

Media Release

11 November 2024

Have your say on draft Belubula water sharing plan

The draft Belubula Regulated River water sharing plan is now on public display, and the NSW Government is inviting the community to have its say.

The plan sets out clear rules for fair and sustainable water sharing among water users and the environment across the region for the next decade.

That includes setting limits on how much water can be taken, protecting resources for the environment, basic landholder rights and cultural needs and providing secure, legal, and tradeable water access rights.

It also sets out how much, where and when water can be taken by licence holders.

We're encouraging the Belubula community to read the draft plan and make a submission before the public exhibition period ends on Friday 20 December.

We'll be holding a webinar on Wednesday 27 November from 12pm to 1pm, where the community can learn more, ask questions and provide feedback.

A face-to-face drop-in session will be held on Tuesday 3 December from 4pm to 6pm in Canowindra.

Online one-on-one sessions with a water planner are also available in the week commencing 18 November.

The draft plan uses the latest data and includes proposed changes to make it easier for water users to understand and comply with requirements. We have also made a slight change to the end-of-system rules and environmental flow rules.

We want to hear the community's views on these changes, and we will carefully consider all feedback before finalising the plan ahead of it going into effect on 1 July 2025.

Plans are in place for 10 years and are audited after the first five years to ensure they are working effectively and appropriately.

To register for a session and make a submission, visit: <https://water.nsw.gov.au/belubula-water-sharing-plan>

NSW DCCEEW Executive Director of Water Planning Giselle Howard said:

"Water sharing plans are vital tools for managing our state's water resources, and the Belubula Regulated River water sharing plan is no exception.

"We want to hear your feedback on the draft plan now so we can continue to manage the region's water fairly and sustainably over the next 10 years.

Media Release



“We want a plan that works to that protect basic landholder rights, cultural needs and water for the environment, as well as setting limits on how much water can be taken to help ensure our rivers, aquifers and waterways remain healthy and resilient for the next generations.

“This is about making sure everyone gets their fair share while also protecting the long-term health of our water resources and the vibrant ecosystems that rely on them.

“Submissions are open until 20 December, and we invite everyone to have their say.”

ENDS