



Department of
Primary Industries
Office of Water

Submission form for comments on the draft proposed water shepherding arrangements in NSW

Office Use Only

Submission No.

How to fill out this form

This submission form highlights specific issues the NSW Office of Water is seeking comment on and refers to the report *Proposed arrangements for Shepherding Environmental Water in NSW - draft for consultation*. You can view or download this report and submission form at www.water.nsw.gov.au. The report has been prepared to assist in understanding the draft proposed water shepherding arrangements and highlights specific issues for comment. Your feedback on all aspects of the proposed arrangements is welcome.

Please send your completed submission form to us by:

Email: water.shepherding@water.nsw.gov.au

Post: Draft water shepherding arrangements comments
NSW Office of Water
PO Box 550
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Fax: Draft water shepherding arrangements comments, 02 67019696

Submissions close Monday 2 July 2012

If you wish to provide more detailed comments, you can attach additional pages.

Privacy and confidentiality

Your submission will be used by the NSW Office of Water, the NSW Water Shepherding Working Group and NSW Water Shepherding Taskforce to review the draft proposed water shepherding arrangements. Your input is valued and it is appreciated that the information you provide may be of a private and personal nature.

If you wish your submission or personal details to remain confidential for any reason, you can request this. Please show your preference by ticking the relevant box on the submission form below. The Office of Water may be required by law to release copies of submissions received to third parties. A request for access to a confidential submission will be determined according to the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

If you **do not** make a request for confidentiality, the Office may make your submission, including any personal details, available to the public, if requested.

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes No

I would like my personal details to remain confidential

Yes No

Name

Organisation
(if applicable)

Postal address

Post code

Stakeholder group
Tick only one box that
best represents your
interest.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigator | <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Local landholder | <input type="checkbox"/> Community member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Govt./
utilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial (non-
irrigator) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |

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Overall framework of the shepherding proposal	
<p>Do you think that using a trading framework to implement shepherding is appropriate? Why / why not?</p>	
<p>It is proposed to apply a shepherding loss reduction factor to volumes of water shepherded for Barwon-Darling unregulated tributaries and the Barwon-Darling.</p> <p>Do you think it is appropriate that the loss reduction factor be based on long term average losses? In the Barwon-Darling, do you think it is appropriate that the factor relate to river sections? Why / why not?</p>	
Barwon-Darling Water Shepherding	
<p>The end-of-system accounting water shepherding methodology for the Barwon-Darling water source is based on dealing rules that allow for the assignment of allocation from Barwon-Darling Commonwealth owned access licences to a water shepherding access licence that nominates an end-of-system water management work. Access to this allocation is then subject to specific access and use rules and conditions.</p>	
<p>It is proposed to implement water shepherding rules that limit the allocation that can be shepherded from the parent licence. Is this appropriate? Why/ why not?</p>	
<p>It is proposed to implement end-of-system commence to pump access conditions for water shepherding of A, B and C class licences, to enable the movement of shepherded water beyond the Barwon-Darling. Is this appropriate? Why/why not?</p>	
<p>It is proposed to establish a maximum daily extraction limit for water shepherding access licences at the end-of-system. This would be implemented through an account rule in the water sharing plan that limits take to the sum of the maximum individual daily extraction limits of the CEW licences held in a specific class in the Barwon-Darling minus any extraction by those licences.</p> <p>Is this appropriate? Why/ why not?</p>	

Queensland and NSW Tributary Water Shepherding	
<p>Water shepherding of Queensland and NSW tributary water is based on dealing rules that allow for the assignment of allocation to a tributary water shepherding access licence that nominates a water management work at the end of the tributary system. A second allocation assignment dealing is then completed to transfer the shepherded allocation from the tributary to the Barwon-Darling system. These water shepherding allocation assignments will be subject to specific access and use rules and conditions.</p>	
<p>It is proposed to establish dealing rules to enable water shepherding to the end of a NSW tributary (regulated or unregulated), including shepherding from a Queensland tributary (regulated or unregulated). Are the proposed dealing rules for each kind of tributary appropriate? Why/ why not?</p>	
<p>It is proposed to establish shepherding loss reduction factors for Queensland shepherded water through NSW unregulated tributaries, and for NSW unregulated tributaries. Are these factors appropriate? Why / why not?</p>	
<p>It is proposed to establish a fixed period for access for shepherded flows at the end of a tributary, including the end of a NSW unregulated tributary, from the Queensland Border River into the Barwon-Darling, and at the end of the Barwon-Darling for shepherding of tributary water downstream. Are these fixed periods of access appropriate? Why / why not?</p>	
<p>It is proposed to establish access rules for shepherded allocations based on parent licence maximum daily extraction limits and commence to pump thresholds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Is commence to pump thresholds based on the parent licence's reliability of access appropriate at the end of a NSW unregulated tributary, for shepherding of water from a NSW or Queensland unregulated tributary? Why / why not? (ii) Is the use of A class commence to pump access conditions appropriate to enable the shepherding of tributary water downstream of the Barwon-Darling? Why / why not? 	

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<p>Do you think the proposed access rules will protect the interests of existing water users?</p> <p>If not, do you have any suggestions for other protection measures that could be implemented?</p>	
<p>Menindee Lakes / Lower Darling Regulated River Water Source Water Shepherding</p>	
<p>Water shepherding into the Menindee Lakes requires the shepherded volume entering the Menindee Lakes to be recognised and accounted. Any changes to how inflows are recognised in Menindee Lakes Storage (MLS) will require the agreement of the Basin states to amend the Murray Darling Basin Agreement. The preferred option is to recognise CEW in the unused airspace of MLS, with an account established under a new Schedule to the Agreement and administered by the Authority.</p>	
<p>Do you agree with the recognition of shepherded water in the Menindee Lakes? Why / why not?</p>	
<p>Do you think the preferred option for recognising CEW in MLS is appropriate? Why / why not? Is there an alternative approach?</p>	
<p>Do you think water should be able to be shepherded from the Barwon-Darling water source to the Lower Darling water source when there is no airspace available in MLS?</p>	
<p>Shepherding in times of resource constraint</p>	
<p>In times of critical human water needs and lower supply levels in the Menindee Lakes it is proposed to limit and / or suspend shepherding into and from the Menindee Lakes. Suspension will be influenced by the tier of management as outlined in the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement. Options for triggering when suspension may occur have been identified. One option is that suspension occurs when the volume in MLS reaches 480 GL and is falling. Another option is that the volume of shepherded CEW be treated separately for the purposes of calculating the 480 GL. Under this option, suspension would occur at some point before water was required for critical human water needs, and rules would be required to limit shepherding at particular times. To identify the precise trigger for limiting and / or suspending shepherding due to resource constraints requires further modelling and analysis on options identified here and during the consultation process.</p>	
<p>Do you believe that shepherding water into Menindee Lakes should be suspended at specific times to ensure that there are no adverse third party impacts? Why / why not?</p>	

Submission form for comments on the draft proposed water shepherding arrangements in NSW

<p>Which option do you prefer for identifying the suspension / limitation triggers for shepherding? Why? Alternatively, are there other options?</p>	
<p>Do you think it appropriate to provide access to the suspended MLS shepherding account during a period of suspension to enable shepherded CEW to be made available for critical environmental needs to avert or alleviate an environmental emergency?</p>	
<p>Is it appropriate that shepherded CEW be recognised downstream of the Lower Darling Regulated River when periods of special account apply? Why / why not?</p>	
<p>Shepherding downstream of Menindee Lakes</p>	
<p>The proposed approach to shepherding water downstream of the Menindee Lakes is through allocation assignments to shepherding WALs and delivery of ordered water from the shepherding account in Menindee Lakes. Changes to the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement would be required to shepherd water to downstream jurisdictional water sources.</p>	
<p>Do you think that using a trading framework to shepherd water downstream of the Menindee Lakes is appropriate? Why /why not?</p>	
<p>Do you believe that water should be permitted to be shepherded to water sources in downstream jurisdictions? Why?/ why not?</p>	
<p>It is proposed to apply losses associated with holding the shepherded water in an account in Menindee and in delivering this water downstream of the Menindee Lakes. When should they be applied and what should be considered?</p>	

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Audit, report and review	
<p>The implementation of the end-of-system water shepherding methodology will involve novel and complex concepts and processes that may need to evolve over time. It is therefore proposed to implement an auditing, reporting and review process. A key purpose of the audit and review purpose will be to ensure that third party impacts are not occurring as a result of water shepherding. An adaptive management approach will be necessary to ensure any issues can be resolved in a timely manner.</p>	
<p>Do you agree with the proposed auditing, reporting and review framework? Why /why not?</p>	
<p>What else should be considered to ensure that any adverse third party impacts that may occur as a result of the implementation of water shepherding are identified and addressed?</p>	
Other comments	
<p>Are there any other aspects of the proposed arrangements or the concept of water shepherding that you would like to comment on?</p>	