

## Report card for the Apsley Gorge Water Source

Water source context		River flows	
Area	61,091 hectares (65% forested)	<b>Low flow index*</b> (for November)	80th%ile = 45 ML/day  Source. Apsley River Gauge @ Apsley Gorge (206033) NOW 2012 (open).
Average annual rainfall	954 mm	<b>Flow records</b>	31 years of data (1981 to 2012) from Apsley River Gauge @ Apsley Gorge.
Inflowing water source	Apsley River, Tia River, Green Gully, Yarrowitch River	<b>Stream type</b>	Gaining
Receiving water source	Macleay Gorges	* 80 per cent of the time average daily flow exceeds 45 ML/day and this represents low flows.	

Background information		
Water Source Attributes	Rating	Justification
Relative Instream Value (within catchment)	<b>MEDIUM</b>	- 6 threatened frog species. - high diversity. - significant area of National Park.
Hydrologic Stress	<b>LOW</b>	- within water source = low (no licenses).
Relative Economic Significance of Irrigation (within catchment)	<b>LOW</b>	- no irrigation.
Risk to Instream Value (from extraction)	<b>LOW</b>	- instream values are at low risk of being impacted by extractions within the water source.
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 during dry conditions		
Pumping restrictions	No existing access arrangements.	
Cease to pump	No existing cease to pump.	
Reference point	N/A.	
Water user association	None.	

## Recommendations

<b>Draft access rules for surface waters</b>	
<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 Water Management Act 2000.</li> </ul>	
<b>Draft trading rules</b>	
<b>INTO water source</b>	Not permitted (except from the upstream Apsley River, Tia River, Yarrowitch River and Green Gully Water Sources).
<b>WITHIN water source</b>	Permitted, subject to assessment.
<b>Draft rules for granting access licences</b>	
<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>	<p>Not permitted.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Despite the presence of a gauge in the water source the land is considered largely unsuitable for agriculture (i.e. mainly gorge country) and or under National Park tenure and therefore the NOW has recommended to not provide Aboriginal community development entitlement in the water source.</p>
<b>Conversion to high flows</b>	<p>Not Permitted.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> High flow conversions provide for the conversion of unregulated river access licence entitlement to unregulated river (high flow) entitlement. On commencement of public exhibition no unregulated river access licence entitlement was held in the water source and therefore, despite the presence of a gauge the Office of Water has recommended to not permit high flow conversions.</p>
<b>Conversion to alluvial aquifer access licence</b>	N/A.

## Key factors for decisions

- Medium instream value, low hydrologic stress, low risk to instream value and low economic dependence.
- The most basic access rule is proposed due to the lack of licensed extraction in the water source.
- No trading into the water source is recommended to minimise further decline in instream value.

## 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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