



NSW Water Reform Action Plan

Water Reform Presentation

March and April 2018

Water Reform Action Plan

Our water goals in NSW

Introduce best practice
for water management



Ensure transparency in
how we share, allocate
and manage water



Build a compliance and
enforcement regime
that ensures strong and
certain regulation



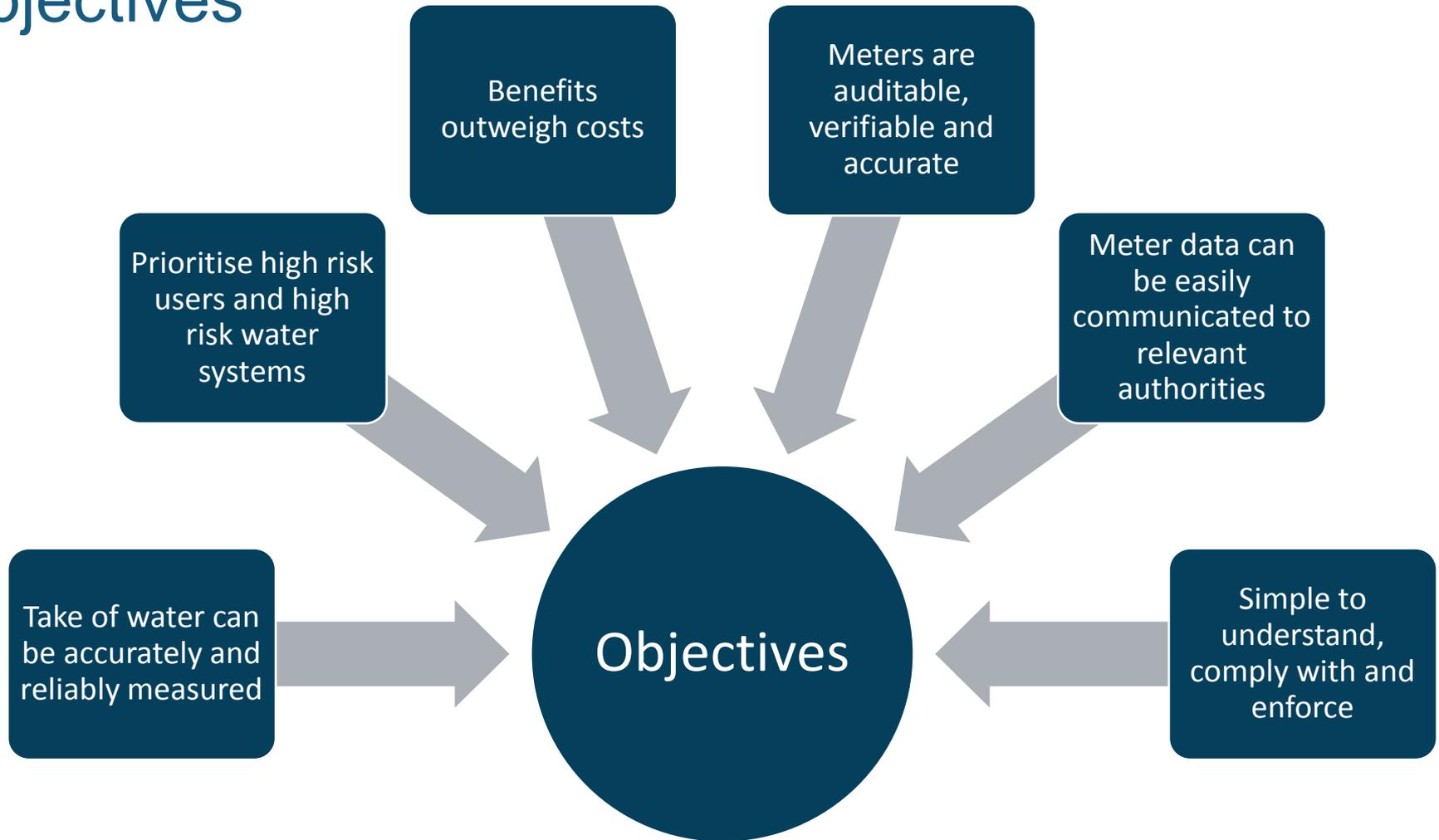
Build capability to
support implementation
of water reforms





Water Take Measurement & Metering Policy

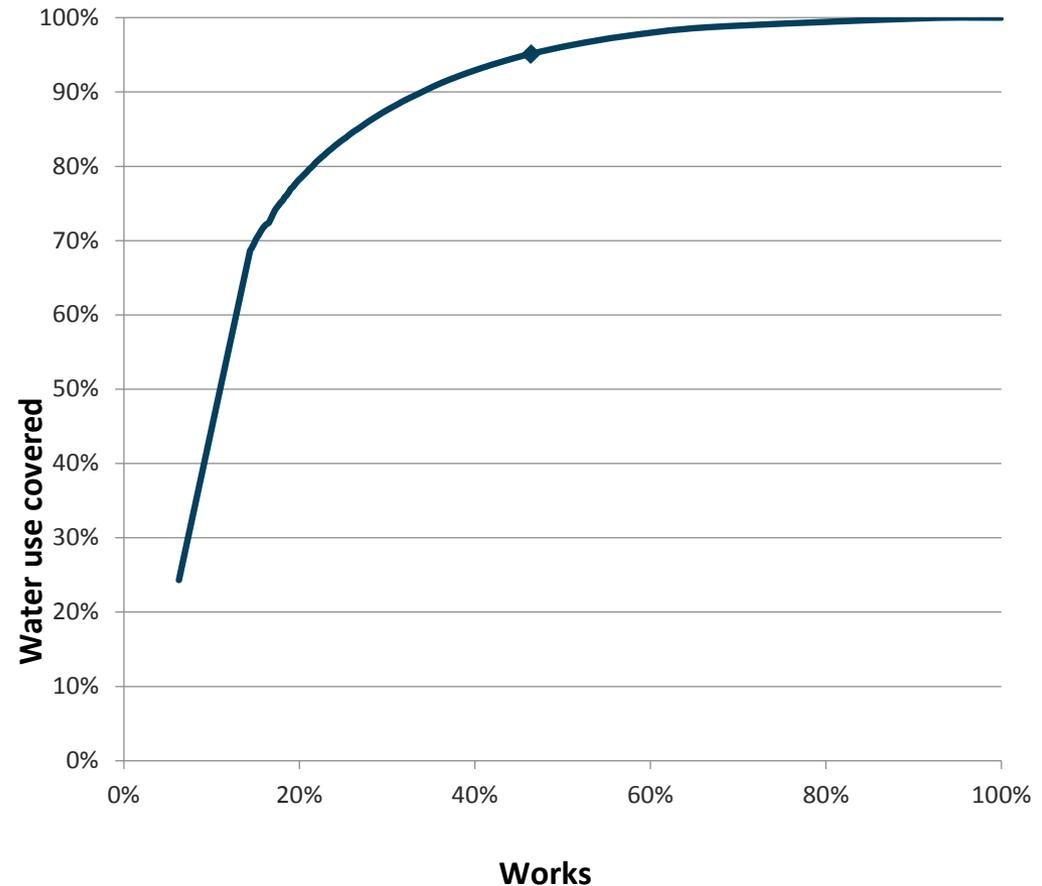
Objectives



When should a meter be required?

Option 1: no meter no pump (“universal metering”)

- A large proportion of water is extracted by a half of the water supply works
- Costs of metering very small users may outweigh benefits



Option 2: Thresholds are linked to shares on licences

- **Benefits:** Captures the relative risk of licence holder
- **Disadvantages:** shares can fluctuate
- One threshold state-wide, or different thresholds?

Example: 370 shares

| NSW | Coastal | | | Inland | | |
|-----|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| All | Regulated | Unregulated | Groundwater | Regulated | Unregulated | Groundwater |
| 84% | 51% | 46% | 47% | 96% | 78% | 79% |

Option 3: Infrastructure size (pumps, bore)

- **Benefits:**
 - Linked to a licence holder's physical capacity to take water.
 - infrastructure constrains the volume of water that can be taken.
- **Disadvantages:** could be difficult to keep up with improving pump efficiency
- One threshold state-wide, or different thresholds?

Option 4: Risk of water source

- All users in “high risk” water sources will be required to be metered
- However, it may not capture licence holders in lower risk areas that are large users and therefore pose a significant risk regardless of the water source.

Option 5: Multiple criteria

Water users are required to be metered if they meet any of the criteria in options 2-4.

For example, meters will be required if licence holders:

- Are in a high risk water source
- Have a certain number of shares at any point in time, or
- Have a pump that is larger than a particular size

**What type of metering
equipment will be required?**

Accuracy

Installation

Seals

Maintenance

Data

Transmission
of data

meet the
Australian
Standard
4747 and be
pattern
approved

installed and
validated by
a duly
qualified
person.

all meters
must have
tamper-
proof seals

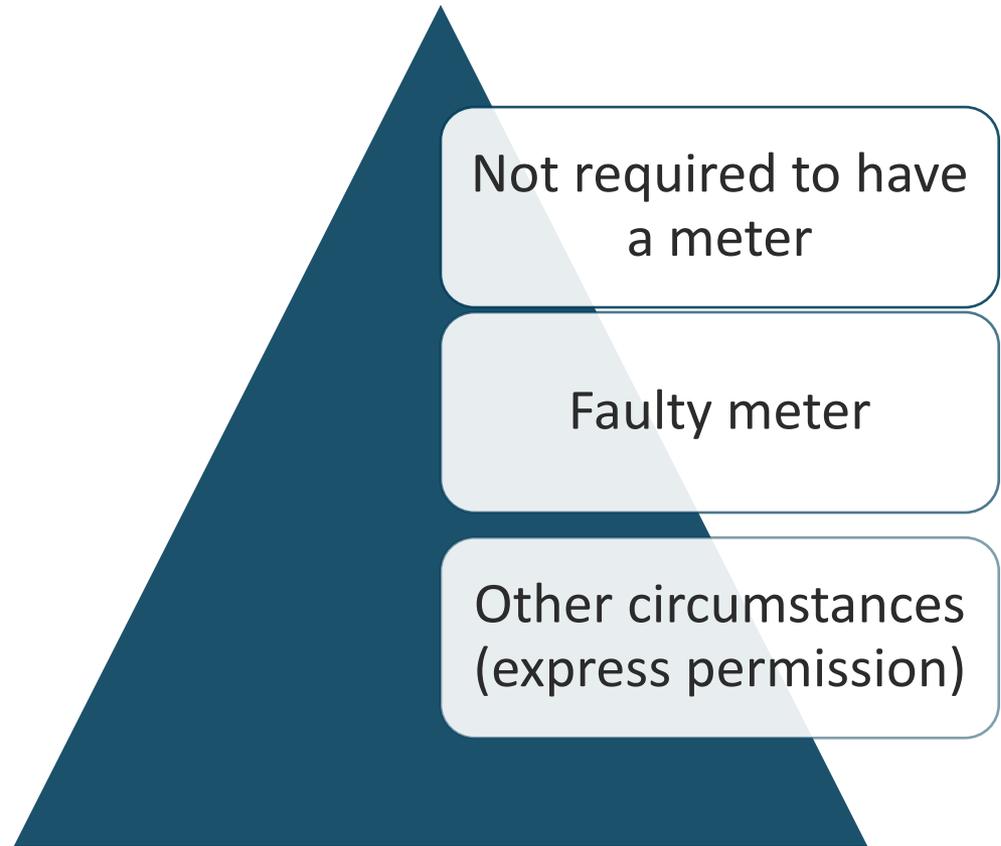
maintained
by an
accredited
installer
every five
years.

volumetric
flow rate and
the date,
time and
duration of
water taken.

all meters
have
telemetry, or
some
mechanism
that allows
for remote
meter
readings

Self reporting

- Log books are proposed to be phased out.
- Self reporting will be permitted in certain circumstances.



When should the metering requirements be rolled out?

Stage 1: 2019 - 2020

- Large users
- Selected high risk areas

Stage 2: 2020-22

- Other high risk areas

Stage 3: 2022-24

- Rest of the State

Who should own meters?

Principle: users pay for the costs of installing and maintaining meters

Private
ownership

Government
ownership

Mixed



Better Management of Environmental Water

Key points for today

- What are we doing?
- What's the challenge of better environmental water management
- What's the focus area
- What are the focus outcomes
- Possible measures
- Supporting factors to implementation of these measures
- Next steps

What are we doing?



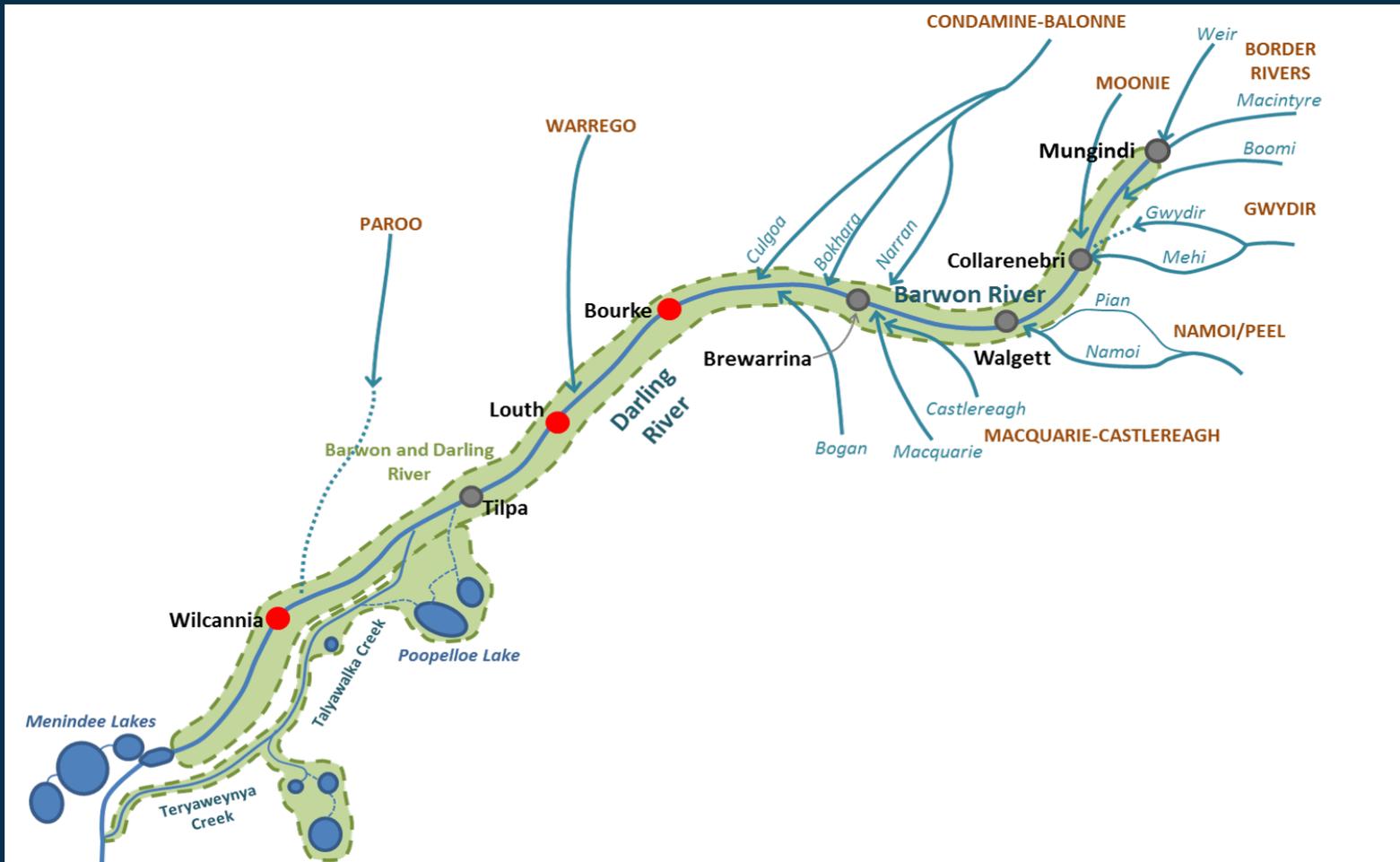
Interagency Working Group

- Formed in February 2018 to advise Government
- Taskforce (Chair), CEWO, MDBA, DoI Water, OEH, DPI Fisheries, DPI Agriculture, WaterNSW , NRC

What are the challenges?

- Environmental water management has evolved over the past 20 years
- Significant investment in water for the environment
- Held environmental water is left instream so can be used for its intended purpose
- Focus on Basin outcomes and connectivity between systems
- Water from upstream water sources contributes to downstream system resources.

Priority areas



What are the desired outcomes?

- Breaking extended cease-to-flow periods
- Whole-of-river flow connectivity
- Flushing flows
- Recognition of held environmental water in transit

May also provide social and cultural benefits

Possible measures

1. Impose restrictions when held environmental water is released from an upstream storage
2. Change access rules for flows through the Barwon-Darling
3. Use IDELs to better manage flow sharing
4. Active sharing of flows on an event basis
5. Use of downstream environmental requirements as a trigger to manage upstream access

Other factors

- Transparency and metering reforms
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
- Measurement and information capture technologies to support operational outcomes and improve flow forecasting and event tracking

Next steps

Your submission will inform:

- Further stakeholder consultation and communications
- Development of a package of interim solutions.



Transparency Measures

Why increase transparency?

- Encourage voluntary compliance
- Improve public confidence that water is being used in accordance with the rules
- Confidence is a prerequisite for sustainable communities, jobs and the environment

What does the consultation paper cover?

1. A public register of water information
2. Transparency of when water take is permitted
3. Publishing compliance and enforcement activities

A public register of water information

- Much is already in the public domain
- However, information is disparate
- Constraints to accessing certain information
- Some information not currently published, e.g. meter readings and account balances

A public register of water information

- What information should be included in a public register and why?
- Are there risks with publishing some water information? How can these be managed?
- How should information be provided?

Information about when water can be taken

- Need for a single source of information about when flow conditions allow for water take
- What issues should be considered in developing a source of authority on when water take is permitted?
- How could these be managed?

Publishing compliance and enforcement activities

- Regulator will ensure its decisions, actions and processes are transparent and accessible
- Regulator required to publish information on convictions
- Regulator intends to publish details of other compliance actions, for example, PINs and stop work orders



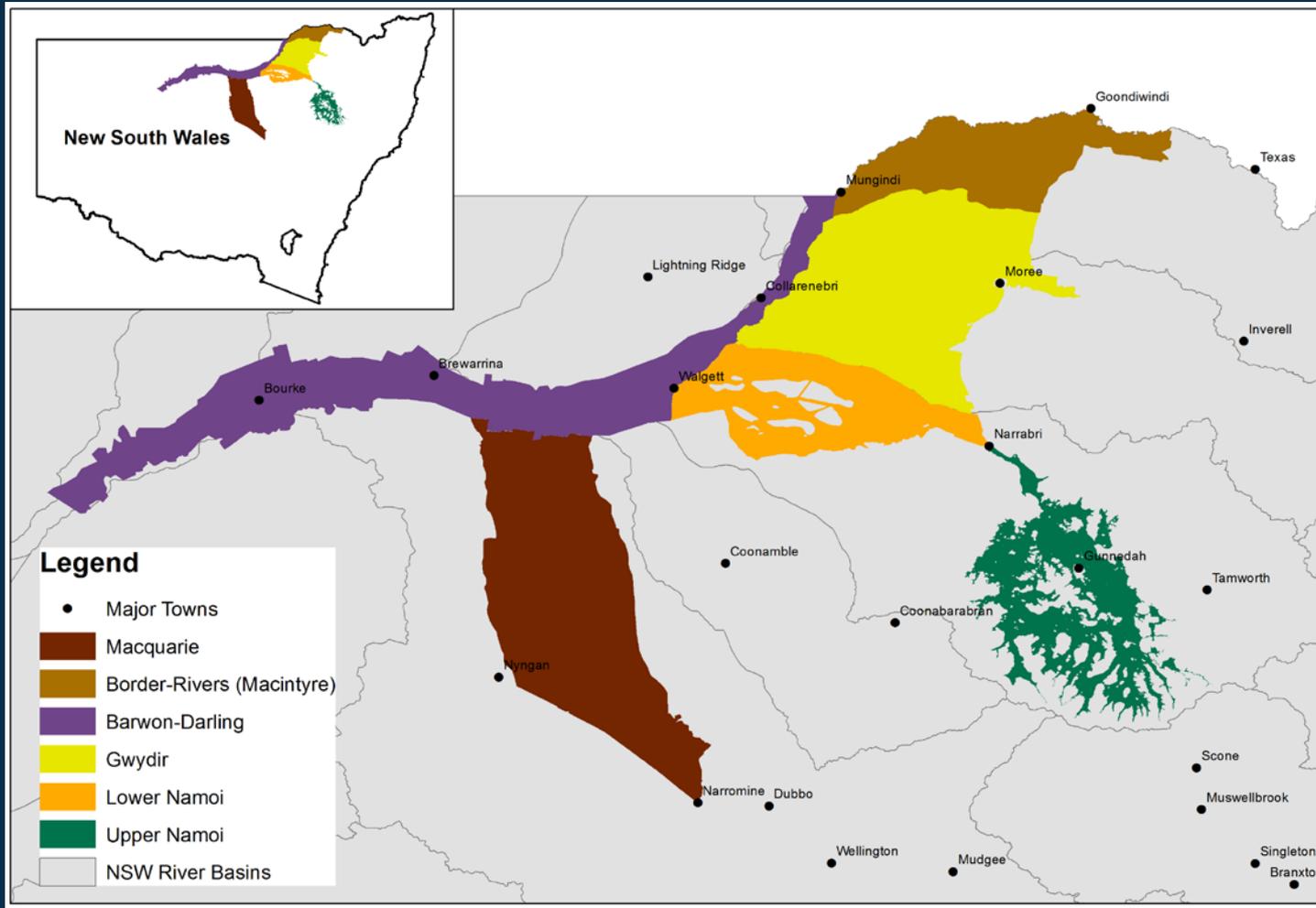
Floodplain Harvesting Policy

Session objectives

1. To outline the steps that the NSW Government is taking to manage floodplain harvesting
2. To consult on options to refine the policy
3. Provide information on the process and timing for the implementation of the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy across the Northern Basin



Priority Area for Implementation - Northern Basin



What does implementation involve?

1. Water Supply Work Approvals
2. Water Access Licences
3. Water Sharing Rules

Why is it happening?

Protect the environment and reliability of supply for other water users including downstream systems; supported by;

- the requirements of the *Water Management Act 2000* and *Water Act 2007* (Cwth)
- National Water Initiative objectives

How is it happening?

Refining the policy

1. Rainfall runoff
2. Monitoring
3. Account management

Principles

- Effectiveness
- Equity
- Enforceability
- Simplicity
- Cost

Option 1 - rainfall runoff included in FPH licences

Key benefit - security and certainty, underpinned by;

- A robust compliance and enforcement regime
- Equity in the treatment of floodplain extractions
- No change overall to water take amounts as these are already capped

Option 2 - rainfall runoff excluded from FPH licence

Key benefits;

- No impact on water bills
- Improved floodplain management relative to the past
- Less risk of pollution

Measurement of floodplain harvesting

A staged approach is being recommended

First stage consistent with the MDBA compliance review recommendation for FPH

Staged approach sets a trajectory of improvement based on adaptive management

Account management rules

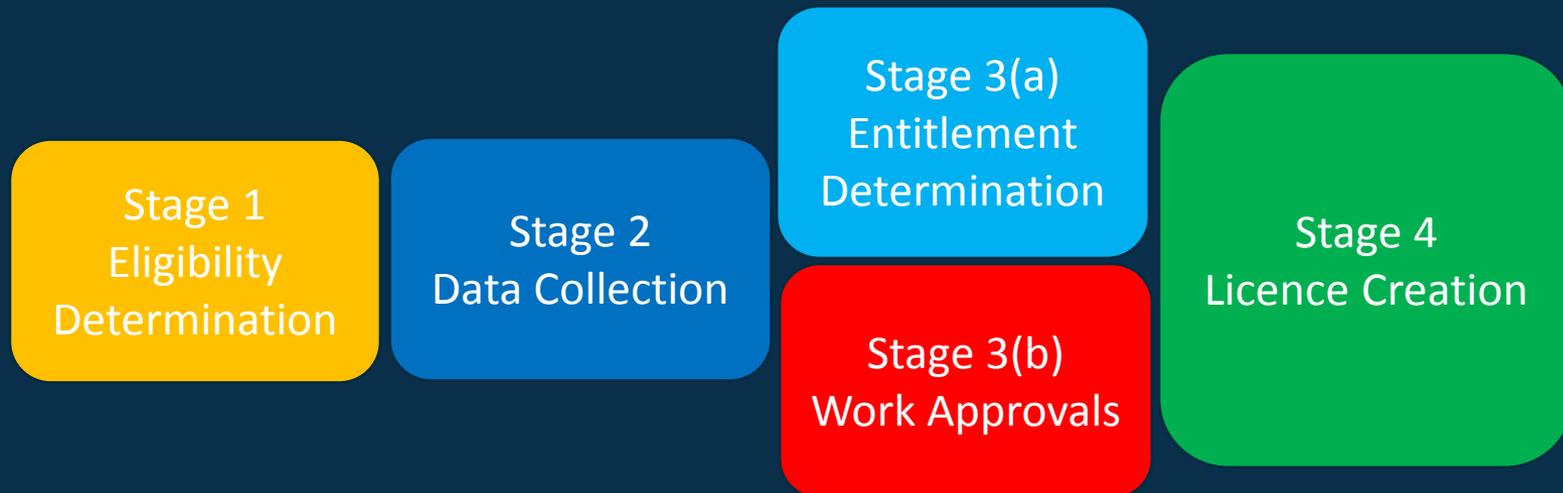
Policy sets out specific account management rules for FPH

Implementation process has revealed some unintended outcomes

Establishing valley specific account management rules can avoid these impacts

Indicative account management rules will be released with draft entitlements

Process/Timing – FPH entitlements and approvals



| | STAGE 1 | STAGE 2 | STAGE 3 (A) | | STAGE 3 (B) | | STAGE 4 |
|----------------|----------|----------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Namoi | COMPLETE | Underway | From March 2018 | From Dec 2018 | From Dec 2018 | From April 2019 | Complete June 2019 |
| Gwydir | COMPLETE | | | Underway | COMPLETE | Underway | Complete by Sept 2018 |
| Border Rivers | COMPLETE | | | Underway | COMPLETE | Underway | Complete by Sept 2018 |
| Macquarie | COMPLETE | Underway | From May 2018 | Underway | From May 2018 | Complete Dec 2018 | |
| Barwon Darling | COMPLETE | Underway | From May 2018 | Underway | From May 2018 | Complete Dec 2018 | |

Process – water sharing rules for FPH

Developed as part of the water resource planning process

Guided by input from Stakeholder Advisory Panels

Broad stakeholder feedback will be sought as part of public exhibition of the draft water resource plan

Feedback

1. Rainfall runoff
2. Monitoring of floodplain harvesting
3. Account management rules for floodplain harvesting



Next Steps

Community Consultation on Water Reform

Have your say!

Please provide feedback **by 15 April 2018**

You can make submission in a number of ways, including:

Website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water-reform/consultation

Email: water.reform@industry.nsw.gov.au

Post: Water Renewal Task Force, Department of Industry, GPO Box 5477, Sydney NSW 2001

In Person: At one of the regional meetings

These submission details can also be found within the Consultation papers.

Community Consultation on Water Reform

Consultation events

| Location | Details |
|---------------|------------------|
| Dubbo | 16 March 2018 |
| Broken Hill | 20 March 2018 |
| Bourke | 22 March 2018 |
| Moree | 27 March 2018 |
| Gunnedah | 28 March 2018 |
| Coffs Harbour | 28 March 2018 |
| Wentworth | 04 April 2018 |
| Griffith | 06 April 2018 |
| Maitland | 10 April 2018 |

Thank You



Department
of Industry