



**Water Sharing Plan Report Card
Inland Groundwater Sources**

Water Sharing Plan	Grade	ENVIRONMENTAL WATER PROVISIONS EHW - Environmental Health Water SEW - Supplementary Health Water AEW - Adaptive Environmental Water	Significant ecological features	Bottom-line requirements to deliver a 'healthy working groundwater source'
Upper and Lower Namoi Groundwater Source	E	<p>EHW (Clause 18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Average annual recharge reserved for the environment: 0% <p>Pursuant to Section 42(2) of the Act, the average annual recharge may be varied after 30 June 2007 following further recharge studies undertaken by the Minister for groundwater ecosystem dependency and Aboriginal cultural values associated with GDEs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ However the extent of the impact of this change on access by licence holders is limited under provisions contained in Clause 28. <p>Licensed entitlement reductions (Clause 25)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Decreased to 100% in first year, except Zones 1 and 5 which are to be decreased to 125% in the first year. <p>Protection of GDEs (Clause 39)</p> <p>Basic landholder rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Extraction excluded within 100m of high priority GDE, or any creek or river, or where impact may occur on Aboriginal cultural heritage values for a new or replacement bore. <p>All other access licences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Extraction excluded within 200m high priority GDE, or any creek or river, or where impact may occur on Aboriginal cultural heritage values for a new or replacement bore. ✘ Extraction excluded within 500m of a wetland. <p>Comments</p> <p>This draft WSP is particularly unacceptable given that aquifer compaction and subsidence has already occurred and permanently destroyed groundwater capacity in the Namoi Valley.</p> <p>Part A of the draft WSP concedes that 'best practice' methodology for determining aquifer water balances has only been used for two out of the 12 groundwater zones. Therefore, the Ecologically Sustainable Yield for the Upper and Lower Namoi Groundwater Source is at best a rough estimate.</p>	<p>Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems</p> <p>GDEs are not clearly defined or adequately understood.</p> <p>Provision exists to list high priority GDEs in Schedule 4 of the Plan. As yet none are listed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% of average annual recharge must be reserved for the environment. • Licensed entitlements must be reduced to 100% of the ecologically sustainable yield. • Section 42(2) clauses relating to aquifer drawdown. • Extraction should be excluded within 200m of designated 'high priority' GDEs, or any creek or river for those exercising basic landholder rights and 1 km for all other access licensees. <p>Verdict DO NOT GAZETTE</p>

Water Sharing Plan	Grade	ENVIRONMENTAL WATER PROVISIONS EHW - Environmental Health Water SEW - Supplementary Health Water AEW - Adaptive Environmental Water	Significant ecological features	Bottom-line requirements to deliver a 'healthy working groundwater source'
Lower Gwydir Groundwater Source	D	<p>EHW (Clause 18)</p> <p>✘ Average annual recharge reserved for the environment: 15%</p> <p>Pursuant to Section 42(2) of the Act, the average annual recharge may be varied by 30 June 2007 following further recharge studies undertaken by the Minister for groundwater ecosystem dependency.</p> <p>✘ However the extent of the impact of this change on access by licence holders is limited under provisions contained in Clause 28.</p> <p>Licensed entitlement reductions (Clause 25)</p> <p>✘ Decreased from 180% down to 125% in the first year.</p> <p>Protection of GDEs (Clause 39)</p> <p>Basic landholder rights Extraction from a new or replacement bore excluded within 100m of high priority GDE, or any creek or river.</p> <p>All other access licences Extraction from a new or replacement bore excluded within 200m of high priority GDE, or any creek or river.</p> <p>Comments NCC representatives on the WMC have dissented to the WSP on the basis that an insufficient volume of the recharge is allocated to the environment.</p>	<p>Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems</p> <p>DLWC acknowledge that GDEs exist within and adjacent to the Gwydir Groundwater Management Area. (WMC Minutes No 14 – dated 6/9/02). The ecological effects of groundwater extraction on GDEs is not yet known.</p> <p>Provision exists to list high priority GDEs in Schedule 5 of the Plan. As yet none are listed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% of average annual recharge must be reserved for the environment. • Licensed entitlements must be reduced to 100% of the ecologically sustainable yield. • Section 42(2) clauses relating to aquifer drawdown. • Extraction should be excluded within 200m of designated 'high priority' GDEs, or any creek or river for those exercising basic landholder rights and 1 km for all other access licensees. <p>Verdict DO NOT GAZETTE</p>

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Lower Macquarie Groundwater Source	D	<p>EHW (Clause 18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Average annual recharge reserved for the environment: 15% <p>Pursuant to Section 42(2) of the Act, the proportion of average annual recharge may be varied by 30 June 2006 based on further studies of groundwater ecosystem dependency and Aboriginal cultural heritage undertaken by the Minister by 30 June 2004.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ However the extent of the impact of this change on access by licence holders is limited under provisions contained in Clause 28. <p>Licensed entitlement reductions (Clause 25)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Decreased to 150% by June 2005 and 125% by 2011. <p>Protection of GDEs (Clause 39)</p> <p>Basic landholder rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Extraction from a new or replacement bore excluded within 100m of high priority GDEs, and 40m of any river. <p>All other access licences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Extraction from a new or replacement bore excluded within 200m of high priority GDEs, and 40m of any river. <p>Comments</p> <p>Entitlement reductions at such a slow rate are particularly unacceptable.</p> <p>An NCC representative and the EPA representative on the WMC have dissented to this WSP on the basis that an insufficient volume of the recharge is allocated to the environment.</p>	<p>Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems</p> <p>GDEs are not clearly defined or adequately understood.</p> <p>Provision exists to list high priority GDEs in Schedule 4 of the Plan. As yet none are listed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% of average annual recharge must be reserved for the environment. • Licensed entitlements must be reduced to 100% of the ecologically sustainable yield. • Section 42(2) clauses relating to aquifer drawdown. • Extraction of shallow groundwater must be excluded within 200 m of designated GDEs, or any creek or river for those exercising basic landholder rights, and 1 km for all other access licenses. <p>Verdict DO NOT GAZETTE</p>

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Lower Lachlan Groundwater Source	D	<p>EHW (Clause 18)</p> <p>✘ Average annual recharge reserved for the environment: 20%</p> <p>Pursuant to Section 42(2) of the Act, the proportion of average annual recharge may be varied after 30 June 2006 based on further studies of Aboriginal cultural heritage and groundwater ecosystem dependency undertaken by the Minister by June 2005.</p> <p>✘ However the extent of the impact of this change on access by licence holders is limited under provisions contained in Clause 28.</p> <p>Licensed entitlement reductions (Clause 25)</p> <p>✘ Decreased from 180% down to 150% by the end of year 5, 125% by the end of year 10.</p> <p>Protection of GDEs (Clause 39)</p> <p>Basic landholder rights Extraction from a new or replacement bore excluded within 100m of high priority GDEs, and 40m of any river.</p> <p>All other access licences Extraction from a new or replacement bore excluded within 200m of high priority GDEs, and 40m of any river.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>Entitlement reductions at such a slow rate are particularly unacceptable, especially given current extraction is over the sustainable yield.</p> <p>NCC representatives on the WMC have dissented to this WSP on the basis that an insufficient volume of the recharge is allocated to the environment, and the shallow aquifer in zone 1 is not sufficiently defined or protected. Further, there are concerns about the water quality in this zone and the need to protect GDEs and Aboriginal sites of significance.</p>	<p>Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems</p> <p>GDEs are not clearly defined or adequately understood.</p> <p>Provision exists to list high priority GDEs in Schedule 5 of the Plan. As yet none are listed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% of average annual recharge must be reserved for the environment. • Licensed entitlements must be reduced to 100% of the ecologically sustainable yield. • Section 42(2) clauses relating to aquifer drawdown. • Extraction of shallow groundwater must be excluded within 200 m of designated GDEs, or any creek or river for those exercising basic landholder rights, and 1 km for all other access licenses. <p>Verdict DO NOT GAZETTE</p>

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Lower Murrumbidgee Groundwater Source	B	<p>EHW (Clause 18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Average annual recharge reserved for the environment: 30% Made up of 85% of the Shepparton aquifer and 20% of leakage from the Calivil and Renmark aquifers. ✓ Pursuant to Section 42(2) of the Act, the proportion of recharge may be varied by the Minister following further recharge studies by 30 June 2007, to 30% of average annual recharge. <p>Licensed entitlement reductions (Clause 25)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Decreased to 150% by 2007, and 125% by 2012. <p>Protection of GDEs (Clause 39) Basic landholder rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Extraction from a new or replacement bore excluded within 200m of designated high priority GDEs, or any creek or river. <p>All other access licences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Extraction from a new or replacement bore excluded within 1000m of designated high priority GDEs, or any creek or river. <p>Comments Of all the inland groundwater WSPs, this Plan contains provisions that are most likely to protect the groundwater source and its dependent ecosystems.</p>	<p>Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems</p> <p>The Shepparton Aquifer is a shallow aquifer that typically supports GDEs. NCC and IRN supports the protection of 85% of the recharge because of the 20% leakage from the Calivil and Renmark aquifers.</p> <p>Provision exists to list high priority GDEs in Schedule 5 of the Plan. As yet none are listed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed entitlements must be reduced to 100% of the ecologically sustainable yield. <p>Verdict GAZETTE</p>

LEGEND

Grade	Explanation
A	An excellent Water Sharing Plan. Should be gazetted without further modification.
B	A good Water Sharing Plan. Some minor modifications should be made prior to gazettal.
C	An average Water Sharing Plan. Requires some major modification prior to gazettal.
D	A bad Water Sharing Plan. Should be substantially re-written in terms of its environmental provisions.
E	An appalling Water Sharing Plan that should be completely re-written.