Why are the existing cease to pump rules being reviewed?

The Water Sharing Plan for the Lower North Coast Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009 (the Plan) provides for cease to pump rules to be implemented in two stages, with stage 1 rules applying for the first 5 years of the Plan and stage 2 rules applying for the remainder of the Plan’s tenure. The Plan stipulates that stage 2 cease to pump rules may be changed based on the outcomes of socio-economic and environmental studies to assess the impacts of proposed rules. The Plan sets boundaries beyond which the cease to pump rules cannot be changed and recommends consultation with relevant governmental departments and stakeholders.

DPI Water has completed the socio-economic and environmental studies and consistent with report findings, considers that the proposed cease to pump rules strike a reasonable balance between the socio economic needs of users and the ecological values in this water source.

These reports may be found in the News updates at: www.water.nsw.gov.au/home

DPI Water now seeks stakeholder views on the changes being considered for this water source.

Existing stage 2 cease to pump rules

Note. There are two management zones in this water source. The Upper Gloucester River Headwaters Management Zone and the Upper Gloucester River Management Zone. They have the same access rules.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cease to pump</th>
<th>Very low flow class</th>
<th>Pumping is not permitted when flows are at or below 1 ML/day at the Gloucester River at Gloucester Gauge on a falling river. This is equivalent to the 98th percentile.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Class</td>
<td>Pumping is permitted when flows are greater than 1 ML/day and equal to or less than 73 ML/day at the Gloucester River at Gloucester Gauge on a falling river. This is equivalent to the 50th percentile.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Class</td>
<td>Pumping is permitted when flows are greater than 73 ML/day at the Gloucester River at Gloucester Gauge.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Commence to pump | Very low flow class | After a cease to pump event has been triggered, pumping is not be permitted until flows have exceeded 3 ML/day at the Gloucester River at Gloucester Gauge on a rising river. This is equivalent to the 97th percentile. |

Alternative stage 2 cease to pump rules for consideration

Note. The flow figures in the below table are based on updated data, therefore the percentile values may differ slightly from those referred to in the Plan.

Note: The Plan establishes upper and lower limits on what may be considered as the very low flow class for this water source. These are between No Visible Flow and the 95th percentile.

Upper Gloucester River Headwaters Management Zone.
Cease to pump  |  Very low flow class  
|----------------|----------------------|
| Pumping would not be permitted when flows are at or below 8 ML/day at the Gloucester River at Gloucester Gauge on a falling river. This is equivalent to the 95th percentile.

| A Class  
|----------------|----------------------|
| Pumping would be permitted when flows are greater than 8 ML/day and equal to or less than 81 ML/day at the Gloucester River at Gloucester Gauge on a falling river. This is equivalent to the 50th percentile.

| B Class  
|----------------|----------------------|
| Pumping would be permitted when flows are greater than 81 ML/day at the Gloucester River at Gloucester Gauge.

Commence to pump  |  Very low flow class  
|----------------|----------------------|
| After a cease to pump event has been triggered, pumping would not be permitted until flows have exceeded 12 ML/day at the Gloucester River at Gloucester Gauge on a rising river. This is equivalent to the 94th percentile.

**Upper Gloucester River Management Zone.**

| Cease to pump  |  Very low flow class  
|----------------|----------------------|
| Pumping would not be permitted when flows are at or below 2 ML/day at the Gloucester River at Gloucester Gauge on a falling river. This is equivalent to the 98th percentile.

| A Class  
|----------------|----------------------|
| Pumping would be permitted when flows are greater than 2 ML/day and equal to or less than 81 ML/day at the Gloucester River at Gloucester Gauge on a falling river. This is equivalent to the 50th percentile.

| B Class  
|----------------|----------------------|
| Pumping would be permitted when flows are greater than 81 ML/day at the Gloucester River at Gloucester Gauge.

Commence to pump  |  Very low flow class  
|----------------|----------------------|
| After a cease to pump event has been triggered, pumping would not be permitted until flows have exceeded 3 ML/day at the Gloucester River at Gloucester Gauge on a rising river. This is equivalent to the 97th percentile.

**Licensed water entitlement**

There are 82 surface water licences in the Upper Gloucester River Water Source, totalling 6,572 ML/year.

There is one groundwater licence in the Upper Gloucester River Water Source, totalling 18 ML/year.

There is one Local Water Utility Access Licence in the Upper Gloucester River Water Source, totalling 30 ML/year.

**Water source context**  
**River flows**

*Note.* The flow figures in the below table are based on updated data, therefore the percentile values may differ slightly from those referred to in the Plan.
Average annual rainfall | 1 292 mm.  
---|---
Low flow index* | Gloucester River at Gloucester.  
99th%ile (all months) = 0.8 ML/day.  
98th%ile (all months) = 2 ML/day.  
95th%ile (all months) = 8 ML/day.  
Flow records | 12 years of data for Gloucester River at Gloucester Gauge.  
Inflowing water source | Nil.  
Stream type | Gaining.  
Receiving water source | Manning River Tidal Pool, Lower Barrington/Gloucester Rivers, Lower Manning River.  
* 98 per cent of the time average daily flow exceeds 2 ML/day and this represents low flows.

Key factors

The Upper Gloucester River Water Source contains high instream values and platypus have been identified in this water source.

There is significant irrigation in the Upper Gloucester River Water Source:

- hydrologic stress is high,
- peak extraction in December exceeds available flows,
- the relative economic significance of irrigation in the catchment is high.

The proposed cease to pump rules strike a balance between the socio economic needs of users and the ecological values in this water source.

DPI Water is seeking feedback from water users on these changes.

Feedback sought

Feedback is sought on how the alternative cease to pump rules being considered would affect water users in this water source.

Face to face meeting are being scheduled at Gloucester on Tuesday 5th July and Wingham on Wednesday 6th July to help water users understand how these possible changes may affect them.

If you wish to arrange a face to face meeting please call 0438 175 617 prior to 1 July 2016 to arrange a time.

If you wish to write a submission; please ensure these are received through the methods listed below by Friday 5 August 2016:

- emailed to lncwsp.review@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- posted to Attn. LNC Water Sharing Plan, c/o DPI Water, PO Box 2213, Dangar, NSW 2309
- faxed to (02) 4904 2503 – Attn. LNC Water Sharing Plan.
All verbal and written responses will be referred to the Interagency Regional Panel who will make recommendations to the NSW Minister for Lands and Water on the final access rules.