



New South Wales

Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source Order 2020

under the

Water Management Act 2000

I, ~~Melinda Pavey, the~~ MELINDA PAVEY MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, ~~do, by this Order,~~ in pursuance of ~~section~~ sections 45(5A) and 50 of the *Water Management Act 2000*, make the following ~~Minister's Plan, being the Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2020~~ Order.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2020.

MELINDA PAVEY, MP
Minister for Water, Property and Housing

Explanatory note

The objects of this Order are to repeal
~~This Plan replaces~~ the *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2016*.

pursuant to
~~This Order is made under~~ section 45(5A) of the Water Management Act 2000 and to make the *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2020* pursuant to section 50 of the *Water Management Act 2000*.

The concurrence of the Minister for Energy and Environment was obtained prior to the making of [the Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2020](#).

FOR INFORMATION

Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source Order 2020

under the

Water Management Act 2000

1 Name of Order

This Order is the *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source Order 2020*.

2 Commencement

This Order commences on the day it is published on the NSW legislation website.

3 Repeal

The *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2016* is repealed on XX XXXXXX 2020.

4 Making of Minister's Plan

The *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2020* set out at Schedule 1 is made on XX XXXXXX 2020.

Note. This Plan commences on XX XXXXXX 2020 in accordance with clause 3 of Schedule 1.

Schedule 1

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Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2020

Notes.

- 1 In accordance with section 48 of the *Water Management Act 2000*, the Minister must take all reasonable steps to give effect to the provisions of this Plan when exercising functions under the Act.
- 2 In accordance with section 49 of the *Water Management Act 2000*, public authorities must also have regard to the provisions of this Plan to the extent they apply to the public authority.
- 3 The Minister may amend this Plan at any time under section 45 of the *Water Management Act 2000*, including if satisfied it is in the public interest to do so, or in such circumstances, in relation to such matters and to such extent as Part 12 of this Plan provides.

Part 1 Introduction

1 Name of Plan

This Plan is the *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2020 (this Plan)*.

2 Nature and status of Plan

- (1) This Plan is made under section 50 of the *Water Management Act 2000 (the Act)*.
- (2) This Plan is a plan for water sharing and generally deals with the matters set out in sections 20 and 21 of the Act, as well as other sections of the Act.

Note. Where a provision of this Plan is made for the purposes of another section of the Act, the section is referred to in the notes to this Plan.

3 Commencement

This Plan commences on [1 July X XXXXXX](#) 2020.

Notes.

- 1 This Plan replaces the *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2016*.
- 2 In accordance with section 43 of the Act, this Plan has effect for 10 years from [1 July X XXXXXX](#) 2020. The Minister may extend this Plan for a further period of 10 years after it is due to expire, in accordance with section 43A of the Act.
- 3 Under the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin* and the associated National Partnership Agreement, NSW has agreed to develop water resource plans for Murray-Darling Basin water resources consistent with the requirements of the Basin Plan. This Plan was made in 2020, partly to meet NSW's commitments under these agreements. Certain provisions of this Plan form part of the water resource plan for the Macquarie-Castlereagh surface water resource plan area.
- 4 **Basin Plan** is defined in the Dictionary.

4 Application of Plan

- (1) This Plan applies to the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source within the Central West Water Management Area (*the water source*).

Note. The Central West Water Management Area was constituted by Ministerial order made under section 11 of the Act and published in the NSW Government Gazette No 180 on 23 November 2001 at page 9389.

- (2) The water in the water source consists of the water between the banks of all rivers, from Windamere Dam water storage downstream to the junction of the Macquarie River and the Barwon River, that have been declared by the Minister to be regulated rivers.

Notes.

- 1 The *Central West Water Management Area Regulated River Order* was made by the Minister and published in the New South Wales Government Gazette No 110 on 1 July 2004 at page 5486 and amended by Part 5 of schedule 12 of the Act.
- 2 **Floodplain harvesting** is defined in the Dictionary.

5 Interpretation

- (1) Unless otherwise defined in this Plan, words and expressions that are defined in the Act or in the regulations made under the Act have the same meaning in this Plan.
- (2) Words and expressions that are defined in the Dictionary at the end of this Plan have the meaning set out in that Dictionary.
- (3) Unless otherwise specified, a clause that applies to a category of access licence also applies to any subcategories of that category of access licence.
- (4) The Dictionary and Schedules to this Plan form part of this Plan.
- (5) A number in brackets following the name of a gauge is the gauge number.
- (6) Notes in the text of this Plan do not form part of this Plan.
- (7) Appendices to this Plan do not form part of this Plan.

Part 2 Vision, objectives, strategies and performance indicators

Notes.

- 1 This Part is made in accordance with section 35 (1) of the Act.
- 2 ~~A monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) plan has been developed for water sources in the Macquarie-Castlereagh surface water resource plan area, which includes the water source, and is available on the Department's website. The MER plan describes the following:~~
 - ~~(a) guidelines and principles for developing broad and targeted objectives, strategies and performance indicators,~~
 - ~~(b) selection criteria used to identify target ecological populations and identify whether they are managed under this Plan,~~
 - ~~(c) selection criteria for identifying priority monitoring locations for targeted objectives,~~
 - ~~(d) selection criteria used to identify external influences that may affect the success of achieving objectives or implementing strategies,~~
 - ~~(e) selection criteria used to determine how the objectives 'to protect' or 'enhance' will be measured for different target populations and performance indicators,~~
 - ~~(f) which strategies contribute to the achievement of which objectives.~~
- 32 This Part describes broad objectives, which are the long-term outcomes sought by this Plan and are not directly measured but evaluated by considering the cumulative achievement of the associated targeted objectives. Targeted objectives described in this Part are specific outcomes that can be achieved by the strategies in this Plan and can be directly measured so that success or failure to achieve the objective can be quantified.

6 Acknowledgement

Respect is paid to the traditional owners of this country, who are acknowledged as the first natural resource managers within the Central West Water Management Area.

7 Vision statement

The vision for this Plan is to provide for the following:

- (a) the health and enhancement of the water source and its water-dependent ecosystems,
- (b) the continuing productive extraction of surface water for economic benefit,
- (c) the spiritual, social, customary and economic benefits of surface water to Aboriginal communities,
- (d) social and cultural benefits to urban and rural communities that depend on surface water.

8 Environmental objectives

- (1) The broad environmental objective of this Plan is to protect, and ~~where possible enhance, contribute to the enhancement of~~ the ecological condition of the water source and its water-dependent ecosystems during the term of this Plan.

~~Note. The ecological condition of the water source will be assess by reference to the condition of high ecological value aquatic ecosystems, target species, communities, populations and key ecosystem functions as defined in the MER Plan for the water source. Water dependent ecosystems in the water source include instream, riparian and floodplain ecosystems.~~

(2) The targeted environmental objectives of this Plan are as follows:

(a) to protect, and ~~where possible enhance, contribute to the enhancement of~~ the following over the term of this Plan:

(i) the recorded distribution or extent, and population structure, of target ecological populations,

Notes.

- 1 **Target ecological populations** is defined in the Dictionary.
- 2 Target ecological populations in this water source may include known or predicted populations of the following:
 - (a) native fish including golden perch, eel-tailed catfish, Murray cod, purple-spotted gudgeon and olive perchlet,
 - (b) native vegetation including river red gum woodland and black box-coolibah woodland,
 - (c) high diversity hotspots and significant habitat for native fish, frogs, waterbirds and native vegetation.
- 3 Ramsar wetlands, and the associated ecological communities such as waterbirds and lignum shrubland, are primarily managed by the NSW Environmental Water Manager ~~according to the conditions of this Plan. The targeted objectives, management and monitoring activities for these assets and communities are provided in the MER Plan for this water source.~~
- 4 Measures of population structure may include the abundance or spatial extent of a species, different age classes or life stages within a species population, or measures that describe the health and condition of species or populations.

(ii) the longitudinal and lateral connectivity within and between water sources to support target ecological processes,

Notes.

- 1 Longitudinal connectivity means flows along the length of the river and between hydrologically connected rivers. Lateral connectivity means flows between the river and its anabranches, riparian zones, wetlands and floodplains.
- 2 Target ecological processes in the water source include the following:
 - (a) carbon and nutrient transport pathways, which are the connected networks of stream, riparian zones, floodplains and wetlands that transport dissolved and suspended organic material and nutrients throughout the water source,
 - (b) fish movement across significant barriers, as identified by NSW Department of Primary Industries Fisheries ~~and described in the MER plan for the water source.~~
- 3 Connectivity may be within the water source, and between the water source and other water sources.

(iii) water quality within target ranges for the water source to support water-dependent ecosystems and ecosystem functions,

Note. Water quality targets for the water source are defined in the Water Quality Management Plan for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Plan Area SW11 and the NSW State Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring Plan.

- (b) to support environmental watering in the water source to contribute to maintaining or enhancing ecological condition in streams, riparian zones, dependent wetlands and floodplains.
- (3) The strategies for reaching the targeted environmental objectives of this Plan are as follows:

- (a) ~~reserve all water in excess of~~ maintain compliance with the long-term average annual extraction limit and ~~the long-term average sustainable diversion~~ limit for the environment,

Note. Part 46 of this Plan ~~reserves all water remaining above~~ sets out the provisions for maintaining compliance with the long-term average annual extraction limit and the long-term average sustainable diversion limit ~~for the environment. This contributes to the protection of target ecological populations.~~

- (b) reserve a portion share of natural flows water to partially mitigate alterations to natural flow regimes in the water source,

Notes.

- 1 **Flow regimes** and **natural flow** are defined in the Dictionary.
- 2 The provisions in Divisions 1 and 2 of Part 10 mitigate the alterations to low and medium flows in the natural flow regimes of the water source.

- (c) reserve a portion share of natural flows water to maintain longitudinal and lateral connectivity within and between water sources,

Note. The provisions in Division 3 of Part 8 and Divisions 1 and 2 of Part 10 contribute to maintaining the hydrological connectivity between the water source and connected wetlands by protecting a portion of medium and high natural flows.

- (d) reserve a share of water to support environmental watering events in streams, riparian zones, floodplains and wetlands connected to the water source,

Note. The provisions in Divisions 1 and 2 of Part 10 ensure that environmental water allowances are maintained.

- (e) contribute to the management of critical environmental and water quality events in downstream connected water sources.

Note. The provisions in Division 3 of Part 8 and Division 2 of Part 10 regulate the announcement of supplementary water events and establish a Macquarie EWA which may be used to provide connectivity between the water source and adjacent water sources.

- (4) The performance indicator used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the broad environmental objective in subclause (1) is an evaluation of the extent to which the combined outcomes of the targeted objectives in subclause (2) have contributed to the achieving the broad objective.

- (5) The performance indicators used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the targeted environmental objectives in subclause (2) are the changes or trends in ecological condition during the term of this Plan, as assessed using one or more of the following:
- (a) the recorded range, extent or condition of target ecological populations,
 - (b) measurements of carbon and nutrient transport processes and fish movements through priority fish passage areas,
 - (c) the recorded values of water quality measurements including salinity, turbidity, total nitrogen, total phosphorous, pH, water temperature and dissolved oxygen,
 - (d) the magnitude, frequency, timing and water quality of environmental water events.
- (6) In evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies in meeting the objectives in this clause, the following will be relevant:
- (a) the extent to which the strategies in subclause (3) and provisions in this Plan have been implemented and complied with,
 - (b) the extent to which changes in the performance indicators can be attributed to the strategies and provisions in this Plan,
 - (c) the extent to which the strategies in subclause (3) support achievement of the environmental objectives,
 - (d) the extent to which external influences on these water sources during the term of this Plan have affected progress towards achieving the environmental objectives.

Note. External influences may include climate trends, land use patterns, decisions made by the NSW Environmental Water Manager and other factors.

9 Economic objectives

- (1) The broad economic objective of this Plan is to maintain, and where possible improve, access to water to optimise economic benefits for agriculture, surface water-dependent industries and local economies.

- (2) The targeted economic objectives of this Plan are as follows:

- (a) to provide water trading opportunities for surface water-dependent businesses,

Note. Trading is a generic term referring to dealings under Division 4 of Part 2 of [Chapter 3 of the Act](#).

- (b) to maintain, and where possible improve, access to water ~~up to the long-term average sustainable diversion limit~~ for agriculture, surface water-dependent businesses and landholders, [up to the long-term average annual extraction limit and the long-term average sustainable diversion limit](#).

- (c) to contribute to maintaining water quality within target ranges for agriculture, surface water-dependent businesses and landholders.
- (3) The strategies for reaching the targeted economic objectives of this Plan are as follows:
- (a) provide for trade of water allocations and share components subject to environmental and system constraints,
- Note.** The provisions in Part 9 permit a variety of dealings within environmental and system constraints, including assignment of rights under access licences and assignment of water allocations between access licences.
- (b) provide a stable and predictable framework for sharing water among water users,
- Note.** The available water determination provisions in Part 6 and priority of delivery rules in clause 76 provide certainty in how water is to be shared between different categories of access licences.
- (c) provide for flexibility of access to water,
- Note.** The water allocation account management rules in Part 8 provide flexibility that reflects the characteristics of the licence category.
- (d) to manage extractions to the long-term average annual extraction limit and the long-term average sustainable diversion limit, while recognising variability in climatic conditions in different years, including during drought,
- Note.** The application of the long-term average annual extraction limit and the long-term average sustainable diversion limit and the assessment and compliance provisions in Part 6 manage extractions to different climatic conditions in different years.
- (e) provide [access](#) for supplementary water access, ~~subject to announcements, licences~~ to a portion of uncontrolled flows, [subject to announcements](#),
- Notes.**
- 1 ~~Note.~~ The provisions in Division 3 of Part 8 describe the access conditions during supplementary water events.
- 2 [Uncontrolled flows](#) is defined in the Dictionary.
- (f) reserve a [portionshare](#) of [natural flowswater](#) to partially mitigate deterioration in water quality due to alterations to natural flow regimes.
- (4) The performance indicator used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the broad economic objective in subclause (1) is an evaluation of the extent to which the combined outcomes of the targeted economic objectives in subclause (2) have contributed to achieving the broad objective.
- (5) The performance indicators used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the targeted economic objectives in subclause (2) are the changes or trends in economic benefits during the term of this Plan, as assessed using one or more of the following:
- (a) the economic benefits of surface water extraction and use, including the movement of water to higher value uses,

- (b) the economic benefits of water trading as demonstrated by:
 - (i) the annual number or volume of share components of access licences transferred or assigned,
 - (ii) the weighted average unit price of share components of access licences transferred or assigned,
Note. Weighted average unit price is defined in the Dictionary.
 - (iii) the annual volume of water allocations assigned,
 - (iv) the weighted average unit price of water allocations assigned,
 - (c) the recorded values of water quality measurements including salinity, sodium absorption ratio, harmful algal blooms, total nitrogen, total phosphorous, pH, water temperature and dissolved oxygen.
- (6) In evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies in meeting the objectives in this clause, the following will be relevant:
- (a) the extent to which the strategies in subclause (3) and provisions in this Plan have been implemented and complied with,
 - (b) the extent to which the changes in the economic benefits of water extraction and use can be attributed to the strategies in subclause (3) and provisions in this Plan,
 - (c) the water made available during the term of this Plan through available water determinations and the granting of new licences,
 - (d) the extent to which external influences on surface water-dependent businesses during the term of this Plan have affected progress towards achieving the economic objectives.
Note. External influences may include trends in urban, agricultural and industrial development, energy costs, commodity prices, interest rates, technology advances, climate and changes in industry policy or regulation.

10 Aboriginal cultural objectives

- (1) The broad Aboriginal cultural objective of this Plan is to maintain, and where possible enhance, the spiritual, social, customary and economic values and uses of water by Aboriginal people.
- (2) The targeted Aboriginal cultural objectives of this Plan are as follows:
 - (a) to provide access to water in the exercise of native title rights,
 - (b) to provide access to water for Aboriginal cultural use, including fishing,

- (c) to protect, and where possible improve, identified surface water-dependent culturally significant areas, including important riparian vegetation communities,
 - (d) to contribute to the maintenance of water quality within target ranges to ensure suitability of water for Aboriginal cultural use.
- (3) The strategies for reaching the targeted Aboriginal cultural objectives of this Plan are as follows:
- (a) manage access to water consistently with the exercise of native title rights,
 - (b) provide for water associated with Aboriginal cultural values and uses,
Note. The provisions in Part 7 provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to access water by allowing for the granting of an access licence of the subcategory "Aboriginal cultural".
 - (c) reserve a [portionshare](#) of [natural-flowswater](#) to partially mitigate alterations to natural flow regimes in the water source,
 - (d) reserve a [portionshare](#) of [natural-flowswater](#) to maintain longitudinal and lateral connectivity within and between water sources.
- (4) The performance indicator used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the broad Aboriginal cultural objective in subclause (1) is an evaluation of the extent to which the combined outcomes of the targeted Aboriginal cultural objectives in subclause (2) have contributed to achieving the broad objective.
- (5) The performance indicators used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the targeted Aboriginal cultural objectives in subclause (2) are the changes or trends in Aboriginal cultural benefits during the term of this Plan, as assessed using one or more of the following
- (a) the use of water by Aboriginal people by measuring factors including:
 - (i) the extent to which native title rights are able to be exercised, consistently with any determination of native title or indigenous land use agreement,
 - (ii) the extent to which access to water has contributed to achieving Aboriginal cultural outcomes,
 - (b) the recorded range or extent of target populations of native fish,
 - (c) the recorded range or condition of target populations of riparian vegetation,
 - (d) the recorded values of water quality measurements including salinity, harmful algal blooms, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, pH, water temperature and dissolved oxygen.

- (6) In evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies in meeting the objectives in this clause, the following will be relevant:
- (a) the extent to which the strategies in subclause (3) and provisions in this Plan have been implemented and complied with,
 - (b) the extent to which changes in the performance indicators can be attributed to the strategies in subclause (3) and provisions in this Plan,
 - (c) the extent to which the strategies in subclause (3) support achievement of the Aboriginal cultural objectives,
 - (d) the water made available for Aboriginal cultural values and uses during the term of this Plan through available water determinations and the granting of new access licences,
 - (e) the extent to which external influences on surface water-dependent Aboriginal cultural activities during the term of this Plan have affected progress toward achieving the Aboriginal cultural objectives.

Note. External influences may include trends in Aboriginal cultural activity, urban, agricultural and industrial development, climate or changes in policy or regulation.

11 Social and cultural objectives

- (1) The broad social and cultural objective of this Plan is to provide access to surface water to support surface water-dependent social and cultural values.
- (2) The targeted social and cultural objectives of this Plan are to maintain, and where possible improve, the following:
- (a) access to water for basic landholder rights, town water supply and licensed domestic and stock purposes,
 - (b) access to water for surface water-dependent cultural, heritage and recreational uses, including recreational fishing,
 - (c) water quality within target ranges for basic landholder rights, town water supply, domestic and stock purposes and surface water-dependent cultural, heritage and recreational uses, including recreational fishing.
- (3) The strategies for reaching the targeted social and cultural objectives of this Plan are as follows:
- (a) provide water access for basic landholder rights, town water supply, and for licensed domestic and stock purposes,

Note. The rules for the maintenance of water supply and replenishment flows in Part 10 ensure that water is available for basic landholder rights, town water supply and licensed domestic and stock purposes.

- (b) reserve a [portionshare](#) of [natural flowswater](#) to partially mitigate alterations to natural flow regimes in this water source,
- (c) reserve a [portionshare](#) of [natural flowswater](#) to maintain longitudinal and lateral connectivity within and between water sources.

Note. The rules in Division 3 of Part 8 and Division 2 of Part 10 contribute to maintaining the hydrological connectivity between this water source and connected wetlands by protecting a portion of medium and high natural flows.

- (4) The performance indicator used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the broad social and cultural objectives in subclause (1) is an evaluation of the extent to which the combined outcomes of the targeted social and cultural objectives in subclause (2) have contributed to achieving the broad objective.
- (5) The performance indicators used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the targeted social and cultural objectives in subclause (2) are the changes or trends in social and cultural benefits during the term of this Plan, as assessed using one or more of the following:
 - (a) the social and cultural uses of water during the term of this Plan by measuring factors including:
 - (i) the extent to which basic landholder rights and domestic and stock requirements have been met, and
 - (ii) the extent to which major utility access licence and local utility access licence requirements have been met,
 - (b) the recorded range or extent of target populations of native recreational fish,
 - (c) the recorded takes of native fish that are important for recreational fishing within legal age and size classes,
 - (d) the recorded values of water quality measurements including salinity, harmful algal blooms, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, pH, water temperature and dissolved oxygen.
- (6) In evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies in meeting the objectives in this clause, the following will be relevant:
 - (a) the extent to which the strategies in subclause (3) and provisions in this Plan have been implemented and complied with,
 - (b) the extent to which the changes in the performance indicators can be attributed to the strategies in subclause (3) and provisions in this Plan,

- (c) the extent to which the strategies in subclause (3) support achievement of the social and cultural objectives,
- (d) the water made available during the term of this Plan through available water determinations and the granting of new licences,
- (e) the extent to which external influences on surface water-dependent social and cultural activities during the term of this Plan have affected progress towards achieving the social and cultural objectives.

Note. External influences may include trends in urban, agricultural and industrial development, social or cultural behaviour, climate or changes in policy or regulation.

Part 3 Bulk access regime

12 Bulk access regime

- (1) This Plan establishes a bulk access regime for the extraction of water under access licences, having regard to the following:
 - (a) the environmental water provisions established under Part 4,
 - (b) the requirements for water to satisfy basic landholder rights identified under Part 5,
 - (c) the requirements for water for extraction under access licences under Part 5,
 - (d) the access licence dealing rules established under Part 9 of this Plan.
- (2) The bulk access regime:
 - (a) establishes rules according to which:
 - (i) access licences are ~~to~~ granted as provided for in Part 7,
 - (ii) available water determinations are to be made as provided for in Part 6,
 - (iii) access licences are ~~to be~~ managed as provided for in Part 8,
 - (b) establishes rules with respect to the priorities according to which water allocations are to be adjusted as a consequence of any reduction in the availability of water due to an increase in extraction above the long-term average annual extraction limit or long-term average sustainable diversion limit in Part 6, and
 - (c) recognises, and is consistent with, the following:
 - (i) the limits to the availability of water as provided for in Part 6,
 - (ii) the water management principles set out in section 5 of the Act,
 - (iii) the effect of climatic variability on the availability of water as described in clause 13, and
 - (d) contains provisions with respect to the mandatory conditions imposed on access licences in Part 11.

13 Climatic variability

This Plan recognises the effects of climatic variability on river flow in the water source through provisions contained in Part 6 that:

- (a) manage the sharing of water within the limits of water availability on a long-term basis, and

- (b) establish priorities according to which water allocations are to be adjusted as a consequence of any reduction in the availability of water due to an increase in extraction against the long-term average annual extraction limit or the long-term average sustainable diversion limit, and
- (c) manage the sharing of water between categories of access licences on an annual basis through available water determinations.

Note. Other statutory tools are available to manage for climatic variability within a water source, for example, temporary water restrictions under section 324 of the Act.

FOR INFORMATION

Part 4 Environmental water provisions

Note. This Part is made in accordance with section 8 of the Act.

14 General

This Part contains environmental water provisions that commit, identify, establish and maintain planned environmental water.

Note. In accordance with the Act, planned environmental water is water that is committed by management plans for fundamental ecosystem health or other specified environmental purposes, either generally or at specified times or in specified circumstances and that cannot, to the extent committed, be taken or used for any other purpose.

15 Commitment and identification of planned environmental water

Water is committed and identified as planned environmental water by reference to the following:

- (a) the physical presence of water in the water source,
- (b) the long-term average annual commitment of water as planned environmental water.

16 Establishment and maintenance of planned environmental water

(1) Planned environmental water is established in the water source as follows:

- (a) the physical presence of water resulting from the following:
 - (i) the Cudgegong environmental water allowance rules specified in Division 1 of Part 10,

Note. The rules in Division 1 of Part 10 establish an environmental water allowance in Windamere Dam which may be used to make releases for environmental purposes in the Cudgegong River downstream to Burrendong Dam.

- (ii) the Macquarie environmental water allowance rules specified in clause Division 2 of Part 10,

Note. The rules in Division 2 of Part 10 establish an environmental water allowance in Burrendong Dam which may be used to make releases for environmental purposes in the Macquarie River downstream to the Macquarie Marshes.

- ~~(iii) the limitations on access to flows for supplementary water access licences specified in Division 3 of Part 8,~~

- (b) the long-term average annual commitment of water as planned environmental water, resulting from compliance with the long-term average annual extraction limit and the long-term average sustainable diversion limit in Part 6.

(2) The planned environmental water established under subclause (1) (a) is maintained by: [the environmental water allowance provisions in Divisions 1 and 2 of Part 10.](#)

- ~~(a) the environmental water allowance provisions in Divisions 1 and 2 of Part 10, and~~
- ~~(b) the limitations on access to flows for supplementary water access licences as specified in Division 3 of Part 8.~~

- (3) The planned environmental water established under subclause (1) (b) is maintained by the provisions specified in Part 6.

Note. The provisions in Part 6 ensure that there will be water remaining in the water source over the long term by maintaining compliance with the long-term average annual extraction limit and the long-term average sustainable diversion limit. The provisions in Part 6 also provide for reduced available water determinations when either of the limits has been assessed to have been exceeded.

FOR INFORMATION

Part 5 Requirements for water

Division 1 General

17 Application

- (1) This Part identifies the requirements for water for basic landholder rights and for extraction under access licences in the water source.
- (2) The volumes of water specified in this Part represent the estimated requirements for water to satisfy basic landholder rights and the total volumes or unit shares specified in the share components of all access licences on commencement of this Plan.
- (3) This Plan recognises that requirements for water for basic landholder rights and the total share components of access licences may change during the term of this Plan.

Notes.

- 1 The total share components of access licences in the water source may change during the term of this Plan as a result of:
 - (a) the grant, surrender or cancellation of access licences in the water source, or
 - (b) the variation of local water utility access licences under section 66 of the Act.
- 2 Basic landholder rights requirements may increase as provided for under the Act. This Plan manages changes in basic landholder rights and total share components of all access licences through provisions in Part 6 that manage the sharing of water within the limits of water availability.
- 3 Inherent water quality and land use activities may make the water in some areas unsuitable for human consumption. Water should not be consumed or otherwise used without first being tested and, if necessary, appropriately treated to ensure it is fit for purpose. Testing and treatment is the responsibility of the water user.

Division 2 Requirements for water for basic landholder rights

Note. Under the Act, basic landholder rights are defined as domestic and stock rights, native title rights and harvestable rights. There are no harvestable rights in the water source.

18 Domestic and stock rights

On the commencement of this Plan, the water requirements of persons entitled to domestic and stock rights are estimated to total 1,200 megalitres per year (*ML/year*).

Notes.

- 1 Domestic and stock rights are set out in section 52 of the Act and must be exercised in accordance with any mandatory guidelines established under the Act for the taking and use of water for domestic consumption or stock watering.
- 2 Under section 331 of the Act, the Minister may direct the holder of a domestic and stock right to take specified measures to protect the environment, to preserve basic landholder rights or to overcome a threat to public health.
- 3 The volumes set out in this clause are separate from any volumes of water that may be taken under an access licence for domestic and stock purposes.

19 Native title rights

The requirement for water to satisfy native title rights is the water that may be taken in the exercise of native title rights in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* of the Commonwealth, including:

- (a) any determination of native title, and
- (b) any indigenous land use agreement.

Notes.

- 1 No determinations of native title in relation to the water source have been made in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* of the Commonwealth.
- 2 This Plan may be amended if there is a native title determination in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* of the Commonwealth by which water is required.
- 3 Native title rights may be exercised in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* of the Commonwealth, including section 211 of that Act.

Division 3 Requirements for water under access licences

Notes.

- 1 The share components in this Division include licensed environmental water as defined in section 8 of the Act. The Environmental Water Register maintained by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment provides a record of licensed environmental water, as well as other water intended to be used for environmental purposes.
- 2 As at 1 July 2020, the licensed environmental water referred to in Note 1 comprises two access licences with adaptive environmental water conditions totalling 1,136.9 unit shares.
- 3 As at 1 July 2020, there are 20 other access licences with share components totalling 182,755.5 unit shares that are not identified as licensed environmental water but are intended to be used for environmental purposes and are included in the Division. Some of these are held by the Commonwealth Government and others by the NSW Government.
- 4 This Division sets out the total volumes or unit shares in the share components of access licences in the water source as at 1 July 2020. The actual volume of water available from year to year will depend on climate, access licence priority and the provisions in this Plan.

20 Share components of domestic and stock access licences

On the commencement of this Plan, it is estimated that the share components of domestic and stock access licences total 5,963 ML/year.

21 Share components of local water utility access licences

On the commencement of this Plan, it is estimated that the share components of local water utility access licences total 18,805 ML/year.

22 Share components of regulated river (high security) access licences

On the commencement of this Plan, it is estimated that the share components of regulated river (high security) access licences total 17,913 unit shares.

23 Share components of regulated river (general security) access licences

On the commencement of this Plan, it is estimated that the share components of regulated river (general security) access licences total 632,466 unit shares.

24 Share components of supplementary water access licences

On the commencement of this Plan, it is estimated that the share components of supplementary water access licences total 49,998 unit shares.

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Part 6 Limits to the availability of water

Note. This Part sets out the rules for managing the availability of water for extraction in accordance with the following annual extraction limits:

- (a) a long-term average annual extraction limit,
- (b) a long-term average sustainable diversion limit.

Division 1 Calculations under this Part

25 Exclusions, inclusions and variations in calculations

- (1) This clause applies to the calculation of the following:
 - (a) the long-term average annual extraction limit under clause 26,
 - (b) average annual extraction under clause 27,
 - (c) the annual permitted take under clause 30,
 - (d) the annual actual take under clause 30.

Note. *Annual actual take* and *annual permitted take* are defined in the Dictionary.
- (2) The calculation by the Minister to which this clause applies must:
 - (a) exclude the following:
 - (i) allocations assigned from an access licence in the water source to an access licence in another water source under section 71T of the Act,
 - (ii) environmental water flows provided for in Division 1 and 2 of Part 10 of this Plan,
 - (iii) replenishment flows made in accordance with clause 74 of this Plan,
 - (iv) in relation to average annual extraction under clause 27 only, water committed as licensed environmental water under section 8F of the Act,
 - (b) include allocations assigned to an access licence in the water source from an access licence in another water source under section 71T of the Act.
- (3) The calculation by the Minister of the long-term average annual extraction limit under clause 26 must be adjusted by a volume that appropriately reflects the following:
 - (a) the share components of water access licences in the water source that are subject to a dealing under section 71U of the Act,
 - (b) any change to the amount of water committed as licensed environmental water as determined under section 8F of the Act.

Division 2 Long-term average annual extraction limit

26 Calculation of the long-term average annual extraction limit

- (1) Following the end of each water year, the Minister must calculate the long-term average annual extraction limit for the water source in accordance with this clause and clause 25.
- (2) The long-term average annual extraction limit is the lesser of the following:
 - (a) average annual extraction calculated based on the following:
 - (i) the water storages and water use development that existed in [the 1999/2000 water year](#),
 - (ii) the basic landholder rights and access licence share components that existed on 1 July 2004,
 - (iii) the level of development for plantation forestry that existed on 30 June 2009,
 - (iv) the level of development for floodplain harvesting that existed in the 1999/2000 water year in connection with extractions from a regulated river in the water source, as assessed by the Minister,
 - (v) the maximum crop area and the crop planting behaviour representative of baseline conditions used for assessment of Cap under Schedule E of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement,
 - (vi) the environmental water provisions specified in clause 15 (2), 15 (3), 15 (6), 15 (7), 15 (8), 15 (12), 15 (16) and 15 (22) of the *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated River Water Source 2003*, as at 1 July 2004,
 - (vii) the rules in the *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2003* as at 1 July 2004, other than the environmental water provisions in Part 3 of that Plan.
 - (b) average annual extraction calculated under Cap baseline conditions as agreed under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement that was in place at the commencement of the *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2003*.
- (3) For the purposes of subclause (2) average annual extraction is to be calculated over the duration of available climate records using the hydrological computer model approved by the Minister and is separate to the calculation of the average annual extraction under clause 27.

Notes.

- 1 Under section 8F of the Act the long-term average annual extraction limit is to be varied by any change to licensed environmental water, excluding water committed under section 8C of the Act.
- 2 The long-term average annual extraction limit recognises the effect of climatic variability on the availability of water, in accordance with section 20 (2) (c) of the Act, as historic climate and river flow information is used in its determination.
- 3 **Plantation forestry** is defined in the Dictionary.

27 Calculation of average annual extraction

The Minister, using the hydrological computer model approved by the Minister, is to calculate the average annual extraction following the end of each water year, calculated over the duration of available climate records and based on the following:

- (a) the water storages and water use development that existed in that water year,
- (b) the basic landholder rights and access licence share components that existed in that water year,
- (c) the ~~current~~ rules in this Plan, or in the water sharing plan that this Plan replaces, that applied in that water year,
- (d) the level of development for plantation forestry in that water year,
- (e) ~~(e)~~ the level of development for floodplain harvesting that existed in that water year in conjunction with extractions under an access licence in the water source.

Note. It is intended that the Department's current conditions hydrological computer model will be updated each water year and used to calculate average annual extraction under this clause.

28 Assessment of compliance with the long-term average annual extraction limit

- (1) Following the calculations under clauses 26 and 27, the Minister is to compare average annual extraction against the long-term average annual extraction limit.
- (2) There is non-compliance with the long-term average annual extraction limit if average annual extraction exceeds:
 - (a) the long-term average annual extraction limit by the following:
 - (i) 3% or more,
 - (ii) more than half the difference between the average annual extraction calculated under clause 26 (2) (a) and (b),
 - (b) the average annual extraction calculated under clause 26 (2) (b).

Division 3 Long-term average sustainable diversion limit

29 Calculation of the long-term average sustainable diversion limit

- (1) Subject to any variation under subclause (2), the long-term average sustainable diversion limit for the water source is:
 - (a) the component of the baseline diversion limit for the Macquarie-Castlereagh surface water SDL resource unit as determined under Schedule 3 of the Basin Plan, that in the Minister's opinion is attributable to the water source, minus
 - (b) 55,000 ML/year, minus
 - (c) the Macquarie-Castlereagh surface water SDL resource unit shared reduction amount as determined under section 6.05 of the Basin Plan.
- (2) The long-term average sustainable diversion limit is to be varied as determined under Chapter 7 of the Basin Plan.

Notes.

- 1 **Baseline diversion limit** and **SDL resource unit shared reduction amount** are defined in the Dictionary.
- 2 The long-term sustainable diversion limit for the Macquarie-Castlereagh surface water SDL Resource Unit as specified in Schedule 2 of the Basin Plan covers extraction from the water source, the Castlereagh River Unregulated Water Sources and the Macquarie Bogan Unregulated Water Sources.
- 3 The subtraction of 55,000 ML/year and the SDL resource unit shared reduction amount are prescribed in Schedule 2 of the Basin Plan.

30 Calculation of annual permitted take and annual actual take for the water year

- (1) Following the end of each water year, the Minister is to calculate the annual permitted take and annual actual take of water for the previous water year in accordance with Division 2 of Part 4 of Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan.
- (2) For the purposes of the calculation, references to the SDL resource unit in Division 2 of Part 4 of Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan are taken to be references to the water source.

Notes.

- 1 Take of licensed environmental water and [take](#) under licences held by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder are not included in the calculation as they fall outside the definition of take for consumptive use.
- 2 **Consumptive use** and **take** are defined in section 4 of the *Water Act 2007* of the Commonwealth.

31 Assessment of compliance with the long-term average sustainable diversion limit

- (1) Following the calculations under clause 30 after the end of each water year, the Minister is to undertake an assessment of compliance with the long-term average sustainable

diversion limit in accordance with the requirements of Division 2 of Part 4 of Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan.

- (2) There is non-compliance with the long-term average sustainable diversion limit in the circumstances set out in Division 2 of Part 4 of Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan.

Division 4 Compliance with extraction and diversion limits

32 Action following non-compliance

- (1) Subject to subclauses (2) to (4), if an assessment under clauses 28 or 31 demonstrates non-compliance with either the long-term average annual extraction limit or the long-term average sustainable diversion limit, the Minister is to take one or both of the following actions:
 - (a) make future available water determinations for supplementary water access licences of less than 1 ML per unit share,
 - (b) reduce the limit to the sum of available water determinations that may be made for regulated river (general security) access licences.

Note. The limit to the sum of water allocations that may be made for regulated river (general security) access licences is specified in clause 33.

- (2) The Minister may take one or more of the actions specified in [subclauses 1 \(a\) and 1 \(b\)](#) if an assessment under clause 31 would have demonstrated non-compliance with the long-term average sustainable diversion limit but for their being a reasonable excuse, as provided for in Division 2 of Part 4 of Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan.
- (3) An action taken in accordance with [subclauses \(1\) and \(2\)](#) is to be taken to the extent to which, and only for as long as, the Minister considers the following is necessary:
 - (a) in the case of non-compliance with the long-term average annual extraction limit— to return average annual extraction in the water source to the long-term average annual extraction limit,
 - (b) in the case of non-compliance with the long-term average sustainable diversion limit— to meet the requirements of Division 2 of Part 4 of Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan,
 - (c) in the case where non-compliance with the long-term average sustainable diversion limit would have occurred but for there being a reasonable excuse— to meet the requirements of Division 2 of Part 4 of Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan.

- (4) The Minister must not take action under subclause (1) or (2) to reduce the limit to the sum of available water determinations that may be made for regulated river (general security) access licences unless the Minister has made an available water determination for supplementary water access licences of zero.
- (5) Before taking action under subclause (1) or (2), the Minister may consult with water user representatives on the following:
 - (a) the data used for the calculations under Divisions 2 and 3,
 - (b) the proposed actions under Division 4.

Division 5 Available water determinations

33 General

- (1) Available water determinations for access licences are to be expressed as one of the following:
 - (a) with respect to access licences specifying share components as ML/year— a percentage of the share component,
 - (b) with respect to access licences specifying share components as a number of unit shares— ML per unit share.
- (2) The sum of available water determinations made for any access licence must not exceed the following in any water year, except where subclause (3) applies:
 - (a) for any access licence where share components are specified as ML/year— 100% of the share component,
 - (b) for any access licence specifying the share component as a number of unit shares— 1 ML per unit share of the share component or ~~such lower amount that reflects reductions made in accordance with~~ any lower limit determined under clause 32.
- (3) The limits specified in subclause (2) do not apply to available water determinations made in the following circumstances:
 - (a) to regulated river (high security) access licences in accordance with clause 36 (3),
 - (b) to regulated river (general security) access licences in accordance with clause 37 (4).

34 Available water determinations for domestic and stock access licences

Unless the Minister otherwise determines, at the commencement of each water year an available water determination of 100% of the access licence share component is to be made for domestic and stock access licences.

35 Available water determinations for local water utility access licences

Unless the Minister otherwise determines, at the commencement of each water year an available water determination of 100% of the access licence share component is to be made for local water utility access licences.

36 Available water determinations for regulated river (high security) access licences

- (1) Unless the Minister otherwise determines and subject to subclause (2), at the commencement of each water year an available water determination is to be made for regulated river (high security) access licences of 1 ML per unit share.
- (2) The Minister must not make an available water determination under this clause unless sufficient water is available for all of the following:
 - (a) to meet the provisions in Division 1 and 2 of Part 10,
 - (b) to meet the requirements for basic landholder rights,
 - (c) to make available water determinations totalling 100% of access licence share components for both domestic and stock access licences and local water utility access licences,
 - (d) to provide for existing water allocations in regulated river (general security) access licence water allocation accounts,
 - (e) to account for water losses associated with holding and delivering the water:
 - (i) as a result of the available water determinations made in accordance with subclause (1),
 - (ii) referred to in paragraphs (a) – (d) above.
- (3) The Minister is to make an available water determination for regulated river (high security) access licences of 1 ML per unit share after taking any action to withdraw water allocations under clause 48.

Notes.

- 1 If the available water determination is less than 1 ML per unit share, the Minister may conduct further assessments of available water resources and may make further available water determinations subject to clause 33.

- 2 Clause 48 allows the Minister to withdraw all water allocations remaining in all AWD sub-accounts. If this occurs, the Minister is to make further available water determinations to re-credit regulated river (high security) access licence and regulated river (general security) access licence accounts. Once this has occurred, this process of withdrawal and re-crediting will occur again for the remainder of the water year, each time the water level in Burrendong Dam water storage re-enters the FMZ.

37 Available water determinations for regulated river (general security) access licences

- (1) The Minister is to assess if water is available for the making of an available water determination for regulated river (general security) access licences, at least monthly.
- (2) For the purposes of the assessment, water is not available unless sufficient water is available for the following:
- (a) to meet the provisions in Division 1 and 2 of Part 10,
 - (b) to meet the requirements for basic landholder rights,
 - (c) to make available water determinations totalling 100% of access licence share components for both domestic and stock access licences and local water utility access licences,
 - (d) to make available water determinations totalling 1 ML per unit share for regulated river (high security) access licences,
 - (e) to provide for existing water allocations in regulated river (general security) access licence water allocation accounts,
 - (f) to account for water losses associated with holding and delivering the water:
 - (i) as a result of the available water determination made in accordance with subclause (3),
 - (ii) referred to in paragraphs (a) to (e) above.
- (3) If the Minister assesses under subclause (1) that water is available, the Minister is to consider making an available water determination for regulated river (general security) access licences.
- (4) Unless the Minister otherwise determines, an available water determination for regulated river (general security) access licences that is equal to the limit specified in clause 33 (2) (b) is to be made whenever water is withdrawn under clause 48.

Note. Clause 48 allows the Minister to withdraw all water allocations remaining in all AWD sub-accounts. If this occurs, the Minister is to make further available water determinations to re-credit regulated river (high security) access licence and regulated river (general security) access licence accounts. Once this has occurred, this process of withdrawal and re-crediting will occur again for the remainder of the water year each time the water level in Burrendong Dam water storage re-enters the FMZ.

38 Available water determinations for supplementary water access licences

Unless the Minister otherwise determines, at the commencement of each water year an available water determination of 1 ML per unit share is to be made for supplementary water access licences unless a lower amount is determined under clause 32.

Note. The taking of water under a supplementary water access licence is subject to the provisions in Division 3 of Part 8.

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Part 7 Rules for granting access licences

Notes.

- 1 This Part is made in accordance with sections 61 and 63 of the Act. Section 61 of the Act provides for applications for specific purpose access licences in accordance with the regulations and the relevant water sharing plan.
- 2 Access licences granted in the water source will be subject to mandatory conditions required to be imposed by this Plan, the regulations and the Act, and may also be subject to discretionary conditions.

39 Rules for specific purpose access licences

- (1) The Minister must not grant a specific purpose access licence unless satisfied that the share and extraction components of the access licence are the minimum required for the proposed use.
- (2) A person may make an application for a regulated river (high security) (Aboriginal cultural) access licence if the share component of the proposed access licence is no greater than 10 ML/year.
- (3) The Minister may only grant a regulated river (high security) (Aboriginal cultural) access licence for the taking of water by an Aboriginal person or Aboriginal community for any personal, domestic or communal purpose, including drinking, food preparation, washing, manufacturing traditional artefacts, watering domestic gardens, cultural teaching, hunting, fishing, gathering, and for recreational, cultural and ceremonial purposes.

Note. *Aboriginal person* is defined in the Dictionary.

Part 8 Operation of water allocation accounts and managing access licences

Notes.

- 1 Section 85 of the Act and the regulations provide for the keeping of water allocation accounts for access licences. The provisions in this Part restrict the water that may be taken under, or assigned from, an access licence over a specified period of time, and the unused water allocations in water allocation accounts that may be carried over from one water year to the next. These restrictions are in addition to any other limits on access licences for the taking or assignment of water. It is an offence under section 60C of the Act to take water under an access licence for which there is no or insufficient water allocation.
- 2 The provisions in this Part apply to the following persons:
 - (a) the Minister in managing water allocation accounts,
 - (b) the access licence holder, as required by mandatory conditions imposed on the access licence under Part 11.

Division 1 Accounting for water allocation accounts

40 Debits from an individual water allocation account

- (1) Unless subclause (2) applies, the Minister must debit the volume of water extracted by the water supply works nominated by an access licence from the water allocation account for the licence.
- (2) If the Minister has given written notice to the holder of an access licence in accordance with a water order debiting protocol established by the Minister, the Minister must debit the greater of the following from the water allocation account for the licence:
 - (a) the volume of water extracted by the water supply works nominated by the access licence,
 - (b) the water ordered for extraction under the access licence.

Note. It is intended that the Minister may take action under subclause (2) if water orders from a particular licence holder exceed the volume of water taken under the licence and this cannot be explained by rainfall or other unavoidable factors, as set out in the Macquarie-Cudgegong Water Order Debiting Protocol developed in consultation between the Department, [WaterNSW](#) and water user representatives.

41 Limits on water allocation accounts and carryover

- (1) Water allocations remaining in the water allocation account must not be carried over from one water year to the next water year for the following categories of licence:
 - (a) domestic and stock access licence,
 - (b) local water utility access licence,
 - (c) regulated river (high security) access licence,
 - (d) supplementary water access licence.

- (2) Subject to clause 44, water allocations remaining in the water allocation account must be carried over from one water year to the next water year for regulated river (general security) access licence.

Division 2 Account management rules for regulated river (high security) and regulated river (general security) access licences

Notes.

- 1 This Division is made under sections 21 (c) and 85 (5) of the Act.
- 2 This Division provides for the keeping of water allocation accounts for regulated river (high security) and regulated river (general security) access licences in the form of two sub-accounts, in accordance with clause 17 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018*.
- 3 This Division sets out when water allocations are to be withdrawn by the Minister in the Cudgegong and Macquarie segments of the water source. **Cudgegong AWD sub-account**, **Cudgegong carryover sub-account**, **Macquarie AWD sub-account** and **Macquarie carryover sub-account** are defined in the Dictionary.

42 General

- (1) This Division applies to the water allocation accounts of regulated river (high security) access licences and regulated river (general security) access licences.
- (2) The Minister is to maintain the following sub-accounts within each water allocation account:
 - (a) an available water determination sub-account (the **AWD sub-account**),
 - (b) a carryover sub-account.

Note. The only way a regulated river (high security) access licence can obtain water in its carryover sub-account is through an assignment from the carryover sub-account of a regulated river (general security) access licence under section 71T of the Act.

43 Credits and debits to water allocation sub-accounts

- (1) Water allocations arising from an available water determination must be credited to each AWD sub-account.
- (2) Water allocations debited under subclauses 40 (1) or (2) must be debited from the carryover sub-account until that sub-account balance reaches zero and then debited from the AWD sub-account.
- (3) Water allocations assigned under section 71T of the Act from a carryover sub-account must be credited to the receiving carryover sub-account.
- (4) Water allocations assigned under section 71T of the Act from an AWD sub-account must be credited to the receiving AWD sub-account.

- (5) At the end of each water year, water allocations remaining in an AWD sub-account are to be debited from that account and, subject to the limits specified in clause 44, credited to the carryover sub-account.

44 Limits on carryover sub-accounts

- (1) The Minister must not allow allocations in a Cudgegong carryover sub-account for an access licence, not including an access licence listed in Schedule 1, to exceed 1ML per unit share.
- (2) The Minister must not allow allocations in a Cudgegong carryover sub-account for an access licence specified in Column 1 of the Table to Schedule 1 to exceed the following:
- (a) the amount specified in Column 3 of the Table to Schedule 1 adjacent to the access licence in Column 1, if no dealing has taken place which, in the opinion of the Minister, has resulted in all, or part of, the water extracted under the access licence being used on a landholding other than the landholding on which the water was being used as at 1 July 2004, or
 - (b) the amount specified in Column 3 of the Table to Schedule 1 adjacent to the access licence in Column 1, minus the share component of the access licence affected by any dealing which, in the opinion of the Minister, has resulted in all or part of the water extracted under the access licence being used on a landholding other than the landholding on which the water was being used as at 1 July 2004.
- (2) The Minister must not allow allocations in a Macquarie carryover sub-account to exceed 1ML per unit share.

45 Withdrawals from carryover sub-accounts due to evaporation

At the end of each three-month period, the Minister is to withdraw an amount of water allocation from each carryover sub-account to reflect additional storage losses arising from water carried over under clause 43 (5), as determined by the Minister.

Note: Water which is carried over leads to additional surface area in Windamere Dam and Burrendong Dam, which in turn increases the evaporation losses.

46 Withdrawals from Cudgegong carryover sub-accounts due to dam spills

Notes.

- 1 The effect of clauses 46, 47 and 48 is to “reset” the water allocation accounts for regulated river (high security) and regulated river (general security) access licences when water levels in the dams reach a certain height, which is effectively following dam spills or if water levels in Burrendong Dam are in the FMZ. When this occurs, the Minister is to make a new available water determination in accordance with clause 37 (4).
- 2 ***Burrendong Dam water storage, Cudgegong carryover sub-account, Cudgegong EWA carryover sub-account, FMZ and Macquarie carryover sub-account*** are defined in the Dictionary.

- (1) Subject to subclause (2), the Minister must withdraw an amount of water allocation from each Cudgegong carryover sub-account after the end of each month during which:
 - (a) water spills from Windamere Dam, and
 - (b) the water level in Burrendong Dam water storage is in the FMZ for all or part of the month.
- (2) The total amount of water allocation to be withdrawn from all Cudgegong carryover sub-accounts under subclause (1) is the lesser of the following:
 - (a) the total amount in all Cudgegong carryover sub-accounts at the end of the month (excluding any remaining water allocations assigned from a Macquarie carryover sub-account in that water year), minus the amount debited from the Cudgegong EWA carryover sub-account under clause 62 (1),
 - (b) the total volume of water spilled from Windamere Dam water storage when the water level in Burrendong Dam water storage was in the FMZ for the month, minus the amount debited from the Cudgegong EWA carryover sub-account under clause 62 (1),
- (3) In this clause, the amount of water allocation the Minister is to withdraw under subclause (1) from each Cudgegong carryover sub-account is equal to the amount calculated using the formula:

$$(TA / TC) \times IC$$

where:

TA is the total amount of water allocation to be withdrawn from all Cudgegong carryover subaccounts in accordance with subclause (2),

TC is the total amount in all Cudgegong carryover sub-accounts at the end of the month, excluding any remaining water allocations assigned from a Macquarie carryover sub-account in that water year,

IC is the amount in the individual Cudgegong carryover sub-account at the end of the month, excluding any water allocations assigned from a Macquarie carryover sub-account in that water year.

47 Withdrawals from Macquarie carryover sub-accounts due to dam spills

- (1) Subject to subclause (2), the Minister must withdraw an amount of water allocation from each Macquarie carryover sub-account at the end of each month in which the water level in Burrendong Dam water storage was in the FMZ for all, or part of, the month.

- (2) The total amount of water allocation the Minister is to withdraw from all Macquarie carryover sub-accounts under subclause (1) is the lesser of the following:
- (a) the total amount of water allocation in all Macquarie carryover sub-accounts (excluding any water allocations assigned from a Cudgegong carryover sub-account in that water year) at the end of the month,
 - (b) the amount calculated using the formula:

$$TI \times TC / (TC + EC)$$

where:

TI is the total volume of inflow to Burrendong Dam water storage when the water level in Burrendong Dam water storage is in the FMZ for that month,

TC is the total amount in Macquarie carryover sub-accounts at the end of the month (excluding any water allocations assigned from a Cudgegong carryover sub-account in that water year),

EC is the volume of water carried over in the Macquarie EWA from the previous water year.

- (3) In this clause, the amount of water allocation the Minister is to withdraw under subclause (1) from each Macquarie carryover sub-account is equal to the amount calculated using the formula:

$$(TA / TC) \times IC$$

where:

TA is the total amount of water allocation the Minister is to withdraw from all Macquarie carryover sub-accounts in accordance with subclause (2),

TC is the total amount in all Macquarie carryover sub-accounts at the end of the month (excluding any water allocations assigned from a Cudgegong carryover sub-account in that water year),

IC is the amount remaining in the individual Macquarie carryover sub-account.

48 Simultaneous emptying of Cudgegong and Macquarie sub-accounts

- (1) If, as a result of action under subclause 47 (1), the balance of all Macquarie carryover sub-accounts reaches zero, the Minister is to withdraw all water allocations from all Cudgegong and Macquarie AWD sub-accounts.

- (2) If the Minister has taken action under subclause (1) and the water level of Burrendong Dam water storage re-enters the FMZ in that water year, the Minister is to withdraw all water allocations from all Cudgegong and Macquarie AWD sub-accounts.

Note. The effect of this clause and the available water determination rules in clauses 36 and 37 is that all AWD sub-accounts will be emptied and re-credited with a volume equivalent to 1 ML per unit share (or a lower amount if required for extraction limit compliance purposes) when all water allocations held in Macquarie carryover sub-accounts has been withdrawn by the Minister under this clause. Once this has occurred in a water year, all AWD sub-accounts will continue to be emptied and re-credited whenever the water level in Burrendong water storage re-enters the FMZ in that water year.

Division 3 Supplementary water events

Notes.

- 1 This Division is made under section 70 of the Act.
- 2 **Supplementary water event** is defined in the Dictionary.

49 Taking of water under supplementary water access licences

The holder of a supplementary water access licence may only take water in accordance with supplementary water event announcements made by the Minister that are relevant to that licence.

50 Announcement of supplementary water event

- (1) The Minister may announce a supplementary water event in the segment, or in any part of the segment, of the water source upstream of Burrendong Dam water storage if all of the following apply:
- (a) there are, in the Minister's opinion uncontrolled flows in that segment of the water source that exceed those required for the following:
 - (i) the Cudgegong EWA specified in Division 1 of Part 10,
 - (ii) domestic and stock rights and native title rights upstream of Burrendong Dam water storage,
 - (iii) to meet water orders for access licences upstream of Burrendong Dam water storage,
 - (b) water is spilling from Burrendong Dam or water is being released from the FMZ,
 - (c) flows in the Macquarie River will, in the Minister's opinion, exceed those required for the purposes under subclauses (2) (a) (i) to (iv),
 - (d) flows in the Macquarie River will, in the Minister's opinion exceed 5,000 ML per day in the Macquarie River at Warren Weir (421004).
- (2) The Minister may announce a supplementary water event in the segment of the water source downstream of the upper limit to Burrendong Dam water storage if all of the following apply:

- (a) there are, in the Minister's opinion, uncontrolled flows or a release of water from the FMZ, or both, in that segment of the water source that exceed those required for the following:
 - (i) the Macquarie EWA specified in Division 2 of Part 10,
 - (ii) domestic and stock rights and native title rights downstream of Burrendong Dam water storage,
 - (iii) to meet water orders for access licences downstream of Burrendong Dam water storage,
 - (iv) replenishment flows as specified in clause 74,
 - (b) flows in the Macquarie River will, in the Minister's opinion, exceed 5,000 ML per day in the Macquarie River at Warren Weir (421004).
- (3) In making an announcement, the Minister must consider whether and how access opportunities can be evenly shared between all holders of supplementary water access licences.

Part 9 Access licence dealing rules

Notes.

- 1 Access licence dealings in the water source are subject to the provisions of the Act, the regulations, any access licence dealing principles established under section 71Z of the Act and the access licence dealing rules established under this Part.
- 2 At the commencement of this Plan, the *Access Licence Dealing Principles Order 2004* applies. The access licence dealing principles prevail over the access licence dealing rules in this Plan to the extent of any inconsistency, as provided under section 71Z (3) of the Act.
- 3 An application for a dealing may be refused or conditions applied on an access licence or water supply work approval at the time of a dealing to give effect to the provisions of this Plan.
- 4 This Part may be amended if individual daily extraction components are imposed on access licences in the water source.

51 Conversion of access licence to new category

Dealings under section 71O of the Act are prohibited.

52 Assignment of rights dealings (within the water source or within a water management area)

Note. The ability to deliver water in some segments of the water source is limited by supply constraints. In these segments, this clause prohibits dealings that would increase the total share components of access licences in those segments above 2004 amounts, until individual daily extraction components are imposed on each licence in that segment under the Act.

- (1) A dealing under section 71Q of the Act is prohibited if all of the following apply:
 - (a) the dealing would increase the share component of an access licence which nominates a water supply work located in a segment of the water source specified in Column 1 of Table A,
 - (b) the dealing would increase the total share components of all access licences that nominate a water supply work in the segment to an amount that exceeds the amount specified in Column 2 of Table A for that segment.

Table A

Column 1	Column 2
Crooked Creek	The total of all share components in Crooked Creek that is within the water source at the time of the determination.
The Prohibited Area of the Macquarie Marshes as defined in the <i>Macquarie Marshes Water Management Plan 1996</i> , published by the Department of Land and Water Conservation and the National Parks and Wildlife Service	The total of all share components in the segment of the Prohibited Area of the Macquarie Marshes that is within the water source at the time of the determination.

Windamere Dam water storage to Burrendong Dam water storage	40,000 unit shares
Gunningbar Creek above Fairview Dam	36,000 unit shares
Gunningbar Creek below Fairview Dam	1,700 unit shares
Duck Creek	5,000 unit shares
Bulgeraga Creek	45,000 unit shares

Notes.

- 1 The limit in Table A for Gunningbar Creek above Fairview Dam includes licences that draw from the Albert Priest Channel as supply to that channel is via Gunningbar Creek.
 - 2 The limit in Table A for Bulgeraga Creek was increased from 33,000 unit shares in 2019 as a result of an updated assessment of Bulgeraga Creek channel capacity. The supply capability of Bulgeraga Creek will be shared amongst water users in accordance with the methodology to be developed by [WaterNSW](#) in consultation with affected water users under clause 76.
- (2) A dealing under section 71Q of the Act is prohibited if:
- (a) the dealing would increase the total of all share components in the segment of the water source upstream of Burrendong Dam water storage, and
 - (b) the dealing would, in the Minister's opinion, significantly affect the reliability of supply to regulated river (general security) access licences in that segment of the water source.
- (3) A dealing under section 71Q of the Act that is from or to an access licence in another water source is prohibited.

53 Amendment of share component dealings (change of water source)

Dealings under section 71R of the Act are prohibited.

54 Assignment of water allocations dealings

- (1) A dealing under section 71T of the Act is prohibited in any of the following circumstances:
 - (a) the dealing involves an assignment of water allocation to an access licence that nominates a water supply work located in any of the following:
 - (i) the segment of Crooked Creek within the water source,
 - (ii) the segment of the Prohibited Area of the Macquarie Marshes as defined in the *Macquarie Marshes Water Management Plan 1996*, published by the Department of Land and Water Conservation and the National Parks and Wildlife Service that is within the water source,

- (b) the dealing involves an assignment of water allocation to a supplementary water access licence from an access licence of any other category.

Note. At the commencement of this Plan, dealings under section 71T of the Act involving the assignment of water allocations from a supplementary water access licence to an access licence of any other category are also prohibited under clause 17 of the *Access Licence Dealing Principles Order 2004*.

- (2) A dealing under section 71T of the Act that is from or to an access licence in another water source is prohibited.

55 Interstate access licence transfer and assignment of water allocations

- (1) Dealings under section 71U of the Act are prohibited unless administrative arrangements have been put in place by the State and the interstate transfer of access licences is to be made in accordance with these arrangements.
- (2) Dealings under section 71V of the Act are prohibited unless administrative arrangements have been put in place by the States and the interstate transfer of access licences is to be made in accordance with these arrangements.

56 Nomination of water supply work dealings

- (1) A dealing under section 71W of the Act is prohibited if all of the following apply:
 - (a) the dealing nominates a water supply work located in a segment of the water source specified in Column 1 of Table A in clause 52,
 - (b) following the dealing, the total share components of all access licences that nominate a water supply work in the segment of the water source will exceed the amount specified in Column 2 of Table A for that segment.
- (2) A dealing under section 71W of the Act is prohibited if it would increase the total of all share components in the segment of the water source upstream of Burrendong Dam water storage and the dealing would, in the Minister's opinion, significantly affect the reliability of supply to regulated river (general security) access licences in that segment of the water source.

Note. This clause may be amended once individual daily extraction components are imposed on all licences within each relevant segment of the water source.

- (3) Dealings under section 71W of the Act that involve the nomination of a water supply work located in a State other than NSW by an access licence in the water source are prohibited.
- (4) Dealings under section 71W of the Act that involve the nomination of a water supply work in the water source by an access licence from a State other than NSW are prohibited.

Part 10 System operation rules

Note. *Operator* and *NSW Environmental Water Manager* are defined in the Dictionary.

Division 1 Cudgegong environmental water allowance

Note. *Cudgegong EWA* is defined in the Dictionary.

57 Definitions

In this Division:

residual Cudgegong environmental water means the water remaining in Windamere Dam storage due to the suspension of planned environmental water releases in 2010 and 2012.

Note. As at 1 January 2020 residual Cudgegong environmental water totalled 11,283 ML.

58 Accounts for the Cudgegong EWA

- (1) The operator must maintain the Cudgegong EWA for environmental purposes in the Cudgegong River between Windamere Dam and Burrendong Dam water storages in accordance with this Division.
- (2) The operator must keep an account of water credited to and debited from the Cudgegong EWA in:
 - (a) an available water determination sub-account (*Cudgegong EWA AWD sub-account*), and
 - (b) a carryover sub-account (*Cudgegong EWA carryover sub-account*).

59 Release rules for the Cudgegong EWA

- (1) Subject to subclause (2), the operator is to release water from the Cudgegong EWA in accordance with an order made by the NSW Environmental Water Manager and any procedures established by the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister for the Environment.
- (2) The operator must not release Cudgegong EWA water if any of the following apply:
 - (a) the order made under subclause (1) is not for delivery to the Cudgegong River at Rocky Water Hole (421149),
 - (b) the total volume of water in Windamere Dam water storage is equal to or less than 110,000 ML,
 - (c) the water level of Burrendong Dam water storage is within the FMZ,
 - (d) the release would cause the flow in the Cudgegong River at Rocky Water Hole (421149) to exceed 1,500 ML per day,

- (e) residual Cudgegong environmental water exists.
- (3) The operator must not release residual Cudgegong environmental water if any of the following apply:
 - (a) the total volume of water in Windamere Dam water storage is equal to or less than 70,000 megalitres,
 - (b) the water level of Burrendong Dam water storage is within the FMZ,
 - (c) the release would cause the flow in the Cudgegong River at Rocky Water Hole (421149) to exceed 1,500 ML per day.
- (4) The operator must not use releases of Cudgegong EWA water or residual Cudgegong environmental water to supply basic landholder right or water access licence requirements between Windamere Dam and Burrendong Dam water storage.
- (5) Cudgegong EWA water is not to be treated as environmental water for the purposes of this Plan when it enters Burrendong Dam water storage.

Note. The effect of this subclause is that any Cudgegong EWA releases that flow into Burrendong Dam can be captured by the operator and may be used in the operation of the water supply system or re-allocated to access licences by AWDs made in accordance with this Plan.

60 Credits, debits and carryover of the Cudgegong EWA sub-accounts

- (1) On commencement of this Plan, the operator is to credit the Cudgegong EWA carryover sub-account with an amount equal to the residual Cudgegong environmental water that has not been released by that date.
- (2) Whenever the Minister makes an available water determination for regulated river (general security) access licences for the purposes of clause 37 (3), the Cudgegong EWA AWD sub-account is to be credited with an amount equal to 11,400 ML multiplied by the ML per unit share specified in the available water determination.
- (3) If the Minister does not make an available water determination for regulated river (general security) access licences because the Minister has taken action under clause 32 (1) (b):
 - (a) the Minister is to assess if water is available for the making of an available water determination in accordance with clause 37 (1), and
 - (b) if the Minister determines that water is available for the making of the available water determination, the operator is to credit the Cudgegong EWA AWD sub-account as if the Minister had not taken action under clause 32 (1) (b) and instead made the available water determination.

Note: This subclause is to ensure that the Cudgegong EWA AWD sub-account is not affected if action is taken in relation to regulated river (general security) access licences to ensure compliance with an extraction limit.

- (4) The operator is to debit the lesser of the following from the Cudgegong EWA after releasing water under clause 59 (1):
- (a) the volume of Cudgegong EWA requested for delivery to the Cudgegong River at Rocky Water Hole (421149) minus any downstream water orders and associated losses,
 - (b) the flow at Rocky Water Hole (421149) on the days that the Cudgegong EWA water arrives at Rocky Water Hole minus downstream water orders and associated losses.
- (5) Water debited under ~~sub-clause (5)~~ subclause (4) is to be debited from the Cudgegong EWA carryover sub-account first and then from the Cudgegong EWA AWD sub-account.
- (6) If the Minister has taken action under clauses 36 (3) and 37 (4), the Cudgegong EWA AWD subaccount is to be credited with an amount necessary to bring the total amount of water in the allowance to 11,400 ML.
- (7) The operator must carry over any water remaining in the Cudgegong EWA from one water year to the next water year as follows:
- (a) water in the Cudgegong EWA carryover sub-account is to remain in that sub-account,
 - (b) water in the Cudgegong AWD sub-account is to be debited from that sub-account and credited to the Cudgegong EWA carryover sub-account,
 - (c) the Minister must not allow water in the Cudgegong EWA carryover sub-account to exceed 11,400 ML plus the residual Cudgegong environmental water that has not been released by the end of that water year.
- (8) In this clause, *downstream water orders and associated losses* means the volume of water required to meet orders to take water downstream of Rocky Water Hole, and the transmission losses associated with delivery of those water orders.

Note: The effect of subclause (7) is that the Cudgegong EWA will be topped up to 11,400 ML whenever the water allocations in the accounts of regulated river (high security) and regulated river (general security) access licences are withdrawn under clause 48 and new AWDs are made under clauses 36 (3) and 37 (4).

61 Withdrawals from Cudgegong EWA due to evaporation

At the end of each three ~~monthly-month~~ period during which the volume of water in Windamere Dam water storage has continually been greater than 110,000 ML, the

Minister is to withdraw an amount from the Cudgegong EWA carryover sub-account to reflect additional storage losses (evaporation) arising from water carried over under clause 60 (4) (a), as determined by the Minister.

Note: Water which is carried over leads to additional surface area in Windamere Dam, which in turn increases the evaporation losses.

62 Withdrawals from Cudgegong EWA due to spills

- (1) The Minister must withdraw an amount of water from the Cudgegong EWA carryover sub-account after the end of each month during which:
 - (a) water spills from Windamere Dam, and
 - (b) the water level in Burrendong Dam water storage is in the FMZ for all or part of the month.
- (2) The amount withdrawn under subclause (1) is to be the lesser of the following:
 - (a) the amount of water in the Cudgegong EWA carryover sub-account at the end of the month,
 - (b) the amount calculated using the formula:

$$(TS / (TC + EC)) \times EC$$

where:

TS is the total volume of water spilled from Windamere Dam in the month,

TC is the total volume in Cudgegong carryover sub-accounts at the end of the month (excluding any water assigned from a Macquarie carryover sub-account),

EC is the volume remaining in the Cudgegong EWA carryover sub-account at the end of the month.

Division 2 Macquarie environmental water allowance

Note. *Macquarie EWA* is defined in the Dictionary.

63 Account for the Macquarie EWA

- (1) The operator must maintain the Macquarie EWA to improve environmental outcomes in the Macquarie Marshes and the Macquarie River between Burrendong Dam and the Macquarie Marshes in accordance with this Division.
- (2) The operator must keep an account of water credited to and debited from the Macquarie EWA with the following sub-allowances:
 - (a) sub-allowance 1 (translucent) (*translucent sub-allowance*),
 - (b) sub-allowance 2 (active) (*active sub-allowance*).

64 Release rules for translucent sub-allowance water

- (1) The operator is to release translucent sub-allowance water from Burrendong Dam in accordance with this clause.
- (2) Subject to subclause (5), releases of translucent sub-allowance water are only to be made if all of the following apply:
 - (a) the release is on or between 15 March and 30 November (inclusive) of each year, or such narrower period within those dates as determined by the Minister at the beginning of the water year,
 - (b) the translucent sub-allowance balance is greater than zero or the NSW Environmental Water Manager has determined the use of the active sub-allowance accordance with subclause (6),
 - (c) the sum of inflows to Burrendong Dam water storage and tributary inflows downstream of Burrendong Dam are, in the operator's opinion, likely to provide a flow of at least 500 ML per day for **five** days or more in the Macquarie River at Marebone Weir or such higher flow as determined by the Minister at the start of each water year,
 - (d) the water level in Burrendong Dam water storage is not within the FMZ,
 - (e) the sum of tributary inflows between Burrendong Dam and Marebone Weir is no more than 1000 ML per day.

Note. Clause 81 requires that water releases from the FMZ be made to provide beneficial flooding for the regulated Macquarie River, the Macquarie Marshes, Marebone floodplain and effluent creeks.
- (3) If the operator releases translucent sub-allowance water it must do so at a rate that is the lesser of the following:
 - (a) the rate of inflow to Burrendong Dam water storage,
 - (b) the rate of release necessary to achieve a flow of 4,000 ML/day in the Macquarie River at Marebone Weir, or such lower flow determined by the Minister at the start of each water year.
- (4) Releases must cease if any of the following apply:
 - (a) the sum of inflows to Burrendong Dam water storage and tributary inflows downstream of Burrendong Dam are, in the operator's opinion, not likely to provide a flow of at least 500 ML per day for **five** days or more in the Macquarie River at Marebone Weir or such higher flow as determined by the Minister at the start of each water year,

- (b) the translucent sub-allowance balance reaches zero unless the NSW Environmental Water Manager has determined the use of the active sub-allowance in accordance with subclause (6),
 - (c) the sum of tributary inflows between Burrendong Dam and Marebone Weir exceeds the flow specified in subclause (2) (e).
- (5) Releases must not be made or must cease if the Minister determines that the release of translucent sub-allowance water does not significantly improve the health of the Macquarie River segment of the water source, its effluent rivers or the Macquarie Marshes.
- (6) If the translucent sub-allowance balance has reached zero, water may continue to be released under this clause if the NSW Environmental Water Manager determines after considering advice from the Environmental Water Advisory Group, or the Minister for the Environment, that active sub-allowance water may be used for the release.

Notes.

- 1 Release of active sub-allowance water under clause (6) will be debited from the active sub-allowance.
- 2 The Minister may seek advice from the Environmental Water Advisory Group at the commencement of each water year on the timing of releases under subclause (2), and the circumstances in which releases may cease under subclause (5) or be extended under subclause (6). If this advice is not provided, the Minister may seek the advice of the Minister for Environment before taking action under this subclause for the purposes of subclauses (2), and (4).

65 Release rules for active sub-allowance water

- (1) The operator is to release active sub-allowance water to the Macquarie River downstream of Marebone Weir or Marebone Break at downstream Marebone Regulator (or both of those locations) in accordance with an order made by the NSW Environmental Water Manager and any procedures established by the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister for the Environment.
- (2) The operator must release active sub-allowance water carried over from the previous water year before releasing active sub-allowance water credited in that water year.

66 Credits and carryover of the Macquarie EWA

- (1) If the Minister makes an available water determination for regulated river (general security) access licences under clause 37 (3), the Macquarie EWA is to be credited with an amount:
 - (a) equal to 160,000 ML multiplied by the ML per unit share specified in that available water determination, and
 - (b) distributed as follows:

- (i) 40% to the translucent sub-allowance,
 - (ii) 60% to the active sub-allowance.
- (2) If the Minister does not make an available water determination for regulated river (general security) access licences because the Minister has taken action under clause 32 (1) (b):
 - (a) the Minister is to assess if water is available for the making of an available water determination in accordance with clause 37 (1), and
 - (b) if the Minister determines that water is available for the making of the available water determination, the operator is to credit the Macquarie EWA as if the Minister had not taken action under clause 32 (1) (b) and instead made the available water determination.
- (3) The operator must carry over any water remaining in the Macquarie EWA from one water year to the next water year:
 - (a) up to a limit of 160,000 ML, and
 - (b) re-distribute the water carried over according to the distribution set out in subclause (1) (b).

67 Accounting rules for debits from the translucent sub-allowance

- (1) Whenever translucent sub-allowance water is released under clause 64, the translucent sub-allowance is to be debited as follows:
 - (a) if the flow arriving at Marebone Weir in relation to the release minus downstream water orders and associated losses is less than or equal to the flow specified in [subclause 64 \(3\) \(b\)](#)— a volume equal to the flow arriving at Marebone Weir minus downstream water orders and associated losses, and minus the daily flow rate specified in [subclause 64 \(2\) \(c\)](#),
 - (b) if the flow arriving at Marebone Weir in relation to the release minus downstream water orders and associated losses is greater than the flow specified in [subclause 64 \(3\) \(b\)](#)— a volume equal to the flow specified in [subclause 64 \(3\) \(b\)](#) minus the daily flow rate specified in [subclause 64 \(2\) \(c\)](#).
- (2) In this clause, ***downstream water orders and associated losses*** means the volume of water required to meet orders to take water downstream of the Marebone Weir, and the transmission losses associated with delivery of those water orders.

- (3) In accounting for any releases of translucent sub-allowance water under subclause (1), water carried over from the previous water year is to be debited before debiting any water credited in the current water year.

Note. At the commencement of this Plan, the flow arriving at Marebone Weir is determined by the summation of flows at streamflow gauges 421090 and 421088.

68 Accounting rules for debits from the active sub-allowance

- (1) Whenever active sub-allowance water is released under clause 65, the active sub-allowance is to be debited with the lesser of the following:
 - (a) the volume of active sub-allowance water requested for delivery on the days that the active sub-allowance water arrives at Marebone Weir minus downstream water orders and associated losses,
 - (b) the flow at Marebone Weir minus downstream water orders and associated losses, on the days that the active sub-allowance water arrives at Marebone Weir.
- (2) In this clause, *downstream water orders and associated losses* means the volume of water required to meet orders to take water downstream of the Marebone Weir, and the transmission losses associated with delivery of those water orders.

69 Withdrawals from Macquarie EWA due to evaporation

At the end of each three-month period, the Minister is to withdraw an amount from the Macquarie EWA that reflects additional storage losses (evaporation) generated by water carried over under clause 66 (3), as determined by the Minister.

Note: Water which is carried over leads to additional surface area in Windamere Dam and the Burrendong Dam, which in turn increases the evaporation losses.

70 Withdrawals from Macquarie EWA due to spills

- (1) The Minister is to withdraw an amount of water carried over from the previous water year from each sub-allowance of the Macquarie EWA at the end of each month in which the water level in Burrendong Dam water storage was in the FMZ for all or part of that month.
- (2) The amount withdrawn under subclause (1) from each sub-allowance is to be the lesser of the following:
 - (a) the amount of water carried over from the previous water year in that sub-allowance,
 - (b) the amount calculated using the formula:

$$TI \times EC / (TC + EC)$$

where:

TI is the total volume of inflow to Burrendong Dam water storage while the water level in Burrendong Dam water storage is in the FMZ for that month,

TC is the total volume in Macquarie carryover sub-accounts of regulated river (high security) and regulated river (general security) access licences at the end of the month, and

EC is the amount of water carried over from the previous water year in that sub-allowance at the end of the month.

- (3) If the Minister has taken action under clauses 36 (3) and 37 (4), the Macquarie EWA is to be credited with an amount necessary to bring the total amount of water in the allowance to 160,000 ML.

71 Variations to distribution of Macquarie EWA between sub-allowances

- (1) At the commencement of each water year the Minister may alter the distribution specified in clause 66 (1) (b) but each sub-allowance must receive at least 40% of the total allowance.
- (2) Before altering the distribution, the Minister may seek advice from the NSW Environmental Water Manager on the need for, and extent of, changes under subclause (1) which considers the following:
 - (a) the environmental outcomes achieved from the release of water from the Macquarie EWA and from other flows in the water source in the previous 12 months,
 - (b) the current and likely condition of the Macquarie Marshes over the coming 12 months,
 - (c) the desired environmental outcomes for the regulated Macquarie River and the Macquarie Marshes.

Division 3 Consultation

72 Consultation

The NSW Environmental Water Manager may consult with any government agency or the Environmental Water Advisory Group (*EWAG*) established by the Minister for the Environment water source, or both, and consider any relevant advice, before taking action under Divisions 1 and 2 of this Part.

Notes.

- 1 [As at 1 July 2020](#) At the commencement of this Plan, the Minister has conferred the lead role in managing environmental water allowances established under water sharing plans to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Environment, Energy and

Science (EES). EES also administers and supports EWAGs to inform the management of environmental water allowances and licensed environmental water. For more information on EWAGs, see Cooperative management of environmental water to improve river and wetland health in NSW (2014), available from the following website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au

- 2 In undertaking its role in managing the Cudgegong EWA, EES will seek advice from both the EWAG and from local Cudgegong stakeholders.

Division 4 General system operation rules

73 Maintenance of water supply

- (1) In this clause, the period of lowest accumulated inflow to the water source is identified by flow information held by the Department prior to 1 July 2004.
- (2) The operator must operate the water supply system in such a way that water would be able to be supplied during a repeat of the period of lowest accumulated inflows to the water source to meet the following:
 - (a) the annual water requirements of persons exercising domestic and stock rights and native title rights,
 - (b) available water determinations for domestic and stock access licences and local water utility access licence of 100% of share components,
 - (c) available water determinations for regulated river (high security) access licences of 1 ML per unit share.
- (3) For the purposes of subclause (2), the operator must set aside sufficient volumes of water from inflows into the water source and in reserves held in Burrendong Dam and Windamere Dam water storages.

Notes.

- 1 1 July 2004 was the date of commencement of the first water sharing plan for the water source made under the Act, namely the Water Sharing Plan for the *Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2003*.
- 2 **Reserves** and **water supply system** are defined in the Dictionary.

74 Replenishment flows

- (1) Unless the operator otherwise determines, the operator is to provide the following replenishment flows each water year when water is available from uncontrolled flows:
 - (a) flows up to 10,000 ML/yr to the Gum Cowal/Terrigal system,
 - (b) flows up to 4,000 ML/yr to Crooked Creek below “Mumblebone”,
 - (c) flow up to 1,000 ML/yr to the Bogan River, from Nyngan to the Gunningbar Creek confluence,
 - (d) flows up to 1,000 ML/yr to Beleringar Creek, downstream of Albert Priest Canal,

(e) flows up to 1,500 ML/yr to Reddenville Break,

(f) flows up to 5,000 ML/yr to Beleringar Creek.

Note. The replenishment requirements may vary considerably from year to year due to seasonal conditions. The volumes in subclause (1) are what may be necessary to replenish the entire river length in dry antecedent conditions.

- (2) Unless the operator otherwise determines, the operator is to provide the following replenishment flows each water year:
- (a) flows up to 15,000 ML/yr to Marra Creek, from its offtake, downstream to its junction with the Barwon River,
 - (b) flows up to 15,000 ML/yr to the lower Bogan River, downstream of its junction with Gunningbar Creek to its junction with the Barwon River.
- (3) To achieve subclause (2), the operator must set aside sufficient volumes of water from inflows into the water source and in reserves held in Windamere Dam and Burrendong Dam water storages.
- (4) At least twice a year, the operator is to provide a replenishment flow of up to 50 ML/day below the Macquarie Marshes, from “Miltara” to the Barwon River.
- (5) The operator is to provide a replenishment flow of 100 ML/day in the Macquarie River at Oxley Station gauge (421022) for up to 20 days in one of the following months:
- (a) September, if the total flow at the Oxley Station gauge for the period 1 March to 31 August did not exceed 2,500 ML,
 - (b) March, if the total flow at Oxley Station gauge for the period 1 September to 29 February did not exceed 4,500 ML.
- (6) The operator may provide a replenishment flow of 100 ML/day in the Macquarie River at Oxley Station gauge (421022) for up to 20 days in one of the following months:
- (a) September if the following occurred:
 - (i) the total flow at the Oxley Station gauge for the period 1 March to 31 August exceeded 2,500 ML,
 - (ii) a flow of 60 ML/day or more at the Oxley Station gauge did not occur for 10 consecutive days with the period 1 March to 31 August,
 - (b) March if the following occurred:
 - (i) the total flow at Oxley Station gauge for the period 1 September to 29 February exceeded 4,500 ML,

- (ii) a flow of 60 ML/day or more at the Oxley Station gauge did not occur for 10 consecutive days within the period 1 September to 29 February.
- (7) Without limiting the operator's discretion under subclause (6), the operator is not required to provide a replenishment flow in accordance with subclause (6) if the operator has provided a replenishment flow in accordance with subclause (5).
- (78) Whenever possible, the operator is to use inflows entering the water source from tributary streams downstream of Burrendong Dam to provide replenishment flows required under subclause (2), (4), (5) and (6).

Note. The Northern By-pass Channel may be used to provide the flows under subclause (4), supplementing natural flows through the marshes to maintain the target flow.

75 Water delivery and channel capacity constraints

In managing the water supply system, the operator must consider, determine and specify the operating channel capacities throughout the water source after taking into account, in accordance with procedures established by the Minister, ~~taking into account~~ the following:

- (a) the inundation of private land or interference with access,
- (b) the effects of inundation on the floodplain and associated wetlands,
- (c) the transmission losses expected to occur,
- (d) the capacities of structures in the water supply system.

76 Priority of delivery for access licences and EWA water

- (1) This clause does not apply to supplementary water access licences.
- (2) If supply capability due to channel capacity is insufficient in any segment of the water source to satisfy all water orders, basic landholder rights and delivery of EWA water, the following rules of priority apply:
 - (a) the operator is to give first priority to the requirements for water to satisfy basic landholder rights,
 - (b) once the requirements in paragraph (a) have been met, the operator is to supply water to domestic and stock access licences, local water utility access licences and regulated river (high security) access licences that have placed orders for water, in that order,
 - (c) once the requirements in paragraph (b) have been met, unless otherwise directed by the Minister, any remaining supply capability is to be shared between the

following in accordance with any procedures established by the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister for the Environment:

- (a) EWA deliveries that have been ordered,
- (b) regulated river (general security) access licences that have placed an order for water.

~~(3) The operator is to consult with water user representatives, the NSW Environmental Water Manager and relevant government agencies, as the Minister considers appropriate, before determining the method in subclause (2) (c).~~

Notes.

- 1 **Supply capability** is defined in the Dictionary.
- 2 This clause may be amended if individual daily extraction components are imposed.

77 Rates of change to storage releases

In changing the rate of the release of water from a water storage or other water supply system structure, the operator must consider relevant environmental matters, damage to river banks ~~and~~, public safety, ~~and operational efficiency~~ in accordance with any procedures established by the Minister.

78 Delivery Grouping of water orders when water supplies are low due to high delivery losses

- (1) The operator may group water orders and periodically release water if ~~the total remaining volume of water supplies has been reduced to a level where~~ the continuous delivery of water orders would involve unacceptably high delivery losses.
- (2) The operator is to consult with water ~~user~~ access licence representatives before grouping water orders and releasing water in accordance with subclause (1).

79 Bulk transfer rules between storages

- (1) The operator is to make high volume transfer releases of water from Windamere Dam as required to prevent the volume of water in Burrendong Dam water storage becoming insufficient to supply downstream basic landholder rights, access licence water allocations, the Macquarie EWA and to meet any water losses associated with the delivery of that water.
- (2) Releases made under subclause (1) will be undertaken in accordance with protocols established by the Minister that address the following:
 - (a) the determination of volumes to be transferred,
 - (b) seasonality of flows,

- (c) total duration of transfer events,
 - (d) maximum discharge rates and their duration,
 - (e) rates of rise and fall in flow heights,
 - (f) access and agronomic requirements of landholders,
 - (g) ecological and geomorphological benefits,
 - (h) likely effects on native species and their habitat, particularly platypus and threatened aquatic species,
 - (i) any other matters that may impact on the riverine environment or community.
- (3) Prior to establishing the protocols under subclause (2), the Minister may seek advice from appropriate representatives from the local community along the Cudgegong River downstream of Windamere Dam in regard to the issues specified in subclause (2).
- (4) The operator must make the proposed dates and rates of releases under subclause (1) publicly available.

80 Dam operation during floods and spills

- (1) The operator must operate Windamere Dam and Burrendong Dam during times of flood and spilling of water from those dams in ~~accordance with the following:~~ a manner that maintains the safety of dam infrastructure.
- ~~(a) in a manner that maintains the safety of dam infrastructure,~~
- ~~(b) subject to (2)~~ Providing it is consistent with subclause (a), as follows1), the operator must aim to:
- ~~(i)~~ leave the storages at full supply level after the flood or spilling of water, subject to the FMZ operation rules in clause 81,
 - ~~(ii) ensure that the general rate of increase of outflow does not exceed the rate of increase of inflow, subject to airspace requirements in clause 81,~~
 - ~~(iii) seek to b)~~ minimise downstream flood damage where possible.

81 Burrendong Dam flood mitigation zone operation rules

- (1) The operator must manage the FMZ of Burrendong Dam in accordance with this clause.
- (2) When not in flood operation, the operator may make releases from the Burrendong Dam FMZ to provide beneficial flooding for the regulated Macquarie River, the Macquarie Marshes, Marebone floodplain and the effluent rivers and creeks of the Macquarie River.

- (3) Unless the Minister determines otherwise, the sharing and distribution of releases from the FMZ are to be as follows:
- (a) when flows at Warren Weir (421004) are less than 4,000 ML/day— to the Macquarie River and Macquarie Marshes,
 - (b) when flows at Warren Weir (421004) are between 4,000 and 12,000 ML/day— to the Macquarie River, Macquarie Marshes and Marebone floodplain, then to Crooked, Gunningbar and Duck Creeks,
 - (c) when flows at Warren Weir (421004) are greater than 12,000 ML/day – to the Macquarie River, Macquarie Marshes and Warren floodplain, then to Crooked, Gunningbar, Duck, Ewenmar and Beleringar Creeks.
- (4) In managing the FMZ, the operator must, where possible, seek to make controlled releases during the flood event so that the water level of Burrendong Dam water storage does not increase.
- Notes.**
- 1 This attempts to balance the benefits of providing airspace in Burrendong Dam to mitigate large inflow events with the damage of controlled releases that can extend the duration of flooding on the Warren floodplains.
 - 2 Releases from the FMZ will vary according to the level of water in storage, rates of inflow and the need to maintain airspace to capture likely future inflows into the storage. The following subclause sets maximum release rates that vary depending on the water level in Burrendong Dam.
- (5) The maximum rate of release from each bay of the FMZ in excess of that required to meet water orders is to be the rate of inflow to Burrendong Dam up to the following rate, calculated including downstream tributary flow:
- (a) when Burrendong Dam water storage is between 100% and 120% (**Bay 1**)— 5,000 ML/day at Warren Weir (421004), equating to a river level of approximately 5.5 metres at Warren Town (412014),
 - (b) when Burrendong Dam water storage is between 120% and 130% (**Bay 2**)— 12,000 ML/day at Gin Gin (421031), equating to a river level of approximately 6.5 metres at Warren Town (412014),
 - (c) when Burrendong Dam water storage is between 130% and 142% (**Bay 3**)— 18,000 ML/day at Gin Gin (421031), equating to a minor flood level of 7.5 metres at Warren Town (412014).
- (6) The operator may vary the release rates in subclause (5) if, in the operator’s opinion, the rates specified will result in any of the following:
- (a) prolonged inundation of the floodplain and economic losses to agriculture,

- (b) restricted landholder access to the landholder's properties for extended periods,
- (c) benefits to the environment and community.

Note. As at the commencement of this Plan, [WaterNSW](#) seeks the advice from its Flood Panel on the matters specified in (a), (b) and (c) before taking action under subclause (7).

- (7) The operator may use releases from the FMZ to meet water orders made by the holders of regulated river (high security) access licences, regulated river (general security) access licences and, subject to clause 50, supplementary water access licences.

FOR INFORMATION

Part 11 Mandatory conditions

Note. Mandatory conditions relating to metering equipment and recording of information are imposed by the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018. Clauses in this Plan that provide for mandatory conditions to be imposed in relation to metering apply only until the roll out of the metering and reporting mandatory conditions that are prescribed in Part 10 and Part 11 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018.

Division 1 General

82 Requirement to notify

In this Part, a requirement to notify the Minister in writing will only be satisfied by writing to the email address for enquiries on the Department's website.

Division 2 Access licences

Note. This Division is made in accordance with sections 17 (c), 20 and 66 of the Act.

83 Mandatory conditions on access licences

- (1) Each access licence must have mandatory conditions to give effect to the following:
 - (a) upon becoming aware of a breach of any condition of the access licence, the licence holder must:
 - (i) notify the Minister as soon as practicable, and
 - (ii) if the notification under paragraph (i) is not in writing, confirm the notification in writing within seven days of becoming aware of the breach,
- (2) Each regulated river (high security) access licence and regulated river (general security) access licence must have a mandatory condition requiring that the take of water may only occur if the resulting debit to the access licence AWD subaccount does not exceed the volume of water allocation remaining in the AWD subaccount.
- (3) Each access licence, other than a supplementary water access licence, must have a mandatory condition that the licence holder must not take water unless it has been ordered in accordance with procedures established by the Minister.
- (4) Each supplementary water access licence must have a mandatory condition that gives effect to Division 3 of Part 8.

Division 3 Water supply work approvals

Note. This Division is made in accordance with sections 17 (c) and 100 of the Act.

84 General conditions

- (1) Each water supply work approval must have mandatory conditions to give effect to:
 - (a) the clauses set out in this Division, and

- (b) any other condition required to implement the provisions of this Plan.
- (2) The water supply work must not be used to take water under an access licence unless in compliance with the relevant access rules for the taking of water as specified in Part 8.
- (3) Upon becoming aware of a breach of any condition of the approval, the approval holder, must:
- (a) notify the Minister as soon as practicable, and
- (b) if the notification under subclause (a) was not in writing, confirm the notification in writing within seven days of becoming aware of the breach.
- (4) Flow measurement devices must be installed and maintained on all water supply works used for extraction of water under an access licence and must be of a type and maintained in a manner, which is acceptable to the Minister.
- (5) Water extraction, water management infrastructure and cropping details must be provided on request, in the form and in accordance with procedures established by the Minister.
- (6) The taking of water may only occur in accordance with the conditions applying to the access licence that will have its water allocation account debited for that take.
- (7) Despite subclause (1), subclauses (3) to (5) do not apply to approvals for water supply works held by [WaterNSW](#) provided the approval is not nominated by an access licence.
- (8) If an approval for a water supply work is subject to a mandatory metering equipment condition in relation to the work, subclause (4) ceases to have effect in relation to the work on the day on which the condition applies to the approval.
- (9) If an approval for a water supply work is subject to a mandatory condition imposed by Part 10 or Part 11 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018* relating to the recording or reporting of water that is taken by the work, subclause (5) ceases to have effect in relation to the work on the day on which the condition applies to the approval.
- (10) Subclauses (4), (5), (8) and (9) are taken to be repealed on the day on which the temporary exemption from the mandatory metering equipment condition ceases to apply to the water source in accordance with clause 230 (1) of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018*.

Notes.

- 1 **Mandatory metering equipment condition** is defined in clause 228 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018*.

- 2 Clause 230 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018* provides that the mandatory metering equipment condition applies to existing and new water supply works required to have a meter from 1 April 2019, and to other approvals in the water source from 1 December 2021.

FOR INFORMATION

Part 12 Amendment of this Plan

Notes.

- 1 This Part sets out the amendments authorised by this Plan.
- 2 For the purposes of section 87 of the Act, the initial period for the water source expired before the commencement of this Plan.
- 3 [The Department intends to consult with relevant stakeholders before making any material amendments to this Plan in accordance with this Part.](#)

85 General

For the purposes of section 45 (1) (b) of the Act, this Part provides for when this Plan may be amended and any such amendment is taken to be authorised by this Plan.

86 Amendments relating to Part 1

Part 1 may be amended to add, modify or remove a river or segment of river to or from the water source providing that:

- (a) any amendment is consistent with any applicable regulated river order, and
- (b) the Minister is satisfied that there will be no impact on the water available to the environment under Division 1 and 2 of Part 10, or on the water available to any access licence in the water source.

87 Amendments relating to Part 2

[Part 2 may be amended following a review of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting plan that has been developed for water sources in the Macquarie Castlereagh surface water resource plan area which considers the need for alternate performance indicators for the environmental, economic, Aboriginal cultural, and social and cultural objectives of this Plan.](#)

8788 Amendments relating to Part 8

- (1) Clause 50 (2) may be amended if it can be demonstrated that there has been no progress on improving the ability to provide regulated flows in excess of 5,000 ML/day at Warren.
- (2) The primary factors for demonstrating progress as referred to in subclause (1) are the alteration of structures on the Warren floodplain to permit higher operational flows in that area, and an increased ability to release volumes larger than 8,200 ML/day from the valves of Burrendong Dam.
- (3) The Minister may seek advice from the Environmental Water Advisory Group regarding whether or not progress, as described in subclause (2) can be demonstrated, and if so,

what changes should be made to the flow threshold and the times at which they should apply.

- (4) Any amendment of clause 50 (2) that increases the flow threshold at specified times is to also alter the threshold at other times so that the long-term access to flows by supplementary water access licences is not impacted as a result of that variation.

Note. This clause provides that the supplementary flow threshold may be ~~amended~~increased to protect flows that promote the breeding success of native fish, ~~subject to if there has been no~~ progress ~~being made~~ in removing ~~barriers to floodplain flows or~~ impediments that limit the management of regulated flow.

8889 Amendments to Part 10

- (1) Division 1 of Part 10 may be amended to do the following:
- (a) reduce the 110,000 ML total volume of water that is required to be in Windamere Dam water storage before Cudgegong EWA water can be released, subject to amendments under subclause (b) being considered at the same time,
 - (b) alter the 11,400 ML referred to subclause 60,
 - (c) specify a flow in the Cudgegong River at Rocky Water Hole (421149) that is greater than 1,500 ML per day subject to infrastructure changes being made to address flow constraints at Rocky Water Hole so that community assets are not at risk from higher Cudgegong EWA releases.
- (2) The 4,000 ML/day maximum flow target in clause 64 (3) (b) for release of the translucent sub-allowance may be increased if,
- (a) changes have been made to the flow constraints on the Warren floodplain or water management outlet works during the term of this Plan, so that community ~~and~~ private assets are not at risk from higher storage releases, or
 - (b) an assessment using the performance indicators specified in clause 8 demonstrates that the Macquarie River or the Macquarie Marshes would benefit from a higher maximum flow target to maintain ecological condition.
- (3) Before making any amendment authorised by subclause (2), the Minister is to:
- (a) seek advice from the NSW Environmental Water Manager regarding the need for and extent of changes, which considers:
 - (ai) the outcomes achieved from the use of the Macquarie EWA to date, and
 - (bii) the current and likely future condition of the Macquarie Marshes, and
 - (eiii) the desired environmental outcomes for the regulated Macquarie River and its effluents and the Macquarie Marshes, ~~and~~ and

(b) consult with water user representatives on the proposed changes.

8990 Amendment of Plan relating to floodplain harvesting

This Plan may be amended- for the management of floodplain harvesting.

Note. *Floodplain harvesting* is defined in the Dictionary.

9091 Amendments relating to individual daily extraction components

This Plan may be amended to provide for individual daily extraction components.

91—Amendments relating to SDLAM projects

This Plan may be amended to provide for the implementation of any NSW sustainable diversion limit adjustment mechanism project in the water source under the Basin Plan.

92 Dictionary

The Dictionary may be amended to add, modify or remove a definition.

93 Other amendments (general)

- (1) This Plan may be amended to include provisions for the following:
 - (a) the interception of water before it reaches a stream or aquifer by plantations or other means,
 - (b) the management of salt interception schemes,
 - (c) water return flows, as referred to in Division 5 of Part 2 of Chapter 3 of the Act,
 - (d) provide for the conversion of regulated river (high security) licences with share components that specify the water source to access licences with share components that specify connected upstream unregulated water sources.
- (2) This Plan may be amended to facilitate total extractions reaching the long-term average annual extraction limit or long-term average sustainable diversion limit ~~should an assessment of compliance with those limits made under Part 6 show that total extractions are in the Minister's opinion significantly less than those limits over the long term.~~
subject to:
 - (a) an assessment of compliance with the limits made under Part 6 verifying that total extractions are less than those limits over the long term,
 - (b) a review and report on the reasons for total extractions being less than the limits over the long term, including recommendations for potential changes to this Plan to increase extractions to the limits and assessment of the impacts of the

recommendations on future water allocations to all categories of water access licences, and

(c) there being no net reduction in the protection of planned environmental water established under clause 16 of this Plan.

Note. Section 10.28 of the Basin Plan requires that a water resource plan must ensure there is no net reduction in the protection of planned environmental water from the protection provided under State water management law immediately before the commencement of the Basin Plan.

- (3) Division 3 of Part 6 may be amended to establish a long-term average sustainable diversion limit that combines the long-term average sustainable diversion limits for the water source and the Macquarie Bogan Unregulated Rivers Water Sources and the Castlereagh Unregulated River Water Sources.
- (4) This Plan may be amended to give effect to, or in connection with, a determination of native title under the *Native Title Act 1993* of the Commonwealth.
- ~~(5)~~ This Plan may be amended to enable all or part of this Plan to be accredited as all or part of a water resource plan under the *Water Act 2007* of the Commonwealth.
- (6) This Plan may be amended to do any of the following for the protection of water-dependent Aboriginal cultural assets:
- (a) identify water-dependent Aboriginal cultural assets,
 - (b) establish rules for the granting and amending of water supply work approvals,
 - (c) establish dealing rules.
- (7) An amendment authorised by this Plan is taken to include any consequential amendments required to be made to this Plan to give effect to that particular amendment.
- ~~(8)~~ Consequential amendments may be made to this Plan as a result of an amendment to the Act or regulations.

Dictionary

Note. Unless otherwise defined in this Plan, words and expressions that are defined in the Act or in the regulations have the same meaning in this Plan.

Aboriginal person has the same meaning as it has in section 4 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*.

airspace is a volume in a water storage, which is kept empty for the purpose of mitigating potential floods.

annual actual take has the same meaning as it has in section 6.10 of the Basin Plan.

annual permitted take has the same meaning as it has in section 6.10 of the Basin Plan.

AWD sub-account means the available water determination sub-account maintained within the water allocation account for each regulated river (high security) access licence and regulated river (general security) access licence, as referred to in clause 42.

baseline diversion limit has the same meaning as it has in section 1.07 of the Basin Plan.

Basin Plan means the *Basin Plan 2012* made under section 44 (3) (b)(i) of the *Water Act 2007* of the Commonwealth.

Burrendong Dam water storage is as defined in the Central West Water Management Area Regulated River Order (Government Gazette No 110 of 1 July 2004), as amended by item [89] of Schedule 1 of the *Water Management Amendment Act 2018*.

carbon and nutrient pathways means the connected networks of streams, riparian zones, floodplains and wetlands that transport dissolved and suspended organic material and nutrients to support ecosystems.

carryover sub-account means the carryover sub-account maintained within the water allocation account for each regulated river (high security) access licence and regulated river (general security) access licence, as referred to in clause 42.

Cudgegong AWD sub-account means the AWD sub-account of a licence that nominates a water supply work upstream of Burrendong Dam water storage.

Cudgegong carryover sub-account means the carryover sub-account of a licence that nominates a water supply work upstream of Burrendong Dam water storage.

Cudgegong EWA means an environmental water allowance within Windamere Dam water storage, comprised of the water in the Cudgegong EWA AWD sub-account and the Cudgegong EWA carryover sub-account.

Cudgegong EWA AWD sub-account is as defined in clause 58 (2) (a) of this Plan.

Cudgegong EWA carryover sub-account is as defined in clause 58 (2) (b) of this Plan.

EWA means an environmental water allowance referred to in Divisions 1 and/or 2 of Part 10 of this Plan, as relevant.

floodplain harvesting means the collection, extraction or impoundment of water flowing across floodplains, including rainfall runoff and overbank flow, excluding the take of water pursuant to any of the following:

- (a) a water access licence other than a floodplain harvesting access licence,
- (b) a basic landholder right,
- (c) an exemption from the need to hold a licence to take water under the Act.

flow regimes mean, collectively, the magnitudes, durations, frequency and patterns of flows that characterise a river or water source.

FMZ means flood mitigation zone of Burrendong Dam.

Macquarie AWD sub-account means the AWD sub-account of a licence that nominates a water supply work from, and downstream of, Burrendong Dam water storage.

Macquarie carryover sub-account means the carryover sub-account of a licence that nominates a water supply work from, and downstream of, Burrendong Dam water storage.

Macquarie EWA means an environmental water allowance within Burrendong Dam water storage, comprised of water in the translucent sub-allowance and the active sub-allowance.

Minister means the Minister administering the Act.

ML means megalitres.

Murray-Darling Basin Agreement means the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement as set out in Schedule 1 of the *Water Act 2007 of the Commonwealth*.

natural flow means a flow that occurs in a watershed or waterbody under natural unregulated conditions.

NSW Environmental Water Manager means the NSW Government department with the conservation role for water-dependent assets. This responsibility extends to managing the NSW environmental water portfolio.

Note. At the commencement of this Plan, the NSW Environmental Water Manager is the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Environment, Energy and Science (EES).

operator means the operator of the water supply system.

Note. At the commencement of this Plan, this is [WaterNSWWater NSW](#).

plantation forestry means a commercial plantation as defined in section 1.07 of the Basin Plan.

replenishment flows means flows provided to refill pools and water holes in river systems downstream of the water source and provide water for household and town use and stock.

reserves means volumes of water put aside in a water storage to provide for future water requirements.

residual Cudgegong environmental water is as defined in clause 57 of this Plan.

SDL resource unit shared reduction amount has the same meaning as it has in section 1.07 of the Basin Plan.

supplementary water event means a period during which the taking of water under supplementary water access licences is permitted in all or part of the water source.

supply capability means the rate at which the Minister determines water can be supplied to a segment of the water source without incurring unacceptable transmission losses.

target ecological populations are communities of one or more species that are monitored to evaluate the success of targeted objectives for the environment. Populations must be easily monitored (i.e. not rare or cryptic) and may be linked to conservation or other environmental priorities.

translucent sub-allowance is as defined in subclause 63 (2) (a) of this Plan.

uncontrolled flowflows means [flowflows](#) in excess of that needed to meet the environmental provisions of this Plan, basic landholder rights and water orders placed by access licences.

water source is as defined in clause 4.

water storage means a state-owned dam, weir or other structure that is used to regulate and manage river flows in the water source and the water body impounded by this structure.

water supply system means the water storages and all other infrastructure that can influence water supply controlled by the Minister, including regulators and weirs.

water use development means all privately-owned water management structures, and all aspects of farm, industry, town and private household development that affect the volumes of water taken from the water source, and the management practices that are applied in relation to them.

weighted average unit price means the total price (dollars per ML) of all units sold divided by the number of units sold.

Schedule 1 Cudgegong regulated river (general security) access licence carryover volumes (clause 44)

Table

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Water Act Licence number	Area developed at 1 July 2004 (hectares)	Carryover volume (ML)
80SA010585	470.7	7061
80SA010582	527	7905
SL095112	101.6	1524
SL095604	140	2100
SL095477	98	1470
SL095474	8	120
SL095671	39.5	593
SA010562	428	6416
SL095343	40	600
SL095663	5	75
SL095586	4.5	68
SL095276	56	840
SL095739	62.2	933
SL095581	101.4	1521
SA010580	79.3	1190
SL095053	33	495
SL050028	32.5	488

SL095449	21	315
SL039504	53	795
SL039799	122	1830
SL095833	20	300
SL095351	190	2850
SL095880	27.7	416
SL095747	12.1	182
SL051987	230	3450
SL095265	70	1050
SL095720	440	6600
SA010581	53	795
SL029394	10.5	158
SL095682	40	600

Note. The carryover volume calculated in the table above is the result of the area developed as at 1 July 2004, multiplied by 15.

FOR DRAFT INFORMATION