wetland concerned. This rule does not apply to replacement works.

Table 7. Water trading (dealing) rules

Management Zone	Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Bulbodney Grahway Management Zone	INTO management zone	Permitted from the Lower Bogan River and Upper Bogan River water sources and the Upper Nyngan Weir Pool and Lower Nyngan Weir Pool management zones.	No change
Lower Nyngan Weir Pool Management Zone	INTO management zone	Permitted in from the Upper Nyngan Weir Pool management zone.	No change
Upper Nyngan Weir Pool Management Zone	INTO management zone	Permitted from the Lower Nyngan Weir Pool management zone.	No change
Whole water source	WITHIN management zone	Permitted, subject to assessment	No change

Management Zone	Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Whole water source	Protection for wetlands	N/A	Not permitted into or within 3 km upstream of a Ramsar wetland. Not permitted into WSP prescribed wetlands identified in the WSP Prescribed Wetlands Map. Trade between licences within the same WSP prescribed wetland is permitted.

Table 8. Water trading (dealing) rules for Unregulated River (special additional high flow) licences

Management Zone	Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Bulbodney Grahway Management Zone	INTO management zone	Not permitted	No change
Lower Nyngan Weir Pool Management Zone	INTO management zone	Not permitted	No change
Upper Nyngan Weir Pool Management Zone	INTO management zone	Not permitted	No change
Whole water source	WITHIN management zone	Permitted, subject to assessment	No change

Trading covers:

- 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)
- water supply works dealings (relocation of an extraction point).

Key factors for decisions

- The risk assessment indicated the water source has high instream values and identified the risk from extraction as low to zero flow periods and high to low flows.

Nyngan Weir Pools

- Management of the Nyngan weir pools is complex with many competing interests. Significant work is required to further investigate the supply and management of water delivered and extracted from the Nyngan weir pools.
- An amendment provision has been included in the draft plan to allow a review of access rules for the Upper Nyngan Weir Pool Management Zone and Lower Nyngan Weir Pool Management Zone once this work has been completed.

Access rules in relation to Unregulated River (special additional high flow) licences

- The proposed access rule for unregulated river (special additional high flow) licences is based on current licence conditions. There should be no impact on existing licence holders.

Improving protection of wetlands

- The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) have recommended the replacement plan provide better protection for significant wetlands. The department have developed criteria to identify WSP prescribed wetlands in the plan area. It is proposed to include rules to improve their protection by prohibiting new water supply works and restricting trades into or upstream of these areas. The prohibition of new works will not apply to replacement works.
- Wetlands identified for improved protection were drawn from multiple datasets including the Long-Term Water Plan, Floodplain Management Plan, Ramsar listing, Directory of Important Wetlands of Australia and Endangered Ecological Communities.
- A map of the WSP prescribed wetlands identified for this plan is available on the department's website.
- More information on improving the protection of wetlands is available in a fact sheet.

Other key rules – no change proposed

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 through metering or logbooks.

Carryover and individual account limits

For domestic and stock and unregulated river access licence accounts, carryover of water remaining in an account is permitted up to 1 ML per unit share or 100 % of share component (where expressed in ML) at the end of each water year.

For domestic and stock and unregulated river access licences, the maximum water account debit in any 3 consecutive water years is:

- the volume of water allocated to the account over those 3 years from available water determinations, plus
- any adjustments made for allocation assignments (trades) or water allocation re-credited into the account.

Rules for granting access licences

There are limited purposes for which a new licence will be granted. We anticipate that users who need more water will source it from the market. One reason a licence may be granted is for Aboriginal cultural purposes. Aboriginal Cultural Access Licences are permitted to be granted up to a maximum volume of 10 ML/year per licence, subject to assessment.

Other reasons are identified in Section 10 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018.

Public exhibition

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water seeks feedback from the public on the suitability of the proposed rules for this water source.

In particular, we seek your feedback on:

- **proposed rules for Unregulated River (special additional high flow) licences**
- **proposed rules to protect WSP prescribed wetlands.**

A submission form is available on the department's website.

To read the draft *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie/Wambuul Bogan Unregulated Rivers Water Sources 2025* and supporting fact sheets, please visit the department's Public Exhibition website.