Rule Summary Sheet for the Belubula Regulated River Water Source

Rule Summary Sheet 1 of 1

Plan details

Water sharing plan: *Belubula Regulated River Water Source 2025*

Plan commencement: 15 August 2025

Term of plan: 10 years

Application: These rules apply to all surface water within the boundaries of this water source.

Important

This fact sheet summarises the rules contained in the *Water Sharing Plan for the Belubula Regulated River Water Source 2025.* It is intended as a guide only. Consult the water sharing plan for further details on this water source or other areas covered by this plan. Alternatively, contact the department on 1300 081 047, or via email at water.enquiries@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Water access and other water sharing plan rules are implemented through conditions on the "Statement of Conditions" for access licences and "Statement of Approval" for water supply work approvals. These conditions are updated in accordance with any new or amended water sharing plan. However, this can take some time. Licence and approval holders must comply with the conditions on their existing licence condition and approval statements until new statements are provided by the department.

You can access this information from your 'Statement of Approval', 'Statement of Conditions' or via the WaterNSW water register.

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Long-term average annual extraction limit (LTAAEL)

The LTAAEL is equal to the lesser of:

- the long-term average annual extraction from this water source that would occur with the water storages and water use development that existed in 2009/2010, the share components and basic landholder rights existing at the commencement of the *Water Sharing Plan for the Belubula Regulated River Water Source 2012* (the previous plan), the application of the water management rules as defined in the previous plan and estimated level of development from plantation forestry that existed on 1 July 2009. This is estimated at 4.684 GL/yr, and
- the long-term average annual extraction from this water source that would occur under the Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council Cap baseline conditions that was in place at the commencement of the previous plan. This is estimated at 7.38 GL/yr.

Assessing growth in use

- Average annual extraction over the previous water year is compared with the modelled LTAAEL.
- If the actual average annual extraction is 3 percent greater than the modelled extraction under the 'current development' model run for the same period, then a growth in use response will be triggered at the start of the following water year.
- A growth in use response will be applied equally to both regulated river (general security) and supplementary water access licences to reduce average extractions to the LTAAEL.
- For regulated river (general security) access licences, the take limit will be reduced to less than 1 ML per unit.
- For supplementary water access licences, the available water determination will be reduced to less than 1 ML per unit.
- When average extractions return to the LTAAEL the growth in use response applied to both regulated river (general security) and supplementary water access licences will cease.

Account management rules

Managing access licences

Each water access licence has its own share component (volume of the licence) and a water allocation account similar to a bank account where water is credited to or debited from the account:

- 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 via metering or logbooks.

Individual account limits and carryover rules for regulated river (general security) access licences

- Water will be credited to accounts as a result of available water determinations (AWDs). Available water determinations may be made throughout the water year when water flows into the dam.
- A take limit is applied to all accounts at the start of each year and represents the maximum amount of water that can be used in that year (even if there is a greater volume in the account).
- The take limit will equal 1 ML per unit of share component unless total extractions from the water source exceed the long-term annual average extraction limit (LTAAEL). See rules under assessing growth in use.
- The accounts for regulated river (general security) access licences are split into two sub-accounts. Sub-account A contains water allocations that may be taken in the current water year. Sub-account B contains water allocations that can be held for extraction in future water years.
- At the start of the water year, sub-account A will be adjusted to ensure it holds no more than the take limit. If the volume in sub-account A is less than the take limit, then water allocations will be moved from sub-account B into A to a maximum volume equal to the take limit. Conversely, if at the beginning of the water year sub-account A holds more than the take limit, then water allocations will be moved into sub-account B until sub-account A equals the take limit.
- The maximum total account limit (sub-account A plus sub-account B) is 1.1 ML/unit share. Account water can be carried over until the total account limit is reached. If available water determinations result in the total account exceeding 1.1 ML/unit shares, all water above 1.1 ML/unit share will be forfeited.

Individual account limits and carryover rules for regulated river (high security) and domestic and stock access licences

- In all but exceptional drought years, the allocation into an account will be:

  - 1 ML per unit of share component for a regulated river (high security) access licence, and
  - 100% of the access licence share component for a domestic and stock access licence.
- Water will be credited to accounts at the start of the water year and any water remaining in an account at the end of the year is forfeited (no carry over).
- The account limit is equal to 100% or 1 ML per unit share of the access licence share component.

Individual account limits and carryover rules for supplementary water access licences

- The maximum AWD is 1 ML per unit share of access licence share component.
- The AWD will remain at 1 ML per unit of share component unless total extractions from the water source exceed the long-term annual average extraction limit (LTAAEL). See rules under assessing growth in use.
- Water will be credited to accounts at the start of the water year and any water remaining in an account at the end of the water year is forfeited (no carryover).

Rules for accessing uncontrolled flows and supplementary water

Rules for accessing uncontrolled flows for regulated river (general security) access licences

- Subject to announcement, general security access licence holders can access uncontrolled flows when
  - flows at Helensholme gauge (412033) are equal to or greater than 10 ML/day.

However,

- if flows at Helensholme gauge (412033) are less than 10 ML/day for 120 days, access to uncontrolled flows is only permitted when flows at Helesholme gauge (412033) have been 70 ML/day or more for 10 days (first flush environmental rule);
- if the effective available water is less than or equal to 0.2/unit share, access to uncontrolled flows is only permitted when flows are greater than or equal to 13 ML/day at the Helensholme gauge (412033);

- if the effective available water is greater than 0.2 ML/unit and less than or equal to 0.5 ML/unit share access to uncontrolled flows is only permitted when flows are greater than or equal to 20 ML/day at the Helensholme gauge (412033); and
- if the effective available water is greater than 0.5ML/unit access to uncontrolled flows is only permitted when the volume of water in Carcoar Dam is less than 21,000ML and flows at Helensholme gauge (412033) are greater than or equal to 20 ML/day.

Effective available water is the sum of water available for take by all general security licences in that water year as a percentage of total general security entitlement. It includes water that has been carried over from the previous year and available for take plus any water credited to sub-accounts A as a result of AWDs in that year.

The volume of water taken from uncontrolled flows must not exceed the lesser of:

- 0.5 ML/unit share, or
- the limitation on sub-account A at the beginning of the uncontrolled event.

Rules for accessing uncontrolled flows for regulated river (high security) access licences

- Subject to announcement, high security access licence holders can access uncontrolled flows when
  - the AWD for high security access licences is less than 0.5/unit share.

However,

- if the AWD is less than or equal to 0.2/unit share, access to uncontrolled flows is permitted when flows are equal to or greater than 13 ML/day at the Helensholme gauge (412033); or
- if the AWD is greater than 0.2ML/unit share and less than 0.5/unit share, access to uncontrolled flows is permitted when flows are equal to or greater than 20 ML/day at the Helensholme gauge (412033).

Rules that apply to regulated river access licences when accessing uncontrolled flows

- Access to uncontrolled flows is not available to domestic and stock access licences.
- Any extraction from uncontrolled flows is debited against any future announced allocation increases in the current water year.
- Licence holders must provide WaterNSW with a water meter reading prior to and at the end of the take within 7 days after the taking of uncontrolled flows.

Access rules for supplementary water access licence

- Supplementary access licences can only extract water when supplementary water is made available, as approved by the minister and published on the WaterNSW website.
- Supplementary water will be made available when flows are greater than or equal to 20 ML/day at the Helensholme gauge (412033).

End of system environmental flow and requirements for basic landholder rights

End of system environmental flow rules

A flow of 10 ML/day must be maintained at Helensholme gauge (412033) unless the average flows at Beneree gauge (412080) on Flyers Creek are less than or equal to 10 ML/day for 120 consecutive days (dry trigger), unless the drop in flows at Beneree gauge are due to the take of water from Cadia Mine upstream of the Beneree gauge.

End of system basic landholder rights flow rules

A minimum flow of 2 ML/day is to be released from Carocoar Dam to maintain supply for basic landholder rights.

Trading

Trading covers:

- assignment of rights dealings (permanent trade of licence shares), share component dealings between water sources (trading of entitlement between water sources), water allocation dealings (temporary trade of an annual allocation), water supply works dealings (relocation of an extraction point), and conversion of an access licence to a new category (for example from regulated river high security to regulated river general security). These rules are covered in Table 1.

Table 1. Rules for trading into or within this water source

Type	Rules
Into water source	Not permitted

Type	Rules

Within water source	• Permanent trade is permitted within the water source for all high security, general security and supplementary water access licences, subject to assessment.
	• Temporary trade is permitted except:
	  ○ from a sub-account B to a sub-account A of another regulated river (general security) access licence or,
	  ○ if the trade would result in the total account (sub-account A + sub-account B) exceeding 1.1 ML/unit share.
	• Trades to another category of access licence are prohibited.

Granting new licences

There are limited purposes for which a new licence may be granted. It is anticipated that most water needs will be sourced from the market. One reason a licence may be granted is for Aboriginal cultural purposes. Other reasons are identified in Section 10 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018*.

Table 2 Rules for granting access licences

Type	Rules
Regulated river (high security) access licence of the subcategory Aboriginal cultural	Permitted for less than or equal to 10 ML/year and the licence is primarily used for personal, domestic or communal purposes by an Aboriginal person or community.

Non-urban water metering framework

The NSW Government's non-urban water metering framework, initiated in December 2018, aims to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of water among users, enhancing transparency and efficiency in water management across the state. The framework's implementation was staged to allow water users, suppliers, and installers sufficient time to achieve compliance. The NSW Government has recently completed a review of the non-urban metering rules and has updated the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018* to make compliance quicker, easier and more cost effective.

Water users are encouraged to consult the department's non-urban metering website for detailed information and updates. To verify individual access licence details, please refer to the WaterNSW Water Register.

More information

More information about the planning process and the *Water Sharing Plan for the Belubula Regulated River Water Source 2025* is available on the water sharing plan pages of the department's website.