

Report Card for Bow River Water Source

FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Water Source Context		River Flows
<p>Area: 392.4 km² (12% forested) Average Annual Rainfall 574 mm Inflowing water source: Nil Receiving water source: Lower Goulburn River, Hunter River Regulated System, Hunter River Tidal Pool</p>		<p>Low flow Index: (80thile in December of days with flow) = 2 ML/day Flow records: No gauge exists in this catchment. An estimate of the 80thile of all days with flow was used. The estimate of 2 ML/day was based on adjacent gauges.</p>
Licensed Water use		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total surface water entitlement: 200 ML/year (100% used for irrigation purposes) • 5 surface water licenses - Peak Daily Demand=3 ML/day • Total groundwater entitlement: 5 ML/year (100% used for irrigation purposes) • 1 groundwater water licenses • 0.38 % of total Goulburn Extraction Management Unit entitlement 		
Background information		
Water Source attributes	Rating	Justification
Relative Instream Value (within catchment)	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • platypus have been identified in this water source • moderate fish community integrity • the ecology value of the river for invertebrates is deemed to be moderate
Hydrological Stress	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peak extraction demand exceeds available flows in December
Relative Economic Significance of Irrigation (within catchment)	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low economic dependence of the local community on water extracted for irrigation
Risk to Instream Value (from extraction)	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • instream values are at low 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)	none	

Proposed Recommendations for Bow River Water Source

Draft Access Rules	
Cease to Pump (CtP)	No new cease to pump rules apply for the first five years of the plan. However existing licence conditions still apply. From year six of the plan, cease to pump is when there is either no visible inflow to, or outflow from, the pumping pool.
Reference Point	Riffles upstream and downstream of pump

Draft Trading Rules	
INTO water source	Currently no trading into or out of the water source permitted. The plan allows amendment of rules to allow downstream transfers between water sources in Goulburn Extraction Management Unit based on studies to identify cumulative impacts of transfers, and the staged introduction of no net transfers as management systems become available.
WITHIN water source	Trading permitted within the water source but no transfers into specified groundwater buffer zones.
Conversion to High Flow Access Licence	Not permitted
Conversion to Aquifer Access Licence	Not permitted

Key Factors for Panel Decision

Classification

- Losing stream type
- Low instream value, high hydrological stress, medium risk to instream values, medium economic dependence.

Rules

- Staged introduction of the trading rules identified through classification process.
- Access rules identified through the classification process were adopted by the Regional Panel, excepting cease to pump at a visible flow at specific site due to low instream value and low risk.

Matters raised during targeted consultation

No changes to the rules were proposed by water users or interest groups during the targeted consultation period.

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.

For more information about the macro planning process for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources refer to the "Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources – Background Document" on the Department's website:

www.dwe.nsw.gov.au

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