

# Water Sharing Plan for the Bega River Area Regulated, Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2024 – Questions and Answers

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The 2023 plan has been replaced with an updated plan commencing on 24 May 2024. This fact sheet sets out key questions and answers about the new plan.

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## Why is the plan being replaced?

We are updating the Bega water sharing plan to address some administrative errors in the plan that was published last year. The changes to the plan are not significant and reflect agreed updates to the replacement plan that was consulted on with the community. These and the version of the plan which was published need to be rectified in the form of a new plan to ensure the area's water sharing rules can be properly implemented and enforced under state legislation.

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## What are the changes being made?

Most changes are minor, including correcting a water source name, removing redundant clauses, clarifying access rules for alluvial water users and adding text required to properly implement trading rules as proposed and agreed to during agency and public consultation, but that was omitted from the 2023 plan.

Critically, the 2024 plan also includes updates to clarify the operation of the exemption to the prohibition of applications to construct new in-river dams in six water sources and extends the exemption by 12 months.

Further details of the specific plan changes can be found in the accompanying Changes to the Bega River Area Water Sharing Plan 2024 fact sheet on the [department's website](#).

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## Will I be impacted by the changes?

The new plan will not negatively impact water users or the environment and will ensure this 10 year plan operates as proposed and agreed throughout stakeholder and public consultation processes.

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## Will I be able to construct an in-river dam on a third order or larger stream?

The plan clarifies the operation of the temporary exemption from the prohibition of applications to build a new in-river dam in six water sources and further clarifies how the exemption operates in situations where a development application is required and where a development application is not required. It also provides a 12-month extension of the timeframe to submit an application to construct an in-river dam in these water sources to allow sufficient time following the making of the plan. Applications must now be made prior to 1 July 2025.

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## Where do I find further information on the plan?

To read the water sharing plan and supporting fact sheets, visit the [department's website](#).