# Submission form for the draft Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie/Wambuul Bogan Unregulated Rivers 2025

| Office use only | | Submission number | |
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## How to fill out this form

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is seeking your comments on the draft *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie/Wambuul Bogan Unregulated River Water Sources 2025*.

Key issues and changes have been summarised in this submission form, although comment on all aspects of the water sharing plan is welcome. For water source specific details including rules, please see the water source report cards. More detailed comments are welcomed as attachments.

**A copy of your submission will be sent to your email address provided in the next section.**

**Send completed submissions to: wspconsultation@dpie.nsw.gov.au**

**Note:** The submission period has been extended and will now close at **11.59pm on Friday 10 January 2025.** Comments on the prescribed wetlands will be welcomed until **11.59pm Sunday 2 February 2025.**

**Information on privacy and confidentiality**

The NSW Government will consider all submissions received. The Government values your input and accepts that information you provide may be private and personal.

If you want your submission or your personal details to be treated as confidential, please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below. If you do not make a request for confidentiality, the department may make your submission, including any personal details contained in the submission, available to the public.

Be aware that the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water may be required by law to release copies of submissions to third parties in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.*

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| How to fill out this form | | |
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| **1. I give permission for my submission to be publicly available on the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water website *** | ☐Yes | ☐No |
| **2. I would like my personal details to be kept confidential** | ☐Yes | ☐No |

| Your details | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1. Email address*** | | | |
| **2. Name of respondent*** | | | |
| **3. Address** | | | |
| | | | |
| **4. Contact phone number*** | | | |
| **5. Are you an individual or representing an organisation?*** *Mark only one* | ☐ Organisation<br>☐ Individual *(skip to next section)* | | |
| **6. Name of organisation*** | | | |
| **7. Who are you representing?** | ☐ Government<br>☐ Peak representative organisation<br>☐ First Nation<br>☐ Environment<br>☐ Mining industry | ☐ Irrigator<br>☐ Water related industry<br>☐ Groundwater licence holder<br>☐ Groundwater user – basic rights | ☐ Surface water licence holder<br>☐ Surface water user – basic rights<br>☐ Local landholder<br>☐ Other: |

| Your details | |
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| **8. Did you attend any of the following?** | ☐ face to face meeting<br>☐ public webinar<br>☐ one-on-one or industry meeting<br>☐ none of these |
| **9. Do your comments refer to a specific water source?** | ☐ No ☐ Yes<br>Please specify which water source: |

## Changes to Access Rules

Changes to cease to pump rules are proposed for:

- Lower Bogan River Water Source
- Macquarie River above Burrendong Water Source
- Marthaguy Creek Water Source
- Summerhill Creek Water Source
- Upper Cudgegong River Water Source

It is proposed to introduce flow-based access rules which are linked to gauges located within the water source to better protect very low flows. Stream flow data is available in real time online from WaterNSW.

| **Changes to access rules** | |
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| **Please provide any comments you may have on the proposed changes to access rules.**<br>(Attach extra pages if required) | Comment: |

## Changes to access rules in the Lower Macquarie River Water Source

Several amendments are proposed in the Lower Macquarie River Water Source.

In the Lower Macquarie Upstream Management Zone**,** it is proposed to establish a new flow reference point and set an equivalent access rule. The proposed cease to pump is 93 ML/day at the Macquarie River at Gibson Way gauge (421116).

In the Lower Macquarie River Downstream Management Zone, to enable more targeted access rules to be designed, it is proposed to divide the management zone into two new management zones, Carinda Management Zone and Binghi Management Zone.

The proposed access rule in the Carinda Management Zone is cease to pump when flows are equal or less than 50 ML/d at the Macquarie River at Bells Bridge gauge (421012).

The proposed access rule in the Binghi Management Zone is cease to pump when:

- Flows are less than or equal to 50 ML/d 3 days prior at the Macquarie River at Brewon gauge (421907), AND
- Flows are less than or equal to 50 ML/d 3 days prior at the Castlereagh River at Gungalman gauge (420020), AND
- Flows are less than or equal to 5,500 ML/d 3 days prior at the Barwon River at Boorooma gauge (422026).

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| **Please provide any comments you may have on the proposed changes to Lower Macquarie River Water Source access rules.**<br>(Attach extra pages if required) | Comment: |

## Changes to access rules in respect to Chifley Dam

For the Macquarie River above Bathurst Management Zone and Campbells River Downstream Management Zone, the current cease to pump rule restricts access when Chifley Dam is at or below 22% capacity.

The proposed cease to pump rule will restrict access when Chifley Dam is at or below 35% capacity. It is also proposed to introduce pumping restrictions when Chifley Dam reaches 45% capacity. These proposed changes are intended to slow down the rate of dam depletion providing more security to Bathurst's town water supply.

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| **Please provide any comments you may have on the proposed changes to access rules.**<br>(Attach extra pages if required) | Comment: |

## Changes to trading

There are limited changes to trading rules. We are proposing to permit limited trade into Backwater Boggy Cowal Water Source (an additional 394 ML). The current WSP rules of the other water sources remains unchanged.

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| **Please provide any comments you may have on the proposed changes to trading.**<br>(Attach extra pages if required) | Comment: |

## Unregulated River (Special Additional High Flow) Licences

Individual access conditions on unregulated river (Special Additional High Flow) licences will be replaced by access rules for each water source based on existing licence conditions so there will be no impact on access.

For the Lower Bogan River Water source, we are proposing an access rule which permits take only when flow is greater than 300 ML/day using Monkey Bridge (421158) and greater than 160 ML/d using Gongolgon Weir (421023) which would apply to any future traded entitlement. Trading will only be permitted to zero share unregulated river (Special Additional High Flow) licences.

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| **Please provide any comments you may have on the proposed unregulated river (Special Additional High Flow) licence rules.**<br><br>(Attach extra pages if required) | Comments: |

## Protection of WSP Prescribed Wetlands

We propose to prohibit new or amended works or trades unless there will be no more than minimal harm to the wetland concerned within WSP Prescribed Wetlands as identified on the wetland map, and 3 km upstream or within a Ramsar wetland. This rule does not apply to replacement works.

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| **Please provide any comments you may have on the proposed wetland rules.**<br><br>(Attach extra pages if required) | Comments: |

| Additional feedback | |
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| The previous sections relate to the key proposed changes from the current water sharing plan. However, comments on all aspects of the plan are welcome and encouraged. Please use the space below, or attachments if required or preferred. | |
| **Comments on any aspects of the draft plan.**<br>(Attach extra pages if required) | |

# Additional Information

If you would like to provide any additional information in the form of supporting documents or files to help us understand your view, email wspconsultation@dpie.nsw.gov.au from the same email you provided above referencing the Macquarie/Wambuul Bogan Unregulated Rivers WSP.

All submissions with approval for publication will be posted on the department's website after the public exhibition period closes along with the final review reports.