

Report card for the Blue Mountain Creek Water Source

Water source context		River flows	
Area	42,330 hectares (38% forested)	Low flow index* (for November)	80th%ile = 0 ML/day (Source. Stressed Rivers Assessment Report 1999)
Average annual rainfall	876 mm	Flow records	Low flow index calculated from nearest suitable gauging station (outside of water source)
Inflowing water source	None	Stream type	Gaining
Receiving water source	Macleay Gorges	* 80 per cent of the time average daily flow exceeds 0 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"> - 6 threatened frog 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 November.
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. - low value of production from irrigation.
Risk to Instream Value (from extraction)	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - instream values are at low risk of being impacted by extractions within the water source.
Licensed water entitlement		
Total surface water entitlement	261 ML/year.	
Licensed purpose	97% used for irrigation purposes.	
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, only if the total licensed entitlement in the water source does not increase (no net gain) from, Apsley Gorge, Apsley River, Bakers 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, Toorumbec Creek, Warbro Creek, Yarrowitch River.
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	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.

Key factors for decisions

- Medium instream value, high hydrologic stress, low risk to instream value and low economic dependence.
- The most basic access rule proposed due to no gauging station or suitable reference point other than the pump site in the water source.

Public exhibition

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

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