

Report Card for Wyong River Water Source

Water Source Context	River Flows
<p>Area: 441 km² Average Annual Rainfall 1213 mm Inflowing water source: Nil Receiving water source: Tuggerah Lakes</p>	<p>Low flow Index: (80th %ile in December of days with flow) = 9.9 ML/day Flow records: 26/12/1972 to 26/08/2003 (30 yrs). This estimate is based on flow measured in Wyong River at Gracemere and Jilliby Creek upstream Wyong River (Durren Lane). 98 years of measured and modelled flows for Ourimbah Creek at Tuggerah were used to adjust for longer term climate as well as an area adjustment.</p>
Licensed Water use	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total surface water entitlement: 38 782 ML/year (10% used for irrigation purposes, 89% used for town water supply purposes) • 94 surface water licenses - Peak Daily Demand=79.9 ML/day • 78.6 % of total Tuggerah Lakes Extraction Management Unit entitlement 	

Proposed Management Rules for Wyong River Water Source

Draft Access Rules for access licences excluding local water utilities/major utilities	
Cease to Pump (CtP) A class	For the first three years of the plan or until the upgraded fish way for Wyong River Weir and new Wyong River pumping station is completed, whichever is the sooner, cease to pump is when there is no visible flow. Thereafter cease to pump is when flows are at or below 4 ML/day. Note that a commence to pump level may be introduced based on the outcomes of further monitoring and investigations into the environmental water requirements of the Wyong River estuary.
Cease to Pump (CtP) B class	From year six or the completion of upgrade works on local water utility infrastructure, whichever is the sooner, cease to pump is when flows are below 13.5 ML/day.
Cease to Pump (CtP) C class	From year six or the completion of upgrade works on local water utility infrastructure, whichever is the sooner, cease to pump is when flows are below 26 ML/day.
Daily flow sharing	<p>From Year 6 of the plan daily flow sharing will be introduced for all flow classes in this water source. The total daily extraction limit (TDEL) for access licences (excluding local water utility/major utility access licences) is set at:</p> <p>A class: 8.7 ML/day B class: 15.6 ML/day C class: 24.5 ML/day</p> <p>Initial assessment of these volumes to different categories of access licences is as follows:</p> <p>A class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 0.07 ML/day to domestic and stock access licences ▪ 8.63 ML/day to unregulated river access licences <p>B class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 0.12 ML/day to domestic and stock access licences ▪ 15.48 ML/day to unregulated river access licences <p>C class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 0.18 ML/day to domestic and stock access licences ▪ 24.32 ML/day to unregulated river access licences
Reference Point	Combined flows at Wyong River at Gracemere gauge and Jilliby Creek at upstream of Wyong River (Durren Lane) gauge. Note that the reference point may change during the term of the plan to the Wyong River Weir, if appropriate.
Draft Access Rules for local water utilities/major utilities	
Cease to Pump (CtP) A class	For the first three years of the plan or until the upgraded fish way for Wyong River Weir and new Wyong River pumping station is completed, whichever is the sooner, in any two weeks in both October and December the cease to pump is when there is no visible flow over the Wyong Weir during. Thereafter cease to pump is when flows are at or below 4 ML/day.

Commence to Pump (ComtP) A class	For the first three years of the plan or until the upgraded fish way for Wyong River Weir and new Wyong River pumping station is completed, whichever is the sooner, during the two weeks in October and December that the cease to pump applies, the commence to pump is 24 hours after the spilling of the Wyong Weir. Note that an amended commence to pump level may be introduced based on the outcomes of further monitoring and investigations.
Cease to Pump (CtP) B class	From year six or the completion of upgrade works on local water utility infrastructure, whichever is the sooner, cease to pump is when flows are below 13.5 ML/day.
Cease to Pump (CtP) C class	From year six or the completion of upgrade works on local water utility infrastructure, whichever is the sooner, cease to pump is when flows are below 26 ML/day.
Daily flow sharing	<p>From Year 6 of the plan until combined storage levels reach 60% capacity for the first time the total daily extraction limit (TDEL) for local water utility/major utility access licences is set at:</p> <p>Combined storage capacity < 50%: A,B,C class: 100% of flow in each flow class Combined storage capacity 50-60%: A,B,C class: 80% of flow in each flow class Combined storage capacity > 60%: A class 0%, B,C class: 60% of flow in each flow class</p> <p>Once the combined storages have reached 60% capacity for the first time during the term of the plan the TDELs for local water utility/major utility access licences is set at:</p> <p>Combined storage capacity < 40%: A,B,C class: 80% of flow in each flow class Combined storage capacity 40-60%: A,B,C class: 70% of flow in each flow class Combined storage capacity > 60%: A class 0%, B,C class: 60% of flow in each flow class</p> <p>Note that the TDEL as specified will only apply to local water utility access licences once all infrastructure as specified in Schedule 4 of the plan is in place. If infrastructure is not completed a review will be undertaken and TDEL for the local water utility access licences set based on existing infrastructure limitations.</p>
Reference Point	Combined flows at Wyong River at Gracemere gauge and Jilliby Jilliby Creek at upstream of Wyong River (Durren Lane) gauge. Note that the reference point may change during the term of the plan to the Wyong River Weir, if appropriate.

Draft Trading Rules

INTO water source	Not permitted
WITHIN water source	Permitted except into the plateau management zone.
Conversion to High Flow Access Licence	Not permitted

Key Factors for Panel Decision**Background information**

Water Source attributes	Rating	Justification
Relative Instream Value (within catchment)	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 threatened bird species 1 threatened aquatic invertebrate species 8 threatened amphibian species 1 threatened herbs and forbs species platypus have been identified in this water source high species diversity
Hydrological Stress	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> peak extraction demand exceeds available flows in December
Relative Economic Significance of Irrigation (within catchment)	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> high economic dependence of the local community on water extracted for irrigation

Risk to Instream Value (from extraction)	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> instream values are at high risk of being impacted by extractions within the water source
Existing Access Arrangements During Dry Conditions		
Water User Association (WUA)	No	
Licensed Cease to Pump (CtP)	A small number of licences have a cease to pump at visible flow. Licences on Jilliby Jilliby Creek have a cease to pump at a specified flow level.	

Regional Panel review of initial classification and draft rules

Classification

- Gaining stream type

Rules

- Trading rules identified by the classification process (no trades into or upstream of water source) were adopted by the Regional Panel.
- Access rules identified by the classification process (cease to pump to allow flows at or below the 95%ile flow level to pass end of water source, daily flow limits) were adopted by the Regional Panel. A staged approach is proposed to allow users time for adjustment.

Matters raised during targeted consultation

A number of changes have been proposed to the draft access rules which were originally discussed in targeted consultation. These proposed amendments have been based on further studies to gain a better understanding of environmental flow requirements including the needs of the estuary and flow management for fish requirements. In addition the security and infrastructure of the local water utility has been considered in recommending a staged approach to the introduction of daily extraction limits.

Aboriginal Cultural Values

- The initial consultation with local Aboriginal communities indicate that they consider healthy rivers with natural flows and good biodiversity as being important. Further feedback is being sought from Aboriginal communities about values in their area.

Information on privacy and confidentiality

Submissions received will be used by the Department when it considers amending the Plan. The Department values your input into the water sharing plan process and appreciates that information that you provide may be of a private and personal nature.

If you wish your submission, any part of your submission, or your personal details to be treated as confidential for any reason then you can request this. Please indicate your preference at the time of making your submission. Please be aware that if you do not make a request for confidentiality, then the Department may make your submission, including any personal details contained in the submission, available to the public. Please see the "Community consultation" page on the Department's website for further information.

For more information about the macro planning process for the Central Coast Unregulated Water Sources refer to the "Central Coast Unregulated Water Sources - Background Document" on the Departments website:

www.dwe.nsw.gov.au

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