

# Floodplain harvesting in the Macquarie Regulated

This document summarises the intent of rules established for floodplain harvesting in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source.

## Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source

Rule	Intent
<p><b>Management zones</b></p>	<p>The following management zones have been created for floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licences to facilitate active management and dealing rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gum Cowal management zone</li> <li>• Lower Bogan Backwater management zone</li> <li>• Lower Macquarie River Downstream management zone</li> <li>• Lower Macquarie River Upstream management zone</li> <li>• Marra Creek management zone</li> <li>• Marthaguy Creek management zone</li> <li>• Lower Ewenmar Creek management zone</li> <li>• Upper Ewenmar Creek management zone.</li> </ul> <p>The boundaries for management zones have been based on existing water source or management zone boundaries in the Macquarie Bogan unregulated river water sources, clipped to fit within the Macquarie Valley Floodplain, as described in Table 1 and shown on Figure 1.</p>
<p><b>Share components</b></p>	<p>On 1 July 2022 there are zero unit shares in the water source for floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licences.</p> <p>It is anticipated that in September/October 2022, approximately 52,537 unit shares will be issued in the water source for floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licences.</p> <p>(There are approximately 632,000 unit shares for regulated river (general security) and 50,000 unit shares for supplementary).</p>

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<b>Calculation of the long-term average annual extraction limit</b>	Calculated as the level of floodplain harvesting that existed in the 1999/2000 water year for the water source, excluding exempt rainfall run-off (tailwater drain exemption under clause 39B and schedule 4 [clause 17C] of the <i>Water Management (General) Regulation 2018</i> ).
<b>Compliance with the extraction limit (LTAAEL or SDL)</b>	<p>Allocations reduced for floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licences if growth above the extraction limit is attributed to those licences.</p> <p>All other growth is managed through reduced allocations to supplementary water access licences (until they reach zero) then reduced allocations for regulated river (general security).</p>
<b>Initial allocation of 1 ML per unit share</b>	The first allocation that floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licences will receive is 1 ML per unit share (i.e., full allocation).
<b>Ongoing allocation of 1 ML per unit share</b>	Allocations credited at the beginning of each water year after the initial allocation will be not greater than 1 ML per unit share but can be less if required to respond to growth above the extraction limit.
<b>Rules for water supply work approvals to be nominated by a floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licence - granting</b>	<p>No new works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>located in management zone A or D, as established in the <i>Floodplain Management Plan for the Macquarie Valley Floodplain 2021</i></li> <li>located outside the Macquarie Valley Floodplain as shown in schedule 6 of the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Rules for water supply work approvals nominated by a floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licence - amending</b>	<p>Amendment of approval not permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to add a work that is located outside the Macquarie Valley Floodplain</li> <li>to add a work that is located in management zone A or D</li> <li>adding a work would increase the capability of existing works to take water from management zone A or D (except where the additional work was previously nominated by a floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licence.</li> </ul>
<b>Rules for water supply work approvals nominated by a floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licence – transitional exemption</b>	<p>Amending rules do not apply to the amendment of approvals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lodged prior to 30 June 2023</li> <li>for works constructed on or before 12 February 2021</li> <li>if also a flood work, subject to a flood work approval.</li> </ul>
<b>Account debiting</b>	Volume of water extracted during a nominated measurement period to be debited from the allocation account.

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<b>Account limit of 5 ML per unit share</b>	The allocation account for floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licences cannot exceed 5 ML per unit share at any time. Any unused allocation can be carried over from one water year to the next, subject to the account limit not being exceeded.
<b>Access rules</b>	<p>Take not permitted under a floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licence when there is less than 195 GL in the Menindee Lakes system (as defined in the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement).</p> <p>Rule ceases to apply during periods when there is a <b>combined flow forecast to occur</b> that is at least 3,400 ML/day at Marebone Break d/s regulator gauge (421 088) and Marebone Weir gauge (421 090).</p>
<b>Active management</b>	<p>Only applies to floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licences with an extraction component that specifies the Gum Cowal management zone or Lower Macquarie River Upstream management zone.</p> <p>Take is restricted, in accordance with an announcement, when there is only active environmental water present in the management zone.</p>
<b>Temporary trade (section 71T)</b>	No trade of allocation under section 71T of the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> , consistent with the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy.
<b>Permanent trade (section 71Q)</b>	<p>No trade of entitlement under section 71Q of the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> in any of the following circumstances (unless the work was nominated by the licence when it was first issued):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to a work located outside the Macquarie Valley floodplain</li> <li>• to a work located in management zones A or D</li> <li>• between management zones, except from a management zone to the corresponding management zone, as detailed in Table 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note.</b> Removal or modification of a work may be required under section 102 of the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> following a dealing that results in a significant reduction in entitlement and the works are still able to take overland flow</p>
<b>Nomination of works (section 71W)</b>	<p>No nomination of works under section 71W of the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> if the works are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• located outside the Macquarie Valley Floodplain</li> <li>• located within management zone A or D</li> <li>• located in a different management zone, except from a management zone to the corresponding management zone, as detailed in Table 2.</li> </ul>

Rule	Intent
<p><b>Mandatory conditions - licences</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exempt from requirement relating to ordering of water.</li> <li>• Only take overland flow within the Macquarie Valley Floodplain.</li> <li>• Condition to give effect to the access rule.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mandatory conditions - approvals</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exempt from flow measurement device requirement</li> <li>• Measurement conditions applied directly from the regulation</li> </ul>

Figure 1. Management zones in the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers water source.

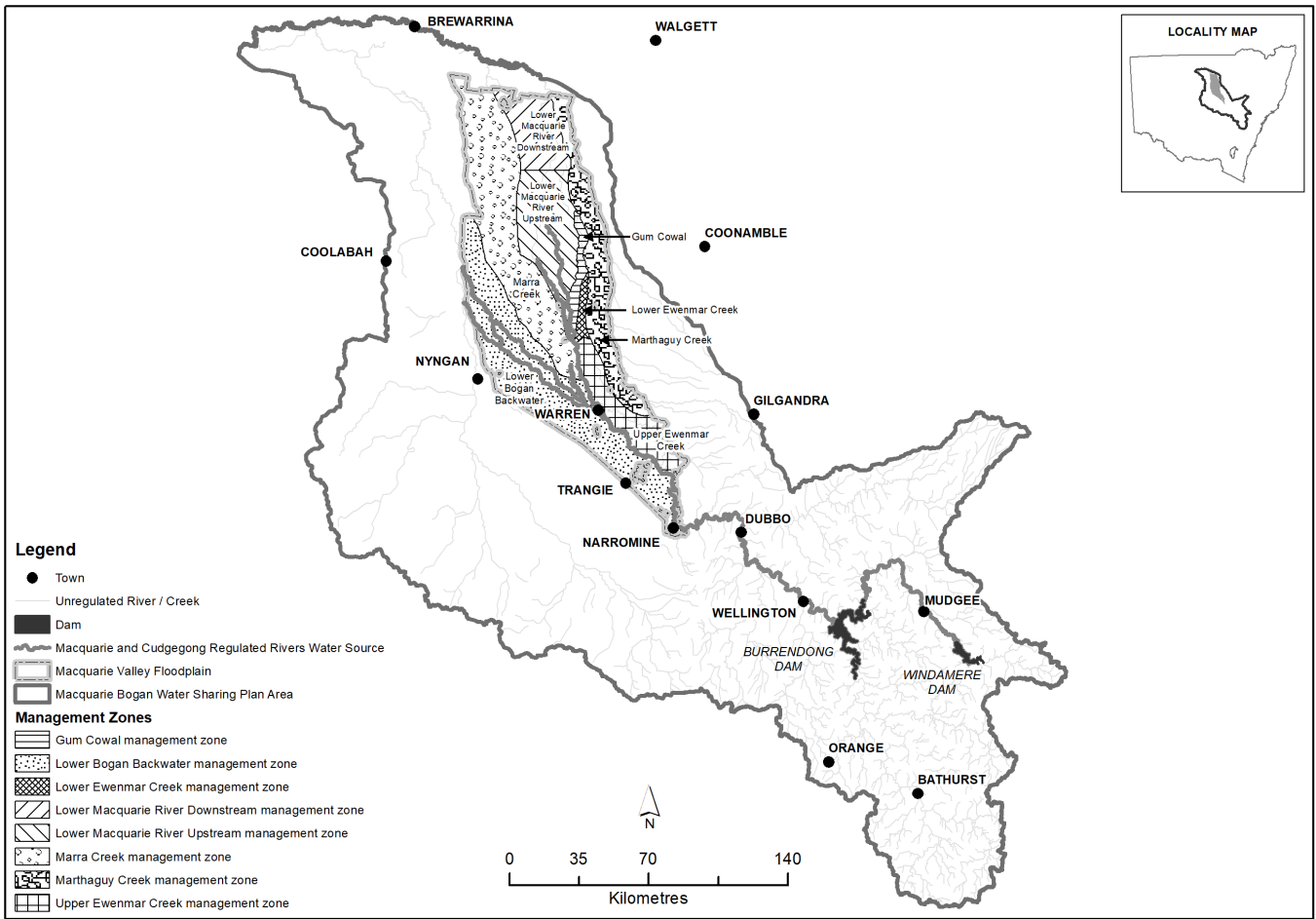


Table 1. Management zones within the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source.

Management zone in Macquarie regulated river water source	Boundary as established in the Macquarie Bogan unregulated river water source
Gum Cowal management zone	Gum Cowal management zone
Lower Bogan backwater management zone	Lower Bogan River water source + Backwater Boggy Cowal water source (clipped to fit within the designated floodplain)
Lower Macquarie River downstream management zone	Lower Macquarie River downstream management zone
Lower Macquarie River upstream management zone	Lower Macquarie River upstream management zone
Marra Creek management zone	Marra Creek water source (clipped to fit within the designated floodplain)
Lower Ewenmar Creek management zone	Ewenmar Creek water source (northern section)
Upper Ewenmar Creek management zone	Ewenmar Creek water source (southern section)
Marthaguy Creek management zone	Marthaguy Creek water source (clipped to fit within the designated floodplain)

Table 2. Permitted trade for floodplain harvesting licences in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated river water source.

From	To
Gum Cowal management zone	Lower Ewenmar Creek management zone, or Lower Macquarie River Downstream management zone, or Marthaguy Creek management zone.
Lower Bogan Backwater management zone	Marra Creek management zone
Lower Ewenmar Creek management zone	Gum Cowal management zone
Lower Macquarie River upstream management zone	Gum Cowal management zone, or Lower Macquarie River Downstream management zone, or Marthaguy Creek management zone.
Marra Creek management zone	Lower Bogan backwater management zone
Marthaguy Creek management zone	Lower Macquarie River downstream management zone