

Report card for the Yarrowitch River Water Source

Water source context		River flows	
Area	45,761 hectares (51% forested)	Low flow index* (for December)	80th%ile = 3 ML/day (Source. Yarrowitch River gauge @ Yarrowitch. Discontinued)
Average annual rainfall	1,017 mm	Flow records	57 years of data from Yarrowitch River gauge @ Yarrowitch (discontinued). 5 years of data from Yarrowitch River gauge @ Yarrobindi No. 2 (discontinued).
Inflowing water source	None	Stream type	Gaining
Receiving water source	Apsley Gorge	* 80 per cent of the time average daily flow exceeds 3 ML/day and this represents low flows.	

Background Information		
Water Source Attributes	Rating	Justification
Relative Instream Value (within catchment)	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 threatened frog species. - 1 threatened bird species. - significant area of National Park.
Hydrologic Stress	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - within water source = high. - peak extraction demand exceeds available flows in December.
Relative Economic Significance of Irrigation (within catchment)	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - low economic dependence of the local community on water extracted for irrigation. - high value of production from irrigation.
Risk to Instream Value (from extraction)	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - instream values are at moderate risk of being impacted by extractions within the water source.
Licensed water entitlement		
Total surface water entitlement	759 ML/year.	
Licensed purpose	100% used for irrigation.	
Proportion of extraction management unit	3% of total Extraction Management Unit entitlement.	
These figures and estimates were made in September 2012.		
Existing access arrangements during dry conditions		
Pumping restrictions	No existing access arrangements.	
Cease to pump	3 ML/day.	
Reference point	Yarrobindi Bridge, Portion 163 Parish Yarrowitch.	
Water user association	Yarrowitch.	

Recommendations

Draft access rules for surface waters	
Cease to pump	3 ML/day at the reference point. Note: This rule applies to all extraction from rivers and creeks in this water source including natural in-river pools within the channels of rivers and creeks.
Reference point	Yarrobindi Bridge.
Draft access rules for natural off-river pools	
Cease to pump	Pumping is not permitted when the water level in that natural off-river pool is lower than its full capacity. Note: 'Full capacity' can be approximated by the pool water level at the point where there is no visible flow into and out of that pool. Note: Natural off-river pools include those pools located on flood runners, floodplains and effluents e.g. lakes, lagoons and billabongs.
Reference point	Individual natural off-river pool.
Note: Existing <i>Water Act 1912</i> licence conditions that are more stringent than these access rules will be carried forward.	
Note: These access rules do not apply to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local water utility access licences - Town water supply access licences - Stock and domestic licences for the first three years of the plan (provided that extraction for stock purposes does not exceed 14 litres per hectare of grazeable area per day) - Water taken from existing dams. Any existing licence conditions associated with a dam will be carried over when the licence is converted under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>. 	
Draft trading rules	
INTO water source	Permitted, only if the total licensed entitlement in the water source does not increase (no net gain) from, Apsley Gorge, Apsley River, Bakers Creek, Blue Mountain Creek, Chandler Gorge, Chandler River, Christmas Creek, Coastal Macleay, Collombatti Creek, Commissioners Waters, Dungay Creek, Dyke Creek, Euroka Creek, Five Day Creek, Gara River, Georges River, Gills Bridge Creek, Green Gully, Hickeys Creek, Kunderang Creek, Macleay Gorges, Macleay Valley, Malpas Dam, Mungay Creek, Nulla Nulla Creek, Oaky River, Salisbury Waters, Stockyard Creek, Styx River, Tia River, Toorumbree Creek, Warbro Creek.
WITHIN water source	Permitted, subject to assessment.
Draft rules for granting access licences	
In-river dams	Permitted, subject to assessment. Note: Dams require a licence if they are located on a permanent (spring fed) first or second order stream, a third order (or greater) stream, or if they exceed the maximum harvestable right dam capacity for the property.
Aboriginal community development	Not permitted, due to the absence of a gauge
Conversion to high flows	Not permitted, due to the absence of a gauge

Conversion to alluvial aquifer access licence	N/A.
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Key factors for decisions

- Medium instream value, high hydrologic stress, medium risk to instream value and low economic dependence.
- The cease to pump rule recommended is the same as the existing access arrangements which provide some instream flow and have operated over several years.

Public exhibition

Feedback is particularly sought on the suitability of the proposed access and trading rules.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (October 2014). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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