



MEDIA RELEASE

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WATER SHARING PLAN FOR INTERSECTING STREAMS COMMENCES

NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources, Troy Grant said today's commencement of the water sharing plan covering the Intersecting Streams in the State's North-West will contribute to healthy, diverse and productive water sources.

"The *Intersecting Streams Unregulated and Alluvial Water Source* water sharing plan outlines how water will be shared between users and the environment over the next 10 years," Troy Grant said.

"The plan will provide a secure and sustainable water supply for all users and improve the health of our riverine and groundwater dependent ecosystems by addressing current needs, future requirements and setting aside environmental water.

"It is only by taking care of the environment that we can guarantee clean healthy water supplies for a range of needs and users and ensure its sustainability for future generations."

Mr Grant said the development of the plan involved extensive consultation and recommendations from a wide range of water users and community groups, and is based on the best available science.

"This water sharing plan is essential for the sustainable management of our rivers and groundwater. It provides communities and industry with security and certainty about the health and management of their water supplies.

"In essence, this water sharing plan is about protecting the water sources, establishing environmental water rules, setting limits on extractions, enhancing trading and ensuring basic landholder rights to access water.

"The plan also enhances water trading and enables businesses flexibility to change and adapt to future demands and climatic circumstances," Mr Grant said.

The plan applies to all unregulated rivers and creeks and alluvial groundwater. Under the Commonwealth *Water Act 2007*, this plan will be regarded as an interim water resource plan. The plan establishes a benchmark against which any changes under the Commonwealth's proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan may be assessed.

"All water licence holders affected by this plan will shortly receive information on what the plan means to their respective activities for accessing water," Mr Grant said.

Copies of the water sharing plan can be found at the NSW Office of Water website – www.water.nsw.gov.au

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