

# Regional Water Strategy

## South Coast – Implementation Plan

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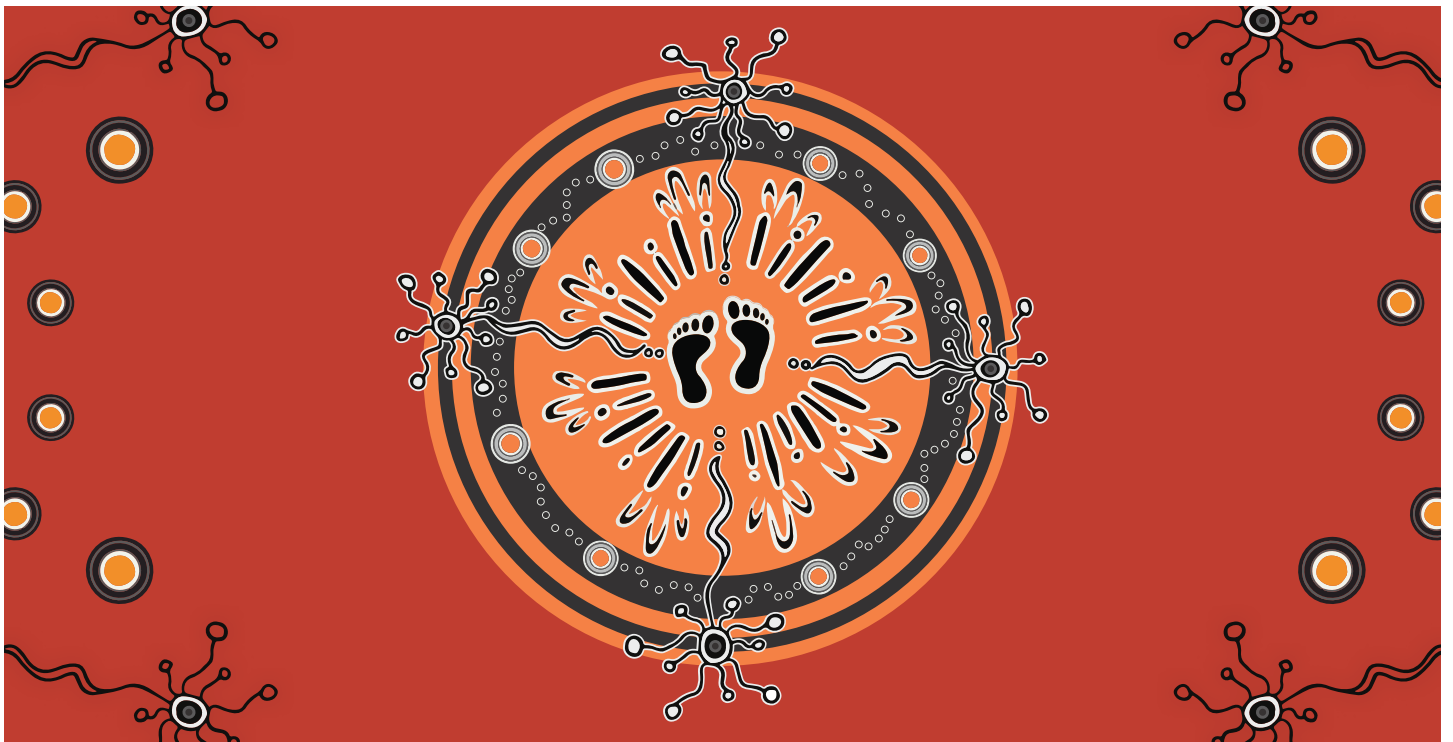
**Cover image** Image courtesy of Therese Hulme, Department of Planning and Environment. Bemboka River, Morans Crossing.

**More information** [water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/plans-and-programs/regional-water-strategies](http://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/plans-and-programs/regional-water-strategies).

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# Acknowledging First Nations people

The NSW Government acknowledges First Nations people as its first Australian people and the traditional owners and custodians of the country's lands and water. We have recognised that First Nations people have lived in NSW for over 60,000 years and have formed significant spiritual, cultural, and economic connections with its lands and waters.

Today, they practice the oldest living culture on earth.

The NSW Government acknowledges the First Nations people/Traditional Owners from the South Coast region as having an intrinsic connection with the lands and waters of the South Coast Regional Water Strategy area. The landscape and its waters provide the First Nations people with essential links to their history and help them to maintain and practice their traditional culture and lifestyle.

We recognise the Traditional Owners were the first managers of Country and by incorporating their culture and knowledge into management of water in the region is a significant step for closing the gap.

Under this regional water strategy, we seek to establish meaningful and collaborative relationships with First Nations people. We will seek to shift our focus to a Country-centred approach, respecting, recognising and empowering cultural and traditional Aboriginal knowledge in water management processes at a strategic level.

We show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places where First Nations people are included socially, culturally and economically.

As we refine and implement the regional water strategy, we commit to helping support the health and wellbeing of waterways and Country by valuing, respecting and being guided by Traditional Owners/First Nations people, who know that if we care for Country, it will care for us.

We acknowledge that further work is required under this regional water strategy to inform how we care for Country and ensure Traditional Owners/First Nations people hold a strong voice in shaping the future for Indigenous/Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

Artwork courtesy of Nikita Ridgeway.

# About this Implementation Plan

The South Coast Regional Water Strategy charts the NSW Government's long-term vision and direction for delivering sustainable and resilient water services for the next 20 years. It sets out clear and accountable actions for the NSW Government, local water utilities and industries to tackle the challenges facing the South Coast region. The strategy sets out the actions and responsibilities to achieve this vision. It also presents the opportunity to leverage growth in the South Coast's agricultural sector.

The South Coast Regional Water Strategy has a 20-year timeframe, and the prioritisation and implementation of actions recognises this. Across the strategy's 20 years, the delivery of actions will span short, medium and longer-term time horizons.

We have already started work on many of the strategy's actions. For those actions that have not been commenced, some we intend to implement in the short term, and others we intend to implement in the medium to longer term. This recognises, that although all actions are important, we cannot implement all actions immediately.

The South Coast Regional Water Strategy has been designed to be adaptive. This means we will update the strategy and our implementation approach to respond to changing priorities. We will review and update the South Coast Regional Water Strategy at least every 5 years.

## Prioritisation

This implementation plan prioritises the actions for delivery over the next 20 years. It identifies work that can begin immediately. It also clarifies the dependencies of actions on each other.

We have prioritised actions based on:

- results of our analyses
- discussions with local councils and other government agencies
- community feedback
- available funding and funding opportunities.

## Responsibilities

The implementation plan also outlines responsibilities for delivery. This will allow us to better:

- monitor the progress of actions
- assess the effectiveness of the strategy
- identify areas for improvement.

## Key implementation partners

Effectively implementing the actions will require involvement of a diverse group of partners that includes the following government agencies, local government, community groups, industry groups and individuals:

- Department of Planning and Environment Water (DPE Water)
- Department of Planning and Environment – Environment and Heritage (DPE Environment and Heritage)
- Department of Primary Industries Agriculture (DPI Agriculture)
- Department of Primary Industries Fisheries (DPI Fisheries)
- Department of Regional NSW
- Local Land Services – South East region
- NSW Marine Estate
- Local councils – Bega Valley Shire Council, Eurobodalla Shire Council, Shoalhaven City Council
- First Nations/Aboriginal peak groups and communities
- WaterNSW
- Bega Cheese
- Regional Development Australia
- Destination NSW
- Dairy NSW.

## Monitoring, evaluation and progress reporting

An integrated monitoring and reporting framework has been developed for the various NSW water strategies. We will confirm and apply this to the South Coast Regional Water Strategy and regularly report on the progress of implementation.

These progress reports will provide transparency in and accountability for delivering the South Coast Regional Water Strategy to the NSW community.

## Reading the Plan

The South Coast Regional Water Strategy is the result of significant analysis and community engagement and builds on a range of existing commitments and work already underway. This work and community feedback is the rationale for how implementation of the actions has been prioritised and is recorded under the heading **Our starting point**.

There is some work that can commence very soon. Programs planned to start in the next 12 months are recorded under the heading **What we will do next**.

There is some work that will take more time or rely on other actions to be completed first before they can begin. Programs which have a commencement time

longer than 12 months are recorded under the heading **What we will do later**. These programs may also be subject to funding approval.

There may be some instances where a column is blank. This is because we cannot begin implementing every action at once. The monitoring framework will help the department and the community assess the progression of implementing the strategy in full.

The NSW Government agency or partner identified as responsible for delivering each program in the strategy is listed as 'Lead' under each sub-action.

Agencies or partners that play a supporting role in delivering the program are listed as 'Supported by' under each sub-action.



Image courtesy of Destination NSW. Wagonga Inlet, Narooma.

# Priority 1

## Take a holistic approach to land and water management

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 1.1:</b> <b>Foster ongoing arrangements for participation of local Aboriginal people in water management</b>	<p>The Department of Planning and Environment Water is developing the NSW Aboriginal Water Strategy and an engagement framework that describes when and how we engage with First Nations and Aboriginal people and peak organisations in an inclusive and culturally-appropriate way, with continued consultation with peak bodies and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.</p>	<p>Finalise the Aboriginal water engagement framework.</p> <p>Set up a program and function to enable the Department of Planning and Environment Water to fund existing and new local Aboriginal organisations to increase their capacity to be involved in water related matters (consistent with Department of Planning and Environment Water's Interim Aboriginal community engagement fee guideline and incorporate into business as usual activities).</p>	<p>Incorporate immediate actions from the engagement framework into business-as-usual activities.</p> <p>Finalise and implement the NSW Aboriginal Water Strategy.</p>	DPE Water	<p>First Nations/ Aboriginal peak groups and communities</p>
<b>Action 1.2:</b> <b>Support place-based initiatives to deliver cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people</b>	<p>The Department of Planning and Environment Water is developing the NSW Aboriginal Water Strategy (see Action 1.1).</p>	<p>Finalise the Aboriginal water engagement framework.</p>	<p>Co-design at least one project with Aboriginal people in the South Coast region that delivers cultural outcomes from improved access to water.</p>	DPE Water	<p>First Nations/ Aboriginal peak groups and communities</p> <p>Local Land Services</p>

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 1.3: Support whole-of-catchment governance</b>	The NSW Government is implementing the Richmond River pilot program through collaborative partnerships with a range of organisations in the Richmond River catchment. This may provide information relevant in other regions.		Further action will be guided by any learnings from the Richmond River program and the availability of future funding.	DPE Environment and Heritage	
<b>Action 1.4: Deliver a river rehabilitation program</b>	<p>South East Local Land Services is implementing a range of programs to improve natural resource management in the South Coast.</p> <p>South East Local Land Service has a partnership with Bega Cheese to improve environmental management of on-farm riparian areas, through the Bega Environmental Management Systems.</p> <p>The Department of Primary Industries Fisheries is administering the 'Flagship Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Grant' across coastal regions in NSW.</p>	<p>Reduce sediment runoff into waterways at Tomerong from gravel roads and tracks by works such as road sealing.</p> <p>Protect riverbanks from erosion to reduce the amount of sediment entering waterways in the Tuross, Moruya, Tilba, Wagonga, Wallaga, Bermagui, Wapengo, Brogo, Merimbula and Pambula catchments.</p>	Explore opportunities for further long-term funding and on-ground works.	South East Local Land Services	<i>Marine Estate Management Strategy (funding)</i>
	The NSW Government is running a suite of natural capital voluntary programs to assist the primary industries sector to undertake sustainable actions including regenerating local landscapes.	Offer certification for farms that are implementing sustainable actions by protecting remnant vegetation, riparian areas, or rocky outcrops via fencing or other means.		DPE Environment and Heritage	

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 1.5: Support landholder adoption of best practice land management</b>	South East Local Land Service provides a range of extension services and advice to landholders on best practice and is currently developing natural resource management plans.	South East Local Land Services will continue to deliver catchment works or advice on areas such as revegetation, erosion control and removing stock access to riparian areas.		South East Local Land Services	
		Complete stage 1 of the Department of Primary Industries climate vulnerability assessment, which will include publishing summaries of the assessments of climate risk and opportunities for the South Coast agricultural commodities, including dairy.		DPI Agriculture	
	The <i>Marine Estate Management Strategy</i> funded Clean Coastal Catchments project works with growers to keep sediment and nutrients on-farm and out of coastal waterways while supporting profitable and sustainable agriculture.	Work with growers to identify practices that will improve management of fertiliser and erosion, and reduce losses of nutrients and sediment from farms.  Include delivery of dairy nutrient management webinars delivered in collaboration with Dairy NSW, South East Local Land Services and Bega Cheese.		DPI Agriculture	Dairy NSW South East Local Land Services Bega Cheese

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
	The NSW Government is delivering the coastal management framework to support councils manage the coastal zone.	Support councils to collaborate with relevant agencies to provide guidance on the holistic management of estuary health through coastal management programs.  This will set the long-term strategy for the coordinated management of the coastal zone.	Support councils with the implementation of certified coastal management programs.	DPE Environment and Heritage	Coastal management program  Local councils
	The NSW Government is running a suite of natural capital voluntary programs to assist the primary industries sector to undertake sustainable actions to enable improved productivity and climate resilience.	Offer certification through agreed sustainability actions, including improving land management.		DPE Environment and Heritage	
<b>Action 1.6: Assess the vulnerability of surface water supplies to sea level rise and saltwater intrusion</b>	The NSW Government has recently developed hydrodynamic estuary models for the <i>Marine Estate Management Strategy</i> . The models have considered the impacts of sea level rise on low-lying land.  The Department of Planning and Environment Water has recently assessed the impacts of tidal pool water extractions on salinity dynamics in the Richmond River and Shoalhaven River estuaries.		Undertake a vulnerability assessment of surface water for the Tuross and Bega estuaries. The work will draw on the hydrologic modelling completed for the South Coast Regional Water Strategy and the hydrodynamic models developed for the <i>Marine Estate Management Strategy</i> .	DPE Water	Water users  Local councils
	The Department of Planning and Environment Water supports local councils to prepare sea level rise (tidal inundation) studies in coastal estuaries.			DPE Water	Local councils

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 1.7:</b> <b>Identify environmental water needs to support healthy coastal waterways</b>	The Department of Planning and Environment Water has an established methodology for determining environmental water needs in diverse parts of the state.	Prioritise catchments and reaches for species assessments.	Develop flow and water quality requirements for priority ecological functional groups and ecological communities.	DPE Water	DPI Fisheries  DPE Environment and Heritage
		Conduct environmental DNA (eDNA) species surveys in priority catchments and reaches.			
		Support councils to identify and deliver on the community's environmental and water quality values and uses of waterways. We will do this through a risk-based framework. It will include support to revise water quality objectives.		DPE Environment and Heritage	Local councils



Image courtesy of iStock. Malabar Creek, Moruya River, NSW.

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 1.8: Characterise and plan for climate change and land use impacts on coastal groundwater sources</b>	To inform the NSW Groundwater Strategy (to be finalised in 2022), the Department of Planning and Environment Water commissioned the CSIRO to assess the potential impacts of a drier climate on the ability of our groundwater resources to recharge.	Determine what specific groundwater data, analysis and information we need to improve decisions for each region of NSW, including the South Coast.  Establish criteria to identify critical groundwater resources and develop spatial products and data to allow for identification and mapping.	To be informed by the NSW Groundwater Strategy implementation plan.	DPE Water	Local councils
	We have heard that we need to build our understanding of the risk of saltwater intrusions into groundwater sources used by towns and industries.		Undertake investigations to characterise the level of risk posed by saltwater intrusion from sea level rise to the Mid Bega River Sands water source which supplies Bega-Tathra town water supply system.	DPE Water	Local councils



Image courtesy of Destination NSW. Tathra Beach, Tathra.

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 1.9:</b> <b>Protect ecosystems that depend on coastal groundwater</b>	<p>Datasets for the identification and assigning of ecological value for vegetation and wetland groundwater dependent ecosystems are available on the NSW Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED) website.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Water sharing plans set objectives and rules for monitoring, evaluating, reporting and management of groundwater dependent ecosystems.</p>	<p>Establish baseline and monitor ongoing conditions of vegetation, wetland and subterranean groundwater dependent ecosystems.</p> <p>Correlate relationships between condition of vegetation, wetland and subterranean groundwater dependent ecosystems.</p> <p>Research methods to assess dependence on groundwater by vegetation groundwater dependent ecosystems.</p> <p>Review available data on springs and assess cultural and ecological value.</p> <p>Implement a risk-based program to regularly improve groundwater dependent ecosystem data, information products, and adaptive management decisions for the benefit of social, cultural and environmental outcomes.</p>	<p>To be informed by the NSW Groundwater Strategy implementation plan.</p>	<p>DPE Water</p>	<p>DPE Environment and Heritage</p>

1. More information is available at: [seed.nsw.gov.au](http://seed.nsw.gov.au)

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 1.10:</b> <b>Improve monitoring of water extraction</b>	<p>The NSW Government is progressing the non-urban water metering framework which became law in December 2018 with staged deadlines for installing compliant equipment rolling out over 5 years.</p> <p>The Department of Planning and Environment Water has issued advice on how to install metering on portable pumps.</p>	<p>Finalise implementation of the non-urban metering framework in coastal catchments by 2024.</p>	<p>Progressively make use of metered water use data to improve our estimates of extractions for greater confidence in the use of models for water planning and policy purposes.</p> <p>This may support forthcoming work to establish sustainable extraction limits for surface and groundwater sources (Action 2.3).</p>	DPE Water	



Image courtesy of Jaime Plaza Van Roon, Department of Planning and Environment. Farmland west of Bega, NSW.

# Priority 2

## Ensure water resource development and use is sustainable and equitable

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 2.1:</b> <b>Improve fish passage</b>	Identified 6 high priority fish barriers in the South Coast region: Buckenbowra Dam, Currowan Creek–Western Distributor pipe culvert, Shallow Crossing causeway, Clyde Ridge Road crossing, Burra Creek Weir and Wadbilliga Road causeway.	Restore fish passage and river connectivity at priority weir and road crossings, where funding has been secured, so that fish can move between habitats, avoid predators, find food and breed through the Reconnecting Fish Habitat program.	Continue to explore funding opportunities to implement actions at high priority sites.	DPI Fisheries	<i>Marine Estate Management Strategy</i>  Structure owners

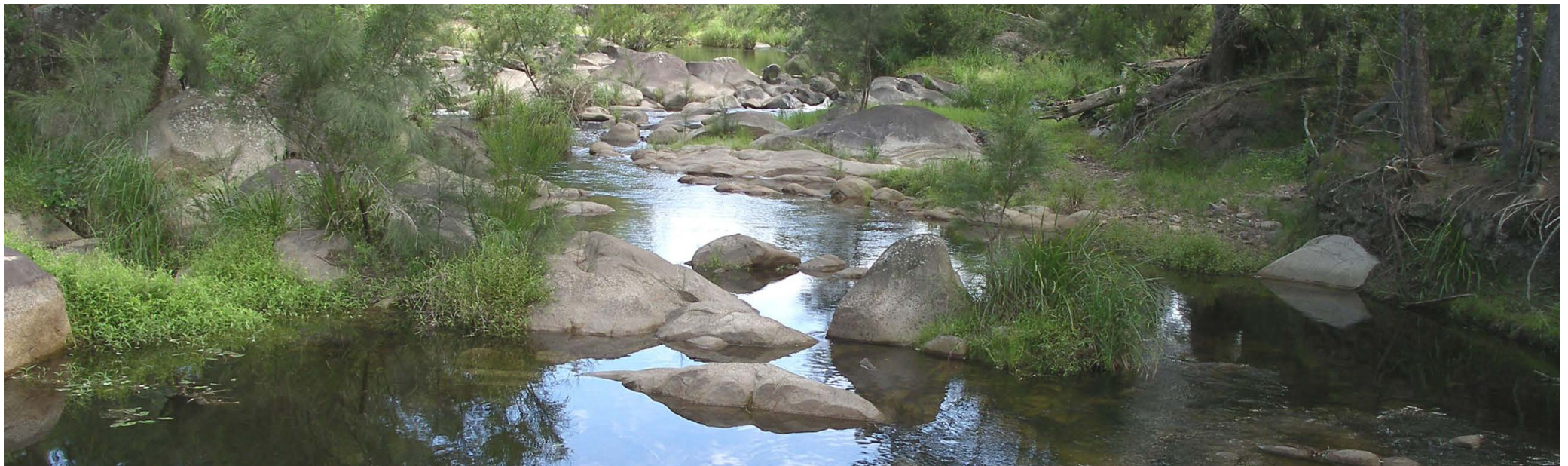


Image courtesy of Scott Nichols, Department of Primary Industries Fisheries. Buckenbowra River.

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 2.2: Implement fish-friendly water extraction</b>	NSW Government is implementing the non-urban metering framework by 2024 (Action 1.10) and collecting valuable information on locations and sizes of pumps in the region.		Use information collected on pump size and locations to prioritise screening opportunities for the region.	DPI Fisheries	
<b>Action 2.3: Establish sustainable extraction limits for surface water and groundwater sources</b>	<p>The Department of Planning and Environment Water has developed a project plan for progressing this work for surface and connected alluvial groundwater sources.</p> <p>Phase 1 Comprehensive review of methods implemented in other jurisdictions.</p>		<p>Continuation of the project plan will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 2 – Develop preferred option(s) for determining sustainable extraction limits. This will consider legislative requirements, data availability, and possible future changes to catchment hydrology.</li> <li>Phase 3 – Apply the preferred option(s): Undertake a pilot trial in one or more catchments to understand environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts.</li> <li>Phase 4 – Refine innovative water sharing arrangements and develop an implementation program.</li> </ul>	DPE Water	

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 2.4:</b></p> <p><b>Reduce the take of low flows</b></p> <p>*Interdependency with Action 3.3</p>	<p>During consultation on the South Coast Regional Water Strategy, we heard that reducing take during low flows to maintain flows in rivers was a priority for the region.</p> <p>The NSW Government is undertaking a review of regulation of domestic and stock basic landholder rights under the NSW Water Strategy.</p>	<p>Identify and assess options surrounding the installation of low-flow bypass devices on new (harvestable rights and licensed) farm dams.</p>	<p>Implement the preferred and approved option for low-flow bypass installation on appropriate farm dams.</p>	DPE Water	



Image courtesy of Jeremy Kinley, Department of Planning and Environment. On-farm dams in the Bega Valley.

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 2.5:</b></p> <p><b>Address catchment-based impacts of increased harvestable rights limits</b></p>	<p>Harvestable rights limits for farm dams in coastal-draining catchments were increased from 10% to 30% in May 2022.</p>	<p>Conduct catchment-based assessments for each coastal-draining water source to assess and confirm the 30% limit, or to recommend a different limit for that catchment based on its specific characteristics.</p> <p>We will include an estimate of impacts of increases in harvestable rights dams on the downstream flow regime.</p>	<p>Include harvestable right at the commencement of the first water sharing plan as a numerical component of the long-term average annual extractions in revised coastal water sharing plans.</p> <p>Undertake a review of the update of harvestable rights to determine whether further water sharing plan amendments are required.</p>	DPE Water	
<p><b>Action 2.6:</b></p> <p><b>Support Aboriginal business opportunities</b></p>	<p>The Department of Planning and Environment Water is developing the NSW Aboriginal Water Strategy (see Action 1.1).</p> <p>Department of Regional NSW has established the Aboriginal Partnership Program, which will work with Aboriginal organisations, businesses, and individuals to identify and develop new business opportunities or better manage existing ones and access support or grant funding.</p> <p>During consultation on the Draft South Coast Regional Water Strategy we heard that immediate priorities for this action should focus on capability building partnerships.</p>	<p>Work with Aboriginal organisations, businesses and individuals in the South Coast region to identify and support new and existing business opportunities and facilitate access to support and/or grant funding.</p> <p>Enhance opportunities for Aboriginal employment in NSW Government to manage Sea Country.</p>	<p>Subsequent work will be guided by the finalised Aboriginal Water Strategy.</p>	DPE Water	<p>Department of Regional NSW</p> <p>First Nations/ Aboriginal peak groups and communities</p> <p>Local councils</p> <p>Regional Development Australia</p> <p>Destination NSW</p>

# Priority 3

## Prepare for future climatic extremes

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 3.1:</b></p> <p><b>Provide better information about water access, availability and climate risks</b></p>	<p>The NSW Government is providing continued or expanded access to a range of online resources including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WaterInsights portal, a powerful interactive tool that will provide meaningful data on how water is shared, allocated and managed in a way that is easy to understand.</li> <li>NSW Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED) is the state's central resource for sharing and enabling environmental data, which now includes the stochastic climate datasets for the South Coast Regional Water Strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>Continue to provide access to more water models and modelled data in NSW SEED.</p> <p>Launch a comprehensive website that brings together coastal, estuary, and climate change information and facilitates public and stakeholder access to long-term data and reports.</p>		DPE Water	DPE Environment and Heritage



Image courtesy of Lachlan Edwards, Department of Planning and Environment. On-farm water storage, Morans Crossing.

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 3.2:</b></p> <p><b>Enhance coastal water markets</b></p>	<p>The NSW Government is working closely with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments to ensure the ‘roadmap’ for water market reform represents practical and cost-effective reform measures that will improve confidence in water markets in the Basin.</p> <p>It is likely that this work will have some statewide implications.</p> <p>The NSW Government is reviewing trade rules as part of the water sharing plans remake process using updated risk assessment data and the uniform application of trade principles.</p>		<p>Review any elements of the Basin market reforms that may be relevant for the South Coast.</p> <p>This may include work to determine the current barriers to the development of a successful market, and whether there is the underlying demand for increased water activity.</p>	DPE Water	
<p><b>Action 3.3:</b></p> <p><b>Investigate increased on-farm storage</b></p> <p>**Interdependency with Action 2.5</p>	<p>During consultation on the South Coast Regional Water Strategy stakeholders told us they would like to increase on-farm storage but the approval process was overly complex.</p> <p>Bega Cheese has coordinated a group of landholders who have expressed desire to implement increased on-farm storages on their land, and specified dam locations and sizes.</p>	Investigate impediments to increasing on-farm storages in the Bega Valley catchment.	Develop a program to address the priority impediments identified.	DPE Water	Bega Cheese

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 3.4:</b> <b>Investigate delivery efficiency improvements for the Bega–Brogo regulated river system</b>		Develop and deliver the Bega–Brogo Regulated River Drought Management Plan to provide improved clarity about how the river is operated during drought.		WaterNSW	DPE Water
			Investigate improvements to the efficiency of water deliveries to the tidal pool in the Bega–Brogo regulated river system.	DPE Water	WaterNSW
<b>Action 3.5</b> <b>Identify the best option to improve water security for the Bermagui town water supply system</b>	Water security for the Bermagui town water supply system is threatened during drought due to a combination of inadequate storage reserve in Brogo Dam and low release flows causing the in-take pumps to cut-out due to low water levels in the river.	<p>Support Bega Valley Shire Council to investigate a range of options to identify the best solution to improve water security for Bermagui, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>constructing a weir at the off-take site to increase pool depth</li> <li>augmenting town water supply inlet.</li> </ul> <p>As part of these options, the Department of Planning and Environment Water will investigate changing the storage reserve set aside in Brogo Dam.</p>		Bega Valley Shire Council  DPE Water	WaterNSW  DPI Fisheries

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 3.6:</b> <b>Improve water security for lower Tuross water users</b>	During consultation on the South Coast Regional Water Strategy, stakeholders told us that saltwater moving upstream threatened water supplies required for their businesses.	Work with affected landholders and relevant agencies to develop and assess options to maintain water supply for their business operations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increased on-farm storage</li> <li>use temporary sand barrage, including provision for fish passage and adherence to operating rules</li> <li>development groundwater sources.</li> </ul>		DPE Water	DPI Fisheries  DPE Environment and Heritage



Image courtesy of Destination NSW. Tuross River, Tuross Head.

# Ongoing monitoring, adaptation and reporting

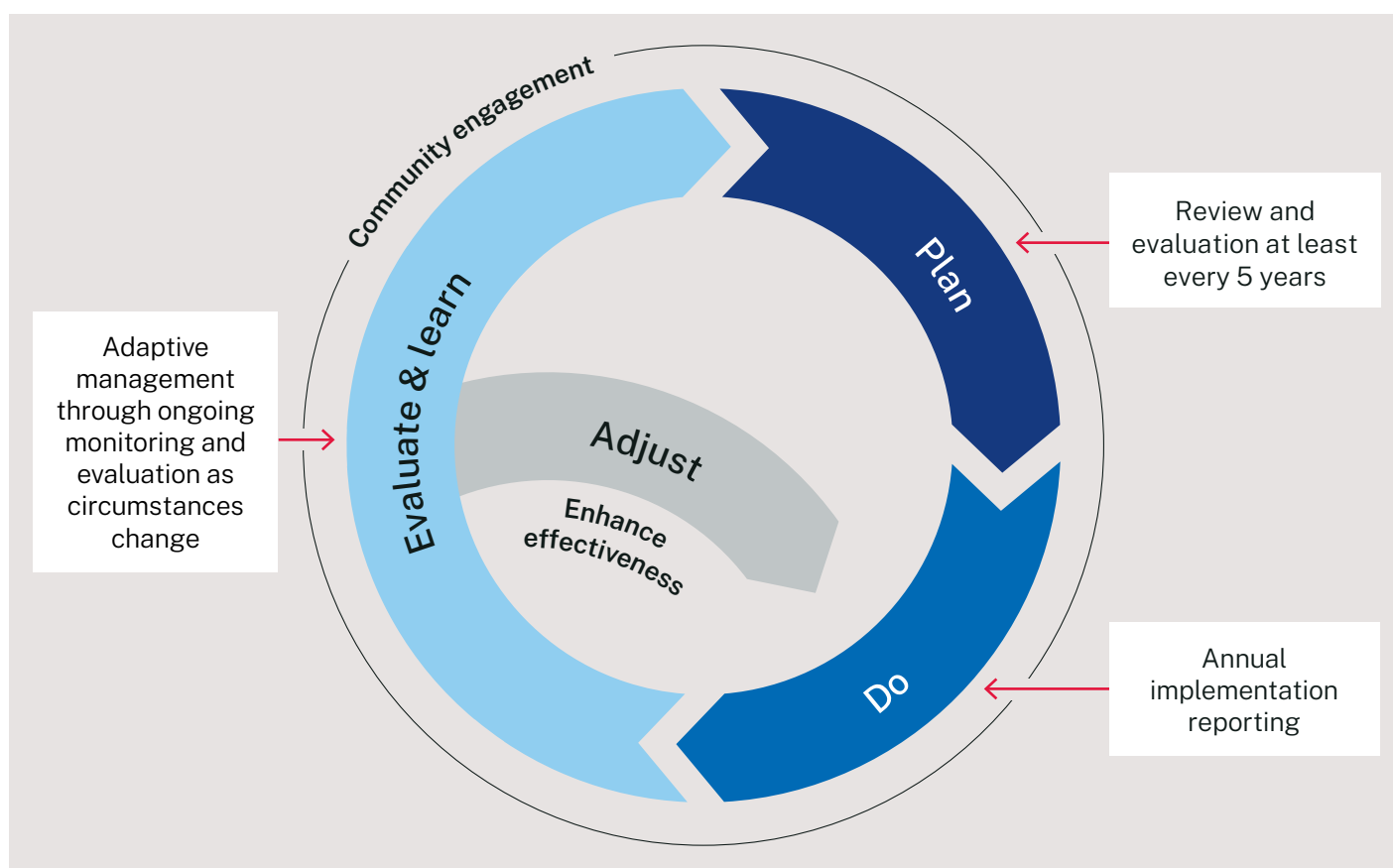
The South Coast Regional Water Strategy is designed to respond to changing circumstances. We will undertake a formal review of the strategy at least every 5 years or in response to significant changing conditions and government priorities. The formal review will ensure that the key assumptions, such as population and demographics, have not significantly changed.

Amendments may be made in response to key changes in water demand, social preferences, science and

technology, economic conditions, or other events, including how climate change assumptions and responses evolve. These amendments may result in a shift in priorities, and the implementation plan will be updated to reflect this.

Each year, we will report on our progress in implementing the strategy actions. This will provide transparency to the community, and allow us to show what we have achieved and what we will deliver in the future.

**Figure 1. Regional water strategies process**



**Table 1. Supporting activities**

Action	Lead agency	What we'll deliver in the next 5 years
Reporting	DPE Water	Publish regular progress updates on delivery of the actions in the South Coast Regional Water Strategy Implementation Plan so that the community can track progress.
Monitoring and evaluation	DPE Water	Apply the framework developed for the NSW Water Strategy to monitor, review and report against the actions in the South Coast Regional Water Strategy.
Review	DPE Water	Undertake a formal review of the strategy at least every 5 years, or in response to changing circumstances. The formal review will ensure that the key assumptions, such as population and demographics, have not significantly changed.

