



Department of
Primary Industries
Office of Water

Environmental flow response and socio-economic monitoring

South Coast - progress report 2010





Publisher: NSW Office of Water
A division of the NSW Department of Primary Industries
Level 18, 227 Elizabeth Street
GPO Box 3889
Sydney NSW 2001
T 02 8281 7777 F 02 8281 7799
information@water.nsw.gov.au
www.water.nsw.gov.au

The NSW Office of Water manages the policy and regulatory frameworks for the state's surface water and groundwater resources, to provide a secure and sustainable water supply for all users. It also supports water utilities in the provision of water and sewerage services throughout New South Wales.

***Environmental flow response and socio-economic monitoring South Coast
- progress report 2010***

February 2012

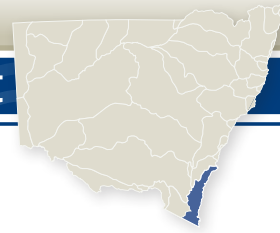
ISBN 978 0 7313 3985 3

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services, 2012.
This material may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational and non-commercial use, providing the meaning is unchanged and its source, publisher and authorship are clearly and correctly acknowledged.

Disclaimer: While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that this document is correct at the time of publication, the State of New South Wales, its agents and employees, disclaim any and all liability to any person in respect of anything or the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon the whole or any part of this document.

contents

What is the purpose of this report?	4
Why do we need to monitor water sharing plans?	4
What water sharing plans are currently in place?	5
What has influenced the water sharing plans' operations in 2009–10?	6
What environmental issues are addressed by the water sharing plans?	6
What ecological monitoring is occurring?	7
Which plan provisions are we monitoring?	9
What has ecological monitoring told us so far?	9
Socio-economic monitoring	10
What ecological monitoring is planned for 2010–11?	13
What socio-economic monitoring is planned for 2010–11?	13
What is planned for future water sharing plans?	13
Future priority needs for ecological monitoring and evaluation activities on the South Coast	14
Want more information?	15



Introduction

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT?

This report provides an update on the monitoring and evaluation activities undertaken in 2009-10 to assess the ecological and socio-economic performance of water sharing plans adopted on the NSW South Coast. It provides an interim assessment of outcomes from the investigations and identifies priority needs for future monitoring and evaluation activities.

WHY DO WE NEED TO MONITOR WATER SHARING PLANS?

Water sharing plans provide water to meet environmental and socio-economic needs, and spell out the rules governing access to water. The South Coast contains a number of important environmental assets and supports a valuable irrigation industry. Important environmental assets include several threatened species, including a fish (Australian grayling), five frog species (giant burrowing frog, green and golden

bell frog, Littlejohn's tree frog, south bell frog and stuttering barred frog) and eight bird species (Australasian bittern, black bittern, black-tailed godwit, comb-crested jacana, little tern, osprey, regent honeyeater and sanderling) and one endangered ecological community (freshwater wetlands on coastal floodplains). The South Coast rivers are also rich in native fish species and many are home to platypus. There are also 14 national parks and 2 nature reserves located in the area, including South East Forest National Park, Wadbilliga National Park and Deua National Park.

It is important to know whether the water sharing plans are meeting their environmental objectives, so that their effectiveness can be reviewed at the end of their 10-year period of operation. The information collected will be used to make informed decisions on how the plans might be improved when they are renewed. To achieve this, the NSW Office of Water undertakes ecological monitoring and evaluation activities focused on specific clauses and performance indicators within the plans.



FIGURE 1

Photo-point monitoring site on Wandella Creek at Motbey Crossing.

WHAT WATER SHARING PLANS ARE CURRENTLY IN PLACE?

One water sharing plan on the South Coast is currently gazetted, being the Water Sharing Plan for the Wandella Creek Water Source 2003 (Figure 2).

Three more plans are proposed for the South Coast in 2010–11 to cover the Bega Brogo Regulated, Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources, the Murrah–Wallaga Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources, and the Towamba Unregulated and Alluvial Water



Sources. More details of these plans can be found on the NSW Office of Water's website www.water.nsw.gov.au go to Water Management > Water Sharing Plans.

FIGURE 2

Location of the current water sharing plan on the South Coast.



LEGEND

-  Wandella Creek Water Source
-  Major storage reservoirs