

Report Card for Munmurra River Water Source

FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Water Source Context	River Flows
<p>Area: 694.1 km² (14% forested) Average Annual Rainfall 634 mm Inflowing water source: Nil Receiving water source: Upper Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn River, Hunter River Regulated System, Hunter River Tidal Pool</p>	<p>Low flow Index: (80thile in December of days with flow) = 4.8 ML/day Flow records: 1970 to 1990 (20 yrs) This estimate is based on 17.4 years of flow data measured at Munmurra Brook at Tomimbil. 112 years of flow records measured at Goulburn River at Kerrabee were used to adjust for longer term climate.</p>

Licensed Water use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total surface water entitlement: 164 ML/year (95% used for irrigation purposes) • 2 surface water licenses - Peak Daily Demand=2.4 ML/day • Total groundwater entitlement: 10 ML/year (100% used for town water supply purposes) • 2 groundwater water licenses • 0.32 % 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"> • no known threatened frog, bird or flora species • moderate fish community integrity • the ecological value of the river is deemed to be moderate
Hydrological Stress	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peak extraction demand is significantly less than 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 Munmurra 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 the pumping pool.

Draft Trading Rules	
INTO water source	No trading into or out of the water source. The plan allows amendment to allow downstream transfers between water sources in the Goulburn Extraction Management Unit based on studies to identify cumulative impacts of transfers.
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, low hydrological stress, low risk to instream value, low economic dependence.
- The Regional Panel revised the hydrological stress from medium to low due to very small level of extraction, and noting flows are highly unreliable.

Rules

- Trading rules identified through classification process were not adopted by the Regional Panel as the system already exceeds 50% flow stress if Basic Landholder Rights also considered.
- Access rules identified through classification process were adopted by the Regional Panel, excepting \ the cease to pump at 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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