

## Report card for the Chandler Gorge Water Source

Water source context		River flows	
Area	22,406 hectares (52% forested)	<b>Low flow index*</b> (for November)	80th%ile = 9 ML/day (Source. Stressed Rivers Assessment Report 1999)
Average annual rainfall	910 mm	<b>Flow records</b>	Low flow index calculated from nearest suitable gauging station (outside of water source)
Inflowing water source	Styx River, Oaky Creek, Chandler River	<b>Stream type</b>	Gaining
Receiving water source	Macleay Gorges	* 80 per cent of the time average daily flow exceeds 9 ML/day and this represents low flows.	

Background Information		
Water Source Attributes	Rating	Justification
Relative Instream Value (within catchment)	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7 threatened frog species.</li> <li>- minimal disturbance to in stream condition.</li> <li>- significant area of National Park.</li> </ul>
Hydrologic Stress	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- within water source = low (no licenses).</li> <li>- cumulative stress = medium.</li> <li>- peak extraction demand is generally less than available flows in November.</li> </ul>
Relative Economic Significance of Irrigation (within catchment)	<b>LOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- no irrigation.</li> </ul>
Risk to Instream Value (from extraction)	<b>LOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- instream values are at low risk of being impacted by extractions within the water source.</li> </ul>
Licensed water entitlement		
Total surface water entitlement	Nil.	
Licensed purpose	N/A.	
Proportion of extraction management unit	N/A.	
These figures and estimates were made in September 2012.		

Existing access arrangements	
<b>Pumping restrictions</b>	No existing access arrangements.
<b>Cease to pump</b>	No existing cease to pump.
<b>Reference point</b>	No existing reference point.
<b>Water user association</b>	None.

## Recommendations

Draft access rules for surface waters	
<b>Cease to pump</b>	<p>Pumping is not permitted from natural pools when the water level in the pool is lower than its full capacity.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> '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.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Natural pools include in-river pools found within the channels of rivers and creeks and off-river pools located on flood runners, floodplains and effluents e.g. lakes, lagoons and billabongs.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For the minority of pump sites not within a natural pool, these licences will be required to cease to pump when there is no visible flow at that pump site.</p>
<b>Reference point</b>	Individual natural pool.
<p><b>Note:</b> Existing <i>Water Act 1912</i> licence conditions that are more stringent than these access rules will be carried forward.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> These access rules do not apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local water utility access licences</li> <li>- Town water supply access licences</li> <li>- 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)</li> <li>- 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>.</li> </ul>	
Draft trading rules	
<b>INTO water source</b>	Not permitted (except from the upstream Styx River, Oakey Creek, Chandler River).
<b>WITHIN water source</b>	Permitted, subject to assessment.
Draft rules for granting access licences	
<b>In-river dams</b>	<p>Permitted, subject to assessment.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> 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.</p>
<b>Aboriginal community development</b>	Not permitted due to the absence of a gauge.
<b>Conversion to high flows</b>	Not permitted due to the absence of a gauge.
<b>Conversion to alluvial aquifer access licence</b>	N/A.

## Key factors for decisions

- Medium instream value, medium hydrologic stress, low risk to instream value and low economic dependence.
- The most basic access rule is proposed due to no gauge or suitable reference points other than the pump site and the lack of licensed extraction in the water source.

## Public exhibition

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

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Published by the Department of Primary Industries, a division of NSW Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services.

Jobtrack 13078\_RC5

Document prepared October 2014