

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 10:16 AM  
**To:** DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] 25 Jan 22 6.21pm NOT confidential Hunter WSP FW: Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

**From:** [digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)  
<[digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)> **On Behalf Of**  
[digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 6:21 PM  
**To:** DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <[hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

**Permission**

I would like my submission to be treated as confidential?: No

I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential?: No

**Your details**

Are you making a submission as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?: Individual

Which of the following best describes the kind of stakeholder you are?: Irrigator/farmer

If you selected other, please state:

Email address: [REDACTED]

**Question 1.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: Does the plan include the [REDACTED] river?? And the tributary [REDACTED] Creek?

**Question 1.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 2.1**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

**Question 2.2**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

**Question 3.1**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

**Question 4.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.3**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.4**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.5**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 5.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 6.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 7.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 8.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

Please allow sale of licences on [redacted] river tributaries (eg [redacted] creek)

**Question 8.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 9.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 10.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 11.1**

Comments on any aspect of the draft plan:

**Question 11.2**

Upload a submission or any supporting documents:

No file uploaded

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

Office use only	Submission number
-----------------	-------------------

### How to fill out this form

The department is seeking your comments on the draft replacement Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022.

For general background about the draft plan development, proposed changes and the finalisation process please refer to the background and proposed changes documents. For water source specific details including proposed rules, please see the water source report cards.

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

Send completed submissions to:

Post: WSP Comments for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan,  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 26  
Gosford NSW 2250

Email: [hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Note: Submissions close 27 February 2022**

### Information on privacy and confidentiality

Submissions received by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for the proposed amendments will be considered by the department and the Coastal Water Planning and Policy Working Group to review and inform the draft amendments. The department values your input and accepts that information you provide may be private and personal.

If you would prefer your submission or your personal details to be treated as confidential, please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below.

If you do not make a request for confidentiality, the department may make your submission, including any personal details contained in the submission, available to the public.

Please note that, regardless of a request for confidentiality, the department may be required by law to release copies of submissions to third parties in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

I would like my submission to be treated as confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

How to fill out this form			
<b>Name</b>			
<b>Postal Address</b>			
<b>Telephone</b>			
<b>Email address</b>			
<b>Stakeholder Group</b> (please indicate which of the following best represents your interest by <b>ticking one box</b> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Local Govt./ Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Interest <input type="checkbox"/> Local Landholder <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member
<b>If your comments refer to a specific water source, which one?</b>			

Attach extra pages if required

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## New Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Sources

The draft plan proposes to establish the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources. The long-term limits on extractions are proposed based on a proportion of recharge. Additional water for licensed take may be made available through controlled allocations in the future.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 1 of the draft plan, the background document as well as the report cards for the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source.*

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?

## Long Term Average Annual Extraction Limit

The replacement plan creates two long term average annual extraction limits (LTAAELs).

- The Standard LTAAEL which sets a limit on extraction from all flows except for higher flows.
- The Higher flow LTAAEL that manages extractions that can only take from higher flows.

The reason for the two extraction limits is to limit extractions from all other flows and encourage extraction from higher flows.

The Standard LTAAEL includes all basic landholder rights extraction including from harvestable rights dams. If there is a growth in uptake of harvestable rights that increases total annual extraction to above the Standard LTAAEL by more than 5% then there will be reduced water allocated to licenced water users in the following year.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 4 of the draft plan, and the background document.*

Do you think it is appropriate to have two LTAAEL's? Why / why not?

Do you think the proposed compliance of the LTAAELs are appropriate? Why / why not?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Managing the risks of increased harvestable rights

In 2022 the volume of water that can be captured in harvestable rights dams in coastal draining catchments will increase from 10% to 30% of rainfall runoff.

This could impact on the volume of flow that reaches rivers. The plan includes a requirement that the uptake of harvestable rights will be assessed at year 3 and then access, work approval and trade rules will be reviewed if the uptake is greater than 10% of rainfall runoff.

*The amendment provision can be found in Part 11 of the draft Plan.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Draft access rules based on groundwater levels

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules based on groundwater levels in Baerami Creek, Bylong River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Martindale Creek, and Widden Brook water sources and the Upper Middle Dart Brook, Lower Middle Brook and Kingdon Ponds, and Lower Dart Brook management zones of Dart Brook Water Source, and the Segenhoe Management Zone of the Pages River Water Source. The access rule define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and "Proposed Management Rules" section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed **CtP** level in your water source impact on your current operations?

Do you think the **CtP** in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?

Do you think the **CtP** provides enough protection for ecological values such as Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem?

The **flow reference point** is the bore at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft access rules in the Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal Pool water sources

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules in Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal sources based on salinity levels at Green Rocks. The access rules define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for low flows and ecological values? Why / why not?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the point at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in surface water sources and management zones

Changes to access rules are being proposed in: Black Creek, Halls Creek, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Pages River, Upper Wollombi Brook, Paterson/Allyn Rivers and Upper Hunter River water sources and in the Upper Dart Brook Management Zone of the Dart Brook Water Source.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows? Why / why not?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in the Isis River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Isis River Management Zone which will have new access rules.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Isis River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in the Williams River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Williams River Management Zone which will have new access rules and also proposes slight changes to the access rules in the Williams River Management Zone.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Williams River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

### Prohibition of in-river dams in additional water sources

The draft plan proposes prohibition of in-river dams on third order and larger streams in the following water sources: Williams River, Wallis Creek, Lower Wollombi Brook, Widden Brook, South Lake Macquarie and Munmurra River. These restrictions were not previously in place for these water sources, however the water sources were identified as having high ecological values

The following water sources will continue to prohibit new in-river dams on third order or larger streams: Dora Creek, Glennies, Upper Paterson, Merriwa River, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Upper Hunter River, Upper Wollombi Brook.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan as well as in the relevant report cards.*

How would this impact on your current operations?	
---	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### **New restrictions for new or replacement water supply works near SEPP wetlands**

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 (Coastal SEPP) identifies wetlands in order to protect their ecological values. There is a need for water sharing plans to recognise these same wetlands to ensure protection and alignment between regulatory objectives. The draft plan proposes to prohibit the granting of approvals for surface water or groundwater works if it would result in more than minimal harm to a wetland mapped under the Coastal SEPP.

Coastal wetlands have been identified in the Dora Creek, Newcastle, North Lake Macquarie, South Lake Macquarie, Williams River, Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### New restrictions for new or replacement groundwater water supply works

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

*These distance rules are contained in Part 7 of the plan.*

The draft plan proposes to expand protection of groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and includes a map that identifies potential high priority GDEs for which minimum setback distances may apply.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

The draft plan proposes rules that require new groundwater works to be greater than 500m from a contamination source and 200m from a culturally significant site.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

Have you noticed any **effects** from extraction on water levels in the groundwater source? If so, please specify.

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Changes to between water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to allow limited trade into some water sources. This change aims to improve the opportunity to trade into downstream water sources without increasing extractive stress to upstream and high-risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:  
Widden Brook, Wallis Creek, North Lake Macquarie, Lower Goulburn River, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Doyles Creek, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Upper Paterson River, Rouchel Brook and Wybong Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--

### Changes to within water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to remove some of the trade restrictions within water sources. These changes aim to improve the opportunity to trade without increasing extractive stress to high risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:  
Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Wybong Creek, Pages River, Dart Brook, Muswellbrook, Jerrys, Luskintyre, Newcastle and Black Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Conversion to high flow access licences

It is proposed to allow conversion from a standard access licence to an access licence that can only extract from high flows in the Upper Hunter River Water Source only. If a conversion is to occur the licence share component would increase by 2 times.

The draft plan has removed the ability to convert to high flows in the Pages River, Isis River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Rouchel Brook and Paterson/Allyn Rivers water sources.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 8 of the draft plan and background document as well as the report card for the relevant water sources.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Application for Aboriginal Community Development access licences

It is proposed to permit applications for specific purpose Aboriginal Community Development access licences in the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, Dart Brook, Pages River, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, and Upper Hunter River water sources.

*Further information can be found in Part 5 of the draft Plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Additional feedback

The above sections relate to the key proposed changes from the current water sharing plan. However, comments on all aspects of the plan are welcome and encouraged. Please use the space below, or attachments if required or preferred.

Do you have comments on any aspect of the draft plan?

© State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

Office use only	Submission number
-----------------	-------------------

## How to fill out this form

The department is seeking your comments on the draft replacement Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022.

For general background about the draft plan development, proposed changes and the finalisation process please refer to the background and proposed changes documents. For water source specific details including proposed rules, please see the water source report cards.

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

Send completed submissions to:

Post: WSP Comments for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan,  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 26  
Gosford NSW 2250

Email: [hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Note: Submissions close 27 February 2022**

### Information on privacy and confidentiality

Submissions received by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for the proposed amendments will be considered by the department and the Coastal Water Planning and Policy Working Group to review and inform the draft amendments. The department values your input and accepts that information you provide may be private and personal.

If you would prefer your submission or your personal details to be treated as confidential, please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below.

If you do not make a request for confidentiality, the department may make your submission, including any personal details contained in the submission, available to the public.

Please note that, regardless of a request for confidentiality, the department may be required by law to release copies of submissions to third parties in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

I would like my submission to be treated as confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

How to fill out this form			
Name	[REDACTED]		
Postal Address	pitnacree 2323 nsw		
Telephone			
Email address			
<b>Stakeholder Group</b> (please indicate which of the following best represents your interest by ticking <b>one box</b> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Local Govt./ Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Interest <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Landholder <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member
If your comments refer to a specific water source, which one?	hunter river tidal pool		

Attach extra pages if required



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## New Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Sources

The draft plan proposes to establish the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources. The long-term limits on extractions are proposed based on a proportion of recharge. Additional water for licensed take may be made available through controlled allocations in the future.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 1 of the draft plan, the background document as well as the report cards for the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source.*

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?

## Long Term Average Annual Extraction Limit

The replacement plan creates two long term average annual extraction limits (LTAAELs).

- The Standard LTAAEL which sets a limit on extraction from all flows except for higher flows.
- The Higher flow LTAAEL that manages extractions that can only take from higher flows.

The reason for the two extraction limits is to limit extractions from all other flows and encourage extraction from higher flows.

The Standard LTAAEL includes all basic landholder rights extraction including from harvestable rights dams. If there is a growth in uptake of harvestable rights that increases total annual extraction to above the Standard LTAAEL by more than 5% then there will be reduced water allocated to licenced water users in the following year.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 4 of the draft plan, and the background document.*

Do you think it is appropriate to have two LTAAEL's? Why / why not?

Do you think the proposed compliance of the LTAAELs are appropriate? Why / why not?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Managing the risks of increased harvestable rights

In 2022 the volume of water that can be captured in harvestable rights dams in coastal draining catchments will increase from 10% to 30% of rainfall runoff.

This could impact on the volume of flow that reaches rivers. The plan includes a requirement that the uptake of harvestable rights will be assessed at year 3 and then access, work approval and trade rules will be reviewed if the uptake is greater than 10% of rainfall runoff.

*The amendment provision can be found in Part 11 of the draft Plan.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Draft access rules based on groundwater levels

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules based on groundwater levels in Baerami Creek, Bylong River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Martindale Creek, and Widden Brook water sources and the Upper Middle Dart Brook, Lower Middle Brook and Kingdon Ponds, and Lower Dart Brook management zones of Dart Brook Water Source, and the Segenhoe Management Zone of the Pages River Water Source. The access rule define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and "Proposed Management Rules" section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed **CtP** level in your water source impact on your current operations?

Do you think the **CtP** in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?

Do you think the **CtP** provides enough protection for ecological values such as Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem?

The **flow reference point** is the bore at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft access rules in the Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal Pool water sources

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules in Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal sources based on salinity levels at Green Rocks. The access rules define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	would be unable to grow crops of potatoes ,pumpkins ,watermelons ,hybrid seed maize and lucerne with the ease to pump levels at creenrocks proposed
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	no it could be managed better the trigger is far too low 12000 ec would be better
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for low flows and ecological values? Why / why not?	no there has been no ecological studies taken to justify a cease to pump
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the point at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	no end of system flows at greta can be variable

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Draft changes to access rules in surface water sources and management zones

Changes to access rules are being proposed in: Black Creek, Halls Creek, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Pages River, Upper Wollombi Brook, Paterson/Allyn Rivers and Upper Hunter River water sources and in the Upper Dart Brook Management Zone of the Dart Brook Water Source.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows? Why / why not?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Draft changes to access rules in the Isis River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Isis River Management Zone which will have new access rules.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Isis River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Draft changes to access rules in the Williams River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Williams River Management Zone which will have new access rules and also proposes slight changes to the access rules in the Williams River Management Zone. *This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Williams River Water Source report card.*

<p>How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?</p>	
<p>Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?</p>	
<p>Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows</p>	
<p>The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?</p>	

## Prohibition of in-river dams in additional water sources

The draft plan proposes prohibition of in-river dams on third order and larger streams in the following water sources: Williams River, Wallis Creek, Lower Wollombi Brook, Widden Brook, South Lake Macquarie and Munmurra River. These restrictions were not previously in place for these water sources, however the water sources were identified as having high ecological values

The following water sources will continue to prohibit new in-river dams on third order or larger streams: Dora Creek, Glennies, Upper Paterson, Merriwa River, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Upper Hunter River, Upper Wollombi Brook.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan as well as in the relevant report cards.*

<p>How would this impact on your current operations?</p>	
--	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### New restrictions for new or replacement water supply works near SEPP wetlands

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 (Coastal SEPP) identifies wetlands in order to protect their ecological values. There is a need for water sharing plans to recognise these same wetlands to ensure protection and alignment between regulatory objectives. The draft plan proposes to prohibit the granting of approvals for surface water or groundwater works if it would result in more than minimal harm to a wetland mapped under the Coastal SEPP.

Coastal wetlands have been identified in the Dora Creek, Newcastle, North Lake Macquarie, South Lake Macquarie, Williams River, Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### New restrictions for new or replacement groundwater water supply works

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

*These distance rules are contained in Part 7 of the plan.*

The draft plan proposes to expand protection of groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and includes a map that identifies potential high priority GDEs for which minimum setback distances may apply.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

The draft plan proposes rules that require new groundwater works to be greater than 500m from a contamination source and 200m from a culturally significant site.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

Have you noticed any **effects** from extraction on water levels in the groundwater source? If so, please specify.



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Changes to between water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to allow limited trade into some water sources. This change aims to improve the opportunity to trade into downstream water sources without increasing extractive stress to upstream and high-risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:

Widden Brook, Wallis Creek, North Lake Macquarie, Lower Goulburn River, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Doyles Creek, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Upper Paterson River, Rouchel Brook and Wybong Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--

## Changes to within water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to remove some of the trade restrictions within water sources. These changes aim to improve the opportunity to trade without increasing extractive stress to high risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:

Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Wybong Creek, Pages River, Dart Brook, Muswellbrook, Jerrys, Luskintyre, Newcastle and Black Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Conversion to high flow access licences

It is proposed to allow conversion from a standard access licence to an access licence that can only extract from high flows in the Upper Hunter River Water Source only. If a conversion is to occur the licence share component would increase by 2 times.

The draft plan has removed the ability to convert to high flows in the Pages River, Isis River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Rouchel Brook and Paterson/Allyn Rivers water sources.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 8 of the draft plan and background document as well as the report card for the relevant water sources.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Application for Aboriginal Community Development access licences

It is proposed to permit applications for specific purpose Aboriginal Community Development access licences in the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, Dart Brook, Pages River, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, and Upper Hunter River water sources.

*Further information can be found in Part 5 of the draft Plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Additional feedback

The above sections relate to the key proposed changes from the current water sharing plan. However, comments on all aspects of the plan are welcome and encouraged. Please use the space below, or attachments if required or preferred.

Do you have comments on any aspect of the draft plan?

yes! w/ I make agriculture in the lower hunter unviable there would be no certainty in any future vegetables cannot survive on a trigger that is far too low [4000ec] irrigation over the past 50 years has declined with less vegetables produced the total allocations are not used and there are a lot of farmers that do not irrigate [sleepers] we have 3 pumps with meters and are on the 2 part tariff and have only used less than 1/2 of our allocation over the past 10 years potatoes need to be kept wet while emerging the soil to avoid frost damage then a reliable irrigation program at tuber formation is paramount and then at harvest require moist so is to prevent bruising and skinning, while pumpkin transplants are planted in early september and require constant watering until they are struck quite often in westerly winds conditions we plant hybrid seed maize that requires a 7 day, 10 day and 14 day split planting of the male rows after the female rows and they are all reliant on irrigating at these critical times Lucerne also requires vital watering while being established and then to get production going in dry times. a level of 12000 ec would be better as this would relate more closely to mckinnis corner levels of 2500 ec which is when we would be only irrigating on low tide to keep certain crops a live regarding the salt wedge there has never been a study taken out as to the salinity trading scheme effects on the tidal pool. I was just assumed that the trigger to discharge into the hunter was on high flows, and not to on over 10000ec at Singleton but what happens in that sea the water when it reaches the tidal pool is uncertain

© State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 8:01 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] email 2 of 2 24/2/22 5:01 pm NOT CONFIDENTIAL HUNTER  
FW: submission for hunter unregulated water sharing plan

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 24 February 2022 5:01 PM  
**To:** DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <[hunterunreg.wsp@dpi.e.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpi.e.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** submission for hunter unregulated water sharing plan

My name is [REDACTED]  
I am a 3rd generation vegetable farmer at Pitnacree and pump out of the Hunter River.  
We have been irrigating out of the Hunter River since 1945.  
I farm with my father and brother on 120 hectares with a 880 meg license. We have meters, on our 3 pumps and are using the 2 part tariff.  
We have records of our water usage back to:-  
2012/2013-226 meg  
2013/2014 -217 meg  
2014/2015-194 meg  
2015/2016-178 meg  
2016/2017-176 meg  
2017/2018 270 meg  
2018/2019 175 meg  
2019/2020 217 meg  
2020/2021 72 meg  
You can clearly see that we have not used our allocation in any year.  
We produce potatoes, pumpkins, watermelons, hybrid seed maize, lucerne and maize.  
Our vegetables go to Flemington Markets in Sydney. While our hybrid maize seed can be exported to New Zealand, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea ,and the Riverina, North Queensland, Darling Downs and the Eastern Coast of NSW.  
Lucerne hay is sold locally and interstate.  
We employ a large workforce when harvest is in full swing. We support local business buying seed, fertilizer, fuel, sprays.  
Irrigation is vital for all our crops, from planting to growing and onto harvest.  
Since we began to irrigate in the tidal pool, we have managed the salinity to the crop sensitivity and after 77 years of irrigation we are sustainable.  
A cease to pump clause in the draft water sharing plan would destroy our business. As any delay in irrigation in a vegetable crop is death.  
The previous 10 year water sharing plan where we self regulated our crops sensitivity worked very well. We respect the health of our Hunter River and would greatly like to see scientific analyses on the ecology, environmental, social and economical factors.  
The proposed 4000 EC cease to pump clause at Greenrocks is totally unacceptable.  
If this cease to pump was implemented over the summers of 2017 - 2020 it would seriously destroyed the agriculture in the Lower Hunter.

Yours Sincerely,



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 8:03 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

**From:** [digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)  
<[digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)> **On Behalf Of**  
[digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 12 February 2022 4:16 PM  
**To:** DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <[hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

**Permission**

I would like my submission to be treated as confidential? No

I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential? No

**Your details**

Are you making a submission as an individual or on behalf of an organisation? Individual

Which of the following best describes the kind of stakeholder you are? Irrigator/farmer

If you selected other, please state:

Email address: [REDACTED]

**Question 1.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan? No thanks

**Question 1.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan? No thanks.

**Question 2.1**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not? No thanks.

**Question 2.2**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

**Question 3.1**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

**Question 4.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

My family farms at [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED] River growing a large variety of [REDACTED]. This farm financial supports three households and feeds thousands of people. We self-regulate our irrigation by monitoring salinity levels and use irrigation sparingly and efficiently. Most of the year we do not irrigate at all but when we do it is integral to crop survival. The ability to irrigate is integral to the viability of our business. Having certainty of water allows us to plan production based on the amount of water available. The risk of ceasing irrigation and having no water for long stretches means that we would have to cease production completely. Instead of a cease to pump clause, a reduced allocation based on salinity or forecast flow would enable us to plan and still be productive in dry times. The farm business is our sole source of income. Without the certainty of irrigation our farm business is not viable, and we will have to find work off farm work.

**Question 4.3**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.4**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.5**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 5.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 6.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 7.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 8.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 8.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 9.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 10.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 11.1**

Comments on any aspect of the draft plan:

**Question 11.2**

Upload a submission or any supporting documents: No file uploaded

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 12:05 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] 16/2/22 1.59PM HUNTER NOT CONFIDENTIAL FW: Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

**From:** [digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)  
<[digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)> **On Behalf Of**  
[digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 February 2022 1:59 PM  
**To:** DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <[hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

**Permission**

I would like my submission to be treated as confidential? No

I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential? No

**Your details**

Are you making a submission as an individual or on behalf of an organisation? Individual

Which of the following best describes the kind of stakeholder you are? Other

If you selected other, please state: food consumer

Email address: [REDACTED]

**Question 1.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan? No

**Question 1.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan? No

**Question 2.1**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not? Yes, it is appropriate but the use of that water needs to be known. For instance, it is for flushing out mine waste or for growing food?

**Question 2.2**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not? Yes. There needs to be some nuancing in this and big users need to be monitored for efficient use so that others are not penalised.



**Question 3.1**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?: Yes, systems need to be in place to collect this information

**Question 4.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: No

**Question 4.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: Farmers who produce below [redacted] have managed their water use for years. A reading at [redacted] may not be useful for their property or their production. Have water access denied on this reading could lead to families ceasing to farm on their land.

**Question 4.3**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: No

**Question 4.4**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: No

**Question 4.5**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: No

**Question 5.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: I agree with this

**Question 6.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: No

**Question 7.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: No

**Question 8.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: No

**Question 8.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: No

**Question 9.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: No

**Question 10.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan? No

**Question 11.1**

Comments on any aspect of the draft plan: There has been a growth in new farmers growing fresh produce on the Lower Hunter. This is helping to support food security and is bringing jobs and tourism to the Lower Hunter. The Maitland City Council's Destination NSW campaign leans heavily on these new and exciting producers who need to be sure that they can keep their food crops alive so that they can make a living with small scale farming. They are working really hard to diversify their businesses by providing education, produce boxes, rural event venues, supporting local farmers markets and providing top quality produce to the valley and beyond. They also support community charity initiatives such as food rescue kitchens and are conducting research on their properties into regenerative agriculture practices, prompted by the need to address climate change. These farmers manage their water really well - it is expensive to buy and to pump. The Cease to Pump rule will end agriculture in the Lower Hunter .

**Question 11.2**

Upload a submission or any supporting documents: No file uploaded

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 6:31 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] 21/1/22 12.56 PM Confidentiality not specified HUNTER FW: UNREGULATED STREAMS DRAFT UPDATE

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 21 February 2022 12:56 PM  
**To:** DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <[hunterunreg.wsp@dpi.e.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpi.e.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: UNREGULATED STREAMS DRAFT UPDATE

[hunterunreg.wsp@dpi.e.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpi.e.nsw.gov.au)>

With reference to the following submission , I have no objection to my personal details being made public .  
Cheers , [REDACTED] .

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Mon, Feb 21, 2022 at 12:47 PM  
**Subject:** UNREGULATED STREAMS DRAFT UPDATE  
**To:** <[hunterunreg.wsp@dpi.e.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpi.e.nsw.gov.au)>

My concerns in relation to the proposed changes for the GLENNIES CATCHMENT in the HUNTER VALLEY ;

The proposed "cease to pump" for [REDACTED] CREEK when water flow ceases at a specific REFERENCE POINT , is in my opinion , unworkable because of the flow nature of INTERMITTENT streams such as [REDACTED] Creek . Unworkable and UNFAIR because there can be flow at one location and not at another , whether or not that "other" location is upstream or downstream . At low flows (typically during drier times) , there can be VISIBLE flow at a particular location and then the water "disappears" into the underlying gravel bed , then to reappear again at those locations where there is more of a solid rock creek bed .

The current REFERENCE POINT on the DPI map indicates that it is somewhere (a couple of kilometres) upstream of the [REDACTED] Creek / [REDACTED] Creek convergence , but even if it was right at the end of [REDACTED] Cr before it discharges into [REDACTED] Cr , it is not a good indicator of what is happening further upstream due to the above points I have made .

Therefore in consideration of the above concerns , I would suggest that rather than an "arbitrary" rule regarding "cease to pump" when flow ceases at a specific location (Reference Point) , it would be fairer and more practicable to let the "locals" "do the regulating" , ie , if someone appears to be extracting very large amounts of water and it is impacting residents downstream , the residents have the option of communicating to either the extractor directly , or via the Water Authority .

Yours Sincerely , [REDACTED] . [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To The DPIE minister for water.

11-2-2022

I [REDACTED] Would like to formally submit my objection to the proposed water sharing plan for the Martindale Creek, for the following reasons-

Firstly I don't believe there has been sufficient data collected, either by individual water users or by Water NSW, to make a fair and equitable potentially 'life altering' decision of major consequence to all involved along the creek during dry times, by using only 1 bore level near [REDACTED] [REDACTED], and not having individual metering by water users, could result in an incorrect decision, potentially harming peoples livelihoods and worse, their mental health, during already difficult times. As was seen in the last drought of 2018-19, where many farmers took their own lives and or had to shoot their livestock. I wouldn't want that to reoccur because of a hasty decision!

Who wants that on their conscience? Or better still, who will be liable? All to save a so called "micro ecosystem" of frogs etc, who's existence is computer generated and probably non-existent at that point of a drought anyway. Or to allow the existing flow to move downstream unutilized anyway to feed into a regulated river to be used by mining etc!

I will also add that the small patch of green on my property in the last drought, not only kept my cattle alive, but also helped keep our native ecosystem of wallabies and bird life for example from dying out as well, which is also important I would think!

I believe through experience, that the [REDACTED] Creek is self-regulating in dry times. I personally, and others I have spoken to, could pump for a limited time, to the point where if you over-pumped you would suck air and you would wait until the following day, where you could pump again for a short period. That was enough to allow many of us to survive without eliminating any stock and there was no contention between water users whatsoever!

In contrast, I owned a property on the [REDACTED] Creek during the millennium drought, where a water sharing plan was implemented, and that caused many rifts and arguments, right along the creek. To be honest, it was a nightmare, with people trying to cheat the plan, or misconstruing the plan for their own benefit, making others angry!

I would therefore propose to defer the implementation of a water sharing plan on the [REDACTED] Creek for the 10 year period until the next review of the system, which will give enough time to collect reasonable data by both water users and Water NSW!

If there has to be a plan implemented in the meantime, I suggest an allowing a usage amount of half to 1 ML per day when the bore level at [REDACTED] is at the 6.9M level, which has been noted as low flow! Also if there is visual flow back in the creek, the restrictions should lift immediately, as there is evidence that there was water flow in the creek for 94 days at the end of the last drought, where the bore level would still be at a "cease pump" at the current proposal of a 6.9m cut off!

Again, I would like you to take into consideration, the mental, physical and financial hardships endured by farming families and the local communities during a drought and be thankful that our primary production can help feed a nation!

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

Office use only	Submission number
-----------------	-------------------

### How to fill out this form

The department is seeking your comments on the draft replacement Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022.

For general background about the draft plan development, proposed changes and the finalisation process please refer to the background and proposed changes documents. For water source specific details including proposed rules, please see the water source report cards.

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

Send completed submissions to:

Post: WSP Comments for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan,  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 26  
Gosford NSW 2250

Email: [hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Note: Submissions close 27 February 2022**

### Information on privacy and confidentiality

Submissions received by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for the proposed amendments will be considered by the department and the Coastal Water Planning and Policy Working Group to review and inform the draft amendments. The department values your input and accepts that information you provide may be private and personal.

If you would prefer your submission or your personal details to be treated as confidential, please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below.

If you do not make a request for confidentiality, the department may make your submission, including any personal details contained in the submission, available to the public.

Please note that, regardless of a request for confidentiality, the department may be required by law to release copies of submissions to third parties in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

I would like my submission to be treated as confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

How to fill out this form			
<b>Name</b>	[Redacted]		
<b>Postal Address</b>	[Redacted]		
	[Redacted]		
<b>Telephone</b>	[Redacted]		
<b>Email address</b>	[Redacted]		
<b>Stakeholder Group</b> <small>(please indicate which of the following best represents your interest by <b>ticking one box</b>)</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Interests	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Interest	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment Interests
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Interests	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Landholder	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Member
	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Govt./ Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	
<b>If your comments refer to a specific water source, which one?</b>			

Attach extra pages if required

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## New Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Sources

The draft plan proposes to establish the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources. The long-term limits on extractions are proposed based on a proportion of recharge. Additional water for licensed take may be made available through controlled allocations in the future.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 1 of the draft plan, the background document as well as the report cards for the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source.*

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?

## Long Term Average Annual Extraction Limit

The replacement plan creates two long term average annual extraction limits (LTAAELs).

- The Standard LTAAEL which sets a limit on extraction from all flows except for higher flows.
- The Higher flow LTAAEL that manages extractions that can only take from higher flows.

The reason for the two extraction limits is to limit extractions from all other flows and encourage extraction from higher flows.

The Standard LTAAEL includes all basic landholder rights extraction including from harvestable rights dams. If there is a growth in uptake of harvestable rights that increases total annual extraction to above the Standard LTAAEL by more than 5% then there will be reduced water allocated to licenced water users in the following year.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 4 of the draft plan, and the background document.*

Do you think it is appropriate to have two LTAAEL's? Why / why not?

Do you think the proposed compliance of the LTAAELs are appropriate? Why / why not?



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Managing the risks of increased harvestable rights

In 2022 the volume of water that can be captured in harvestable rights dams in coastal draining catchments will increase from 10% to 30% of rainfall runoff.

This could impact on the volume of flow that reaches rivers. The plan includes a requirement that the uptake of harvestable rights will be assessed at year 3 and then access, work approval and trade rules will be reviewed if the uptake is greater than 10% of rainfall runoff.

*The amendment provision can be found in Part 11 of the draft Plan.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Draft access rules based on groundwater levels

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules based on groundwater levels in Baerami Creek, Bylong River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Martindale Creek, and Widden Brook water sources and the Upper Middle Dart Brook, Lower Middle Brook and Kingdon Ponds, and Lower Dart Brook management zones of Dart Brook Water Source, and the Segenhoe Management Zone of the Pages River Water Source. The access rule define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and "Proposed Management Rules" section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed **CtP** level in your water source impact on your current operations?

Do you think the **CtP** in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?

Do you think the **CtP** provides enough protection for ecological values such as Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem?

The **flow reference point** is the bore at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft access rules in the Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal Pool water sources

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules in Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal sources based on salinity levels at Green Rocks. The access rules define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for low flows and ecological values? Why / why not?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the point at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in surface water sources and management zones

Changes to access rules are being proposed in: Black Creek, Halls Creek, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Pages River, Upper Wollombi Brook, Paterson/Allyn Rivers and Upper Hunter River water sources and in the Upper Dart Brook Management Zone of the Dart Brook Water Source.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows? Why / why not?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Draft changes to access rules in the Isis River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Isis River Management Zone which will have new access rules.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Isis River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in the Williams River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Williams River Management Zone which will have new access rules and also proposes slight changes to the access rules in the Williams River Management Zone.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Williams River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

### Prohibition of in-river dams in additional water sources

The draft plan proposes prohibition of in-river dams on third order and larger streams in the following water sources: Williams River, Wallis Creek, Lower Wollombi Brook, Widden Brook, South Lake Macquarie and Munmurra River. These restrictions were not previously in place for these water sources, however the water sources were identified as having high ecological values

The following water sources will continue to prohibit new in-river dams on third order or larger streams: Dora Creek, Glennies, Upper Paterson, Merriwa River, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Upper Hunter River, Upper Wollombi Brook.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan as well as in the relevant report cards.*

How would this impact on your current operations?	
---	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### New restrictions for new or replacement water supply works near SEPP wetlands

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 (Coastal SEPP) identifies wetlands in order to protect their ecological values. There is a need for water sharing plans to recognise these same wetlands to ensure protection and alignment between regulatory objectives. The draft plan proposes to prohibit the granting of approvals for surface water or groundwater works if it would result in more than minimal harm to a wetland mapped under the Coastal SEPP.

Coastal wetlands have been identified in the Dora Creek, Newcastle, North Lake Macquarie, South Lake Macquarie, Williams River, Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### New restrictions for new or replacement groundwater water supply works

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

*These distance rules are contained in Part 7 of the plan.*

The draft plan proposes to expand protection of groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and includes a map that identifies potential high priority GDEs for which minimum setback distances may apply.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

The draft plan proposes rules that require new groundwater works to be greater than 500m from a contamination source and 200m from a culturally significant site.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

Have you noticed any **effects** from extraction on water levels in the groundwater source? If so, please specify.

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Changes to between water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to allow limited trade into some water sources. This change aims to improve the opportunity to trade into downstream water sources without increasing extractive stress to upstream and high-risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:  
Widden Brook, Wallis Creek, North Lake Macquarie, Lower Goulburn River, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Doyles Creek, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Upper Paterson River, Rouchel Brook and Wybong Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--

### Changes to within water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to remove some of the trade restrictions within water sources. These changes aim to improve the opportunity to trade without increasing extractive stress to high risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:  
Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Wybong Creek, Pages River, Dart Brook, Muswellbrook, Jerrys, Luskintyre, Newcastle and Black Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Conversion to high flow access licences

It is proposed to allow conversion from a standard access licence to an access licence that can only extract from high flows in the Upper Hunter River Water Source only. If a conversion is to occur the licence share component would increase by 2 times.

The draft plan has removed the ability to convert to high flows in the Pages River, Isis River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Rouchel Brook and Paterson/Allyn Rivers water sources.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 8 of the draft plan and background document as well as the report card for the relevant water sources.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Application for Aboriginal Community Development access licences

It is proposed to permit applications for specific purpose Aboriginal Community Development access licences in the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, Dart Brook, Pages River, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, and Upper Hunter River water sources.

*Further information can be found in Part 5 of the draft Plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Additional feedback

The above sections relate to the key proposed changes from the current water sharing plan. However, comments on all aspects of the plan are welcome and encouraged. Please use the space below, or attachments if required or preferred.

Do you have comments on any aspect of the draft plan?

© State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

Office use only	Submission number
-----------------	-------------------

### How to fill out this form

The department is seeking your comments on the draft replacement Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022.

For general background about the draft plan development, proposed changes and the finalisation process please refer to the background and proposed changes documents. For water source specific details including proposed rules, please see the water source report cards.

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

Send completed submissions to:

Post: WSP Comments for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan,  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 26  
Gosford NSW 2250

Email: [hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Note: Submissions close 27 February 2022**

### Information on privacy and confidentiality

Submissions received by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for the proposed amendments will be considered by the department and the Coastal Water Planning and Policy Working Group to review and inform the draft amendments. The department values your input and accepts that information you provide may be private and personal.

If you would prefer your submission or your personal details to be treated as confidential, please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below.

If you do not make a request for confidentiality, the department may make your submission, including any personal details contained in the submission, available to the public.

Please note that, regardless of a request for confidentiality, the department may be required by law to release copies of submissions to third parties in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

<b>I would like my submission to be treated as confidential</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

**Stakeholder Group**

(please indicate which of the following best represents your interest by **ticking one box**)

- Irrigation Interests
- Fishing Interests
- Local Govt./ Utilities

- Aboriginal Interest
- Local Landholder
- Other (specify)

- Environment Interests
- Community Member

**If your comments refer to a specific water source, which one?**

Martindale Creek, Horseshoe Creek

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## New Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Sources

The draft plan proposes to establish the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources. The long-term limits on extractions are proposed based on a proportion of recharge. Additional water for licensed take may be made available through controlled allocations in the future.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 1 of the draft plan, the background document as well as the report cards for the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source.*

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?

## Long Term Average Annual Extraction Limit

The replacement plan creates two long term average annual extraction limits (LTAAELs).

- The Standard LTAAEL which sets a limit on extraction from all flows except for higher flows.
- The Higher flow LTAAEL that manages extractions that can only take from higher flows.

The reason for the two extraction limits is to limit extractions from all other flows and encourage extraction from higher flows.

The Standard LTAAEL includes all basic landholder rights extraction including from harvestable rights dams. If there is a growth in uptake of harvestable rights that increases total annual extraction to above the Standard LTAAEL by more than 5% then there will be reduced water allocated to licenced water users in the following year.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 4 of the draft plan, and the background document.*

Do you think it is appropriate to have two LTAAEL's? Why / why not?

Do you think the proposed compliance of the LTAAELs are appropriate? Why / why not?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Managing the risks of increased harvestable rights

In 2022 the volume of water that can be captured in harvestable rights dams in coastal draining catchments will increase from 10% to 30% of rainfall runoff.

This could impact on the volume of flow that reaches rivers. The plan includes a requirement that the uptake of harvestable rights will be assessed at year 3 and then access, work approval and trade rules will be reviewed if the uptake is greater than 10% of rainfall runoff.

*The amendment provision can be found in Part 11 of the draft Plan.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?	
--	--

### Draft access rules based on groundwater levels

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules based on groundwater levels in Baerami Creek, Bylong River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Martindale Creek, and Widden Brook water sources and the Upper Middle Dart Brook, Lower Middle Brook and Kingdon Ponds, and Lower Dart Brook management zones of Dart Brook Water Source, and the Segenhoe Management Zone of the Pages River Water Source. The access rule define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
--	--

Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
--	--

Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values such as Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem?	
---	--

The <b>flow reference point</b> is the bore at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	
--	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft access rules in the Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal Pool water sources

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules in Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal sources based on salinity levels at Green Rocks. The access rules define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for low flows and ecological values? Why / why not?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the point at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in surface water sources and management zones

Changes to access rules are being proposed in: Black Creek, Halls Creek, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Pages River, Upper Wollombi Brook, Paterson/Allyn Rivers and Upper Hunter River water sources and in the Upper Dart Brook Management Zone of the Dart Brook Water Source.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows? Why / why not?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in the Isis River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Isis River Management Zone which will have new access rules.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Isis River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in the Williams River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Williams River Management Zone which will have new access rules and also proposes slight changes to the access rules in the Williams River Management Zone.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Williams River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

### Prohibition of in-river dams in additional water sources

The draft plan proposes prohibition of in-river dams on third order and larger streams in the following water sources: Williams River, Wallis Creek, Lower Wollombi Brook, Widden Brook, South Lake Macquarie and Munmurra River. These restrictions were not previously in place for these water sources, however the water sources were identified as having high ecological values

The following water sources will continue to prohibit new in-river dams on third order or larger streams: Dora Creek, Glennies, Upper Paterson, Merriwa River, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Upper Hunter River, Upper Wollombi Brook.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan as well as in the relevant report cards.*

How would this impact on your current operations?	
---	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### **New restrictions for new or replacement water supply works near SEPP wetlands**

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 (Coastal SEPP) identifies wetlands in order to protect their ecological values. There is a need for water sharing plans to recognise these same wetlands to ensure protection and alignment between regulatory objectives. The draft plan proposes to prohibit the granting of approvals for surface water or groundwater works if it would result in more than minimal harm to a wetland mapped under the Coastal SEPP.

Coastal wetlands have been identified in the Dora Creek, Newcastle, North Lake Macquarie, South Lake Macquarie, Williams River, Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### New restrictions for new or replacement groundwater water supply works

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

*These distance rules are contained in Part 7 of the plan.*

The draft plan proposes to expand protection of groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and includes a map that identifies potential high priority GDEs for which minimum setback distances may apply.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

The draft plan proposes rules that require new groundwater works to be greater than 500m from a contamination source and 200m from a culturally significant site.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

Have you noticed any **effects** from extraction on water levels in the groundwater source? If so, please specify.

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Changes to between water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to allow limited trade into some water sources. This change aims to improve the opportunity to trade into downstream water sources without increasing extractive stress to upstream and high-risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:  
Widden Brook, Wallis Creek, North Lake Macquarie, Lower Goulburn River, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Doyles Creek, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Upper Paterson River, Rouchel Brook and Wybong Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--

### Changes to within water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to remove some of the trade restrictions within water sources. These changes aim to improve the opportunity to trade without increasing extractive stress to high risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:  
Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Wybong Creek, Pages River, Dart Brook, Muswellbrook, Jerrys, Luskintyre, Newcastle and Black Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Conversion to high flow access licences

It is proposed to allow conversion from a standard access licence to an access licence that can only extract from high flows in the Upper Hunter River Water Source only. If a conversion is to occur the licence share component would increase by 2 times.

The draft plan has removed the ability to convert to high flows in the Pages River, Isis River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Rouchel Brook and Paterson/Allyn Rivers water sources.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 8 of the draft plan and background document as well as the report card for the relevant water sources.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Application for Aboriginal Community Development access licences

It is proposed to permit applications for specific purpose Aboriginal Community Development access licences in the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, Dart Brook, Pages River, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, and Upper Hunter River water sources.

*Further information can be found in Part 5 of the draft Plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Additional feedback

The above sections relate to the key proposed changes from the current water sharing plan. However, comments on all aspects of the plan are welcome and encouraged. Please use the space below, or attachments if required or preferred.

Do you have comments on any aspect of the draft plan?

© State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] 22/2/22 2.24 AM NOT CONFIDENTIAL HUNTER FW: Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial  
**Date:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 7:01:38 PM

---

**From:** [digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)  
<[digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)> **On Behalf Of**  
[digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 22 February 2022 2:24 AM  
**To:** DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <[hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

### Permission

I would like  
my  
submission to No  
be treated as  
confidential?:

I would like  
my personal  
details to be No  
treated as  
confidential?:

### Your details

Are you  
making a  
submission as  
an individual Individual  
or on behalf  
of an  
organisation?:

Which of the  
following best  
describes the Irrigator/farmer  
kind of  
stakeholder  
you are?:

If you  
selected  
other, please  
state:

Email  
address: [REDACTED]

### Question 1.1

Do you have

any  
comments on  
this aspect of  
the draft  
plan?:

**Question 1.2**

Do you have  
any  
comments on  
this aspect of  
the draft  
plan?:

**Question 2.1**

Do you think  
this is  
appropriate?  
Why / why  
not?:

**Question 2.2**

Do you think  
this is  
appropriate?  
Why / why  
not?:

**Question 3.1**

Do you think  
this is  
appropriate?  
Why / why  
not?:

**Question 4.1**

Do you have  
any  
comments on  
this aspect of  
the draft  
plan?:

**Question 4.2**

Do you have  
any  
comments on  
this aspect of  
the draft  
plan?:

**Question 4.3**

Do you have any

comments on Halls creek does not have a high flow rate, it does not have to be dry for long for this aspect of it to stop flowing in most areas on my farm.

the draft

plan?:

**Question 4.4**

Do you have

any

comments on

this aspect of

the draft

plan?:

**Question 4.5**

Do you have

any

comments on

this aspect of

the draft

plan?:

**Question 5.1**

Do you have

any

comments on

this aspect of

the draft

plan?:

**Question 6.1**

Do you have

any

comments on

this aspect of

the draft

plan?:

**Question 7.1**

Do you have

any

comments on

this aspect of

the draft

plan?:

**Question 8.1**

Do you have

any

comments on



this aspect of  
the draft  
plan?:

**Question 8.2**

Do you have  
any  
comments on  
this aspect of  
the draft  
plan?:

**Question 9.1**

Do you have  
any  
comments on  
this aspect of  
the draft  
plan?:

**Question 10.1**

Do you have  
any  
comments on  
this aspect of  
the draft  
plan?:

**Question 11.1**

Comments on any aspect of the draft plan: These plans will greatly reduce the value of my property, and earning potential from the property. I liken it to someone purchasing a property overlooking Sydney harbour and only being able to open the curtains when its raining, the value would halve. The value of our property and the reason we paid a high price, is its water security, the large licence and the ability to pump when its dry. The times when we need to irrigate most is when its dry, Halls creek does not run much when its dry and the cease to pump rules will diminish our productivity levels. This is bad for our business, our family and our overall community. Our farmers are already struggling due to imports and low prices, this will cripple Aussie farmers. We are responsible with our water use and it is unfair and unreasonable that something we worked hard for to purchase can be taken away without compensation.

**Question 11.2**

Upload a  
submission or  
any  
supporting  
documents: No file uploaded

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

Office use only

Submission number

## How to fill out this form

The department is seeking your comments on the draft replacement Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022.

For general background about the draft plan development, proposed changes and the finalisation process please refer to the background and proposed changes documents. For water source specific details including proposed rules, please see the water source report cards.

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

Send completed submissions to:

Post: WSP Comments for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan,  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 26  
Gosford NSW 2250

Email: [hunterunreg.wsp@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

**Note: Submissions close 27 February 2022**

## Information on privacy and confidentiality

Submissions received by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for the proposed amendments will be considered by the department and the Coastal Water Planning and Policy Working Group to review and inform the draft amendments. The department values your input and accepts that information you provide may be private and personal.

If you would prefer your submission or your personal details to be treated as confidential, please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below.

If you do not make a request for confidentiality, the department may make your submission, including any personal details contained in the submission, available to the public.

Please note that, regardless of a request for confidentiality, the department may be required by law to release copies of submissions to third parties in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

I would like my submission to be treated as confidential

Yes

No

I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential

Yes

No



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## How to fill out this form

Name

Postal Address

Telephone

Email address

### Stakeholder Group

(please indicate which of the following best represents your interest by ticking one box)

- Irrigation Interests
- Fishing Interests
- Local Govt./ Utilities

- Aboriginal Interest
- Local Landholder
- Other (specify)

- Environment Interests
- Community Member

If your comments refer to a specific water source, which one?

Attach extra pages if required



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## New Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Sources

The draft plan proposes to establish the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources. The long-term limits on extractions are proposed based on a proportion of recharge. Additional water for licensed take may be made available through controlled allocations in the future.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 1 of the draft plan, the background document as well as the report cards for the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source.*

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?

## Long Term Average Annual Extraction Limit

The replacement plan creates two long term average annual extraction limits (LTAAELs).

- The Standard LTAAEL which sets a limit on extraction from all flows except for higher flows.
- The Higher flow LTAAEL that manages extractions that can only take from higher flows.

The reason for the two extraction limits is to limit extractions from all other flows and encourage extraction from higher flows.

The Standard LTAAEL includes all basic landholder rights extraction including from harvestable rights dams. If there is a growth in uptake of harvestable rights that increases total annual extraction to above the Standard LTAAEL by more than 5% then there will be reduced water allocated to licenced water users in the following year.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 4 of the draft plan, and the background document.*

Do you think it is appropriate to have two LTAAEL's? Why / why not?

Do you think the proposed compliance of the LTAAELs are appropriate? Why / why not?



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Managing the risks of increased harvestable rights

In 2022 the volume of water that can be captured in harvestable rights dams in coastal draining catchments will increase from 10% to 30% of rainfall runoff.

This could impact on the volume of flow that reaches rivers. The plan includes a requirement that the uptake of harvestable rights will be assessed at year 3 and then access, work approval and trade rules will be reviewed if the uptake is greater than 10% of rainfall runoff.

*The amendment provision can be found in Part 11 of the draft Plan.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

## Draft access rules based on groundwater levels

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules based on groundwater levels in Baerami Creek, Bylong River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Martindale Creek, and Widden Brook water sources and the Upper Middle Dart Brook, Lower Middle Brook and Kingdon Ponds, and Lower Dart Brook management zones of Dart Brook Water Source, and the Segenhoe Management Zone of the Pages River Water Source. The access rule define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and "Proposed Management Rules" section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed **CtP** level in your water source impact on your current operations?

Do you think the **CtP** in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?

Do you think the **CtP** provides enough protection for ecological values such as Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem?

The **flow reference point** is the bore at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?





# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Draft access rules in the Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal Pool water sources

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules in Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal sources based on salinity levels at Green Rocks. The access rules define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and "Proposed Management Rules" section of the relevant report cards.

How does the proposed CtP level in your water source impact on your current operations?	<i>Interference to a problem that doesn't exist.</i>
Do you think the CtP in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	<i>No. Nothing will be produced</i>
Do you think the CtP provides enough protection for low flows and ecological values? Why / why not?	<i>Seems the Dept. hasn't got the correct usage.</i>
The flow reference point is the point at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	<i>Further upstream.</i>



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Draft changes to access rules in surface water sources and management zones

Changes to access rules are being proposed in: Black Creek, Halls Creek, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Pages River, Upper Wollombi Brook, Paterson/Allyn Rivers and Upper Hunter River water sources and in the Upper Dart Brook Management Zone of the Dart Brook Water Source.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and "Proposed Management Rules" section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed **CtP** level in your water source impact on your current operations?

Do you think the **CtP** in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?

Do you think the **CtP** provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows? Why / why not?

The **flow reference point** is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Draft changes to access rules in the Isis River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Isis River Management Zone which will have new access rules.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and "Proposed Management Rules" section of the Isis River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed **CtP** level in your water source impact on your current operations?

Do you think the **CtP** in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?

Do you think the **CtP** provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows?

The **flow reference point** is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Draft changes to access rules in the Williams River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Williams River Management Zone which will have new access rules and also proposes slight changes to the access rules in the Williams River Management Zone.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and "Proposed Management Rules" section of the Williams River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed **CtP** level in your water source impact on your current operations?

Do you think the **CtP** in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?

Do you think the **CtP** provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows

The **flow reference point** is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?

## Prohibition of in-river dams in additional water sources

The draft plan proposes prohibition of in-river dams on third order and larger streams in the following water sources: Williams River, Wallis Creek, Lower Wollombi Brook, Widden Brook, South Lake Macquarie and Munmurra River. These restrictions were not previously in place for these water sources, however the water sources were identified as having high ecological values

The following water sources will continue to prohibit new in-river dams on third order or larger streams: Dora Creek, Glennies, Upper Paterson, Merriwa River, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Upper Hunter River, Upper Wollombi Brook.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan as well as in the relevant report cards.*

How would this impact on your current operations?





# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## **New restrictions for new or replacement water supply works near SEPP wetlands**

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 (Coastal SEPP) identifies wetlands in order to protect their ecological values. There is a need for water sharing plans to recognise these same wetlands to ensure protection and alignment between regulatory objectives. The draft plan proposes to prohibit the granting of approvals for surface water or groundwater works if it would result in more than minimal harm to a wetland mapped under the Coastal SEPP.

Coastal wetlands have been identified in the Dora Creek, Newcastle, North Lake Macquarie, South Lake Macquarie, Williams River, Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## New restrictions for new or replacement groundwater water supply works

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

*These distance rules are contained in Part 7 of the plan.*

The draft plan proposes to expand protection of groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and includes a map that identifies potential high priority GDEs for which minimum setback distances may apply.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

The draft plan proposes rules that require new groundwater works to be greater than 500m from a contamination source and 200m from a culturally significant site.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

Have you noticed any **effects** from extraction on water levels in the groundwater source? If so, please specify.



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Changes to between water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to allow limited trade into some water sources. This change aims to improve the opportunity to trade into downstream water sources without increasing extractive stress to upstream and high-risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:

Widden Brook, Wallis Creek, North Lake Macquarie, Lower Goulburn River, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Doyles Creek, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Upper Paterson River, Rouchel Brook and Wybong Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the "Proposed Management Rules" section of the report cards.*

Do you have any  
comment on the  
changes proposed to  
trade rules between  
water sources?

## Changes to within water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to remove some of the trade restrictions within water sources. These changes aim to improve the opportunity to trade without increasing extractive stress to high risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:

Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Wybong Creek, Pages River, Dart Brook, Muswellbrook, Jerrys, Luskintyre, Newcastle and Black Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the "Proposed Management Rules" section of the report cards.*

Do you have any  
comment on the  
changes proposed to  
trade rules between  
water sources?



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Conversion to high flow access licences

It is proposed to allow conversion from a standard access licence to an access licence that can only extract from high flows in the Upper Hunter River Water Source only. If a conversion is to occur the licence share component would increase by 2 times.

The draft plan has removed the ability to convert to high flows in the Pages River, Isis River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Rouchel Brook and Paterson/Allyn Rivers water sources.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 8 of the draft plan and background document as well as the report card for the relevant water sources.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

## Application for Aboriginal Community Development access licences

It is proposed to permit applications for specific purpose Aboriginal Community Development access licences in the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, Dart Brook, Pages River, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, and Upper Hunter River water sources.

*Further information can be found in Part 5 of the draft Plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

## Additional feedback

The above sections relate to the key proposed changes from the current water sharing plan. However, comments on all aspects of the plan are welcome and encouraged. Please use the space below, or attachments if required or preferred.

Do you have comments on any aspect of the draft plan?

© State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.





# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

Office use only		Submission number	
-----------------	--	-------------------	--

## How to fill out this form

The department is seeking your comments on the draft replacement Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022.

For general background about the draft plan development, proposed changes and the finalisation process please refer to the background and proposed changes documents. For water source specific details including proposed rules, please see the water source report cards.

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

Send completed submissions to:

Post: WSP Comments for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan,  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 26  
Gosford NSW 2250

Email: [hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Note: Submissions close 27 February 2022**

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 26  
Gosford NSW 2250

Email: [hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Note: Submissions close 27 February 2022**

---

**Information on privacy and confidentiality**

Submissions received by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for the proposed amendments will be considered by the department and the Coastal Water Planning and Policy Working Group to review and inform the draft amendments. The department values your input and accepts that information you provide may be private and personal.

If you would prefer your submission or your personal details to be treated as confidential, please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below.

If you do not make a request for confidentiality, the department may make your submission, including any personal details contained in the submission, available to the public.

Please note that, regardless of a request for confidentiality, the department may be required by law to release copies of submissions to third parties in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

<b>I would like my submission to be treated as confidential</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



# Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## How to fill out this form

Name

[Redacted]

Postal Address

[Redacted]

Telephone

Email address

**Stakeholder Group**

(please indicate which of the following best represents your interest by **ticking one box**)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Interests | <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Interest         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environment Interests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Interests               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Landholder | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Member      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Govt./ Utilities          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)             |   |

**If your comments refer to a specific water source, which one?**

Draft access rules in the Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal Pool water sources. Please refer to Attachment1 Submission on the Draft WSP for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022(the Plan). [Redacted]

Attach extra pages if required

**Draft access rules in the Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal Pool water sources**

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules in Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal sources based on salinity levels at Green Rocks. The access rules define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and "Proposed Management Rules" section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	Please refer to Attachment1 Submission on the Draft WSP for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022(the Plan). [REDACTED]
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	Please refer to Attachment1 Submission on the Draft WSP for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022(the Plan). [REDACTED]
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for low flows and ecological values? Why / why not?	Please refer to Attachment1 Submission on the Draft WSP for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022(the Plan). [REDACTED]
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the point at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	Please refer to Attachment1 Submission on the Draft WSP for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022(the Plan). [REDACTED]

It is proposed to permit applications for special purpose Aboriginal Community Development access licences in the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, Dart Brook, Pages River, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, and Upper Hunter River water sources.

Further information can be found in Part 5 of the draft Plan

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

[Empty text box for feedback]

**Additional feedback**

The above sections relate to the key proposed changes from the current water sharing plan. However, comments on all aspects of the plan are welcome and encouraged. Please use the space below, or attachments if required or preferred.

Do you have comments on any aspect of the draft plan?

Please refer to Attachment 1 Submission on the Draft WSP for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022 (the Plan). [Redacted]

© State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.

████████████████████  
████████████████████  
Paterson NSW 2421.

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

Department of Planning and Environment - Water

Locked Bag 26

Gosford NSW 2250

Attention: Water Planner ██████████

### **Attachment 1:**

#### **Submission on the Draft WSP for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022 (The Plan). ██████████.**

As a resident of Paterson for over 45 years I strongly object to the changes proposed to (particularly the cease to pump within tidal pool water sources) the Plan based on the lack of evidence as found in the Natural Resources Commission Final Report – The review of the Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009 published May 2020. (NRC Review)

*“A comprehensive evidence base was not available when the Plan was developed and key processes such as the volumetric conversion of access licences was still underway. The monitoring activities and studies associated with the remaining identified knowledge gaps have not been undertaken. As a result, a lack of knowledge remains around some key aspects of the Plan.”*

*“The monitoring activities and studies associated with the remaining identified knowledge gaps have not been undertaken. There has been no associated consultation and no Plan-required amendments have occurred. As a result, a lack of knowledge remains around key aspects of the Plan and Plan area, including critical issues such as cultural values and cease to pump rules. As such, the Commission has a significant lack of confidence that the existing rules manage the risk to instream values and protect community dependencies.”*

*“The trend in river condition over time is unknown, as 2015 and 2018 State of the Environment reporting used the same data. State of the Catchment reporting for the Hunter-Central Rivers region provides a broad indication of hydrology condition, fish condition and estuary condition and pressures. Table 5 lists water quality, fish and hydrology indicators in the Plan area. While the overall hydrology condition for key water sources was reported to be good, indicators for specific ecological values such as fish are poor. River condition also varies significantly between water sources, ranging from very good to very poor.”*

The above comments taken from the report are typical of the entire report and demonstrate the lack of resources committed to ensure that the plan was firstly implemented appropriately and monitored effectively during the 2009-2019 period.

This was supported with a letter from the office of The Hon. Melinda Pavey, Minister for Water, Property & Housing dated 8/11/2021 confirmed that:

*“Monitoring, evaluating and reporting has not been systematically conducted for a number of plans, including the Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial water sources 2009. Monitoring of water sources is costly and takes many years. There are limited resources available for monitoring the effectiveness of WSPs across the state, and resources are directed to areas in the most need. In recognition of this issue, a comprehensive Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting framework is being developed for water sharing plans which will include prioritisation of monitoring activities.”*

Essentially the NSW Government has not met its obligations monitoring the Plan since 2009. A lost opportunity as during this period the whole range of climatic extremes were experienced while irrigation was taking place. Importantly, it would have established community confidence in the current decision making process.

A new plan, not fully committed to allocating sufficient resources to ensure the knowledge gaps identified in the NRC Review are bridged and proactively maintained, is pointless.

To continue to make decision not based on rigorous long term scientific data is not our right. We don't have the right to destroy our children's environmental, economic and social futures.

Changes to the rules with the Plan should be:-

- evidence based and developed to enable the interrogation of long term trends (typically 10 years)
- accompanied with a socio economic baseline review and ecological monitoring of our water sources

Unless this data is captured and a transparent communication process involving all stockholders implemented, any changes made now could result in severe environmental, economic and social consequences for the areas within the plan.

To date this process has been inadequate and does not meet community's expectations or the DPI Water Stakeholder and Community Engagement Policy(Rev 30/03/2019) requirements of being purposeful, inclusive, timely, transparent and respectful.

The cease to pump rule as outlined within the draft plan will result in the following within my community:-

- loss of rural income and agricultural employment within established long term agricultural businesses and their support services businesses.
- the loss of the lower Hunter Food bowl placing our thriving local hospitality in jeopardy.



- the loss and restriction of the regional turf sector a major employer and provider to the massive urbanization growth within the Hunter.
- a massive reduction in the capacity of DPIE's rural education facility Tocal College to deliver training for land custodians and farmers of tomorrow.
- the loss of the dairying industry, a significant supplier to the regions dairy requirements.
- the loss of horticulture, including specialist seed production for Australia and South East Asia
- the loss of products for the equine and poultry industries, such as hay, grains and poultry mixes
- a significant reduction in the prime feed beef cattle being supplied by the area
- a significant change to the rural amenity of the entire region and initiatives supporting mental health such as the field of Sunflowers.
- this will have a significant mental health consequences and flow onto a significant reduction in tourism dollars to the region.
- the loss of regional sporting facilities such as the Paterson Golf Club, and finally
- the loss of the multi-generational knowledge base of sustainable land management and agribusinesses.

The cease to pump proposal significantly decreases the agricultural potential of affected properties and is in conflict with the intended innovation pathways in the Dungog Shire Draft Rural Lands Strategy, which aims to:

*“Support the future of farming by facilitating a productive and economically sustainable long-term future for rural lands and ensuring the longevity and growth of the agricultural sector. Encouraging a transition to new and emerging industries such as intensive plant agriculture and biofuels etc.”*

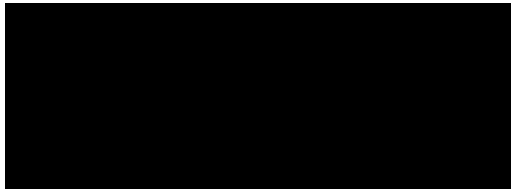
This conforms with the Hunter Regional Plan aims to transform the productivity of the Upper Hunter, protect and enhance agriculture, plan for greater land use compatibility, and in particular for Dungog Shire to support the growth and diversification of the agricultural sector.

Considering all of the above I believe the NSW Government should set aside the plan until they seriously:-

- consider the environmental, economic and social implication of the Plan based on sound ecological long term monitoring and socio-economic baseline studies of our tidal pools and estuaries communities.

- undertake direct communication with all stakeholders taking into account their lived experiences.

The mantra of modern government and other bodies for managing Natural Resources is that management and policy must be evidence based. This is clearly not the case with this WSP review and introduction of a cease to pump in the tidal pool areas.



Ref: 22/4438

22 February 2022

Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Email: hunterunreg.wsp@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022**

At its meeting of Wednesday, on 16 February 2022 [REDACTED] considered a motion of urgency and resolved (2022/31) as follows:

*That [REDACTED] write to the Minister for Lands and Water, The Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, The Minister for Agriculture and the Local Member submitting that it is inappropriate for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan 2009 to be updated until all required studies are completed including but not limited to Monitoring, Evaluating and Reporting, which have not been systematically conducted. Also, to express our concern at the serious impact on irrigators in our LGA of the proposed cease to pump provision within the draft plan, a provision which may be unnecessary if all necessary studies were carried out. And the fact that this proposal is contrary to the requirement of the [REDACTED] to support the growth and diversification of the agricultural sector.*

We draw this matter to your attention noting that the Draft Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources Plan 2022 is on exhibition until 27 February 2022.

Council has written to each of the Ministers outlined above and the Member for Upper Hunter.

Please consider this as a submission to the Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022 from [REDACTED]

If you have any enquiries please telephone the office of the General Manager on [REDACTED] during business hours.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]  
General Manager

[REDACTED] VISION:

A vibrant, united community, with a sustainable economy. An area where rural character, community safety and lifestyle are preserved.

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

Office use only	Submission number
-----------------	-------------------

### How to fill out this form

The department is seeking your comments on the draft replacement Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022.

For general background about the draft plan development, proposed changes and the finalisation process please refer to the background and proposed changes documents. For water source specific details including proposed rules, please see the water source report cards.

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

Send completed submissions to:

Post: WSP Comments for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan,  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 26  
Gosford NSW 2250

Email: [hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Note: Submissions close 27 February 2022**

### Information on privacy and confidentiality

Submissions received by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for the proposed amendments will be considered by the department and the Coastal Water Planning and Policy Working Group to review and inform the draft amendments. The department values your input and accepts that information you provide may be private and personal.

If you would prefer your submission or your personal details to be treated as confidential, please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below.

If you do not make a request for confidentiality, the department may make your submission, including any personal details contained in the submission, available to the public.

Please note that, regardless of a request for confidentiality, the department may be required by law to release copies of submissions to third parties in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

I would like my submission to be treated as confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

How to fill out this form			
<b>Name</b>	[Redacted]		
<b>Postal Address</b>	[Redacted]		
	[Redacted]		
<b>Telephone</b>	[Redacted]		
<b>Email address</b>			
<b>Stakeholder Group</b> <small>(please indicate which of the following best represents your interest by <b>ticking one box</b>)</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Local Govt./ Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Interest <input type="checkbox"/> Local Landholder <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member
<b>If your comments refer to a specific water source, which one?</b>			

Attach extra pages if required

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## New Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Sources

The draft plan proposes to establish the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources. The long-term limits on extractions are proposed based on a proportion of recharge. Additional water for licensed take may be made available through controlled allocations in the future.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 1 of the draft plan, the background document as well as the report cards for the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source.*

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?

## Long Term Average Annual Extraction Limit

The replacement plan creates two long term average annual extraction limits (LTAAELs).

- The Standard LTAAEL which sets a limit on extraction from all flows except for higher flows.
- The Higher flow LTAAEL that manages extractions that can only take from higher flows.

The reason for the two extraction limits is to limit extractions from all other flows and encourage extraction from higher flows.

The Standard LTAAEL includes all basic landholder rights extraction including from harvestable rights dams. If there is a growth in uptake of harvestable rights that increases total annual extraction to above the Standard LTAAEL by more than 5% then there will be reduced water allocated to licenced water users in the following year.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 4 of the draft plan, and the background document.*

Do you think it is appropriate to have two LTAAEL's? Why / why not?

Do you think the proposed compliance of the LTAAELs are appropriate? Why / why not?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Managing the risks of increased harvestable rights

In 2022 the volume of water that can be captured in harvestable rights dams in coastal draining catchments will increase from 10% to 30% of rainfall runoff.

This could impact on the volume of flow that reaches rivers. The plan includes a requirement that the uptake of harvestable rights will be assessed at year 3 and then access, work approval and trade rules will be reviewed if the uptake is greater than 10% of rainfall runoff.

*The amendment provision can be found in Part 11 of the draft Plan.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?	
--	--

### Draft access rules based on groundwater levels

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules based on groundwater levels in Baerami Creek, Bylong River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Martindale Creek, and Widden Brook water sources and the Upper Middle Dart Brook, Lower Middle Brook and Kingdon Ponds, and Lower Dart Brook management zones of Dart Brook Water Source, and the Segenhoe Management Zone of the Pages River Water Source. The access rule define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
--	--

Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
--	--

Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values such as Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem?	
---	--

The <b>flow reference point</b> is the bore at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	
--	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft access rules in the Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal Pool water sources

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules in Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal sources based on salinity levels at Green Rocks. The access rules define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for low flows and ecological values? Why / why not?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the point at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in surface water sources and management zones

Changes to access rules are being proposed in: Black Creek, Halls Creek, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Pages River, Upper Wollombi Brook, Paterson/Allyn Rivers and Upper Hunter River water sources and in the Upper Dart Brook Management Zone of the Dart Brook Water Source.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows? Why / why not?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Draft changes to access rules in the Isis River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Isis River Management Zone which will have new access rules.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Isis River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in the Williams River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Williams River Management Zone which will have new access rules and also proposes slight changes to the access rules in the Williams River Management Zone. *This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Williams River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

### Prohibition of in-river dams in additional water sources

The draft plan proposes prohibition of in-river dams on third order and larger streams in the following water sources: Williams River, Wallis Creek, Lower Wollombi Brook, Widden Brook, South Lake Macquarie and Munmurra River. These restrictions were not previously in place for these water sources, however the water sources were identified as having high ecological values

The following water sources will continue to prohibit new in-river dams on third order or larger streams: Dora Creek, Glennies, Upper Paterson, Merriwa River, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Upper Hunter River, Upper Wollombi Brook.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan as well as in the relevant report cards.*

How would this impact on your current operations?	
---	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### **New restrictions for new or replacement water supply works near SEPP wetlands**

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 (Coastal SEPP) identifies wetlands in order to protect their ecological values. There is a need for water sharing plans to recognise these same wetlands to ensure protection and alignment between regulatory objectives. The draft plan proposes to prohibit the granting of approvals for surface water or groundwater works if it would result in more than minimal harm to a wetland mapped under the Coastal SEPP.

Coastal wetlands have been identified in the Dora Creek, Newcastle, North Lake Macquarie, South Lake Macquarie, Williams River, Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### New restrictions for new or replacement groundwater water supply works

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

*These distance rules are contained in Part 7 of the plan.*

The draft plan proposes to expand protection of groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and includes a map that identifies potential high priority GDEs for which minimum setback distances may apply.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

The draft plan proposes rules that require new groundwater works to be greater than 500m from a contamination source and 200m from a culturally significant site.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

Have you noticed any **effects** from extraction on water levels in the groundwater source? If so, please specify.

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Changes to between water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to allow limited trade into some water sources. This change aims to improve the opportunity to trade into downstream water sources without increasing extractive stress to upstream and high-risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:  
Widden Brook, Wallis Creek, North Lake Macquarie, Lower Goulburn River, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Doyles Creek, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Upper Paterson River, Rouchel Brook and Wybong Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--

### Changes to within water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to remove some of the trade restrictions within water sources. These changes aim to improve the opportunity to trade without increasing extractive stress to high risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:  
Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Wybong Creek, Pages River, Dart Brook, Muswellbrook, Jerrys, Luskintyre, Newcastle and Black Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Conversion to high flow access licences

It is proposed to allow conversion from a standard access licence to an access licence that can only extract from high flows in the Upper Hunter River Water Source only. If a conversion is to occur the licence share component would increase by 2 times.

The draft plan has removed the ability to convert to high flows in the Pages River, Isis River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Rouchel Brook and Paterson/Allyn Rivers water sources.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 8 of the draft plan and background document as well as the report card for the relevant water sources.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Application for Aboriginal Community Development access licences

It is proposed to permit applications for specific purpose Aboriginal Community Development access licences in the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, Dart Brook, Pages River, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, and Upper Hunter River water sources.

*Further information can be found in Part 5 of the draft Plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Additional feedback

The above sections relate to the key proposed changes from the current water sharing plan. However, comments on all aspects of the plan are welcome and encouraged. Please use the space below, or attachments if required or preferred.

Do you have comments on any aspect of the draft plan?

© State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.

4

Yeast Water Sharing Plan Martindale.  
The writer has been a resident of  
Martindale for 86 years, I wish to point  
out a few facts re the proposed plan.

Firstly the cease to pump, re the  
metering bore on 1063 Martindale Road  
C/W 271032, is the measurement taken  
at the top of the bore at ground level  
or the bed of the creek? It has been  
my experience the level of water in  
the creek bed can alter in less than  
100 metres, there are rock shelves which  
are visible & no doubt many which  
are not which act as weirs.

In the floor of the valley it is  
possible to obtain water at a shallow  
depth, depending on the strata as to  
the supply available, I would say the  
valley floor is a vast underground  
reservoir. In the area where I live

2

there are two valleys, one called the Dog  
Trap the other Andy's Cully. In times of  
good rain the flow is huge & on entering  
open country disappears underground, in one  
day the flow would equal a year  
irrigation. The sand stone mountains would  
store great quantities of water.

The irrigation wells on the Queen  
Flats are fed by Martindale Creek, not  
the Hunter River, there is a depression  
on the flats which the wells follow, in  
years past it could have been the original  
course. In times of low rainfall the  
water table drops, when the creek flows  
it takes about two months for the  
water to slowly rise, also before Glenbawn  
Dam the river during drought would  
cease to flow, water was still available  
in the wells also I think it would  
have the draining effect on the reservoir.



3

in Martindale.

Portion of Martindale Estate was sold privately by Martindale White Byers & they stated the availability of water at shallow depths, after the first World War portion was resumed for soldier settled then after World War Two the remainder was resumed for soldier. The Government put down bores for each block.

At Byers there there were approx 10 Dairys, Martindale 25 all with irrigation from Martindale water source, now there are none, there is not the demand for water as before, should the proposed plan be implemented the remaining people who derive their living off the land will be forced to leave & more country will be turned into hobby farms.

The power that he should come to the area, meet the people

4

I not dictate from behind a desk.

It would be interesting to know how many who have thought up the Water Sharing Plan are familiar with this area unlike those who have lived here all their lives.

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

Office use only	Submission number
-----------------	-------------------

### How to fill out this form

The department is seeking your comments on the draft replacement Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022.

For general background about the draft plan development, proposed changes and the finalisation process please refer to the background and proposed changes documents. For water source specific details including proposed rules, please see the water source report cards.

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

Send completed submissions to:

Post: WSP Comments for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan,  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 26  
Gosford NSW 2250

Email: [hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Note: Submissions close 27 February 2022**

### Information on privacy and confidentiality

Submissions received by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for the proposed amendments will be considered by the department and the Coastal Water Planning and Policy Working Group to review and inform the draft amendments. The department values your input and accepts that information you provide may be private and personal.

If you would prefer your submission or your personal details to be treated as confidential, please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below.

If you do not make a request for confidentiality, the department may make your submission, including any personal details contained in the submission, available to the public.

Please note that, regardless of a request for confidentiality, the department may be required by law to release copies of submissions to third parties in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

<b>I would like my submission to be treated as confidential</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

How to fill out this form			
<b>Name</b>			
<b>Postal Address</b>			
<b>Telephone</b>			
<b>Email address</b>			
<b>Stakeholder Group</b> <small>(please indicate which of the following best represents your interest by <b>ticking one box</b>)</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Interests	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Interest	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment Interests
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Interests	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Landholder	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Member
	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Govt./ Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	
<b>If your comments refer to a specific water source, which one?</b>			

Attach extra pages if required

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft access rules in the Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal Pool water sources

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules in Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal sources based on salinity levels at Green Rocks. The access rules define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	It will mean that the [REDACTED] Farm will not be viable
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	It will not provide any supplementary irrigation when it is most needed.
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for low flows and ecological values? Why / why not?	We have seen no scientific evidence to answer this question
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the point at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	The idea of a flow reference point must be abandoned

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022

Submission from [REDACTED]

I lived in this district for [REDACTED] years and worked as a [REDACTED] all of that time. I completed a [REDACTED]. I was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] which includes a 300-cow dairy dependent upon irrigation from the Paterson River tidal pool.

I am a member of the [REDACTED] which holds in trust the [REDACTED] for the purposes of agricultural and related education.

I have been associated with the many farm families and businesses dependant on irrigation from the tidal pool. A significant number of families have been working these lands for over 150 years.

The proposal outlined in the draft water sharing plan:

- Is illogical and not based on any scientific evidence
- Uses modelling with unrealistic inputs and assumptions
- If implemented would destroy agricultural production the Lower Hunter Valley
- Has been presented without adequate community consultation.

I therefore seek that the NSW Government:

- Undertake thorough scientific studies to examine the ecology of the tidal pool
- Communicate directly with all licence holders rather than just through media channels and inadequate public meetings
- Set aside the proposed revision of the water sharing plan until there is evidence to prepare a realistic plan
- Seriously adopt a triple bottom line methodology (Social/Economic/Environmental considerations) before attempting to implement a water sharing plan
- Undertake modelling based upon realistic inputs following consultation with the Lower Hunter Agricultural Water Users Association Inc
- Undertake a study of all impacts on the health of the estuary including inflows from the rivers, urban runoff, water treatment works and creeks, in particular Fishery Creek.

Unfortunately, the process to date reflects very poorly on the administration of water policy.

It gives no one any confidence that stakeholders are being fairly treated and that the Government cares about food production.

[REDACTED]

23 February 2022

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 3:46 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] 23/2/22 9.06am CONFIDENTIALITY NOT SPECIFIED HUNTER FW: submission...draft water sharing plan for the Hunter unregulated and alluvial sources 2022.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 February 2022 9:06 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]; DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox  
<[hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** submission...draft water sharing plan for the Hunter unregulated and alluvial sources 2022.

Submission by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] farmer supporting three families and supplying [REDACTED] businesses in NSW and the local area.

Having farmed our family farm for over [REDACTED] years and being [REDACTED] owners we have never really had any problems with our well water except when [REDACTED] was in operation and damaged the floor of the aquifer causing great volumes of water to be pumped out of the system, dropping well levels and, in some cases, drying them up completely but since [REDACTED] ceased operating all well levels have been restored to something like former levels.

Given all this... anecdotally, we were informed by the original owner that the water in the aquifer is recharged from water emanating from [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] So... it would seem that vast quantities of water recharge the aquifer with every wet season in the [REDACTED]. In days gone by, almost every 40acre block in the area was a dairy farm, each one pumped from the well system. So, stock numbers were generally much higher and stock drink huge amounts, add irrigation to grow fodder and vegetables and fruit and possibly a small cash crop without the water efficient equipment used these days without having to be told when and if one could pump, water use would have been greater then.

To the present day if everyone is ordered to cease to pump at exactly the same time, we risk being pushed into a situation which could cause shortages of fodder, food and livelihood in much the same way as when Russia imposed identical dates for planting, and harvesting regardless of conditions and weather, for the entire country so whether the wheat, or what ever, was ripe it was harvested, even if it was raining or frosty or snowing given the vast climatic conditions, much like Australia, it had to be done on that date because of mandatory orders, Over two or three years this caused acute shortages of grain, and then food in general, and eventually a manmade famine causing the deaths over 10 million of people over 3 years. Bureaucrats who do not understand the cause and effect of their edicts can set in place unforeseen difficulties and problems. The present system is working well here in the Hunter valley so why risk unleashing unforeseen problems.

Should cease to pump orders be instigated in this area which grows fodder such as lucerne for hay, for the horse and cattle industry and offers agistment or rears stock it would mean that every farm would stop production at exactly the same time. Lucerne paddocks would wither if the water they need is withheld at

the time it is actively growing and once it gets past a certain stage can't be revived for fodder production without the enormous cost of time and effort and economic input which could break most farmers... more so than battling a severe drought knowing that there is water available when absolutely necessary. The small farms in this area have taken up the slack in producing hay, because the large hay farms have been bought out by the mines and mostly closed down, and without these farms being able to continue pumping to keep their very small niche businesses going we will see many more hay drives being instigated from other states which are not affected by cease to pump orders. Without hay to feed our cattle and horses for perhaps months on end cattle will have to be slaughtered or sent on agistment elsewhere, adding to the problems the drought has already highlighted.

Considering the problems farmers have faced in the past decade or so, drought, flood, fire, mouse plagues, locusts, early or late frosts, just to mention a few and there is still water flowing in the aquifers, it is unconscionable to impose such draconian measures on people who generally live by the rules of nature, using only what they need in the most economical and beneficial way for their business.

The impact of the failure of these businesses has a knock-on effect on many other businesses and enterprises as the money generated by these small acreages indirectly employs the stock and station agents and their businesses which supply seed, chemicals, small farming equipment, act as selling agents and move cattle through the food chain and employ quite a number of people. The farm machinery agents who supply and repair farm equipment, the abattoirs, butchers, supermarkets, the horse racing industry, farriers, grooms, strappers, farmers, trainers, irrigation supply enterprises, vets, agronomists, farmhands and even backpackers. The list goes on as just about all businesses are impacted if farmers have no income to spend in their wider community. The other problem is that all those, previously profitable farms get sold to people who want a life style block and often become weed and noxious pest problems due to ignorance and lack of income. It all takes money to comply with regulations, keep weeds at bay, grow fodder if possible and not being able to access water at cease pumping times can be the final straw that breaks the camel's back.

[REDACTED]

## Comments on Draft for Comment Upper Hunter Unregulated Water Management Plan.

This submission is for the Draft for Comment of the Upper Hunter Unregulated Water Management Plan

We are an [REDACTED] family located at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Creek Unregulated areas (in this management plan), and the Hunter River Regulated water system (in a separate management plan).

The farm supports 3 families directly, and injects many tens of thousands of dollars (probably hundreds of thousands of dollars) into the community through both personal and business spending.

### Endorsements

We would like to endorse the submission made by the Hunter Valley Water Users' Association which addresses catchment wide issues.

### General Comments

The timing of this draft for comment is poor and the community engagement appears to be limited. This time of year is hay making season, summer cropping, and irrigating and most people who would comment are busy trying to keep the farm in order. Early information (May 2021) indicated that the water plan would be draft for comment much earlier, and would NOT need to be rushed through to implementation at the start of the water year (July 2022). It is crucial that all users affected by this management plan have ample time to determine how it may affect their operations, and also time to make considered deliberations with others to ensure that all/most issues are considered, and they are not blinkered by a single issue they don't like. I endorse the recommendation from the HVWUA that the public exhibition be extended to 40 business days, not 40 days, making the new end date 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

The largest effect on local groundwater has been coal mining that has fractured the aquifers, and effectively allowed the water to drain out at the lower end, meaning the upper ends have less water availability. Given the license sizes that mines operate at, and compared to farm license sizes, anecdotally farm water usage is of little significance in this area.

The Vision statement and Objectives of the management plan include to "maintain, and possibly improve" economic benefits. The plan seems to fail this requirement for coastal water users. There is no value provided by the regulator, and significant cost appear to be incurred by the user (costs due to loss of productivity due to cease to pump rules, well locations in smaller properties, and significant cost of metering).

I reviewed the risk assessment, and although it does cover environmental and governmental risks, it does not address risks to the actual users of the water in the managed areas.

- Metering Cost to comply
  - Metering to AS4747 which is very precise metering on a very approximate resource.



- Non urban water metering (pseudo metering from electricity meter) is probably appropriate for a well installation as generally only has the well on the NMI (not likely to be a workshop or other installation on the in the middle of a paddock).
- Civil works required to install metering installation, given that most installations feed an underground reticulation system and they invariably have a mass head block to prevent pipe blowouts at the installation... most older installation also have asbestos cement piping.
- Very specific requirements to achieve AS4747 compliance for meter installation in line with manufacturers installation instructions, and DQP meter installation requirements (accessibility, sealing, etc)
- Insurance requirements etc for metering that it often more expensive that the entire pumping installation.
- Meters will generally have to be much larger than the pump discharge, due to the larger pipe sizes that are used for underground reticulation. Metering installation will have to be at the appropriate fixed pipe size to reduce losses that may make the system not function as designed.
- Unable to pump when previously have been able to pump
  - Due to cease to pump rules when compared to not enough water (level or inflow) to cover footvalve.
  - Loss of productivity on an entire area due to CTP being triggered.
- Unable to install water access point due to proximity of boundaries, house with septic, proximity of other access points... particularly problematic due to smaller blocks (given most of the area was subdivided in 40-50acre blocks)
  - 250m around a house is 19 hectares (over 40 acres)
  - 100m along a boundary is 10hectares per kilometre
  - Some blocks are smaller than 200m wide (boundary to boundary) or 350m (house on boundary to boundary).
  - May be able to be done if joint owned, but not if separate titles.

## Cease to Pump

Cease to pump requirements will be extremely detrimental to coastal properties.

We can understand the requirement in western areas with cropping, however in coastal areas there are significant irrigated areas that support animals.

Whether these animals are horses, herd cattle (dairy, beef, sheep), stock and working horses, the loss of fodder produce due solely to a water level at an arbitrary point is an UNNATURAL way to manage the resource. This will reduce carrying capacities, and may also prevent users getting back into the market early after a drought (having to buy at high prices, instead of while prices are still distressed)

Checking metering bore levels while farming may not be possible for many locations (due to internet etc), and many users are a demographic that are not tech savvy. Push notifications to nominated SMS or email would make a lot more sense (eg daily while CTP is in force at WAL).

Unlike western areas that might have a windfall gain due to the provision or not of irrigation, the coastal area is much smaller blocks and much more intensely worked, generally with irrigation as a standard component of its productivity.

Unlike western areas on an aquifer, coastal water is generally in underground streams and alluvial beds. Each and every well has different levels and inflow capabilities, although the well is generally adequate for the user's requirements in good and middling times. In poor times, the wells capabilities degrade (generally due to a lower level, and reduced inflow), and it does not support unlimited pumping... the farm will make decisions based on this, reducing irrigated areas, shortening irrigation line lengths, running less hours per day, ganging sources together, etc. This natural self regulates the use of water in these areas. Cease to Pump should only be implemented well after most users have self regulated due to lack of adequate water to support irrigation They will still generally have enough water available for stock and domestic due to much lower requirement.

Cease to pump also unnaturally takes out all users in a particular area at the same time, meaning the local fodder etc all become unavailable at the same time. For heavily stocked, irrigated pasture producers this can become catastrophic as all feed disappears at the same time, and all users will be forced to destock at the same time, and local markets will not have buyers, as all have been CTPed out at the same time.

The following issues/points should be noted.

- Cease to pump if implemented, should have the capability to push notifications to user.
- Cease to pump will put a hard stop on users that would have still had access to water, making their land immediately unproductive and unnaturally reducing their carrying capacity.
- A system with many small users is more stable without regulation as no one user is able to drastically affect the system.
- Most irrigation in the coastal region is to high pressure irrigation (higher pressure at much lower flow rates – unlike western area which is high flow china pumps to turkeys nest dams). The flow rates are generally lower than the inflow so as to maintain an appropriate level in the well (above the footvalve on the pump).
- CTP levels (if implemented) should be well below irrigatable water levels, so that the natural reduction of irrigation can do its thing first.

### Well locations.

This is a minor point, however the restriction to groundwater access points may restrict many properties from installing a well or installing a well in an optimum area (divined, electricity available, short underground piping to usage point. This is due to the smaller property sizes in the coastal zone. Around our area, the blocks were subdivided into sub-50 acres blocks, but the restriction on well location may mean there is nowhere (or nowhere worthwhile) to install a well.

The following points are noted.

- Unable to install water access point due to proximity of boundaries, house with septic, proximity of other access points... particularly problematic due to smaller blocks (given most of the area was subdivided in 40-50acre blocks)
  - 250m around a house is 19 hectares (over 40 acres)
  - 100m along a boundary is 10hectares per kilometre

- Some blocks are smaller than 200m wide (boundary to boundary) or 350m (house on boundary to boundary).
- May be able to be done if joint owned, but not if separate titles.

## Metering

Please ensure I am notified at least 1 month prior to the consultation sessions regarding this significant impact to my business, and that I am given ample time to provide a separate submission on this matter, as I would like to provide more information regarding the following.

Metering is a significant cost and burden on these licenses in the coastal region. There are a number of reasons noted below

- Unlikely to be windfall gains for most users due to overwatering (water stealing) since most are limited by land size, electricity and labour resources, not water availability.
- Most farms are borderline economical/lifestyle farms now anyway... large dairies are all but gone, farms are being subdivided not consolidated.
- Smaller farms are becoming niche suppliers to mainly horse studs for the supply of fodder, or they are making the most out of their farm while still having another source of income.
  - economically though a smaller farm (say 20acres) might make 5000 bales of lucerne hay in a year... this is only \$40-50k income, on \$20k expenses, and \$1-2million of capital investment... the impost of 15-20k for metering installation is significant for no value provided to the farmer.
    - If a farmer is smaller than that, and many are, then metering installation may cost a full years income, even though they are only pumping 10-20 megalitres.
- Most farms in the area have many small wells in appropriate locations, possibly down to a well every 20acres due to
  - Short underground pipe installations
  - Location of streams and alluvial beds in relation to productive lands.
  - Electricity supply
- Most farms in the area are using high pressure irrigation... the cost to extract the water is the largest expense, and generally the limiting factor for take of water (unlikely to take more than needed, as it is not economical). Farms are generally fully utilized, and there is not really any windfall gain to be made from increasing water take. (not like eg 5000 acres of a grain crop that may or may not come to fruition).
- AS4747 metering seems to be overkill for an approximated system. Pseudo metering would be more than adequate for determining pumping amounts on groundwater, on smaller licenses and works (as it is on hunter river regulated system). Where appropriate, using electrical meters as a proxy provides much the same information at little to no cost to the farmer, and where there is a small fixed percentage error, this is of no consequence in an unregulated system (because lets be honest, you don't really know how much water is there or where it comes from).
- Very little value is provided to the end user. The changes only seem to support a level of bureaucracy that is unwarranted. (metering, installation, inspections, compliance auditing etc)
- Having just come through a drought, the system in this area was generally self regulating... as the water resource became more scarce, users had access that self limited (irrigation flow

[REDACTED]

rates could not be sustained, however pressure pump (stock and domestic) rates could be maintained.)... all without meters and cease to pump directions..

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Behalf of the following families.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**

FW:  
23/2/22 12.02  
CONFIDENTIAL - SUBMISSION NO BUT PERSONAL DETAILS YES HUNTER FW:  
Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and  
Alluvial

**From:** [digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)  
<[digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)> **On Behalf Of**  
[digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 February 2022 12:02 PM  
**To:** DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <[hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

**Permission**

I would like my  
submission to be treated No  
as confidential?:

I would like my personal  
details to be treated as Yes  
confidential?:

**Your details**

Are you making a  
submission as an Individual  
individual or on behalf of  
an organisation?:

Which of the following  
best describes the kind of Irrigator/farmer  
stakeholder you are?:

If you selected other,  
please state:

Email address:

**Question 1.1**

Do you have any  
comments on this aspect  
of the draft plan?:

**Question 1.2**

Do you have any  
comments on this aspect  
of the draft plan?:

**Question 2.1**

Do you think this is  
appropriate? Why / why  
not?:

**Question 2.2**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

**Question 3.1**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

**Question 4.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.3**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

The proposed CtP level will be detrimental to our current operation on [redacted] Creek ([redacted] creek catchment) and will not only impact on our ability to produce feed for our cattle but will render our licence worthless and devalue our property. As what is proposed is based on surface water flow, and [redacted] Creek is a [redacted] creek which only has surface water in holes unless there has been a downpour and it will flow for a few days. Our water is sourced from an aquifer (a well) and by applying "surface water" regulation we will be unable to access except when there is a flood. The CtP in our water source is totally impractical as [redacted] Creek has no surface water flow except in times of flood. The use of data gathered from a surface flow monitor downstream in [redacted] Creek is not appropriate There is NO data on water flow from [redacted] Creek to support any of these changes. Our water source is an underground aquifer and until there is ten years of data from an underground bore monitor, it is unjust and impractical to impose the restrictions on us. The CtP ONLY provides protection for ecological flows. It gives us NO protection as it completely cuts off our access to any water in times of drought. This is supposed to be a "Water sharing" plan, it not, its all or nothing. Why not a graded reduction eg 20%, 40% so that we have a livelihood and some flow is maintained? It is also unnecessary as we had very little change to our underground flow during the last drought, suggesting that water taken from this source is not depleting the ecosystems downstream. The flow reference point is totally inappropriate. Not only is there no surface flow in [redacted] Creek but it is downstream in [redacted] Creek. To put a CtP on underground irrigation licences by using a surface water monitor is ludicrous at best and illegal at least. All other creeks and rivers in the area have had underground bore monitors installed with CtP levels being put on an underground level. Until there is sufficient relevant data from an underground bore monitor on [redacted] Creek over a ten year period, as done on all other rivers and creeks, we should not have a CtP imposed on our licence. If this plan goes ahead by imposing a CtP on our property, we will not only be forced to remove our livestock and therefore our income in times of drought, it is unjust as you are imposing the wrong regulation on us. The "cease to pump" regulation applies to surface flow which does not apply to [redacted] Creek and therefore until you can collect ten years of relevant data on the underground flow from the aquifer by using an underground bore monitor, this plan should not be imposed on us. In addition, there is sure to be a flow on effect of our licence becoming worthless and property valuation dropping dramatically. Hopefully common sense will prevail and due to the fact that we have no relevant data available, this plan will remain as a plan and not be implemented.

**Question 4.4**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.5**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 5.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 6.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 7.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 8.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 8.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 9.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 10.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 11.1**

Comments on any aspect of the draft plan:

**Question 11.2**

Upload a submission or any supporting documents: No file uploaded



22 February 2022

██████████  
██████████

Department of Planning and Environment–Water  
Locked bag 26, Gosford, NSW 2250

Email: [hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

Dear ██████████

**Submission**  
**Hunter unregulated and alluvial water sharing plan (WSP)**

The ██████████ is ██████████ environment organisation. We represent over 160 environment groups across NSW. Together we are dedicated to protecting and conserving the wildlife, landscapes and natural resources of NSW.

**██████████ notes that the environmental data and modelling in the updated risk assessment for the WSP area has shown an increase in risks across most water sources.**

Following ██████████ provides a list of provisions in the draft Water Sharing Plan that are supported, and a list of provisions that aren't supported.

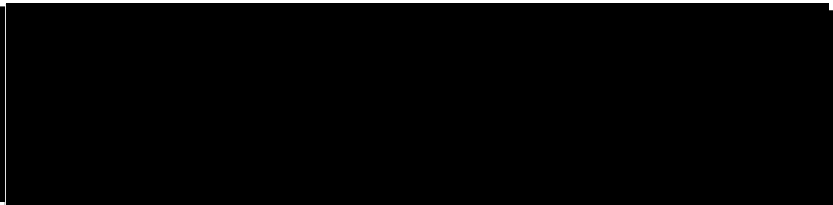
Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the consultation.

Your key contact point for further questions and correspondence is ██████████, ██████████, available via ██████████ and ██████████. We welcome further conversation on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

██████████  
**Chief Executive**  
██████████





# List of Recommendations

**█ supports the following provisions in the draft Water Sharing Plan for Hunter unregulated and alluvial water sources:**

1. Tidal Pool rules

█ supports the cease to pump rule for the tidal pool water sources. The freshwater available in the Hunter River tidal pool is the environmental flow from rules set at the Greta gauge in the Hunter Regulated WSP.

These flows need protection into the Hunter estuary and associated Ramsar listed wetlands through an active management regime similar to rules established in the Gwydir and Macquarie to protect environmental flows to the Ramsar wetlands in those catchments, and to protect flows into the Barwon-Darling. Freshwater flows into the Hunter estuary are critical for estuarine processes including fish and prawn nurseries.

2. Access rules for groundwater use

█ supports the implementation of access rules for alluvial pumping. In most areas of the Hunter alluvial water and surface water is the same water source. This is one of the last areas in the state to have groundwater access rules under the Water Management Act 2000 (WMA), 22 years after enactment of water sharing requirements to protect environmental and cultural values, groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and aquatic ecosystems.

3. Protection for GDEs from new bores

█ supports the introduction of distance rules to restrict or prohibit new bores within specified distances of GDEs. It is noted that there are no rules to protect significant cultural values, as in other WSPs in NSW.

4. New management zones





█ supports the establishment of new management zones in various water sources. This improves the ability to regulate compliance with water sharing rules and attaches cease-to-pump rules to appropriate river gauges and sites.

#### 5. Management of increased harvestable rights

█ supports the new definition for the long-term average annual extraction limit (LTAAEL) to include harvestable rights in the standard LTAAEL. █ strongly opposed the lifting of harvestable rights from 10% to 30% in coastal catchments. If taken up, this will cause a major increase in capture of surface flows to unregulated stream and aquifer recharge. The long-term impact will be on river health and available water determinations for licence holders.

█ is particularly interested in how the new WSP LTAAEL will account for aquifer interference from mining operations, increased harvestable rights take on mines and water capture on mine sites above the new harvestable right.

The draft WSP does not appear to include the calculation of rainfall runoff capture exempt from harvestable rights under Environment Protection Licences in the LTAAEL, as recommended by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) review.

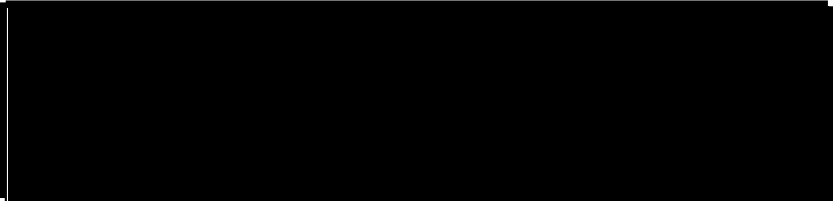
The draft plan has also not adopted the NRC recommendation to remove the high flow conversion clause, rather the proposal is to adopt a separate high flow LTAAEL. This may have implications on the benefits of high flows to ecosystem function.

#### 6. Aquifer interference management

█ supports the removal of aquifer interference exemption. The exemption was in place in the 2009 Hunter unregulated and alluvial WSP with the purpose of allowing mining operations to permanently intercept water from alluvial aquifers. However, the exemption rule also had a requirement to replace lost flows. This generally occurred through the purchase and relinquishment of licences. The NRC recommended that the rule require 100% mitigation of aquifer interference.

█ is interested in how the NSW Government now proposes to manage aquifer interference if it is no longer exempt under WSP rules. Also, how this interference will be accounted for in the standard LTAAEL.





We note that the draft plan has an amendment (CI 72 (e) (iv)) in relation to aquifer interference management, including granting of aquifer interference approvals.

7. Chichester Dam environmental flow rules

█ supports the new WSP include provision for environmental flows to be released from Chichester Dam under management rules for Hunter Water Corporation.

Plans to increase Hunter Water’s extractions from the Paterson River, as part of the Lostock Dam to Glennies Creek pipeline proposal, must be covered by an amendment provision in the new WSP.

**█ objects to the following provisions in the draft Water Sharing Plan for Hunter unregulated and alluvial water sources:**

1. No visible flow cease-to-pump rule

█ does not support the implementation of new cease-to-pump rules that include ‘no visible flow’ at nominated sites in various management zones. These rules do not protect very low flows and their environmental values in unregulated streams in the Hunter catchment. There appears to be no rules relating to pumping from natural instream pools.

2. Management of new water sources

█ does not support the proposal to set a high LTAAEL with a controlled allocation process in two new water sources proposed to be managed under the WSP.

The Hunter and Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Sources are the new water sources. The management of water extraction from these water sources should not increase above the formal licensing of existing take. The establishment of an LTAAEL in these water sources should reflect current extraction rates. There should be no further allocation of water access licences through a controlled allocation process in these new water sources.

3. New water supply works near Coastal SEPP 2018 wetlands





█ does not support provisions for new water supply works near Coastal SEPP wetlands. The above new water source areas and the Dora Creek, Newcastle, North & South Lake Macquarie and Williams River water sources contain Coastal SEPP wetlands. There should be no impact, not 'minimal' impact, on these important ecosystems from new water supply works. Rules in the WSP should have a set back distance, as for GDEs.

4. Construction of in-river dams

█ does not support restricted prohibition of in-river dams on 3rd order or larger rivers. All unregulated water sources in the Hunter catchment must have a prohibition of construction of in-river dams. These structures impede fish passage and capture important environmental flows, downstream access to basic rights and flows into downstream water sources.

5. Trading into Upper Goulburn water source

█ does not support the proposed rule change to allow trading from Lower Goulburn upstream into Upper Goulburn water source.

The Upper Goulburn is a highly stressed river system that has been significantly impacted by approved aquifer interference and loss of base flows through major coal mining operations on its headwaters.

The proposal to allow upstream trade with 'no net gain' for the Upper Goulburn is not appropriate. All trade should be in the downstream direction as currently stands in the existing WSP.



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 8:04 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] 23/2/22 9.49 PM NOT CONFIDENTIAL HUNTER FW: Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

**From:** [digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)  
<[digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)> **On Behalf Of**  
[digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 February 2022 9:49 PM  
**To:** DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <[hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

**Permission**

I would like my submission to be treated as confidential? No

I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential? No

**Your details**

Are you making a submission as an individual or on behalf of an organisation? Individual

Which of the following best describes the kind of stakeholder you are? Irrigator/farmer

If you selected other, please state:

Email address: [REDACTED]

**Question 1.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 1.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 2.1**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

**Question 2.2**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

**Question 3.1**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

**Question 4.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

I am a 4th generation [REDACTED] Farmer on the Hunter River at [REDACTED]. The Cease To Pump rule if introduced will be devastating and stop food production in the Lower Hunter. This will effect the entire Maitland and Hunter communities. If the Cease To Pump goes ahead we will not be able to continue to operate. We will be unable to plant [REDACTED] as there will be no water security to ensure we are able to finish the crop through to harvest. Not only does this affect our 4 families directly this has a huge flow on effect to the local community with casual employees, transport and the local consumer of fresh produce. There is not enough data and research to support the proposed Cease To Pump. The social and economic impacts of this ruling will irrecoverably change the lives and the landscape of farming and food production in the Maitland area. I urge you to reconsider this ruling as our family cannot survive if this comes in. Yours Sincerely [REDACTED]

**Question 4.3**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.4**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.5**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 5.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 6.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 7.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 8.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 8.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 9.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 10.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 11.1**

Comments on any aspect of the draft plan:

**Question 11.2**

Upload a submission or any supporting documents: No file uploaded

[REDACTED]

Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan  
Dept of Planning: Industry and Environment  
Locket Bag26  
GOSFORD  
NSW 2250

Dear Madam,

Re: The draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Resources 2022

I would like to submit an objection to the New Cease to Pump rules for the Lower Goulburn River, surrounding rivers and creeks

Our property runs [REDACTED] along the [REDACTED]

We own approximately [REDACTED] and run a primary production property consisting of growing [REDACTED] to support the [REDACTED] production

If the new rules proposed by NSW Planning, Industry and Environment are put in place it will devastate all our local farming communities including, local grape growers, livestock growers, veggie growers, hay and crop growers, all properties that rely on water for their livelihood or just basic needs.

We pay our pump licences every year for the right to pump, some of us have gone to the expense at putting spears into the river to access water during drought years, to be able to fill our dams during drought for stock water, to irrigate crops to sustain our beef cattle production And to add value to our properties



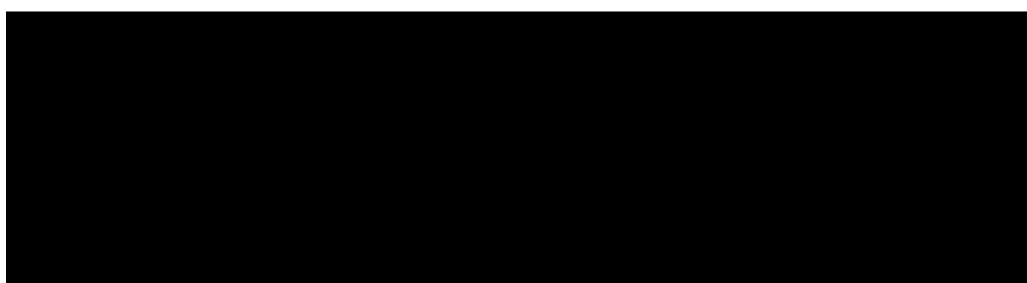
It will be devastating if we loose the water from the Goulburn River and the right to pump during drought year. It will mean our income will cease and the possibility of us walking off the land

I would also like to make a comment to say that not all small property owners and the older generation property owners have the resources to access the information pertaining to this proposal or other information bought forward from Government Departments via the internet

I feel a public consultation should be advised and held so ALL property owners have access to the information, to have the information explained at an open forum

We appreciate the opportunity to make this submission and hope you will take it into consideration

Yours Sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

██████████ Submission to DPE-Water: DRAFT Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022

Attn: ██████████

██████████

Department of Planning and Environment – Water

[Hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

██████████ appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the draft water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources.

We provide these comments within the context of our Local Strategic Plan which outlines the role of ██████████ to support land managers to improve the condition of natural and cultural resources, and work with primary producers towards growing their business and increasing productivity and profitability while contributing to healthy environments.

There are three main areas of interest and concern for ██████████ regarding the draft WSP:

1. Tidal Pool Access Rules
2. Integration and optimisation of complementary approaches to enhance and restore, the condition of the water sources and their water-dependent ecosystems
3. Dams in streams

We have provided some details regarding each of these areas below, and ██████████ welcomes the opportunity to continue this discussion as you work to finalise the Draft WSP.

## 1. Tidal Pool Access Rules

██████████ understands and supports the review and recommendations made by the Natural Resources Commission regarding the need for access rules for the Tidal Pool. We note however the Tidal Pool is a complex system which provides a complex mix of economic, environmental and social outcomes. The observation of ██████████ and supported by feedback from landholders is the system has largely been self-regulated due to the limitations posed by salinity on water users and the complex impacts and interactions with the daily tidal cycle.

Having reviewed the modelling provided as part of the consultation process ██████████ has not been able to understand the degree to which the proposed Cease to Pump (CtP) rules will create any significant environmental benefits. At the same time ██████████ understands the proposed CtP rules will have substantial economic and social impacts on consumptive water users. However the modelling doesn't determine the extent of any social or economic impact beyond the expected CtP days per year.

██████████ notes water use requirements in the Tidal Pool are often highly specific and time-bound and therefore highly vulnerable to even relatively minor changes to water access. At this stage there does not appear to be sufficient information available at the appropriate physical and temporal scale to enable accurate assessment of the social and economic impacts of the proposed changes on water-dependent industries and local economies more broadly.

This is not to suggest that appropriate CtP and/or other water access rules (eg AWD) cannot be successfully developed which effectively balance environmental, economic and social needs, but [REDACTED] does not consider the draft WSP is supported by adequate, detailed, information nor in-depth discussions with water users to achieve this balance. [REDACTED] refers DPE-Water to other coastal WSP consultation processes, eg Bega River WSP development, which were able to achieve an effective and agreed balance through this type of engagement with water users.

[REDACTED] strongly recommends that for the WSP to achieve an effective balance between environmental, economic and social outcomes that additional substantial and detailed work will need to be undertaken, in consultation with impacted water users, before the objects of the *Water Management Act* and the draft WSP can reasonably be expected to have been met. [REDACTED] is aware of the resource constraints facing DPE-Water and is open to discussions on whether we could assist, via our existing teams and networks, support this more intensive engagement.

## 2. Integration for Optimum Outcomes

[REDACTED] notes and supports the recommendation of the NRC on the importance of creating linkages between the Hunter River Management Plan and other non-statutory plans to help create a holistic approach to the complexities of the Hunter River and its tributaries. Whilst we appreciate the opportunity afforded through a brief discussion between our teams on the importance of integration, we do not consider the benefits of such an approach to integration have yet been even started to be scoped out. We are concerned that completion of the WSP review process will remove opportunities to align and leverage the best improvements which the various plans can provide.

We are particularly conscious of the potential benefits which could be afforded by the Williams River Accreditation Scheme being integrated with an industry-led approach to best practice riverine management. The example of the approach achieved via the Bega Water Sharing Plan and the Bega Environmental Management System, which we understand are still considered best practice, were only achieved by effective engagement of industry with both water sharing rules and associated best practice river management practices. To complete the WSP process without effective efforts to integrate these approaches may well lose the opportunity which the NRC has identified as being important. Conversely, we are also concerned that if poorly analysed and understood changes to water access are locked in to the WSP it risks disenfranchising key stakeholders. This would make their engagement in a more holistic and effective approach to improving the condition of the water sources and their water-dependent ecosystems highly unlikely to be achieved.

On a parallel note, [REDACTED] recognises the importance and value generated by the Williams River Accreditation Scheme and recommends an evaluation be undertaken to assess and improve its effectiveness.

## 3. Dams in Streams

[REDACTED] notes the proposal to prohibit construction of farm dams in 3<sup>rd</sup> Order streams or higher. While [REDACTED] agrees and supports the need to protect waterways from the impacts of a proliferation of farm dams we are concerned at the proposal for blanket prohibition. [REDACTED] works actively with landholders to assist them to better prefer for periods of drought and to increase the resilience of their farm enterprise to some of the expected impacts from climate change, particularly expected increases in frequency and duration of drought periods and also more intense rain-storm events. A key adaptation strategy for both these impacts is to construct best practice on-farm water storages. Experience in the Hunter catchment and elsewhere indicates that many properties will not have suitable sites for the appropriately sized farm dams on 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> order streams. Rather than a

blanket prohibition on farms dams on 3<sup>rd</sup> order streams and above ■■■■ considers a better approach is to continue to enable them, but to require the appropriate assessment to ameliorate environmental risk. ■■■■ is aware of a number of farms dams on 3<sup>rd</sup> order streams and above which have been able to protect, and even enhance through prolonged base flows, local aquatic environments while also improving access to water to optimise benefits for agriculture and local economies.



Lower North Coast WSP Replacement  
Department of Planning and Environment – Water  
Suite 5, 620 Macauley Street  
Albury, NSW, 2640  
[lowernorthcoast.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lowernorthcoast.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

## Submission

### Re- Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources (WSPHUAWS)

Dear NSW DP&E Officer,

I am writing to you on behalf of the [REDACTED], an independent body that provides advice and commentary to [REDACTED]. Our [REDACTED], with members covering a range of agricultural industries across NSW, includes in its many functions an analysis of risks to [REDACTED]. In discussions with the management of the [REDACTED] along with articles that have appeared in various media, a significant risk to the [REDACTED] agricultural enterprises, especially the Dairy enterprise, has arisen with the proposed changes to the current WSP that covers the [REDACTED] and neighbouring farmers. Changes to the “Cease to Pump” rule, if implemented, will cause significant problems to fodder production and cause significant economic damage to the Dairy enterprise especially during drier times when irrigation is most needed. Hence, we are very much against the DPIE’s proposal to change the “Cease to Pump” rule for the [REDACTED] and request the DPIE not to proceed with the proposed changes.

The [REDACTED] is very conscious of the need to address environmental issues, but we believe in this case the balance of the shared resource is skewed unreasonably against irrigators and agricultural production with too great a broad-brush approach.

The key points the [REDACTED] wishes to raise with the DPIE are:

1. What research, modelling and scientific data has the DPIE used in formulating their proposed changes with special focus on the [REDACTED] Tidal Flow? With the data collected to date how are these linked to the ecological outcomes being sought? It is essential that changes to the plan where adverse effects on irrigators are highly probable, must be based on sound monitoring and verifiable data.
2. Has the DP&E assessed the impact of the proposed changes on irrigator access to irrigation especially in the critical summer months and during dry times? Using data from the Lower Hunter Agricultural Water Users Inc. and [REDACTED] experience over recent years it is estimated

that under the proposed changes to the “Cease to Pump” rule [REDACTED] may have been faced with the following number of days when it could not pump:

<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>105 days</b>	<b>September to March inclusive</b>
<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>95 days</b>	<b>December to March inclusive</b>
<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>102 Days</b>	<b>July to February</b>
<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>122 Days</b>	<b>October to February</b>

While these are indicative figures based on the 4000 EC readings at [REDACTED] on the Hunter River, we would like to see the DPIE’s assessment in formulating their “Cease to Pump” rule changes for the [REDACTED]. As you can see the loss of so many days of irrigation during the warmer months and in drier times would seriously reduce fodder production for the [REDACTED] dairy enterprise.

3. Has the DPIE taken into consideration the potential reduction in the number of irrigation licenses on the [REDACTED] River and other streams in the region as the new irrigation metering regime takes effect? This policy requires all irrigators to install new meters with telemetry at their own expense. We envisage that many small irrigators will not be able to justify the expense. Hence, there is an opportunity for the DPIE to take back these licenses and use the water savings for environmental purposes while allowing other irrigators to continue agricultural production.
4. We appreciate that metering is essential to getting an understanding of water extractions. However, it appears that the DP&E is assuming in its modelling that irrigators are using their full license entitlements. We very much doubt this is the case given our knowledge of [REDACTED] use of water and hence suggest that without hard data any assumptions will be unfairly skewed to the detriment of irrigators in proposed WSP changes.
5. Using just one site, [REDACTED], as the determinate for invoking “Cease to Pump” days seems a very harsh methodology for irrigators such as those on the [REDACTED] River. Has the DPIE considered more relevant sites for monitoring salt levels especially at pump sites on the [REDACTED]? This may allow irrigators on sections of the river to continue pumping and still allow better quality water to pass further down the river. In other words, there is a danger that the proposed changes could be likened to taking an axe to an issue when fine tuning with a scalpel would achieve better outcomes for all involved.
6. Rather than “cease to Pump” declarations there are better ways to manage water quality by setting extraction caps or limits under certain weather conditions on different sections of the river which allow translucent flows through the system to meet environmental objectives.
7. Irrigators invest significant capital into their operations. It is not unreasonable for irrigators to seek compensation when rule changes are made by the license issuing authorities that negatively affect agricultural enterprises. This has been done in other irrigation catchments including the Namoi and should be offered to irrigators along the [REDACTED] River.

The [REDACTED] operates numerous commercial scale agricultural enterprises all related to the [REDACTED] purpose of educating and training [REDACTED] in enterprise operations and management. It also undertakes significant research into the relevant industries. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] each year to join the agricultural workforce across a wide number of industries. In addition to this, over 1,000 others are involved with the [REDACTED] dairy training programs, dairy activities at [REDACTED] and dairy benchmarking exercises. It is the practical, commercially focused course work at the [REDACTED] which has made it such an important entity in the [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] Dairy Enterprise is the enterprise which will be most harshly impacted by the proposed rule changes. It is the only [REDACTED] facility for the dairy industry in NSW. We assess that the consequences of implementing the "Cease to Pump" rule changes will severely damage the dairy enterprise and significantly reduce its role in training current and next generation participants in the dairy industry.

The [REDACTED] looks forward to hearing from the DPIE and looking favourable on our request that the "Cease to Pump" proposals are rendered far less severe with alternative approaches that don't decimate agricultural production but also meet environmental goals.

The [REDACTED] and I give permission for the above submission to be made available on the Department's web site relating to the WSP but request the contact details to be kept confidential.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

SUBMISSION

# **Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Sources 2022**

**By**



Public Exhibition

February 2022

## **Introduction:**

## **My Business:**



- Irrigation used for Lucerne for Hay production and Fodder crops for Beef and Prime lamb production.
- Stock water, pumped to tank and fed to troughs
- Domestic water use to 2 households



## **My community:**

Bunnan/ Owens Gap

Wybong/Cuan Creek

## **Endorsement of HVWUA Submission:**

In addition to providing my personal feedback on the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan and how it affects me, I would also like to endorse the submission made by Hunter Valley Water Users' Association which addresses catchment wide issues on my behalf.

## **Key Issues:**

### **Consultation Process**

Public consultation and stakeholder feedback are a crucial component in developing an appropriate WSP. Given that WSPs set the rules 'for how water is allocated for the next 10 years', it is vital that we are given a reasonable amount of time to provide informed feedback on a complex regulatory instrument.

January and February are a very busy period, especially for us as we are often Hay making and preparing for upcoming sowing for winter crops. As a volunteer participant of this Public Consultation, with a business to operate, it is crucial we have sufficient time to analyse the materiality of each of these changes and assess the modelling data used. The limited consultation process is extremely disappointing considering the Department told us at a meeting in May 2021 that the draft WSP would be ready for public exhibition in September 2021 with ample time provided for submissions and consultation with stakeholders by February 2022.

I agree reinforce the following recommendation from HVWUA:

The public exhibition period for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Plan be extended to 40 business days, instead of 40 days, making the new end date 15 March.
--

## Cease-to-pump

Cease-to-pump (CTP) triggers are an extremely complex, personal, and crucial aspect of the proposed WSP across the catchment. Therefore, it is vital that DPIE conducts thorough, transparent and extensive consultation when undertaking decision surrounding this topic. Poorly developed CTP triggers in the catchment has the potential destroy our business and negatively impact our local communities.

I agree with the following recommendations from HVWUA:

<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DPIE apply clear and consistent cease-to-pump rules across the catchment.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WaterNSW offer SMS and email alert system for cease-to-pump events as provided to many other regulated systems throughout NSW</p>
---

## Metering Conditions

Metering is a complex regulatory requirement that adds significant cost to my business although I understand the crucial role water users have as environmental custodians. It is important for my business that there are clear and concise regulation surrounding metering and I therefore support the following recommendations from HVWUA:

<p><input type="checkbox"/> The metering requirements of the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan be brought inline with the NSW Non-Urban Metering Policy, including the minimum threshold of 100mm for water users to install AS4747 Meters.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DPIE provide further clarification on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The metering requirements for groundwater users</li><li>○ Clearly outline the definitions of wells and bores and their differing metering requirements</li></ul>
--

### Additional Concerns:

- As a relative small water user, with non-permanent diesel engines used to pump both irrigation and stock & domestic water, the logistics and expense of installing meters on these pumps will be a high cost to our business.
- I have a concern with the change in terminology from the well known and understood phrase Stock & Domestic Use to Health & Hygiene Purposes? This phrase seems to suggest that Stock Water pumping is to cease when a cease-to-pump trigger is reached?

## **Conclusion:**

I hope that this Submission and that of HVWUA provides valuable insight that assists with the creation and implementation of the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan 2022.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Owens Gap, NSW, 2337

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 3:21 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] EMAIL 2 OF 2 25/2/22 12.37 Confidentiality not specified  
HUNTER CM9 FW: Draft Water Sharing Plan Submission

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 25 February 2022 12:37 PM  
To: DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <hunterunreg.wsp@dpienew.gov.au>  
Subject: RE: Draft Water Sharing Plan Submission

Hi [REDACTED]  
Thank You for your prompt reply

I don't agree with any water trading from un-regulated streams, I think allocation should stay with the property. But the proposed trading rules for the Wybong Water Source look fair, if we have to have trading.

I think the local streams are over allocated as it is, if anything a buy back of under used allocation should be looked at. New owners along the creek, buying more allocation and then actually pumping their full allocation will be detrimental to the Wybong catchment. Many older property owners, myself included rarely used our full allocation, as the creek really wouldn't stand up to it.

We did have a Wybong Water Users Group meeting this week, the main concerns raised at that meeting were

- \* Metering - when, how, cost of meters, cost of reading by NSWWater?
- \* Terminology - Stock & Domestic change to Health & Hygiene?
- \* Water Allocation Account Management Rules? need for clarification on what this means for local users?

Wybong Waters users have been use to self imposed restrictions and cease-to-pump rules, although there are a few who have always done their own thing and never agreed with the groups efforts on managing the flow for all users, it will be good to have legislation and metering in place to bring them into line.

Hope these thoughts are helpful

Kind Regards  
[REDACTED]

Quoting DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <hunterunreg.wsp@dpienew.gov.au>:

> Hi [REDACTED],  
>  
> Thank you for your submission.  
>  
> Did you have anything to say specifically about the Wybong Creek  
> Water Source?  
>

> Although no changes to Cease to pump rules are proposed in the  
> Wybong Creek Water Source, some slight changes to the dealing  
> (trade) rules are proposed. Did you have a view on these?  
>  
> I've attached the report card here for you.  
>  
> Cheers, [REDACTED]  
>  
>  
> [REDACTED]  
> Senior Water Planner, Regional Coastal Planning Water | Department of  
> Planning and Environment [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (Locked Bag 26, Gosford NSW  
> 2250)  
> W: [www.dpie.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au)  
>  
>  
> The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges that it  
> stands on Aboriginal land.  
> We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and 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 in which Aboriginal people are  
> included socially, culturally and economically.  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: [REDACTED]  
> Sent: Thursday, 24 February 2022 1:05 PM  
> To: DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox  
> <[hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)>  
> Subject: Draft Water Sharing Plan Submission  
>  
> Please find Attached my Submission on the Draft Water Sharing Plan  
>  
> Kind Regards  
> [REDACTED]  
>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 10:55 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] 24/2/22 2.08 PM NOT CONFIDENTIAL HUNTER - ATTACHMENT  
WAS ERROR FW: Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter  
Unregulated and Alluvial

**From:** [digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)  
<[digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)> **On Behalf Of**  
[digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 24 February 2022 2:08 PM  
**To:** DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <[hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

**Permission**

I would like my submission to be treated as confidential? No

I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential? No

**Your details**

Are you making a submission as an individual or on behalf of an organisation? Individual

Which of the following best describes the kind of stakeholder you are? Irrigator/farmer

If you selected other, please state:

Email address: [REDACTED]

**Question 1.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: We are one of very few. Irrigators on the tidal pool with water meters. They have been in use for the past 9 years and have averaged 200 mg litres annually of our 880 mg litre allocation. That is less than 25% of our allocation. The assumption that 204 tidal pool users extract 23000 mg litres is incorrect and should be reassessed in the modelling at the WRL

**Question 1.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: No comment

**Question 2.1**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

**Question 2.2**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

The harvestable rights should be capped at the previous level to sustain equitable water use

**Question 3.1**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

After 3 years the harvestable rights should be carefully looked at especially if those 3 years are below average rainfall to enable equitable share of water to all.

**Question 4.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

No comment

**Question 4.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

The proposed salinity levels at Greenrocks is way too low and will cease agricultural production in the tidal pool especially in the summer months . Based on a WRL model this lacks data to support the proposed cease to pump rule. Poorly developed CTP triggers in the catchment has the potential to destroy our intensive vegetable , lucerne hay and hybrid maize seed production impacting greatly on the local community and the food production of the nation.

**Question 4.3**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

No comment

**Question 4.4**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.5**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 5.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 6.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 7.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 8.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 8.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 9.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 10.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 11.1**

Comments on any aspect of the draft plan:

I am a 3rd generation farmer at [REDACTED] where we have irrigated for 92 years growing potatoes, pumpkins, watermelons, hybrid seed maize and lucerne hay. We farm 120 ha using our allocation of 880 mg litre to grow these crops. Our water meters have averaged 200 mg litres annually over the 9 years they have been used. Our produce is sold to Flemington markets Sydney, Newcastle markets and locally. Our seed maize is sold Australia wide and exported. We employ up to 25 casual workers and have a lot of local businesses who transport produce and supply seeds, fertiliser, fuel tyres etc. Irrigation to supplement growth of our crops is required to germinate, establish, grow and assist in agronomist demands of soil moisture. This is essential in summer months. Currently no cease to pump rule exists and irrigation on the tidal pool has been sustainably managed according to individual crop sensitivity to salt by use of a conductivity meter.

**Question 11.2**

Upload a submission or any supporting documents:

xt225s.pdf, type application/pdf, 4.0 MB



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 10:56 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] 27/2/22 10.36 am HUNTER FW: Water Sharing plan

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 27 February 2022 10:36 AM  
**To:** DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <hunterunreg.wsp@dpi.e.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Water Sharing plan

So concerned about the draft plan of the lower Hunter unregulated tidal pool WSP that I write again about the Cease to pump rule that has been put forward.

I am a 3rd generation farmer at [REDACTED] where intensive vegetables, lucerne hay and hybrid seed maize are grown by our family business . Our water allocation entitlement of 880 ml has not been totally used as for 9 years of metering ,approved by Water NSW , we have used 200 ml annually on average. The majority of irrigation use is done in the spring and summer months when temperature ,humidity ,transpiration and wind dictate the need. We have been irrigating on our farm since 1930 and know the tidal nature of the lower Hunter and have managed to monitor the electrical conductivity of the water and through individual crop sensitivity water sustainably.

The argument that the DPIE has based its trigger for cease to pump is based on the WSL model in Sydney which assumes the full entitlements are used. In reality after conducting a survey of the 204 users 14000 ml / year of the 23000 ml was used. Ecological studies have not been thoroughly examined to correlate water use to water salinity at Greenrocks.

The end of system flows at Goswick on the Paterson and Greta on the Hunter show correlation of raised salinity at Greenrocks when environmental flow reduce or ceases.

With Liddell Power Station being decommissioned in 2023 and Bayswater in 2030 there appears that a huge amount of water will become available. The Hunter Valley as a whole covers the upper reaches at Barrington to the sea and the historic nature shows in drought situations that the tidal influence and salinity increases . Surely when Greenrocks approaches 4000 ecs the end of system flows can be increased to lower this level . Instead of ceasing Agriculture in the Lower Hunter a discharge of more environmental flows into the tidal pool would solve all concerns.

This has been a very stressful time since last May when I attended a meeting with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] over the proposed cease to pump rule. Community consultation has been rushed and difficult on such an important topic and your decision governs my future.

Regards [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 3:38 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] 24/2/22 NOT CONFIDENTIAL HUNTER FW: Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

**From:** [digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)  
<[digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)> **On Behalf Of**  
[digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 24 February 2022 1:43 PM  
**To:** DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <[hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

**Permission**

I would like my submission to be treated as confidential? No

I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential? No

**Your details**

Are you making a submission as an individual or on behalf of an organisation? Individual

Which of the following best describes the kind of stakeholder you are? Irrigator/farmer

If you selected other, please state:

Email address: [REDACTED]

**Question 1.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan? If the water is available & its use will have no negative consequences for the environment than it should be made available for use.

**Question 1.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan? N/A to my situation as I will not be impacted by the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source. I live in [REDACTED] & am concerned by the impacts of this Plan.

**Question 2.1**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not? The Standard LTAAE should be used as it will allow fair access to the available water for all users in times of normal flow.

**Question 2.2**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

No its not appropriate as licensed water users should be given priority over casual water users.

**Question 3.1**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

No this is not appropriate as this again will be to the detriment of Licensed Water Users. What is the point of an Allocation if its to be reviewed & reduced every 3 years & reduced.

**Question 4.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

My name is [redacted] & I own & operate a [redacted] farm in [redacted]. This [redacted] was [redacted] & has been in continuous operation since. In regard to the [redacted] Water Sharing Plan, I would like to make the following points. - If Option 1 of the Draft Plan was implemented, I would not have had a crop to harvest during 2020. That would mean no income that entire year & with a very high potential of losing [redacted]. Please do not introduce Option 1. - Option 2 is by far my preference with its CTP at 75% of TAD will still be very difficult to manage in a drought situation but at least will give me a bit more flexibility in a challenging year. - Water trading downstream out of [redacted] should not be allowed. This will de-value the land within the valley as without a reliable water source, most agricultural activities [redacted] cannot take place.

**Question 4.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

N/A to [redacted] Water Plan

**Question 4.3**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

N/A to [redacted] Water Plan

**Question 4.4**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

N/A to [redacted] Water Plan

**Question 4.5**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

N/A to [redacted] Water Plan

**Question 5.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

N/A to [redacted] Water Plan

**Question 6.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

N/A to [redacted] Water Plan

**Question 7.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

N/A to [redacted] Water Plan

**Question 8.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: Water should not be allowed to be traded out of the smaller creek systems at all-e.g. [REDACTED] etc. If all water is traded out of these systems it will in effect de-value the land & de-populate the smaller communities as without a reliable water source agricultural production cannot continue. I do wonder if this is the departments ultimate agenda anyway.

**Question 8.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: Water should not be allowed to be traded out of the smaller creek systems at all-e.g. [REDACTED] etc. If all water is traded out of these systems it will in effect de-value the land & de-populate the smaller communities as without a reliable water source agricultural production cannot continue. I do wonder if this is the departments ultimate agenda anyway.

**Question 9.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: N/A to [REDACTED] Water Plan.

**Question 10.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: N/A to [REDACTED] Water Plan.

**Question 11.1**

Comments on any aspect of the draft plan:

**Question 11.2**

Upload a submission or any supporting documents: No file uploaded

# SUBMISSION

Draft Water Sharing Plan for the  
**Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Sources 2022**

PUBLIC EXHIBITION



27 February 2022

**To be CC'd:**

Dave Layzell Member for Upper Hunter  
[upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

The Hon. James Henry Griffin Minister for Environment and Heritage  
[manly@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:manly@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

The Hon. Kevin John Anderson Minister for Lands and Water,  
[tamworth@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tamworth@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

**Submission:** Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated & Alluvial Sources 2022

**Submission Made:** [REDACTED]

**Water Source:** Luskintyre, Pages River, Merriwa, Rouchel Brook, Dartbrook, Hunter Regulated River

**Submission Date:** 27 February 2022

## 1. Introduction

We, make the following submission to NSW Department of Planning & Environment in relation to the *Draft Water Sharing Plan (WSP) for the Hunter Unregulated & Alluvial Sources 2022*.

As a water user across many of the water sources in the included in the draft water sharing plan, we are taking the opportunity to provide a submission in the Public Exhibition process on the *Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated & Alluvial Sources 2022*.

The key performance indicators and proposed reporting on the outcomes appear to be biased towards ecological objectives of the WSP and the impact on agricultural production in the region and on landholders are given less emphasis.

The WSP specifically affects our water sources including the Luskintyre , Water Source, Pages River Water Source, Merriwa River Water Source, Roucel Brook Water Source, Dart Brook Water Source and the Hunter Regulated River Water Source. We have reviewed and considered the proposed plan and associated risk assessment and report cards for each of the water sources and across multiple management zones.

## 2The Business

We operate an extensive cattle consisting of numerous properties across the Hunter Valley. We are heavily reliant upon our water sources to maintain our operations in the region. If we were unable to access these water sources during periods when the draft water sharing plan propose to implement or amend the cease to pump orders, we would be significantly impacted and unable to provide the livestock for our abattoir operations in Singleton.

Our livestock operations support one of two locally owned abattoirs in the Hunter region and we employ more than 250 people in our abattoir alone. The majority of our meat is exported to countries including the USA, Canada, Singapore, Taiwan and the Middle East

### **3. Endorsement of the Hunter Valley Water Users Association Submission**

Whilst the purpose of this submission is to provide my own personal feedback on how the Draft WSP will impact upon my land and operations of the business, I would also like to fully endorse the submission made by the Hunter Valley Water Users' Association which encompasses a wide range of issues relative to my property.

### **4. Objectives of the Draft Water Management Plan**

Water Sharing Plans are vital in the long-term management of water supply to maintain and produce critical supply of water in the catchment whilst sustaining the environment.

The following objectives have been identified in the draft WSP:

- (a) To protect, and where possible enhance and restore, the condition of the water sources and their water-dependent ecosystems.
- (b) To maintain and where possible, improve, access to water to optimise economic benefits for agriculture, water dependent industries and local economies.
- (b) To maintain and where possible, improve, the spiritual, social, and customary, and economic values and uses of water by Aboriginal people.
- (c) To provide access to water to support water dependant social and cultural values.

These objectives meet the needs of all stakeholders however there are several key issues which have been identified that affect the nature and operations of our landholding.

### **5. Key Issues**

As a responsible water user, we manage water usage with an awareness that water is a finite natural resource.

It appears that the Draft WSP has placed an excessive emphasis on meeting objective 3(a) and 3(c) at the detriment of 3(b) in particular. In addition, there has been a lack of

transparency surrounding DPIE decisions that seemingly result in a contravention of the objective 3(b).

In consideration of this, I support the recommendation of the **Hunter Valley Water Users Association** (HVWUA) that the DPIE release an Ecological Impact Study to further assess the critical issues raised by the Draft WSP.

The broader water use of the upper catchment may be severely impacted and is likely to cause economic detriment to agricultural industry and more specifically to smaller landholders of the Upper Hunter. Below is a list of the major identified:

*(a) Consultation Process*

- Given the widespread impact of the Draft WSP upon landholders, agricultural holdings and associated businesses, it is imperative that impacted parties are given reasonable opportunity to provide relevant feedback on a regulatory instrument that is to regulate the used water in the region for the next 10 years.
- We are concerned that as a major employer and exporter in the region that we did not have the opportunity to meet with and discuss our operational needs across the Hunter and how the cease to pump orders in particular will impact on the operations of the farms and ultimately the abattoir.
- January and February are particularly busy months in the agribusiness industry. The limited consultation period offered has been disappointingly unsatisfactory given that the Department told water users at a meeting in May 2021 that the Draft WSP would be ready for public exhibition in September 2021.
- We would like to fully support the *Hunter Valley Water Users Association's* recommendation that the public exhibition period for the WSP should be extended to 40 business days, instead of 40 days, making the new end date 15 March.

*(b) Updated Definition of Long-Term Average Annual Extraction Limit (LTAAEL) to include Basic Landholder Rights and Harvestable Rights*

- The LTAAEL is an important instrument for the management of water. The Draft WSP proposes a new definition for the standard LTAAEL being the sum of all licenced entitlements, stock and domestic rights, native title rights and harvestable rights at the commencement of the Draft WSP.
- However, there is no supporting evidence on how the department modelled and estimated the amount of water required to satisfy stock and domestic use in the region.
- The implementation of the proposed standard LTAAEL should not occur until improved data systems have been implemented over the coming years, and the



ceiling placed on long-term average annual extraction limit (LTAAEL) should be imposed once further data is available and collated.

- We are concerned that the standard LTAAEL has been calculated by using an estimate of 10% of rainfall run off limit across the region. However, an announcement on 10 November 2021 confirms that landholders in coastal draining catchments undertaking extensive agriculture can capture up to 30% of the average rainwater run-off for their Harvestable right dams.
- Further, the method to calculate the LTAAEL does not consider the change in season and factors affecting different aquifers at different sites.
- We are concerned that this additional allowance will affect the standard LTAAEL and the calculations should be amended to reflect the additional harvestable rights.

#### *(c) Location of Monitoring Bores & Modelling*

The location of the monitoring bores in the across the Hunter river system are in many cases too far from the actual extraction sites and thus the proposed cease to pump access rules may have no relevance to the actual extraction site.

This is relevant as water levels can be significantly different at each location of a bore/well site.

#### *(d) Cease to Pump*

- The proposed Cease to Pump (CTP) access rules many of Water Source will affect our operations, particular in management zones where there has been no previous cease to pump rules in place.
- This will have a significant impact on the ongoing viability and productive output of our properties.
- Given the extensive and potentially devastating impacts of extended CTP triggers will have on landholders, it is imperative that the DPIE allows landholders to participate in thorough, transparent, and extensive consultation.
- This CTP can be in place for an extended period which provides no certainty when planning for seasonal reliant activities on the properties.
- The implementation of the more stringent CTP access rules and establishment of new cease to pump rules will negatively impact the everyday operations and use of the land. These new rules may have the following economic impacts:
  1. Inability to grow the feed required to maintain the agricultural activities;
  2. Increased transport costs/supply costs;
  3. Increased operational costs in obtaining additional feed and water;
  4. Inability to maintain herd size;
  5. Inability to maintain supply to the abattoir facility and maintain operations to meet global demand; and
  6. Inability to continue to employ workers.

The CTP triggers have no impact on the reliability on water access licences in the WSP.

We do not believe that the proposed changes consider the broader economic implications to the local community if extended CTP order is initiated and remains in place for an extended period.

The across-the-board cease to pump rules do not take into account the land size or the number of livestock depending upon the water sources.

*(e) Additional Costs to Operation*

- We will need to buy more feed and possibly water for stock purposes.
- The requirement to log in to real time data websites prior to any extraction will actively impact upon farm operations and cause undue delays. Some areas do not have adequate mobile access to log in to the site from the well or bore site, and this will reduce productivity of the farm having to access the sites at time of extraction.
- We would suggest that the department send a text message when cease to pump is enacted as they do for the Hunter Regulated Users.

*(f) Metering Conditions*

- Proposed metering requirements highlighted in the draft WSP may place a particularly onerous financial burden upon farm operation. Although I understand the need for water users to observe their role as environmental custodians, the costly exercise of installing AS4747 Meters to existing pumps/bores will likely have a significant impact upon the operations of my business.
- Given the weight of this likely financial impact, I support the recommendations from the Hunter Valley Water Users Association that the metering requirements of the Draft WSP be brought in line with the NSW Non-Urban Metering Policy, including the minimum threshold of 100mm for water users to install AS4747 meters.

*(g) Conversion of High-Flow Access License*

- An important strategic aspect of water usage is the pumping of water into water storage systems during times of high flow. This not only improves reliability of water access but generally has a lesser impact upon the ecosystem during times of low flow. This idea directly satisfies objectives (a) and (b) of the WSP.
- However, the proposal to remove high-flow access licenses from the Pages River, Isis River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Rouchel Brook and Paterson/Allyn rivers and water sources is particularly concerning, and seemingly in contravention of the objectives (a) and (b).
- Whilst we understand the potential impact that this strategic water use can have upon downstream water users, we believe it is important to be able to have the opportunity to access at high level flows when the opportunity presents. Further studies should be undertaken and provided to water users.

## 6. Conclusion

The proposed WSP is focussed on meeting State-wide initiatives and does not take into account the impacts on landholdings, stock numbers on properties or land size.

Specifically, the proposed changes would affect numerous local communities in the region though loss of employment, reduced contracting to numerous small businesses in the upper Hunter, Merriwa, Singleton, and Maitland areas.

We would like to reiterate that:

- The department has not provided sufficient modelling or economic impact assessment on the proposed changes.
- The draft WSP appears to be bias to meeting objecting (a) and (c).
- The proposed implementation and amendments to the CTP access rules is likely to be economically detrimental to the long-term operations of our business.

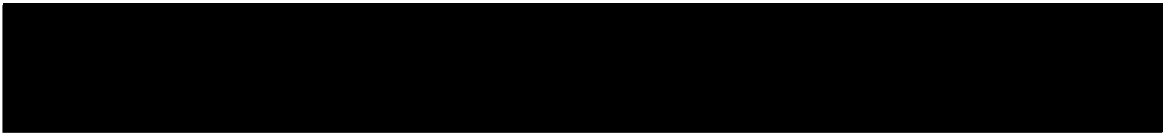
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

# **SUBMISSION**

**Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated  
and Alluvial Sources 2022**

**By**



Public Exhibition

February 2022

## Introduction:

### My Business:

- \* Family involved in meat processing and farming activities in region for in excess of 50 years.
- \* Water is required for cropping for production of fodder and feeding of livestock.
- \* ██████████ employs in excess of 400 employees.

### My community:

- \* Our company supports other producers by procuring livestock both from livestock markets and direct from farmers.
- \* Meat export activities contribute significantly to the Australian economy and GDP.

### Endorsement of HVWUA Submission:

In addition to providing my personal feedback on the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan and how it affects me, I would also like to endorse the submission made by Hunter Valley Water Users' Association which addresses catchment wide issues on my behalf.

## Key Issues:

### Consultation Process

Public consultation and stakeholder feedback are a crucial component in developing an appropriate WSP. Given that WSPs set the rules 'for how water is allocated for the next 10 years', it is vital that we are given a reasonable amount of time to provide informed feedback on a complex regulatory instrument.

January and February are a very busy period, especially for us as we are often making hay. As a volunteer participant with a business to operate, it is crucial we have sufficient time to analyse the materiality of each of these changes and assess the modelling data used. The limited consultation process is extremely disappointing considering the Department told us at a meeting in May 2021 that the draft WSP would be ready for public exhibition in September 2021 with ample time provided for submissions and consultation with stakeholders by February 2022.

I agree reinforce the following recommendation from HVWUA:

The public exhibition period for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Plan be extended to 40 business days, instead of 40 days, making the new end date 15 March.
--

## Cease-to-pump

Cease-to-pump (CTP) triggers are an extremely complex, personal, and crucial aspect of the proposed WSP across the catchment. Therefore, it is vital that DPIE conducts thorough, transparent and extensive consultation when undertaking decision surrounding this topic. Poorly developed CTP triggers in the catchment has the potential destroy our cropping activities and negatively impact our local communities.

I agree with the following recommendations from HVWUA:

- Cease-to-pump triggers have no impact on the reliability of water access licences throughout the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial System.
- DPIE apply clear and consistent cease-to-pump rules across the catchment.
- Water NSW offer SMS and email alert system for cease-to-pump events as provided to many other regulated systems throughout NSW

Additionally, these access rule changes have the follow impacts on my business personally:

**Current cease-to-pump:** We purchased our property with no cease-to-pump requirements. In 50 years have never been forced to stop pumping due to a lack of water.

**Proposed cease-to-pump:**

The impact of this would be:

- Reduction to stock levels.
- Reduction to the number of employees
- Death of livestock due to insufficient water.

## Metering Conditions

Metering is a complex regulatory requirement that adds significant cost to my business although I understand the crucial role water users have as environmental custodians. It is important for my business that there are clear and concise regulation surrounding metering and I therefore support the following recommendations from HVWUA:

- The metering requirements of the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan be brought inline with the NSW Non-Urban Metering Policy, including the minimum threshold of 100mm for water users to install AS4747 Meters.
- DPIE provide further clarification on:
  - The metering requirements for groundwater users
  - Clearly outline the definitions of wells and bores and their differing metering requirements.

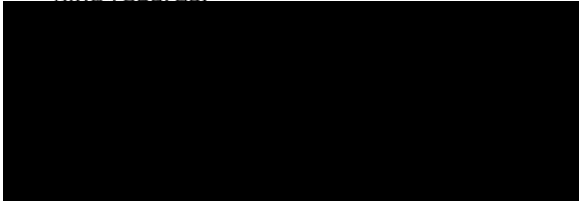
**Please ensure that I am notified at least one month prior to consultation sessions regarding this significant impact to my business and that I am given ample time to provide a separate submission on this matter.**

Conclusion:

I hope that this Submission and that of HVWUA provides valuable insight that assists with the creation and implementation of the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan 2022.

This plan will have a detrimental impact on our business operations.

Kind regards,



SINGLETON DC NSW 2330

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

Office use only	Submission number
-----------------	-------------------

### How to fill out this form

The department is seeking your comments on the draft replacement Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022.

For general background about the draft plan development, proposed changes and the finalisation process please refer to the background and proposed changes documents. For water source specific details including proposed rules, please see the water source report cards.

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

Send completed submissions to:

Post: WSP Comments for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan,  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 26  
Gosford NSW 2250

Email: [hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Note: Submissions close 27 February 2022**

### Information on privacy and confidentiality

Submissions received by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for the proposed amendments will be considered by the department and the Coastal Water Planning and Policy Working Group to review and inform the draft amendments. The department values your input and accepts that information you provide may be private and personal.

If you would prefer your submission or your personal details to be treated as confidential, please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below.

If you do not make a request for confidentiality, the department may make your submission, including any personal details contained in the submission, available to the public.

Please note that, regardless of a request for confidentiality, the department may be required by law to release copies of submissions to third parties in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

<b>I would like my submission to be treated as confidential</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

How to fill out this form			
<b>Name</b>	[Redacted]		
<b>Postal Address</b>	[Redacted]		
<b>Telephone</b>	[Redacted]		
<b>Email address</b>	[Redacted]		
<b>Stakeholder Group</b> (please indicate which of the following best represents your interest by <b>ticking one box</b> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Local Govt./ Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Interest <input type="checkbox"/> Local Landholder <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member
<b>If your comments refer to a specific water source, which one?</b>			

Attach extra pages if required

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## New Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Sources

The draft plan proposes to establish the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources. The long-term limits on extractions are proposed based on a proportion of recharge. Additional water for licensed take may be made available through controlled allocations in the future.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 1 of the draft plan, the background document as well as the report cards for the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source.*

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?

## Long Term Average Annual Extraction Limit

The replacement plan creates two long term average annual extraction limits (LTAAELs).

- The Standard LTAAEL which sets a limit on extraction from all flows except for higher flows.
- The Higher flow LTAAEL that manages extractions that can only take from higher flows.

The reason for the two extraction limits is to limit extractions from all other flows and encourage extraction from higher flows.

The Standard LTAAEL includes all basic landholder rights extraction including from harvestable rights dams. If there is a growth in uptake of harvestable rights that increases total annual extraction to above the Standard LTAAEL by more than 5% then there will be reduced water allocated to licenced water users in the following year.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 4 of the draft plan, and the background document.*

Do you think it is appropriate to have two LTAAEL's? Why / why not?

Do you think the proposed compliance of the LTAAELs are appropriate? Why / why not?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Managing the risks of increased harvestable rights

In 2022 the volume of water that can be captured in harvestable rights dams in coastal draining catchments will increase from 10% to 30% of rainfall runoff.

This could impact on the volume of flow that reaches rivers. The plan includes a requirement that the uptake of harvestable rights will be assessed at year 3 and then access, work approval and trade rules will be reviewed if the uptake is greater than 10% of rainfall runoff.

*The amendment provision can be found in Part 11 of the draft Plan.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?	
--	--

### Draft access rules based on groundwater levels

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules based on groundwater levels in Baerami Creek, Bylong River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Martindale Creek, and Widden Brook water sources and the Upper Middle Dart Brook, Lower Middle Brook and Kingdon Ponds, and Lower Dart Brook management zones of Dart Brook Water Source, and the Segenhoe Management Zone of the Pages River Water Source. The access rule define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
--	--

Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
--	--

Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values such as Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem?	
---	--

The <b>flow reference point</b> is the bore at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	
--	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft access rules in the Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal Pool water sources

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules in Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal sources based on salinity levels at Green Rocks. The access rules define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for low flows and ecological values? Why / why not?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the point at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in surface water sources and management zones

Changes to access rules are being proposed in: Black Creek, Halls Creek, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Pages River, Upper Wollombi Brook, Paterson/Allyn Rivers and Upper Hunter River water sources and in the Upper Dart Brook Management Zone of the Dart Brook Water Source.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows? Why / why not?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in the Isis River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Isis River Management Zone which will have new access rules.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Isis River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in the Williams River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Williams River Management Zone which will have new access rules and also proposes slight changes to the access rules in the Williams River Management Zone.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Williams River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

### Prohibition of in-river dams in additional water sources

The draft plan proposes prohibition of in-river dams on third order and larger streams in the following water sources: Williams River, Wallis Creek, Lower Wollombi Brook, Widden Brook, South Lake Macquarie and Munmurra River. These restrictions were not previously in place for these water sources, however the water sources were identified as having high ecological values

The following water sources will continue to prohibit new in-river dams on third order or larger streams: Dora Creek, Glennies, Upper Paterson, Merriwa River, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Upper Hunter River, Upper Wollombi Brook.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan as well as in the relevant report cards.*

How would this impact on your current operations?	
---	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### New restrictions for new or replacement water supply works near SEPP wetlands

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 (Coastal SEPP) identifies wetlands in order to protect their ecological values. There is a need for water sharing plans to recognise these same wetlands to ensure protection and alignment between regulatory objectives. The draft plan proposes to prohibit the granting of approvals for surface water or groundwater works if it would result in more than minimal harm to a wetland mapped under the Coastal SEPP.

Coastal wetlands have been identified in the Dora Creek, Newcastle, North Lake Macquarie, South Lake Macquarie, Williams River, Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### New restrictions for new or replacement groundwater water supply works

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

*These distance rules are contained in Part 7 of the plan.*

The draft plan proposes to expand protection of groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and includes a map that identifies potential high priority GDEs for which minimum setback distances may apply.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

The draft plan proposes rules that require new groundwater works to be greater than 500m from a contamination source and 200m from a culturally significant site.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

Have you noticed any **effects** from extraction on water levels in the groundwater source? If so, please specify.

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Changes to between water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to allow limited trade into some water sources. This change aims to improve the opportunity to trade into downstream water sources without increasing extractive stress to upstream and high-risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:  
Widden Brook, Wallis Creek, North Lake Macquarie, Lower Goulburn River, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Doyles Creek, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Upper Paterson River, Rouchel Brook and Wybong Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--

### Changes to within water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to remove some of the trade restrictions within water sources. These changes aim to improve the opportunity to trade without increasing extractive stress to high risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:  
Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Wybong Creek, Pages River, Dart Brook, Muswellbrook, Jerrys, Luskintyre, Newcastle and Black Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Conversion to high flow access licences

It is proposed to allow conversion from a standard access licence to an access licence that can only extract from high flows in the Upper Hunter River Water Source only. If a conversion is to occur the licence share component would increase by 2 times.

The draft plan has removed the ability to convert to high flows in the Pages River, Isis River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Rouchel Brook and Paterson/Allyn Rivers water sources.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 8 of the draft plan and background document as well as the report card for the relevant water sources.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Application for Aboriginal Community Development access licences

It is proposed to permit applications for specific purpose Aboriginal Community Development access licences in the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, Dart Brook, Pages River, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, and Upper Hunter River water sources.

*Further information can be found in Part 5 of the draft Plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Additional feedback

The above sections relate to the key proposed changes from the current water sharing plan. However, comments on all aspects of the plan are welcome and encouraged. Please use the space below, or attachments if required or preferred.

Do you have comments on any aspect of the draft plan?

© State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

Office use only	Submission number
-----------------	-------------------

### How to fill out this form

The department is seeking your comments on the draft replacement Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022.

For general background about the draft plan development, proposed changes and the finalisation process please refer to the background and proposed changes documents. For water source specific details including proposed rules, please see the water source report cards.

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

Send completed submissions to:

Post: WSP Comments for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan,  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 26  
Gosford NSW 2250

Email: [hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Note: Submissions close 27 February 2022**

### Information on privacy and confidentiality

Submissions received by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for the proposed amendments will be considered by the department and the Coastal Water Planning and Policy Working Group to review and inform the draft amendments. The department values your input and accepts that information you provide may be private and personal.

If you would prefer your submission or your personal details to be treated as confidential, please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below.

If you do not make a request for confidentiality, the department may make your submission, including any personal details contained in the submission, available to the public.

Please note that, regardless of a request for confidentiality, the department may be required by law to release copies of submissions to third parties in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

<b>I would like my submission to be treated as confidential</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

**Name**

**Postal Address**

**Telephone**

**Email address**

**Stakeholder Group**

(please indicate which of the following best represents your interest by **ticking one box**)

- Irrigation Interests
- Fishing Interests
- Local Govt./ Utilities

- Aboriginal Interest
- Local Landholder
- Other (specify)

- Environment Interests
- Community Member

**If your comments refer to a specific water source, which one?**

Lower Goulbourn River

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## New Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Sources

The draft plan proposes to establish the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources. The long-term limits on extractions are proposed based on a proportion of recharge. Additional water for licensed take may be made available through controlled allocations in the future.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 1 of the draft plan, the background document as well as the report cards for the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source.*

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?

## Long Term Average Annual Extraction Limit

The replacement plan creates two long term average annual extraction limits (LTAAELs).

- The Standard LTAAEL which sets a limit on extraction from all flows except for higher flows.
- The Higher flow LTAAEL that manages extractions that can only take from higher flows.

The reason for the two extraction limits is to limit extractions from all other flows and encourage extraction from higher flows.

The Standard LTAAEL includes all basic landholder rights extraction including from harvestable rights dams. If there is a growth in uptake of harvestable rights that increases total annual extraction to above the Standard LTAAEL by more than 5% then there will be reduced water allocated to licenced water users in the following year.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 4 of the draft plan, and the background document.*

Do you think it is appropriate to have two LTAAEL's? Why / why not?

Do you think the proposed compliance of the LTAAELs are appropriate? Why / why not?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Managing the risks of increased harvestable rights

In 2022 the volume of water that can be captured in harvestable rights dams in coastal draining catchments will increase from 10% to 30% of rainfall runoff.

This could impact on the volume of flow that reaches rivers. The plan includes a requirement that the uptake of harvestable rights will be assessed at year 3 and then access, work approval and trade rules will be reviewed if the uptake is greater than 10% of rainfall runoff.

*The amendment provision can be found in Part 11 of the draft Plan.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Draft access rules based on groundwater levels

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules based on groundwater levels in Baerami Creek, Bylong River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Martindale Creek, and Widden Brook water sources and the Upper Middle Dart Brook, Lower Middle Brook and Kingdon Ponds, and Lower Dart Brook management zones of Dart Brook Water Source, and the Segenhoe Management Zone of the Pages River Water Source. The access rule define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and "Proposed Management Rules" section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed **CtP** level in your water source impact on your current operations?

Do you think the **CtP** in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?

Do you think the **CtP** provides enough protection for ecological values such as Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem?

The **flow reference point** is the bore at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft access rules in the Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal Pool water sources

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules in Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal sources based on salinity levels at Green Rocks. The access rules define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for low flows and ecological values? Why / why not?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the point at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in surface water sources and management zones

Changes to access rules are being proposed in: Black Creek, Halls Creek, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Pages River, Upper Wollombi Brook, Paterson/Allyn Rivers and Upper Hunter River water sources and in the Upper Dart Brook Management Zone of the Dart Brook Water Source.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows? Why / why not?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Draft changes to access rules in the Isis River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Isis River Management Zone which will have new access rules.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Isis River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in the Williams River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Williams River Management Zone which will have new access rules and also proposes slight changes to the access rules in the Williams River Management Zone. *This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Williams River Water Source report card.*

<p>How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?</p>	
<p>Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?</p>	
<p>Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows</p>	
<p>The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?</p>	

### Prohibition of in-river dams in additional water sources

The draft plan proposes prohibition of in-river dams on third order and larger streams in the following water sources: Williams River, Wallis Creek, Lower Wollombi Brook, Widden Brook, South Lake Macquarie and Munmurra River. These restrictions were not previously in place for these water sources, however the water sources were identified as having high ecological values

The following water sources will continue to prohibit new in-river dams on third order or larger streams: Dora Creek, Glennies, Upper Paterson, Merriwa River, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Upper Hunter River, Upper Wollombi Brook.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan as well as in the relevant report cards.*

<p>How would this impact on your current operations?</p>	
--	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### **New restrictions for new or replacement water supply works near SEPP wetlands**

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 (Coastal SEPP) identifies wetlands in order to protect their ecological values. There is a need for water sharing plans to recognise these same wetlands to ensure protection and alignment between regulatory objectives. The draft plan proposes to prohibit the granting of approvals for surface water or groundwater works if it would result in more than minimal harm to a wetland mapped under the Coastal SEPP.

Coastal wetlands have been identified in the Dora Creek, Newcastle, North Lake Macquarie, South Lake Macquarie, Williams River, Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### New restrictions for new or replacement groundwater water supply works

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

*These distance rules are contained in Part 7 of the plan.*

The draft plan proposes to expand protection of groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and includes a map that identifies potential high priority GDEs for which minimum setback distances may apply.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

The draft plan proposes rules that require new groundwater works to be greater than 500m from a contamination source and 200m from a culturally significant site.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

Have you noticed any **effects** from extraction on water levels in the groundwater source? If so, please specify.

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Changes to between water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to allow limited trade into some water sources. This change aims to improve the opportunity to trade into downstream water sources without increasing extractive stress to upstream and high-risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:  
Widden Brook, Wallis Creek, North Lake Macquarie, Lower Goulburn River, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Doyles Creek, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Upper Paterson River, Rouchel Brook and Wybong Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--

### Changes to within water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to remove some of the trade restrictions within water sources. These changes aim to improve the opportunity to trade without increasing extractive stress to high risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:  
Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Wybong Creek, Pages River, Dart Brook, Muswellbrook, Jerrys, Luskintyre, Newcastle and Black Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Conversion to high flow access licences

It is proposed to allow conversion from a standard access licence to an access licence that can only extract from high flows in the Upper Hunter River Water Source only. If a conversion is to occur the licence share component would increase by 2 times.

The draft plan has removed the ability to convert to high flows in the Pages River, Isis River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Rouchel Brook and Paterson/Allyn Rivers water sources.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 8 of the draft plan and background document as well as the report card for the relevant water sources.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Application for Aboriginal Community Development access licences

It is proposed to permit applications for specific purpose Aboriginal Community Development access licences in the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, Dart Brook, Pages River, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, and Upper Hunter River water sources.

*Further information can be found in Part 5 of the draft Plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Additional feedback

The above sections relate to the key proposed changes from the current water sharing plan. However, comments on all aspects of the plan are welcome and encouraged. Please use the space below, or attachments if required or preferred.

Do you have comments on any aspect of the draft plan?

© State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

Office use only	Submission number
-----------------	-------------------

### How to fill out this form

The department is seeking your comments on the draft replacement Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022.

For general background about the draft plan development, proposed changes and the finalisation process please refer to the background and proposed changes documents. For water source specific details including proposed rules, please see the water source report cards.

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

Send completed submissions to:

Post: WSP Comments for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan,  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 26  
Gosford NSW 2250

Email: [hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Note: Submissions close 27 February 2022**

### Information on privacy and confidentiality

Submissions received by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for the proposed amendments will be considered by the department and the Coastal Water Planning and Policy Working Group to review and inform the draft amendments. The department values your input and accepts that information you provide may be private and personal.

If you would prefer your submission or your personal details to be treated as confidential, please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below.

If you do not make a request for confidentiality, the department may make your submission, including any personal details contained in the submission, available to the public.

Please note that, regardless of a request for confidentiality, the department may be required by law to release copies of submissions to third parties in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

<b>I would like my submission to be treated as confidential</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No



**Name**

**Postal Address**

**Telephone**

**Email address**

**Stakeholder Group**

(please indicate which of the following best represents your interest by **ticking one box**)

- Irrigation Interests
- Fishing Interests
- Local Govt./ Utilities

- Aboriginal Interest
- Local Landholder
- Other (specify)

- Environment Interests
- Community Member

**If your comments refer to a specific water source, which one?**

Lower Goulbourn River

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## New Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Sources

The draft plan proposes to establish the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources. The long-term limits on extractions are proposed based on a proportion of recharge. Additional water for licensed take may be made available through controlled allocations in the future.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 1 of the draft plan, the background document as well as the report cards for the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater Water Source.*

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?

## Long Term Average Annual Extraction Limit

The replacement plan creates two long term average annual extraction limits (LTAAELs).

- The Standard LTAAEL which sets a limit on extraction from all flows except for higher flows.
- The Higher flow LTAAEL that manages extractions that can only take from higher flows.

The reason for the two extraction limits is to limit extractions from all other flows and encourage extraction from higher flows.

The Standard LTAAEL includes all basic landholder rights extraction including from harvestable rights dams. If there is a growth in uptake of harvestable rights that increases total annual extraction to above the Standard LTAAEL by more than 5% then there will be reduced water allocated to licenced water users in the following year.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 4 of the draft plan, and the background document.*

Do you think it is appropriate to have two LTAAEL's? Why / why not?

Do you think the proposed compliance of the LTAAELs are appropriate? Why / why not?

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Managing the risks of increased harvestable rights

In 2022 the volume of water that can be captured in harvestable rights dams in coastal draining catchments will increase from 10% to 30% of rainfall runoff.

This could impact on the volume of flow that reaches rivers. The plan includes a requirement that the uptake of harvestable rights will be assessed at year 3 and then access, work approval and trade rules will be reviewed if the uptake is greater than 10% of rainfall runoff.

*The amendment provision can be found in Part 11 of the draft Plan.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?	
--	--

### Draft access rules based on groundwater levels

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules based on groundwater levels in Baerami Creek, Bylong River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Martindale Creek, and Widden Brook water sources and the Upper Middle Dart Brook, Lower Middle Brook and Kingdon Ponds, and Lower Dart Brook management zones of Dart Brook Water Source, and the Segenhoe Management Zone of the Pages River Water Source. The access rule define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
--	--

Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
--	--

Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values such as Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem?	
---	--

The <b>flow reference point</b> is the bore at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	
--	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft access rules in the Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal Pool water sources

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules in Hunter River Tidal Pool, Paterson River Tidal Pool and Wallis Creek Tidal sources based on salinity levels at Green Rocks. The access rules define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for low flows and ecological values? Why / why not?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the point at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in surface water sources and management zones

Changes to access rules are being proposed in: Black Creek, Halls Creek, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Pages River, Upper Wollombi Brook, Paterson/Allyn Rivers and Upper Hunter River water sources and in the Upper Dart Brook Management Zone of the Dart Brook Water Source.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and "Proposed Management Rules" section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows? Why / why not?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Draft changes to access rules in the Isis River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Isis River Management Zone which will have new access rules.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Isis River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows?	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Draft changes to access rules in the Williams River Water Source

The draft plan proposes to establish a new Upper Williams River Management Zone which will have new access rules and also proposes slight changes to the access rules in the Williams River Management Zone.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and “Proposed Management Rules” section of the Williams River Water Source report card.*

How does the proposed <b>CtP</b> level in your water source impact on your current operations?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	
Do you think the <b>CtP</b> provides enough protection for ecological values and low flows	
The <b>flow reference point</b> is the location at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	

### Prohibition of in-river dams in additional water sources

The draft plan proposes prohibition of in-river dams on third order and larger streams in the following water sources: Williams River, Wallis Creek, Lower Wollombi Brook, Widden Brook, South Lake Macquarie and Munmurra River. These restrictions were not previously in place for these water sources, however the water sources were identified as having high ecological values

The following water sources will continue to prohibit new in-river dams on third order or larger streams: Dora Creek, Glennies, Upper Paterson, Merriwa River, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Upper Hunter River, Upper Wollombi Brook.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan as well as in the relevant report cards.*

How would this impact on your current operations?	
---	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### New restrictions for new or replacement water supply works near SEPP wetlands

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 (Coastal SEPP) identifies wetlands in order to protect their ecological values. There is a need for water sharing plans to recognise these same wetlands to ensure protection and alignment between regulatory objectives. The draft plan proposes to prohibit the granting of approvals for surface water or groundwater works if it would result in more than minimal harm to a wetland mapped under the Coastal SEPP.

Coastal wetlands have been identified in the Dora Creek, Newcastle, North Lake Macquarie, South Lake Macquarie, Williams River, Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater and Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater water sources.

*This section refers to Part 7 of the draft plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### New restrictions for new or replacement groundwater water supply works

Works such as pumps, pipes, bores and weirs used for extracting water under licence require a water supply works approval. Rules controlling the granting of water supply works approvals or the nomination of water supply works are included in the Plan to minimise impacts on existing extraction and sensitive areas.

*These distance rules are contained in Part 7 of the plan.*

The draft plan proposes to expand protection of groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and includes a map that identifies potential high priority GDEs for which minimum setback distances may apply.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

The draft plan proposes rules that require new groundwater works to be greater than 500m from a contamination source and 200m from a culturally significant site.

Do you think this is appropriate? If not, why?

Have you noticed any **effects** from extraction on water levels in the groundwater source? If so, please specify.

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Changes to between water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to allow limited trade into some water sources. This change aims to improve the opportunity to trade into downstream water sources without increasing extractive stress to upstream and high-risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:  
Widden Brook, Wallis Creek, North Lake Macquarie, Lower Goulburn River, Upper Goulburn River, Merriwa River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Doyles Creek, Newcastle, Paterson/Allyn Rivers, Upper Paterson River, Rouchel Brook and Wybong Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--

### Changes to within water source trade provisions

The draft plan proposes to remove some of the trade restrictions within water sources. These changes aim to improve the opportunity to trade without increasing extractive stress to high risk freshwater ecosystems that were identified in the risk assessment undertaken as part of the draft plan development process.

The changes would affect the following water sources:  
Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Wybong Creek, Pages River, Dart Brook, Muswellbrook, Jerrys, Luskintyre, Newcastle and Black Creek.

*The trading rules are contained in Part 8 of the Plan and in the “Proposed Management Rules” section of the report cards.*

Do you have any comment on the changes proposed to trade rules between water sources?	
---	--

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



## Submission form

### Conversion to high flow access licences

It is proposed to allow conversion from a standard access licence to an access licence that can only extract from high flows in the Upper Hunter River Water Source only. If a conversion is to occur the licence share component would increase by 2 times.

The draft plan has removed the ability to convert to high flows in the Pages River, Isis River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Rouchel Brook and Paterson/Allyn Rivers water sources.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 8 of the draft plan and background document as well as the report card for the relevant water sources.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Application for Aboriginal Community Development access licences

It is proposed to permit applications for specific purpose Aboriginal Community Development access licences in the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, Dart Brook, Pages River, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, and Upper Hunter River water sources.

*Further information can be found in Part 5 of the draft Plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

### Additional feedback

The above sections relate to the key proposed changes from the current water sharing plan. However, comments on all aspects of the plan are welcome and encouraged. Please use the space below, or attachments if required or preferred.

Do you have comments on any aspect of the draft plan?

© State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.

## Ameliaranne Michell

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 10:58 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] 24/2/22 3.46 PM NOT CONFIDENTIAL HUNTER FW: Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

**From:** [digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)  
<[digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)> **On Behalf Of**  
[digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 24 February 2022 3:46 PM  
**To:** DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <[hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

### Permission

I would like my submission to be treated as confidential? No

I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential? No

### Your details

Are you making a submission as an individual or on behalf of an organisation? Individual

Which of the following best describes the kind of Irrigator/farmer stakeholder you are?:

If you selected other, please state:

Email address: [REDACTED]

### Question 1.1

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

### Question 1.2

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

### Question 2.1

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

### Question 2.2

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

### Question 3.1

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

**Question 4.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

The salinity level is too low. Our [REDACTED], require a consistent, reliable supply of water on daily basis, especially in dry times. A Cease to Pump rule based on the proposed [REDACTED] reading will make this impossible. [REDACTED] production needs water for planting to maintain consistent moisture levels for striking and to incorporate pre-emergent & chemical application for weeds, pests & diseases. ♣ We need to be able to water- in fertilisers and soil conditioners, and to reduce odour from organic fertilisers as the urban sprawl gets closer and closer. ♣ We need water to maintain optimum moisture levels for harvesting and of course for basic survival and growth. There are [REDACTED] that all pump from our tidal pool. Between us we employ over 100 people and support many other local companies through the purchase of goods and services required by our farm.

**Question 4.3**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.4**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.5**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 5.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 6.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 7.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 8.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 8.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 9.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 10.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 11.1**

Comments on any aspect of the draft plan:

All local farmers have always been responsible for using only water they require to plant, harvest and maintain their crops. They are generational farmers and have a great understanding of protecting our water supplies. Water is not used in excess nor wasted. In addition to this, we have have been constantly evolving through years of R and D, in Australia and overseas. We have been growing [REDACTED] which are far more drought tolerant than ever before. Not only do they strike quicker, but they grow back after harvest with less water requirements than traditional varieties. A cease to pump is not required, and will be without a doubt detrimental to our rural farming area. Farmers will lose their businesses and livelihood and this will also have a massive flow on effect to hundreds of other local businesses. [REDACTED] has many benefits, from acting as a fire retardant, social and emotional wellbeing when its used in parks and homes, keeps cities cooler

**Question 11.2**

Upload a submission or any supporting documents:

No file uploaded

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 10:37 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] 24/2/22 3.58PM NOT CONFIDENTIAL HUNTER FW: Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

**From:** [digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)  
<[digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services=squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au@squiz.regional.nsw.gov.au)> **On Behalf Of**  
[digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digital.services@squiz.dpie.nsw.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 24 February 2022 3:58 PM  
**To:** DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <[hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Submission for the draft remake water sharing plan Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial

**Permission**

I would like my submission to be treated as confidential?: No

I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential?: No

**Your details**

Are you making a submission as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?: Organisation

Which of the following best describes the kind of stakeholder you are?: Irrigator/farmer

If you selected other, please state:

Email address: [REDACTED]

**Question 1.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 1.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 2.1**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

**Question 2.2**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

**Question 3.1**

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?:

**Question 4.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?: YES, The salinity in the draft plan at [REDACTED] is to low as a [REDACTED] we will not be able to operate giving the evidence from your previous years data . There is no scientific evidence that farmers ceasing to pump will help the health of the estuary

**Question 4.3**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.4**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 4.5**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 5.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 6.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 7.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 8.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 8.2**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 9.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 10.1**

Do you have any comments on this aspect of the draft plan?:

**Question 11.1**

Comments on any aspect of the draft plan: As a business owner this will cause loss of employment and the future of my farm in the area

**Question 11.2**

Upload a submission or any supporting documents: No file uploaded



# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## How to fill out this form

<b>Name</b>	[Redacted]		
<b>Postal Address</b>	[Redacted]		
<b>Telephone</b>	[Redacted]		
<b>Email address</b>	[Redacted]		
<b>Stakeholder Group</b> (please indicate which of the following best represents your interest by <b>ticking one box</b> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Local Govt./ Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Interest <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Landholder <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member
<b>If your comments refer to a specific water source, which one?</b>	Martindale Creek		

Attach extra pages if required

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Managing the risks of increased harvestable rights

In 2022 the volume of water that can be captured in harvestable rights dams in coastal draining catchments will increase from 10% to 30% of rainfall runoff.

This could impact on the volume of flow that reaches rivers. The plan includes a requirement that the uptake of harvestable rights will be assessed at year 3 and then access, work approval and trade rules will be reviewed if the uptake is greater than 10% of rainfall runoff.

*The amendment provision can be found in Part 11 of the draft Plan.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?	Yes. There is so much water that goes to waste after heavy rainfall. More water needs to be allowed to store on farms. Just the amount of water that flows down Martindale Creek alone in times of flood is incredible.
--	---

## Draft access rules based on groundwater levels

The draft plan proposes to establish access rules based on groundwater levels in Baerami Creek, Bylong River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Martindale Creek, and Widden Brook water sources and the Upper Middle Dart Brook, Lower Middle Brook and Kingdon Ponds, and Lower Dart Brook management zones of Dart Brook Water Source, and the Segenhoe Management Zone of the Pages River Water Source. The access rule define when a Cease to Pump (CtP) event would be triggered.

*This section refers to Part 6 of the Plan and "Proposed Management Rules" section of the relevant report cards.*

How does the proposed CtP level in your water source impact on your current operations?	It would reduce my production of hay that i make which helps me support my outside income off the family farm. CTP would put more pressure mentally on farmers who already have to deal with many challenges to make a living. I myself am a young farmer who would love to take over the family farm.
Do you think the CtP in your water source is practical to implement? Why / why not?	NO. All farmers already self regulate their pumping needs. We already are restricted to pump when water levels get down due to suction lift. If water levels are dropping we self regulate anyway to increase water availability. Martindale Creek water demand has decreased over the years, as farmers have outside income as well to survive.
Do you think the CtP provides enough protection for ecological values such as Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem?	Yes. If there is a CTP alot of wildlife would die due to no feed and water for them that is provided by irrigation.
The flow reference point is the bore at which a CtP will be measured. Do you think this site is appropriate? Why / why not?	NO. The monitoring bore takes too long to register creek level. Martindale Creek was flowing for 94 days before the bore level came up. So this is not accurate enough. The creek has many different levels throughout the valley from rock weirs/shelves/clay bands that hold water back.

# Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022



Submission form

## Conversion to high flow access licences

It is proposed to allow conversion from a standard access licence to an access licence that can only extract from high flows in the Upper Hunter River Water Source only. If a conversion is to occur the licence share component would increase by 2 times.

The draft plan has removed the ability to convert to high flows in the Pages River, Isis River, Lower Wollombi Brook, Rouchel Brook and Paterson/Allyn Rivers water sources.

*Further details relating to this change can be found in Part 8 of the draft plan and background document as well as the report card for the relevant water sources.*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

## Application for Aboriginal Community Development access licences

It is proposed to permit applications for specific purpose Aboriginal Community Development access licences in the Hunter Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, the Lake Macquarie Coastal Floodplain Alluvial Groundwater, Dart Brook, Pages River, Rouchel Brook, Upper Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn River, Lower Wollombi Brook, and Upper Hunter River water sources.

*Further information can be found in Part 5 of the draft Plan*

Do you think this is appropriate? Why / why not?

## Additional feedback

The above sections relate to the key proposed changes from the current water sharing plan. However, comments on all aspects of the plan are welcome and encouraged. Please use the space below, or attachments if required or preferred.

Do you have comments on any aspect of the draft plan?

How come coal mines seem to do as they like.? They are the one polluting the rivers cracking streams .I thought we are supposed to be saving the environment. Perhaps there needs to be more monitoring bores put in the valley at different areas to get a more reliable level.

© State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox  
**Sent:** Saturday, 26 February 2022 12:52 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] 24/2/22 12.07 pm NOT CONFIDENTIAL HUNTER FW: Submission WSP Martindale Creek [REDACTED]  
**Attachments:** img20220224\_12013887.pdf; img20220224\_12023270.pdf; img20220224\_12032401.pdf; img20220224\_12041087.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

[REDACTED]  
Senior Water Planner, Regional Coastal Planning  
Water | Department of Planning and Environment  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (Locked Bag 26, Gosford NSW 2250)  
[W: www.dpie.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au)



*The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and 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 in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 February 2022 1:28 PM  
**To:** DPIE Hunter Unregulated Water Plan Mailbox <hunterunreg.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Submission WSP Martindale Creek [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:  
img20220224\_12013887.pdf  
img20220224\_12023270.pdf  
img20220224\_12032401.pdf  
img20220224\_12041087.pdf

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

# SUBMISSION

## **Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Sources 2022**

**By**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Public Exhibition

February 2022

## Introduction:

### My Business:

We run a [REDACTED] business at present, the main farm has been in the family for over 100 years.

We have over [REDACTED] in pasture for our [REDACTED] and associated run off blocks.

We currently employ 3 full time staff, plus myself and my parents

### My community:

We are located at [REDACTED] and spend well in excess of \$1000000 locally, as [REDACTED] is an intensive business.

Due to factors such as the rights of bureaucrats to remove our rights to water we have been using for over 100 years in this business and the excessive cost for meters, in our case to be compliant before December 2023, we would need to install 9 meters each of these are over \$10000 to install.

We have made the decision to place our property on the market as we can not risk our valuable asset reducing in asset value or losing money during a drought because we are unable to irrigate.

### Endorsement of [REDACTED] Submission:

In addition to providing my personal feedback on the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan and how it affects me, I would also like to endorse the submission made by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which addresses catchment wide issues on my behalf.

## Key Issues:

### Consultation Process

Public consultation and stakeholder feedback are a crucial component in developing an appropriate WSP. Given that WSPs set the rules 'for how water is allocated for the next 10 years', it is vital that we are given a reasonable amount of time to provide informed feedback on a complex regulatory instrument.

January and February are a very busy period, especially for us as we are often [REDACTED] to get us through the winter months. As a volunteer participant with a business to operate, it is crucial we have sufficient time to analyse the materiality of each of these changes and assess the modelling data used. The limited consultation process is extremely disappointing considering the Department told us at a meeting in May 2021 that the draft WSP would be ready for public exhibition in September 2021 with ample time provided for submissions and consultation with stakeholders by February 2022.

I agree reinforce the following recommendation from [REDACTED]:

The public exhibition period for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Plan be extended to 40 business days, instead of 40 days, making the new end date 15 March.

There has been no effort by the department to advise us, as a community or consult the new rules with us. We have had no time to brainstorm or understand possible solutions to the areas of the plan that will be detrimental to businesses in the local area.

With a full consultation and enough time, we would be able to work with the department and come up with solutions that will enable our businesses to survive and allow the environment to flourish.

Without irrigation our farms will become wastelands in no time at all, not the green paddocks we are accustomed to.

There has been no effort to do a risk assessment on the CTP rules and the costs of installing meters on ours, and other businesses in our region.

There has been a small effort to do a socio economic study, however when asked, we were not provided a copy of it.

At times when pressure is on the mining industry to shrink, we need agriculture to step up and offer employment options, yet these new rules will not allow business expansion.

These CTP rules are fine in areas west of the divide that survive off annual cropping, that is when you have no water you do not sow a crop, however most businesses in the Hunter are perennial crops, pastures, vines or intensive livestock industries that rely on irrigation during droughts.

There must be a mechanism for these to get some form of irrigation during dry times, whether that by a AWD.

### Cease-to-pump

Cease-to-pump (CTP) triggers are an extremely complex, personal, and crucial aspect of the proposed WSP across the catchment. Therefore, it is vital that DPIE conducts thorough, transparent and extensive consultation when undertaking decision surrounding this topic. Poorly developed CTP triggers in the catchment has the potential destroy our [REDACTED] and negatively impact our local communities.

I agree with the following recommendations from [REDACTED]:

- Cease-to-pump triggers have no impact on the reliability of water access licences throughout the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial System.
- DPIE apply clear and consistent cease-to-pump rules across the catchment.
- WaterNSW offer SMS and email alert system for cease-to-pump events as provided to many other regulated systems throughout NSW

Additionally, these access rule changes have the follow impacts on my business personally:

**Example:** During the drought that ended in [REDACTED], we had zero allocation from the river, yet our wells were reliable enough to sustain our [REDACTED].

**Current cease-to-pump:** there is no CTP rules in some wells and the others have no change and rely on High Security allocation from the river.

**Proposed cease-to-pump:** Our 2 best wells would be impacted by CTP and we would have had 20 months with no irrigation from them. Our business would not of survived

This is one of the reasons we have decided to sell our farm



## Metering Conditions

Metering is a complex regulatory requirement that adds significant cost to my business although I understand the crucial role water users have as environmental custodians. It is important for my business that there are clear and concise regulation surrounding metering and I therefore support the following recommendations from [REDACTED]:

- The metering requirements of the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan be brought inline with the NSW Non-Urban Metering Policy, including the minimum threshold of 100mm for water users to install AS4747 Meters.
- DPIE provide further clarification on:
  - The metering requirements for groundwater users
  - Clearly outline the definitions of wells and bores and their differing metering requirements.

## Conclusion:

I hope that this Submission and that of [REDACTED] provides valuable insight that assists with the creation and implementation of the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sharing Plan 2022.

This plan will have, in its current draft will end our business in times of drought.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 3:52 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] 25/2/22 8.53 PM CONFIDENTIALITY NOT SPECIFIED  
HUNTER RE: Water sharing Plan for the Hunter

---Original Message-----

Sent: Friday, 25 February 2022 9:19 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED] 25/2/22 8.53 PM CONFIDENTIALITY NOT SPECIFIED HUNTER RE: Water sharing Plan for the Hunter

Dear [REDACTED],

I understand your email below is to be considered to be your submission? Please let me know if this is not the case and also, if you wish this submission and/or your contact details to be treated as confidential.

We will be considering all suggestions made in submissions.

A summary of feedback will be used to develop an "outcomes of public exhibition" document. Submissions will be published on the website, in accordance with the department's privacy policy, unless the author requests that the submission is confidential.

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and 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 in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 February 2022 8:53 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Water sharing Plan for the Hunter

[REDACTED]

Lead Water Planner

Hi [REDACTED]

The rise and fall of the [REDACTED] and its aquifer has been important to our family since our property [REDACTED] was purchased in [REDACTED].

As you could imagine a lot of changes have taken place over that time which has led to the extraction rate of water becoming unsustainable.

The aquifer would be 20/30KLM long and up to 4/5KLM wide so it is a large storage of water that allows big extraction of water that is used for farming and stock and domestic when it becomes dry. The dry weather is why pumping increases the creek stops running and the aquifer level drops quickly as there is no replenish.

It has been my opinion for many years that there needs to be some restriction on the number of pumps or the size of pumps but that has not happened I also believe the CTP rule is not the answer the measuring points should be used to start introducing some form of restrictions so irrigation can continue on a reduced rate before having CTP.

I would be happy to discuss my thoughts with you as I feel I have something to offer after 50 years of pumping and watching the levels of this water course.

Your Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

25Th February 2022

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 3:54 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] SHORTHORNS 25/2/22 7.33 CONFIDENTIALITY NOT SPECIFIED  
HUNTER AM FW: Concerned Landowner effected by Draft Water Sharing Plan  
Hunter Alluvial Water Sources  
**Attachments:** Turanville Submission for Hunter Valley Unregulated and Alluvial Water Users  
24.02.22.pdf

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 February 2022 7:33 AM  
**Subject:** Concerned Landowner effected by Draft Water Sharing Plan Hunter Alluvial Water Sources

Dear [REDACTED]

We would like to raise with you our concerns with the current Draft Water Sharing Plan for Hunter Alluvial Water. Whilst we have attached our full submission on this Draft Plan we would like to emphasise the concerns we have with the Cease To Pump rules to be introduced.

#### **Cease-to-pump**

Cease-to-pump (CTP) triggers are an extremely complex, personal, and crucial aspect of the proposed WSP across the catchment. Therefore, it is vital that DPIE conducts thorough, transparent and extensive consultation when undertaking decisions surrounding this topic. Poorly developed CTP triggers in the catchment have the potential to destroy our seed stock enterprise and negatively impact our local communities and businesses.

The Natural Resources Commission Review (2009) identified drought security as the primary economic risk to the Hunter Valley. This highlights the importance of having the appropriate CTP policies to support vital agricultural business in drought periods. The review also mentions the equitable sharing of the water through Available Water Determinations (AWDs). Therefore it is crucial that the CTP policies are customised with the knowledge of historical water availability in each area.

During our family history of 110 years on [REDACTED] there has always been a deep and valued appreciation of our alluvial water. The family history often refers to the fact we have maintained the ability to pump water sustainably over the years while also maintaining the ecology of the surrounding ecosystems. The Remnant River Red Gum population and Rough Barked Apple trees on our section of the alluvial flood plain are testament to this. Family members in our business became concerned with the over allocation of the resource, and in the mid 1990's became involved in forming the Kingdon Ponds Water Users Association. This group called for the department to place a moratorium on new licences on the aquifer at a time when the department was still prepared to issue new licences in an over allocated system. This custodianship of the aquifer was then even more exemplified when at [REDACTED] we allowed the department to place, free of charge and without any legal right of way, the monitoring bore GW080074. We also in 2002 fenced out the Dart Brook and planted native vegetation for the environmental and creek bank benefits it brings.

We would like to question, and request review of, the CTP level on the Turanville bore GW080074 (lower Middle Brook and Kingdon Ponds management zone) in the Draft Plan.

We don't have the qualifications to call out the science that has been used to determine the CTP trigger; however we have spoken to experts who do. The science used to determine the CTP on the water level hitting the 95<sup>th</sup>% is flawed. One monitoring bore read in isolation on this complex aquifer cannot give an accurate measure of available water in the aquifer. The surrounding properties on this aquifer have maintained their ability to pump sustainably over history and as a result there is a known respect and value for its reliability. Under the proposed Draft Plan there would have been a CTP ruling in March 2005 lasting 4 months and a CTP ruling in March 2006 for 16 months using the 95<sup>th</sup>% rate option. However at these times we still had adequate water to run our pumps during very difficult seasonal periods and were able to maintain fodder pastures to sustain our cattle breeding business.

We note in the Preliminary Impact Analysis for Dartbrook that Option 2 using the TAD 75<sup>th</sup>% would have had no CTP triggers for Lower Middle Brook and Kingdon Ponds at the GW080074 bore. This outcome would be consistent with historical accounts of water availability on [REDACTED] through history.

The next closest monitoring bore at Rockview GW080433 is very different when you consider that the CTP level is significantly lower than the TAD 75% and the Turanville bore CTP is significantly higher than the TAD 75%. It is well known in the area and based on historical accounts that in these dry periods the Turanville area was still able to pump water and the Dartbrook area around the Rockview bore already had depleted pumping ability.

[REDACTED] is a historic property with a comparatively larger area of land than surrounding properties, covering both the Dartbrook and Kingdon Ponds aquifers. However over its time there has never been development of irrigation on the Dartbrook (Western) side of the property, only the Kingdon Ponds (Eastern side). This is primarily due to the historical knowledge that the water source is far more secure on the eastern aquifer.

Whilst our argument is not based on solid scientific evidence it is based on sound, extensive historical information that is proven. However the Department is using science that is flawed and not extensive enough to make solid CTP recommendations that will have a detrimental effect on our business and a very questionable, if any, benefit on the ecology and environment in the wider region.

We implore you to re- consider the CTP trigger on the Lower Middle Brook/ Kingdon Ponds aquifer and investigate Option 2 (TAD 75%) in the Preliminary impact analysis – Dart Brook.

This consultation process and its outcome is crucial to the on-going viability of our particular agricultural business. This draft plan, if implemented in its current form, would for the next 10 years significantly impact our business and its viability (i.e. when the proposed CTP would be triggered); when in the past at these times, it has been possible for us to both maintain our business and protect our environment. The proposed CTP trigger at the Turanville bore GW080074 in this draft plan would destroy our ability to be resilient during dry periods.

We therefore request that the draft plan be reviewed accordingly and modified as appropriate - to not only protect the environment, but also sustain the on-going viability of our local community and farming businesses.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]