

Report card for the Oaky River Water Source

Water source context		River flows	
Area	24,232 hectares (48% forested)	Low flow index* (for November)	80th%ile = 6 ML/day (Source. Stressed Rivers Assessment Report 1999)
Average annual rainfall	1,004 mm	Flow records	31 years of data from Oaky River gauge @ Kempsey Road Bridge (discontinued). 11 years of data from Oaky River gauge @ Yooroonah No. 1 (discontinued). 13 years of data from Oaky River gauge @ Yooroonah No. 2 (discontinued). 27 years of data from Oaky River gauge above Oaky Dam (The Falls) (discontinued).
Inflowing water source	None	Stream type	Gaining
Receiving water source	Chandler Gorge	* 80 per cent of the time average daily flow exceeds 6 ML/day and this represents low flows.	

Background Information		
Water Source Attributes	Rating	Justification
Relative Instream Value (within catchment)	MEDIUM	- 6 threatened frog species. - significant area of National Park.
Hydrologic Stress	LOW	- within water source = low. - peak extraction demand is significantly less than available flows in November.
Relative Economic Significance of Irrigation (within catchment)	LOW	- low economic dependence of the local community on water extracted for irrigation. - medium value of production from irrigation.
Risk to Instream Value (from extraction)	LOW	- instream values are at low risk of being impacted by extractions within the water source.
Licensed water entitlement		
Total surface water entitlement	65 ML/year.	
Licensed purpose	69% used for irrigation, 15% for industrial purposes, 14% used for stock.	
Proportion of extraction management unit	< 1% 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	No existing cease to pump.
Reference point	No existing reference point.
Water user association	None.

Recommendations

Draft access rules for surface waters	
Cease to pump	<p>Pumping is not permitted from natural pools when the water level in the pool is lower than its full capacity.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Note: 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>Note: 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>
Reference point	Individual natural pool.
<p>Note: Existing <i>Water Act 1912</i> licence conditions that are more stringent than these access rules will be carried forward.</p> <p>Note: These access rules do not apply to:</p> <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, 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, Salisbury Waters, Stockyard Creek, Styx River, Tia River, Toorumbree Creek, Warbro Creek, Yarrowitch River water sources but only up to a maximum of 221ML
WITHIN water source	Permitted, subject to assessment.
Draft rules for granting access licences	
In-river dams	<p>Permitted, subject to assessment.</p> <p>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.</p>

Aboriginal community development	Permitted up to a total volume of 230 ML (commence to pump of 110 ML/day) Note: Aboriginal Community Development entitlement (that provides access to high flow events) cannot be issued in water sources that are without an appropriate gauge. Despite the absence of a gauge a homogeneity study undertaken by the NOW has shown that the Styx River Water Source is sufficiently similar in nature to allow the Styx River Gauge @ Jegola to be used as the appropriate gauge for the Oakly River Water Source. Accordingly Aboriginal Community Development entitlement may be issued in the Oakly River Water Source.
Conversion to high flows	Not permitted.
Conversion to alluvial aquifer access licence	N/A.

Key factors for Panel decisions

- Medium instream value, low hydrologic stress, low risk to instream value and low economic dependence.
- The most basic access rule proposed due to no suitable reference points other than the pump site.

Public exhibition

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

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