

Report card for the Lower Bogan River Water Source

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Water source context

Water Sharing Plan:	Macquarie/Wambuul Bogan Unregulated Rivers Water Source 2025
Area:	10,442 km ²
Inflowing water source:	Bulbodney Grahway Water Source and Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated River Water Source
Receiving water source:	Barwon-Darling Unregulated River Water Source

River flows

Flow records:	1945 to present at Bogan River at Gongolgon (421023)
	1993 to present at Bogan River at Monkey Bridge (421158)
Stream type:	Non-perennial

Basic landholder rights

Domestic and stock rights estimate:	201 ML/year
Native title rights estimate:	Nil at commencement of plan

Licensed water entitlements

Total surface water entitlement:	43,216.5 ML/year	(46 licences)
Unregulated River:	3,145 ML/year	(23 licences)
Unregulated River (regulated supply):	931 ML/year	(1 licence)
Unregulated River (special additional high flow):	39,029ML/year	(6 licences)
Domestic and Stock:	111.5 ML/year	(16 licences)

Table 1. Access rules

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Cease to take	Take is not permitted when there is no visible flow at the pump site. Take is not permitted from replenishment flows made according to section 84 of the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2016</i>, as notified by WaterNSW.	Take is not permitted when flow is equal or less than 5 ML/d using the Bogan River at Gongolgon gauge (421023) as a reference point, or when there is no visible flow at the pump site. Take is not permitted from replenishment flows made according to section 84 of the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2016</i>, as notified by WaterNSW.
Take from in-river pools	Take is not permitted when the in-river pool is below full capacity.	Comply with the gauge-based access rule AND Take is not permitted when the in-river pool is less than full capacity.
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 in-river pool is below 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 2. 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.	No change for existing licences as they will retain their current high flow access condition. For new licences, take will not be permitted when flow is greater than 300 ML/day using Bogan River at Monkey Bridge (421158) as a reference point and greater than 160 ML/d using Bogan River at Gongolgon Weir (421023) as a reference point.

Table 3. Access rules – Active Management

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
Active Management	Access rules are in place to protect held environment water and releases made from the Macquarie Environmental Water Allowance (active sub allowance 2) in this water source. Take of water may be prohibited or a volumetric limit set, to protect the active environmental water moving through each management zone, in accordance with the Active Management Procedures Manual. Announcements describing the temporary access conditions will be made by the Minister and published on the Water NSW website.	The definition of active environmental water has been updated to also include active environmental water in the Barwon-Darling River which flows into the Macquarie River through breakouts or backflow events.

Table 4. 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 5. Water trading (dealing) rules for access licences

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
INTO water source	Permitted from the Upper Bogan River and Bulbodney Grahway Creek water sources.	No change
WITHIN water source	Permitted, subject to assessment.	No change

Table 6. Water trading (dealing) rules for Unregulated River (special additional high flow) licences

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
INTO water source	Not permitted.	No change

WITHIN water source	Permitted, subject to assessment.	Special additional high flow licences can only trade to a zero share special additional high flow licence.
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Table 7. Water trading (dealing) rules for whole water source

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
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.

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 a high risk to zero flows and low flows. The high risk to zero flows was caused by regulated flows entering the river from the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated River Water Source and therefore was not explored further as operation of the regulated system was out of scope.

Access Rules

- The current access rule of cease to pump when no visible flow does not protect the low flows. It is important to protect low flows as they replenish pools, improve water quality, provide for basic landholder rights and create connectivity. The community of Gongolgon also relies on the Bogan River for water supply.
- Gauge-based access rules remove the subjectivity of the current access rule, assists with compliance and the flow data can be found conveniently online.

- We are proposing to introduce a gauge based access rule of 5 ML/day at the Bogan River at Gongolgon gauge (421023) which will apply to those licences currently managed by the no visible flow rule. Flow analysis indicates access will be reduced by 6% on average per year for those licences.
- The proposed access rule was developed taking into consideration the long travel times of flow events and limited gauging. The proposed access rule enables recharge to occur, in most instances delays rather than prevent water access and protects low flows going into a dry period.
- The proposed access rule for unregulated river (special additional high flow) licences is adopted from existing conditions on licences in the water source.
- An amendment provision has been included in the draft plan to allow changes associated with the Connectivity Expert Panel's Final Report. The amendment will facilitate the implementation program developed to improve connectivity in the Northern Basin and may result in changes to rules in this water source.

Trading

- There are variable access conditions on the unregulated river (special additional high flow) licences in the water source.
- The trade rule change for unregulated river (special additional high flow) licences aims to ensure trading does not result in movement of entitlement with a high flow access condition to a licence with a lesser access condition.
- Trade can only occur to a new unregulated river (special additional high flow) licence with zero entitlement which will then be subject to the proposed access rule that commence to take will only be permitted when flow is greater than 300 ML/day using Monkey Bridge (421158) as a reference point and greater than 160 ML/d using Gongolgon Weir (421023) as a reference point.

Improving protection of wetlands

- The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) have recommended the draft plan provide better protection for important wetlands. The department have developed criteria to identify specific 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 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 changes to access rules
- proposed trade 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](#).