

Regional Water Strategy

Border Rivers – Implementation Plan

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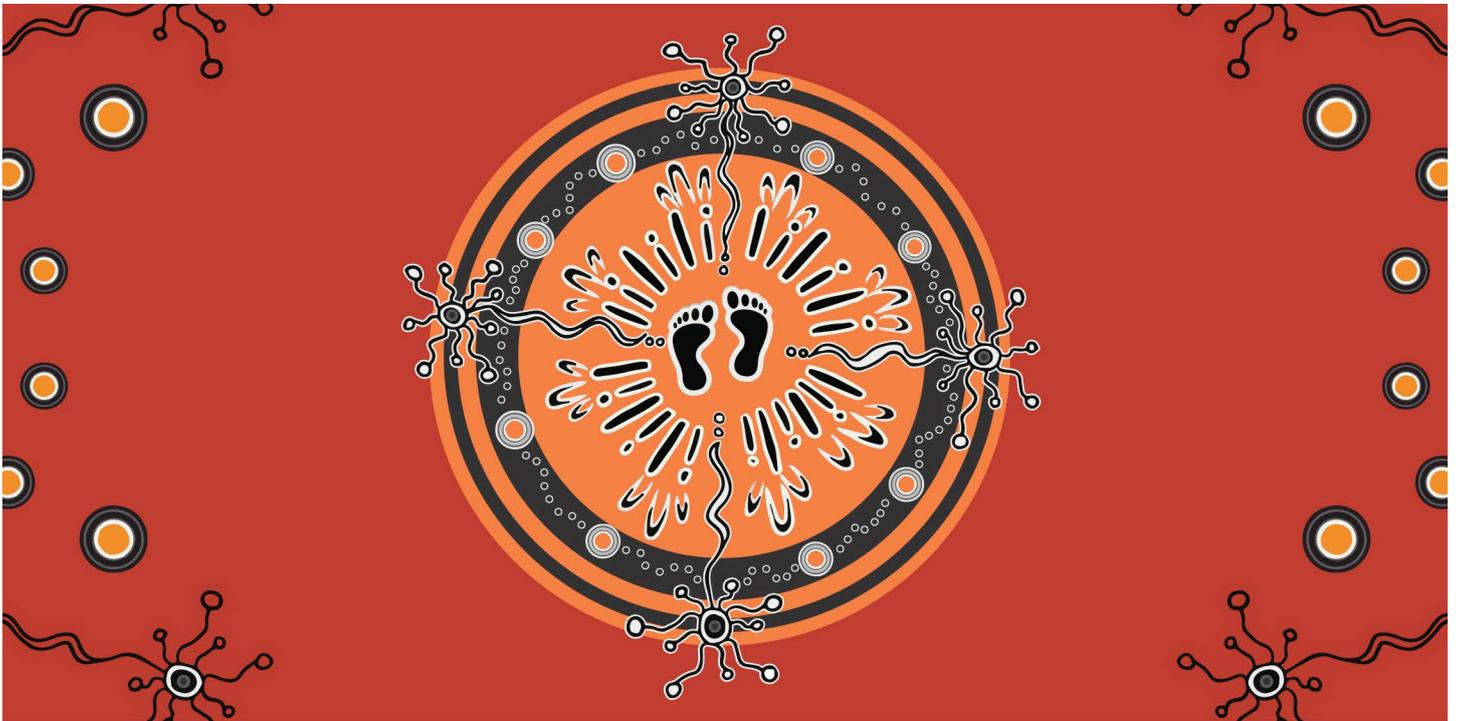
Cover image Image courtesy of Floodplain Harvesting Team, Department of Planning and Environment – Water. Barwon River, Mungindi.

More information water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/plans-and-programs/regional-water-strategies

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Acknowledging First Nations people

The NSW Government acknowledges First Nations people as its first Australian people and the traditional owners and custodians of the country's lands and water. We recognise that First Nations people have lived in NSW for over 60,000 years and have formed significant spiritual, cultural, and economic connections with its lands and waters.

Today, they practice the oldest living culture on earth.

The NSW Government acknowledges the Bigambul, Githabul, Gomeroi, Kambuwal, Kwiambal and Ngarabal people as having an intrinsic connection with the lands and waters of the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy area. The landscape and its waters provide First Nations people with essential links to their history and help them to maintain and practice their traditional culture and lifestyle.

We recognise that the Traditional Owners were the first managers of Country and that incorporating their culture and knowledge into management of water in the region is a significant step for closing the gap.

Under this regional water strategy, we seek to establish meaningful and collaborative relationships with First Nations people. We will seek to shift our focus to a Country-centred approach, respecting, recognising and empowering cultural and traditional Aboriginal knowledge in water management processes at a strategic level.

We show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places where First Nations people are included socially, culturally and economically.

As we refine and implement the regional water strategy, we commit to supporting the health and wellbeing of waterways and Country by valuing, respecting and being guided by Traditional Owners/First Nations people, who know that if we care for Country, it will care for us.

We acknowledge that further work is required under this regional water strategy to inform how we care for Country and ensure First Nations people/Traditional Owners hold a strong voice in shaping the future for Indigenous/Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

Artwork courtesy of Nikita Ridgeway.

About this Implementation Plan

The Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy charts the NSW Government's long-term vision and direction for delivering sustainable and resilient water services for the next 20 years. It sets out clear and accountable actions for the NSW Government, local water utilities and industries to tackle the challenges facing the Border Rivers region and maximise opportunities arising from the growing agricultural sector, other emerging and expanding industries, and new investments in transport and community infrastructure.

The Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy has a 20-year timeframe, and the prioritisation and implementation of actions recognises this. Across the strategy's 20 years, the delivery of actions will span short, medium and longer-term time horizons.

We have already started work on many of the strategy's actions. For those actions that have not been commenced, some we intend to implement in the short term, and others we intend to implement in the medium to longer term. This recognises, that although all actions are important, we cannot implement all actions immediately.

The Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy has been designed to be adaptive. This means we will update the strategy and our implementation approach to respond to changing priorities. We will review and update the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy at least every 5 years.

Immediate priorities for the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy

Not all of the actions in the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy will be implemented immediately. The focus of the first stage of implementation will be on:

- **Supporting critical human and environmental needs before we go into the next drought:**

- Confirming the timing of when additional groundwater bores are needed for Mungindi and Boggabilla to secure critical human needs (Action 4.2).

- Providing clarity for critical environmental needs in droughts by updating the Extreme Events Policy, and developing a WaterNSW operational drought management plan for the Border Rivers (Action 2.4).
- Finalising triggers for implementing temporary water restrictions to improve connectivity and protect the first flush of water after a drought (Action 4.5), and investigate incorporating relevant triggers and connectivity actions into water sharing plans.

- **Improving flows across floodplains:**

- Fully implementing the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy (Action 3.5).
- Remediating unapproved floodplain structures (Action 3.6).
- Continuing investment to improve our understanding and modelling capability of return flows from floodplains. This is an ongoing foundational action needed to support a range of actions in the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy.

- **Implementing foundational work to do more with less water:**

- Fast tracking the development of regulatory frameworks for town stormwater harvesting (Action 3.1).
- Finalising the climate vulnerability assessment for crops in the Border Rivers to understand how industries may need to adjust under a more variable climate (Action 2.1).
- Setting up ongoing frameworks to support arrangements for participation of local Aboriginal people in water management (Action 1.2) and place-based initiatives to deliver cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people (Action 3.2).

We have prioritised actions based on:

- results of our analyses
- discussions with local councils and other government agencies
- community feedback
- available funding and funding opportunities.

Responsibilities

The implementation plan also outlines responsibilities for delivery. This will allow us to better:

- monitor the progress of actions
- assess the effectiveness of the strategy
- identify areas for improvement.

Key implementation partners

Effectively implementing the actions will require involvement of a diverse group of partners that includes the following government agencies, local government, community groups, industry groups and individuals:

- Department of Planning and Environment Water (DPE Water)
- Department of Planning and Environment – Environment and Heritage (DPE Environment and Heritage)
- Department of Primary Industries Agriculture (DPI Agriculture)
- Department of Primary Industries Fisheries (DPI Fisheries)
- Department of Regional NSW
- Local Land Services – Northern Tablelands and North West regions
- Local councils – Tenterfield Shire Council, Gwydir Shire Councils, Glen Innes Severn Shire Council and Moree Plains Shire Council
- First Nations/Aboriginal peak groups and communities
- WaterNSW
- Regional Development Australia
- Destination NSW
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Office
- Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR)
- Non WaterNSW asset owners.

Monitoring, evaluation and progress reporting

An integrated monitoring and reporting framework has been developed for the various NSW water strategies. We will confirm and apply this to the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy and regularly report on the progress of implementation.

These progress reports will provide transparency in and accountability for delivering the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy to the NSW community.

Reading the Plan

The Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy is the result of significant analysis and community engagement and builds on a range of existing commitments and work already underway. This work and community feedback is the rationale for how implementation of the actions has been prioritised and recorded under the heading **Our starting point**.

There is some work that can commence very soon. Programs planned to start in the next 12 months are recorded under the heading **What we will do next**.

There is some work that will take more time or rely on other actions to be completed first before they can begin. Programs that are not due to commence for more than 12 months are recorded under the heading **What we will do later**. These programs may also be subject to funding approval.

There may be some instances where a column is blank. This is because we cannot begin implementing every action at once. The monitoring framework will help the department and the community assess the progression of implementing the strategy in full.

The NSW Government agency or partner identified as responsible for delivering each program in the strategy is listed as **Lead** under each sub-action.

Agencies or partners that play a supporting role in delivering the program are listed as **Supported by** under each sub-action.

Priority 1

Address knowledge gaps and make information easily accessible

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 1.1: Improve public access to climate information and water availability forecasts	<p>WaterNSW have updated the Water Insights and Water Information Dashboards, such as Water Insights, over recent years to provide detailed information to the public.</p> <p>Stakeholders have suggested that the focus of improved information should be on improved forecasting during flow events (in-event forecasting).</p>	<p>Improve understanding and modelling capability of return flows from floodplains, as a first step to improving in-event forecasting capabilities. This includes looking at methods and data to identify and undertake pilot projects that will test the methodology and suitability for valley-wide application.</p> <p>This will be a multi-year program.</p>	<p>Publish 6, 12 and 24-month water storage outlooks for Pindari and Glenlyon dams.</p>	DPE Water	
			<p>Develop the Drought Flood Risk Index to provide early warning to water users on whether a regulated valley is at a higher risk of heading into drought, or floods. The Drought Flood Risk Index will be made available on the Water Insights portal.</p>	WaterNSW	

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 1.2: Foster ongoing arrangements for participation of local Aboriginal people in water management	<p>The Department of Planning and Environment Water is developing a NSW Aboriginal Water Strategy and an engagement framework that describes when and how we engage with First Nations and Aboriginal people and peak organisations in an inclusive and culturally appropriate way.</p>	<p>Finalise the Aboriginal water engagement framework.</p> <p>Set up a program and function to enable the Department of Planning and Environment Water to fund existing and new local Aboriginal organisations to increase their capacity to be involved in water related matters (consistent with the department's Interim Aboriginal community engagement fee guideline) and incorporate into business-as-usual activities.</p> <p>Work with the Boggabilla/ Toomelah community to progress local governance arrangements.</p>	<p>Incorporate immediate actions from the engagement framework into business-as-usual activities.</p> <p>Finalise the NSW Aboriginal Water Strategy.</p>	DPE Water	First Nations/ Aboriginal peak groups and communities
Action 1.3: Improve understanding of river flows, water use and water quality at priority locations in the Border Rivers	<p>The Department of Planning and Environment Water has developed a Hydrometric Network Review and Hydrometric Improvement Plan.</p>	<p>Invest in technologies and monitoring that can provide additional information about water quality and water flows at priority locations that could be used to inform planning and management for these systems. This may include installing new gauges at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macintyre River between Kanowona and Mungindi (intent operating, water sharing, environmental water) • Dumaresq River downstream of Macintyre Brook Junction (water sharing, environmental water). 	<p>Install gauges in the unregulated upper catchment, with a priority location at Bluff River, near Tenterfield.</p> <p>Identify priority sites to improve telemetered monitoring of water quality parameters in the regulated and unregulated systems.</p> <p>Develop the Reach Water Balance Tool to improve understanding of river flows.</p>	DPE Water	DPE Environment and Heritage

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 1.4: Invest in continuous improvement to water modelling in the Border Rivers region	<p>In collaboration with the Queensland Government the department has developed modelling of the Border Rivers river system within the Source modelling platform.</p>		<p>Recalibrate the Border Rivers river system model with floodplain harvesting data once sufficient floodplain harvesting and unregulated river non-urban water take measurement data are available.</p> <p>Update water user behaviour (in 2–3 years time) and return flows analysis.</p>	DPE Water	<p>DPE Environment and Heritage</p> <p>DPI Fisheries</p>
Action 1.5: Improve cross-border collaboration and information sharing	<p>There are existing governance structures and functions set up to support cross border water management collaboration. These include the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border Rivers Commission • Intergovernmental agreements • Cross Border Commissioner • Border Regional Organisation of Councils. 	<p>Set up regular forums to discuss urban water, strategic and operational cross border issues.</p> <p>Further develop and finalise a Memorandum of Understanding for Cross Border Collaboration with the Queensland Government and strengthen the capacity of the Border Rivers Commissioner’s office.</p>	<p>Incorporate collaboration and information sharing into business-as-usual practices.</p>	DPE Water	

Priority 2

Do more with less water

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 2.1: Support farm climate adaptation and water efficiency measures	The Department of Primary Industries is undertaking a detailed analysis of the risks and opportunities of a changing climate to support resilience and adaptation in the broadacre cropping sector.	Complete stage 1 of the Department of Primary Industries Climate Vulnerability Assessment which will include publishing summaries of the assessments of climate risk and opportunities for the Border Rivers agricultural commodities including cotton, and extensive livestock.	Implement stage 2 of the Climate Vulnerability Assessment which will include integrating water data from the regional water strategies into the analysis and investigating adaptation responses for cotton.	DPI Agriculture	DPE Water
	The NSW Government has funded an expanded Farms for the Future project to support on-farm digital connectivity and encourage farmers to adopt agtech ¹ to boost productivity, including improved water efficiency and drought preparedness.	Continue to roll-out the Farms for the Future project (funded until 2025).	Monitor the outcomes of adoption of digital technologies under the Farms for the Future project to see if any further gaps remain that may support regional adaptation.	DPI Agriculture	
	NSW Government is running a suite of Natural Capital voluntary programs to assist the primary industries sector to undertake sustainable actions to enable improved productivity, drought and climate resilience.	Offer certification through agreed sustainability actions, including improving land management.		DPE Environment and Heritage	

1. Agtech is the collective term for the tools and technologies – sensors, farm management software, imagery and smart farm equipment – that enables best practice agriculture.

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 2.2: Coordinate the management of irrigation water releases and water for the environment to improve ecological outcomes	<p>This action will be progressed as a medium-term priority. Implementing actions to provide clarity on regulated river drought operations (Action 2.4) and improve connectivity with the Barwon–Darling (Action 4.5) will change the base case analysis for this action and may address some of the current gaps in the flow regime.</p>		<p>Work with environmental water managers and technical experts to scope and commence technical work to improve understanding of the impacts of climate change on the management of water for the environment.</p>	DPE Environment and Heritage	WaterNSW DPE Water
Action 2.3: Identify and address physical barriers to the delivery of water for the environment	<p>This action will be progressed after actions around remediating fish passage (Action 3.4) and removing unapproved floodplain structures (Action 3.6) have been completed.</p>		<p>Identify key ecological assets in the upper catchment and constraints to delivering water to those assets.</p> <p>Assess values of wetlands in the lower Macintyre floodplain and the feasibility of delivering water to key assets.</p>	DPE Environment and Heritage Commonwealth Environmental Water Office	WaterNSW DPE Water DPI Fisheries

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 2.4: Provide clarity and certainty for water users, landholders and environmental water managers during drought operations	We have heard that this action needs to be escalated as a priority to ensure we are better prepared before we go into the next drought.	Update the Extreme Events Policy.		DPE Water	DPI Fisheries
	The Border Rivers Incident Response Guide has been updated to reflect lessons learnt from the recent drought.	Develop procedures for the delivery of block releases.			DPE Environment and Heritage
		Develop and deliver the Border Rivers Regulated River Drought Management Plan.		WaterNSW	NRAR WaterNSW
		Establish an Environmental Water Advisory Group for the Border Rivers.		DPE Environment and Heritage	



Image courtesy of Therese Hulme, Department of Planning and Environment. Pindari Dam, 16% capacity.

Priority 3

Make the region more resilient to climate variability

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 3.1: Modernise the water management framework so it can continue to support sustainable economic diversification	During consultation on the Draft Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy stakeholders identified that the priority for this action should focus on clarifying regulatory arrangements for innovative new water sources such as stormwater harvesting, and that economic diversification needs to be linked to the region's comparative advantages.	Develop a regulatory framework for town stormwater harvesting. Note this will be a multi-year program.		DPE Water	
			Deliver upfront education and clarity to industry and government on potential water sources, given that the region's surface water sources and some groundwater sources are already fully allocated and there is potential for reduced water availability in the future.	DPE Water	DPI Agriculture
		Consider the findings from the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy in the update of the Regional Economic Development Strategy for the Upper North West region. Support Inverell and Gwydir Councils to develop Regional Drought Resilience Plans (by June 2024).	Department of Regional NSW	Local councils Regional Development Australia Destination NSW	

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 3.2: Support place-based initiatives to deliver cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people		The Department of Planning and Environment Water will finalise a structure and framework within the department that can support local level place-based initiatives.	Co-design at least one project with Aboriginal people in the Border Rivers region that delivers cultural outcomes from improved access to water.	DPE Water	First Nations/ Aboriginal peak groups and communities Local Land Services
Action 3.3: Support Aboriginal business opportunities in the Border Rivers region	During consultation on the Draft Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy, we heard that immediate priorities for this action should focus on capability building partnerships.	The NSW Government will work with the Mungindi Local Aboriginal Land Council to develop and build capacity in a range of areas including training, governance and skills.	Work with Aboriginal organisations, businesses, and individuals in the Border Rivers region to identify and support new and existing businesses to explore opportunities and access support or grant funding.	DPE Water	Department of Regional NSW First Nations/ Aboriginal peak groups and communities Local councils Regional Development Australia Destination NSW

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 3.4: Mitigate the impact of infrastructure on native fish through infrastructure changes	The Australian Government has provided funding for fish passage, cold water pollution and diversion screens as part of the Northern Basin Toolkit.				
	<p>Native fish passage</p> <p>Funding has been secured through the Northern Basin Toolkit to undertake fish passage works at 9 high priority barriers in the Border Rivers.</p>	<p>Fish passage: Reconnecting the Northern Basin project by addressing the staged remediation of 9 priority barriers in the region by commencing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • project development, feasibility, designs and approvals • construction and commissioning. 	Develop a Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting plan for monitoring post construction.	DPE Water DPI Fisheries WaterNSW	Non WaterNSW asset owners
	<p>Cold water pollution</p> <p>Pre-feasibility assessment work has been completed for potential cold water pollution mitigation actions at Pindari Dam.</p>	<p>Develop the cold water pollution monitoring plan within and below Pindari Dam.</p> <p>This will include the completion of pre-feasibility assessments and demonstration aeration trials of cold water pollution mitigation options to inform the preferred option.</p>	<p>Install and maintain temperature monitoring equipment for Pindari Dam.</p> <p>Demonstration of aeration to test ‘real world’ application of this asset solution to assess capability and effectiveness and analyse cost-benefits.</p> <p>Build on the Northern Basin Toolkit pre-feasibility work and planned demonstration trial, to identify the preferred infrastructure solution for Pindari Dam and develop a business case for the related infrastructure.</p>	DPE Water DPI Fisheries WaterNSW	

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 3.4: Mitigate the impact of infrastructure on native fish through infrastructure changes (continued)	Fish diversion screens Funding has been secured by Queensland agencies through the Northern Basin Toolkit to undertake diversion screening at priority sites in the Border Rivers. Work to define the scope and number of sites is underway.		Identify additional critical pump sites in NSW that could benefit from fish diversion screens. Build a business case for these sites to be considered in future funding opportunities.	DPI Fisheries	Asset owners
Action 3.5: Fully implement the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy	The NSW Government has created floodplain licences and entitlements for water users in the Border Rivers.	Implement floodplain harvesting water access licences and works approvals, including measurement and monitoring, in the Border Rivers Valley (by June 2023).		DPE Water	
Action 3.6: Remediate unapproved floodplain structures	The Australian Government has funded the Improving Floodplain Connections program.	Commence implementation of the Improving Floodplain Connections program in the Border Rivers. This will be a multi-year program.		DPE Water	WaterNSW NRAR DPE Environment and Heritage DPI Fisheries

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 3.7: Rehabilitate regionally significant riparian, wetland and floodplain reaches	Local Land Services is implementing a range of programs to improve natural resource management in the Border Rivers region. This includes the Healthy Rivers and Fencing the Northern Basin Riverbanks programs funded by the Australian Government.	Implement the Healthy Rivers Program in the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services region and the Fencing Northern Basin Riverbanks Program in the Northern Tablelands, and North-West Local Land Services regions.	Identify priority sites in the Border Rivers region to focus riparian and floodplain rehabilitation efforts and secure funding to progress the projects.	Local Land Services	DPI Fisheries DPE Environment and Heritage
	The NSW Government is running a suite of Natural Capital voluntary programs to assist the primary industries sector actions including regenerating local landscapes.	Offer certification for farms that are implementing sustainable actions by protecting remnant vegetation riparian areas, or rocky outcrops via fencing or other means.			DPE Environment and Heritage



Image courtesy of Simone Cottrell, Department of Planning and Environment. View of Macintyre River and native vegetation.

Priority 4

Share water differently to address critical needs of Border Rivers and downstream users

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 4.1: Map critical drought refugia	<p>The Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, the Department of Primary Industries Fisheries and the Murray–Darling Basin Authority have been undertaking aquatic habitat mapping to inform water management. This mapping covers all of the Barwon River, much of the Darling River and parts of the Dumaresq and Macintyre rivers.</p>		<p>Complete the detailed identification and mapping of critical drought refugia in the Border Rivers including through different technologies. In addition, we will identify critical dry watering requirements for these refugia.</p>	DPI Fisheries	<p>DPE Environment and Heritage</p> <p>DPE Water</p>



Image courtesy of Jane Humphries, Commonwealth Environmental Water Office. Barwon River upstream of Mungindi Weir.

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 4.2: Support towns to understand if groundwater can provide a reliable water supply when surface water availability is limited	<p>The NSW Government provides funding to support councils to complete local water utility strategic planning.</p> <p>The NSW Government's Town Water Risk Reduction Program is working in partnership with councils, local water utilities, government agencies and the broader sector to address these issues and improve management of town water risks. Around \$12 million has been invested in water security upgrades in the region through the Safe and Secure Water Program.</p>	<p>The Department of Planning and Environment Water will support the completion of the local water utility strategic planning for both Moree and Tenterfield, including assessing if surface water supply shortfalls can be addressed by groundwater.</p> <p>The department will provide technical capability and support to councils to assist them in addressing groundwater quality issues to make it suitable for drinking water.</p>		<p>Tenterfield Shire Council</p> <p>and</p> <p>Moree Shire Council</p> <p>DPE Water</p>	
		<p>Begin investigations of the New England Fold Belt Fractured rocks through a desk top study using all existing data.</p>	<p>Further understand if groundwater is a viable long-term water supply in the east of the catchment through further desktop studies, field investigations and analyses.</p> <p>This will be a multi-year project.</p>	<p>Department of Regional NSW Geological Survey (groundwater analysis)</p>	
		<p>Gwydir Council will seek to obtain a higher security water licence to supply North Star.</p>			<p>Gwydir Shire Council</p>

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 4.3: Investigate innovative water projects to support town water supplies			As part of local water utility strategic planning, the Department of Planning and Environment Water will support councils to investigate the use of treated water for non-potable uses in the region and factor bushfire risks into individual town demand and emergency management plans.	Local councils DPE Water	
Action 4.4: Investigate sustainable levels of groundwater extraction in the Border Rivers Alluvial aquifers	A numerical model for the alluvial groundwater system has been built jointly with the Queensland Government.		<p>Undertake scientific studies on the impacts of climate change and connectivity between surface water and groundwater to inform sustainable extraction limits.</p> <p>Review the extraction limit for the Basin Plan review in 2026.</p>	DPE Water	

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
Action 4.5: Investigate ways to improve connectivity with the Barwon–Darling River on a multi-valley scale	<p>The NSW Government is developing the Western Regional Water Strategy which will identify priority actions around improving connectivity.</p>	<p>Publish the final Western Regional Water Strategy.</p> <p>Finalise the review of the targets in the North West Unregulated Flow Management Plan.</p> <p>Publish flow targets for the Barwon–Darling to guide embargoes on upstream extraction under drought conditions and investigate implementing relevant targets in the Border Rivers region water sharing plans.</p> <p>Continue to implement the recommendations of the Independent Panel Assessment of the Management of the 2020 Northern Basin First Flush Event, as outlined in the NSW Government response and provide an update report on implementation annually.</p> <p>Re-make the Barwon–Darling Water Sharing Plan.</p>	<p>Continue investigations to understand whether broader reform is needed for improving connectivity during dry periods to inform the review of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan.</p>	DPE Water	<p>DPE Environment and Heritage</p> <p>DPI Fisheries</p>

Ongoing monitoring, adaptation and reporting

The Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy is designed to respond to changing circumstances. We will undertake a formal review of the strategy at least every 5 years, or in response to significant changing conditions and government priorities. The formal review will ensure that the key assumptions, such as population and demographics, have not significantly changed.

Amendments may be made in response to key changes in water demand, social preferences, science and

technology, economic conditions, or other events, including how climate change assumptions and responses evolve. These amendments may result in a shift in priorities, and the implementation plan will be updated to reflect this.

We will report every year against actions in the implementation plan, so that the community can track our progress and we can demonstrate which actions have been delivered, or continue to be delivered, in that year.

Figure 1. Regional water strategies process

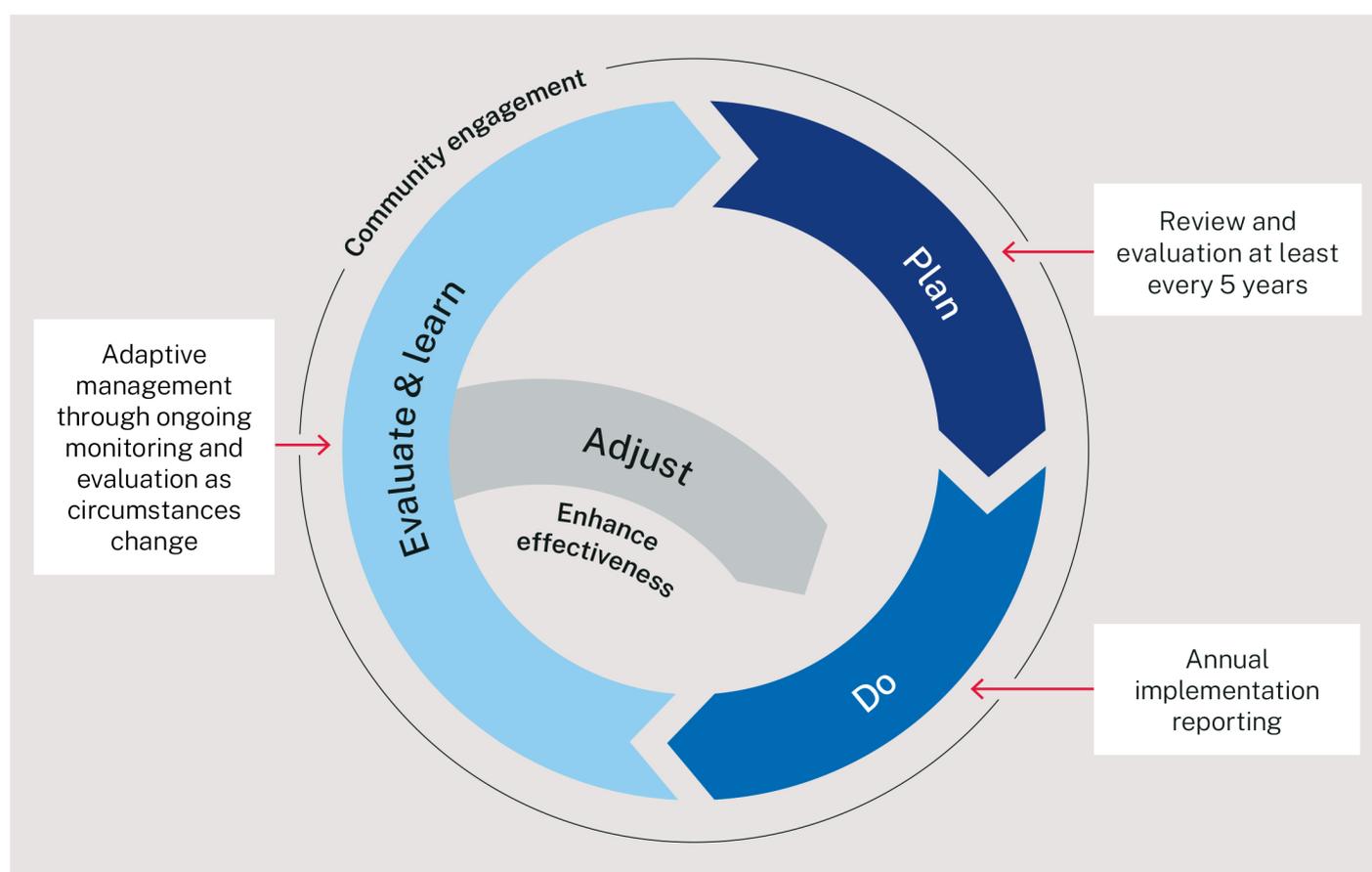


Table 1. Supporting activities

Action	Lead agency	What we'll deliver in the next 5 years
Reporting	DPE Water	Publish an annual progress update on delivery of the actions in the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy Implementation Plan so that the community can track progress.
Monitoring and evaluation	DPE Water	Apply the framework developed for the NSW Water Strategy to monitor, review and report against the actions in the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy.
Review	DPE Water	Undertake a formal review of the strategy at least every 5 years, or in response to changing circumstances. The formal review will ensure that the key assumptions, such as population and demographics, have not significantly changed.

