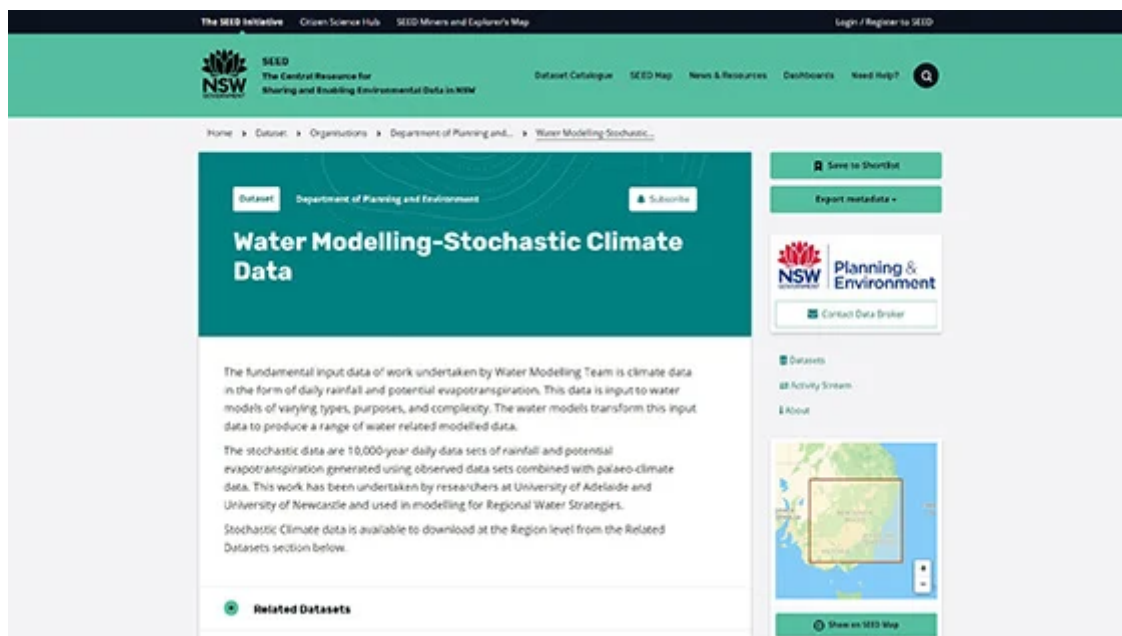


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## 10,000 years of water modelling from stochastic climate data



The Department of Planning and Environment - Water is working to make models and data publicly available, as part of our commitment to transparency under the NSW Water Strategy.

We've recently added [Water Modelling-Stochastic Climate Data](#) to the SEED Open Data Portal. This is the first time NSW-wide stochastic climate data has been made easily available to the general public.

We've generated 10,000-year daily data sets of rainfall and potential evapotranspiration, from 130 years of historical daily records and paleo-climate data of about 500 years. We've used "stochastic" methods which can generate large artificial datasets that can give us a good idea of what sort of conditions we should expect to see into the future.

This data is used in a range of water models of varying types, purposes, and complexity. Datasets are now available for:

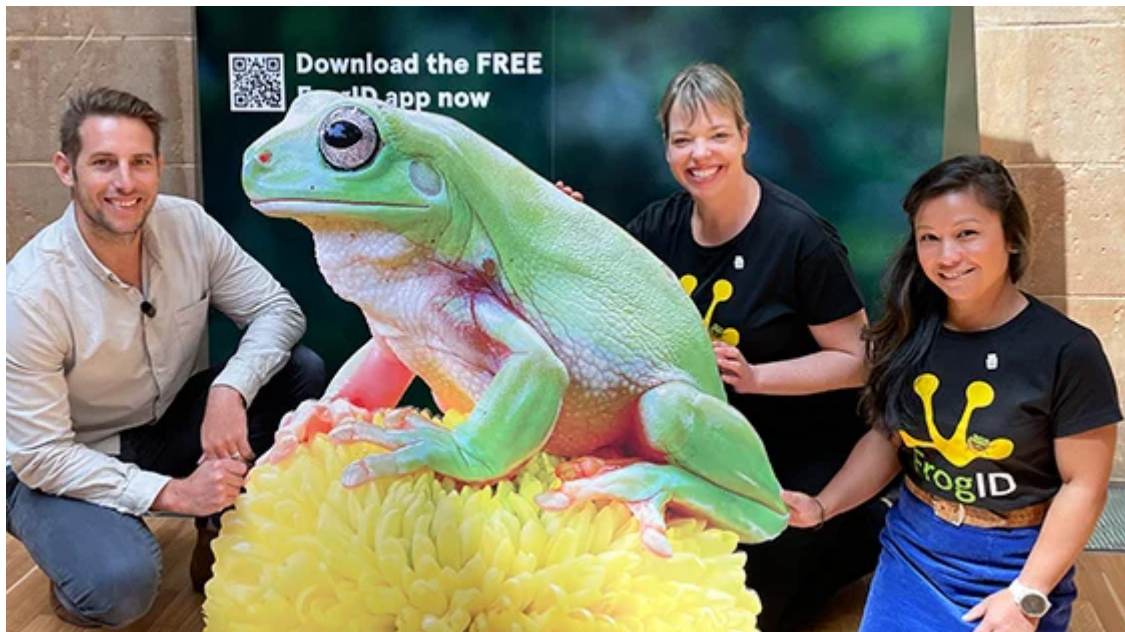
- [Border Rivers](#)

- [Far North Coast](#)
- [Gwydir](#)
- [Lachlan](#)
- [Macquarie](#)
- [Murray](#)
- [Murrumbidgee](#)
- [Namoi](#)
- [North Coast](#)
- [South Coast](#)

We will shortly release data sets for the Greater Hunter, Sydney Metro, and Western Regions, which will make datasets available for all of NSW.

We're also releasing the [metadata and quality assurance information](#), and [a map viewer](#).

## Working with the Australian Museum to monitor river health with FrogID



*L-R: DPE Senior Ecohydrologist Daniel Coleman, Dr Jodi Rowley Curator of Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Biology at the Australian Museum Research Institute, Nadiah Roslan the Australian Museum's Project Coordinator of FrogID.*

Ribbiting news! The department has proudly partnered with the Australian Museum to learn more about the health of our waterways by monitoring frog responses to river flows.

Anyone with a smartphone can get involved in this citizen science project by downloading the FrogID app, then recording and submitting the sound of frog calls in backyards, local parks and bushlands.

That data is collected by the museum's research team, and used to build our understanding of how frogs are coping against threats like habitat loss, pollution, disease and climate change.

Most frogs depend on water to complete their life cycle, so they're great indicators of ecosystem health. However, recent heavy rain and flooding have damaged their

habitats, particularly stream frogs.

Monitoring frogs helps us to assess the outcomes of water sharing plans, the State Water Strategy and other water management activities. It also ensures these beautiful creatures have a home for generations to come.

To get involved, simply download the free FrogID app from the Apple Store or Google Play and start recording. You can [read more here](#).

## Bombala and Delegate water treatment plants a step closer



Construction has begun on new state-of-the-art water treatment plants at Bombala and Delegate. These new plants will deliver high quality drinking water for residents and businesses.

The water treatment plant at Bombala has served the community well for 4 decades, but it's time to upgrade the ageing infrastructure. Cutting edge technology will effectively eliminate taste and odour, significantly improving water quality for over 1,700 locals who live and work in the 2 Snowy Monaro towns.

The plant at Delegate will be the town's first water treatment plant, ending the town's permanent boil water alert.

The design and construction phases for the projects will create 150 jobs. The water treatment plants are expected to be completed in 18-24 months.

The infrastructure is funded under the NSW Government's successful \$1.1 billion [Safe and Secure Water Program](#). The program has delivered 34 projects so far, and is funding more than 200 other projects.

## Non-urban water metering compliance dates extended for Southern Inland and Coastal NSW water users



Water users in the NSW Southern Inland and Coastal regions will be given extra time to install non-urban metering equipment due to recent rainfall and widespread flooding.

The new compliance dates are:

- 1 June 2023 for Southern Inland (extended by 6 months)
- 1 December 2024 for Coastal NSW (extended by 12 months).

Work is underway on regulatory amendments to give these changes effect.

Despite the extension, if you can install approved metering equipment ahead of the new deadlines, you should do so. If you are replacing old or damaged metering equipment, you must ensure your new meters comply with non-urban metering rules regardless of your compliance date.

We remind water users affected by flooding that, if your meter is moved due to flooding and is still operating, it must be revalidated by a duly qualified person when it is reinstalled.

If your meter has been moved or damaged due to flooding, and no longer operates properly, you must submit [a s91i self-reporting form](#) to WaterNSW within 24 hours of realising the meter is no longer operating properly.

For more information [visit our website](#).

## Southern Inland Metering and Measurement requirements that may apply to you



Staff from the Department of Planning and Environment, the Natural Resources Access Regulator and WaterNSW recently held information sessions in the Lachlan and Upper Murrumbidgee regions. The sessions were to share important information about the non-urban metering and measurement reforms, and requirements for water users to comply with metering and measurement rules.

The sessions also gave water users the chance to connect with suppliers and installers of metering equipment, who were on hand to discuss specific farm related matters. The sessions were very well attended.

If you weren't able to attend a session, the [presentation](#) is available online. If you're not sure if you need to comply with the metering rules, use our online [Metering Guidance Tool](#) to check the rules.

For more information about the metering and measurement reform and upcoming engagement activities, visit our [website](#).

## Basic landholder rights exemption for non-urban metering



The non-urban metering rules require all water supply works to have compliant metering equipment installed by the relevant rollout date unless an exemption applies.

There are several exemptions available to water users, including an exemption for water used under a [basic landholder right](#) (BLR).

To be eligible for a BLR exemption for stock and domestic use, the land must have frontage to a river, lake or estuary or be overlying an aquifer. The water must only be used for domestic consumption or stock watering, and cannot be used for commercial purposes.

There is also a BLR exemption for water used for native title and harvestable rights under a basic landholder right.

Learn more about exemptions on our [What water users need to know](#) webpage, or learn more about [basic landholder rights](#).

## Natural Resources Access Regulator Updates

## Progress Report 2021-22



## Water regulator releases report on its work over the 2021-22FY

The Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) has released its latest [progress report](#), looking back at the outcomes of the 2021-22 financial year.

Some key outcomes include:

- wins for the environment, including improved fish habitat, restoration of cleared land, protection of ecological communities and return of flow to important waterways
- successful court prosecutions including large fines for an [unlawful irrigation canal](#), damage to [environmentally sensitive land](#) and for [illegal water take](#) at Brewarrina
- putting a [dollar value on the state's water allocations](#) for the first time, changing the perception that water is a “free” resource
- setting [2022-23 regulatory priorities](#) for NRAR's activities
- plans to increase education and engagement activities to help people comply with NSW water law.

NRAR also recently shared their compliance results for July to September, confirming that most water users want to do the right thing and follow the rules.

View the compliance results for your area with [NRAR's quarterly report tool](#).



## NRAR begins prosecution against Wentworth vineyard operator

NRAR has begun a significant prosecution against a Lower Murray vineyard operator in the NSW Land and Environment Court.

The operator allegedly bypassed water meters and pumped up to 13,000 megalitres beyond their water licence allocation from the Darling River over 4 years between 2011 and 2015. The alleged offences occurred shortly after the Millennium drought, at a time when the Murray–Darling Basin and almost all the southern NSW cropping zones were still severely affected by dry conditions.

The amount of water allegedly illegally taken from the Darling River over the 4 year period would fill 5,200 Olympic swimming pools.

NRAR takes strong action against serious breaches of water laws to ensure fairness for everyone, especially those who follow the rules.

Read more about the prosecution [on our website](#).

Working together to reduce red tape for joint private works schemes





We are working with joint private works schemes to make clear and simple regulations and rules.

Joint private works schemes are community-led organisations established among landholders to manage shared infrastructure for providing water and draining land. In 2010, the NSW Parliament passed new laws simplifying the way these schemes are managed.

One of the ways we are working with schemes to apply these new laws is through a new stakeholder advisory panel. The panel has met twice this quarter and has been an engaging forum, bringing together representatives from schemes with a range of complexity, size and functions. Members have been able to share their challenges and ideas and collaborate about the types of regulations and rules that are needed.

For more about the project, [visit the webpage](#).

Have your say on water sharing in the Namoi Valley



*Image credit: Vince Bucello*

During December and January, the department will consult on proposed amendments to 2 Namoi water sharing plans. One plan is for regulated water sources and the other is for unregulated water sources.

We will be consulting on water sharing plan rules, including proposed rules for floodplain harvesting access licences, which will be included in both plans.

Details about proposed rules and amendments to the plans, including how to make a submission, will be available from 1 December 2022 on the [department's website](#). The public exhibition will be open until 29 January 2023.

## Join us to find out more about the proposed Lostock Dam to Glennies Creek Dam Pipeline Project



*Image credit: WaterNSW*

We invite the local community to attend information sessions about the proposed Lostock to Glennies Creek Dam Pipeline project. This is an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

Water Infrastructure NSW, in partnership with Hunter Water, is in the early stages of developing a final business case for the project, including the proposed Paterson River offtake and water treatment plant.

The sessions are being held between 5 – 7 December 2022 at Tocal Homestead and in Singleton and Gresford. Registration is not required.

Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information about the session locations and timings.

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Please note: Current weather conditions may impact scheduled consultations. Please remain up to date on any changes via our [stakeholder engagement page](#).

**Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy  
Public exhibition 1 November – 11 December**

To find out more and have your say, stakeholders can read more about the strategy development through our [project page](#)

**New Dungowan Dam and Pipeline Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)  
Public exhibition 26 October – 7 December**

To find out more and have your say, stakeholders can:

- Read more about the strategy development through our [project page](#)
- Register to attend a public [information webinar](#)
- Register to attend a public [information session](#)
  - [Dungowan Station](#) – Wednesday 23 November, 5:00 – 5:30pm
  - [Tamworth](#) – Thursday 24 November, 5:00 – 5:30pm

**Hydrometric gauging stations installations and upgrades consultation  
1 November - 11 December**

The Department of Planning and Environment is seeking stakeholder input on the site locations of gauging stations in the Northern Murray Darling Basin. To find out more and have your say, please visit our [project page](#).

**Reform of the Water Industry Competition Act  
26 September – 30 November**

In response to requests from stakeholders, the department has extended the submission period for this consultation. Submissions are now being accepted up to 11:59 pm on Wednesday, 30 November 2022. To find out more and to have your say, please visit our [project page](#).

**Draft replacement Richmond River Area Unregulated, Regulated and Alluvial  
Water Sources Water Sharing Plan  
Public exhibition 20 October – 18 December**

The Richmond River community has been devastated by the recent catastrophic floods. However, there is a legal requirement to replace the water sharing plan. In recognition of current community priorities, we are limiting changes proposed in the draft water sharing plan to state-wide policy updates and minor plan improvements.

The public exhibition period has also been extended to 60 days to provide additional opportunity for those who wish to make a submission.

To find out more and have your say, stakeholders can read more about the strategy development through our [project page](#)

## Stay up to date

The Water Engagement Roundup is a monthly webinar that provides updates on current consultation and engagement about important water policies and programs.

Register for the next webinar.

## Latest water news from the department

- [More time to consider future of Lachlan water](#)
- [Planned Snowy environmental flows superseded by flood mitigation releases](#)
- [NSW Gov delivers \\$18.5 million for water and sewerage updates in Snowy Monaro](#)
- [Strategy securing Far North Coast's water future open for feedback](#)
- [Hunter flood ready in face of relentless rain](#)

[View all](#)

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## Contact us

Water News is our monthly update on water planning, management and reform in NSW. If you have any questions or feedback contact us at:

NSW Government – Water Relations  
Phone 1300 081 047  
[water.relations@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:water.relations@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

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