

# Report Card for Upper Goulburn River Water Source

FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Water Source Context	River Flows
<p><b>Area:</b> 994.5 km<sup>2</sup> (51% forested)  <b>Average Annual Rainfall</b> 613 mm  <b>Inflowing water source:</b> Munmurra River, Wollar Creek, Krui River, Bylong River  <b>Receiving water source:</b> Lower Goulburn River, Hunter River Regulated System, Hunter River Tidal Pool</p>	<p><b>Low flow Index:</b> (80<sup>th</sup>ile in December of days with flow) = 10.2 ML/day  <b>Flow records:</b> 1940 to 2006 (66 yrs)                      This estimate is based on flows measured at Goulburn River at Kerrabee (210016) adjusted for longer term climate.</p>

Licensed Water use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Total surface water entitlement: 2490 ML/year</b> (64% used for irrigation purposes, 36% used for industrial purposes)</li> <li>• <b>14 surface water licenses - Peak Daily Demand=14 ML/day</b></li> <li>• <b>Total groundwater entitlement: 2 ML/year</b> (100% used for irrigation purposes)</li> <li>• <b>1 groundwater water license</b></li> <li>• <b>4.58 % of total Goulburn Extraction Management Unit entitlement</b></li> </ul>

Background information		
Water Source attributes	Rating	Justification
Relative Instream Value (within catchment)	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 threatened amphibian species</li> <li>• high species diversity</li> <li>• good quality wet flora</li> <li>• the ecology value of the river for invertebrates is deemed to be high</li> </ul>
Hydrological Stress	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• peak extraction demand exceeds available flows in December</li> </ul>
Relative Economic Significance of Irrigation (within catchment)	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• low economic dependence of the local community on water extracted for irrigation</li> </ul>
Risk to Instream Value (from extraction)	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• instream values are at low risk of being impacted by extractions within the water source</li> </ul>

Existing Access Arrangements During Dry Conditions	
Water User Association (WUA)	no
Licensed Cease to Pump (CtP)	visible flow on some licences

## Proposed Recommendations for Upper Goulburn River Water Source

Draft Access Rules	
Cease to Pump (CtP)	Groundwater trigger to be determined by year ten
Reference Point	To be defined by year ten

Draft Trading Rules	
INTO water source	No trading into or out of the water source. These rules may be amended based on further studies to allow downstream transfers between water sources in the Goulburn Extraction Management Unit.
WITHIN water source	Trading permitted within the water source but only in a downstream direction

	and no transfers into specified groundwater buffer zones. These rules may be amended based on further studies to allow upstream transfers.
<b>Conversion to High Flow Access Licence</b>	Not permitted
<b>Conversion to Aquifer Access Licence</b>	Not permitted

## Key Factors for Panel Decision

### Classification

- Highly connected stream type
- High instream value, high hydrological stress, low risk to instream value, low economic dependence
- The Regional Panel revised the level of instream value from low to high to reflect that the river flows through large areas of National Park.

### Rules

- Trading rules identified through classification process (trades not allowed into or upstream of) were not adopted by the Regional Panel, however the draft plan allows for amendment of rules to allow downstream transfers between water sources in Goulburn Extraction Management Unit based on studies to identify cumulative impacts of transfers (eg transfers may be allowed into from Krui, Wollar, Bylong, Munmurra (but only to downstream of junctions) because these streams flow into the Upper Goulburn water source. Within transfers in downstream direction only. Amendment of the plan may allow for upstream transfers to identified environmental values within the water source if these can be identified.
- Access rules identified through the classification process (cease to pump for licences upstream of a strategic site once the presence of water is not observed at the site; cease to pump when water is not observed at pump site; specific flow rule for instream values) were not adopted by the Regional Panel due to lack of surface water flows. The draft plan allows for the development of cease to pump rules based on a groundwater level trigger by year ten of the plan, with local impact rules to protect high value areas.
- No Aboriginal Commercial access licenses to be granted due to the high instream value of the water source.

## Matters raised during targeted consultation

Based on submissions received from water users the Regional Panel has proposed a number of amendments to the local impact management rules within the draft plan. These relate to:

1. Application of the local impact rules to all new and replacement bores - amended to indicate that if the extraction from the replacement work does not increase the rules will not apply if the work is located within a specified distance from the previous work.
2. Restriction on new or replacement works in or near rivers/creeks - amended to indicate that if it can be demonstrated that the placement of the work will not have an impact on the river environment or river stability than the buffer distances do not apply.
3. Application of the buffer distances to spearpoints - now includes a proposed provision that the buffer distances do not apply to works held by the same individual. This means that the individual works within a spearpoint battery do not incur the buffer distances.

### 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](http://www.dwe.nsw.gov.au)

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