

**Water Sharing Plan Report Card
Inland Unregulated Rivers**

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 river'
Phillips Creek, Mooki River, Quirindi Creek and Warrah Creek (Namoi Valley)	E	<p>EHW (Clause 21) Environmental Health Water has been identified for the flow classes in each of the water sources that make up this WSP. However it is difficult to assess whether the flow volumes involved will adequately 'protect the water source and its dependent ecosystems'. This is of particular concern when the river is in 'Very Low Flow' and 'A Class' conditions, and when fish species are particularly vulnerable.</p> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Section 42(2) clauses allowing for very low flow levels to be altered following field verification (Clause 69 and 70), ✗ however the ability to change the volume of very low flows protected is not determined by ecological requirements, but by preset parameters. ✗ The Minister may consider applications for in-river dams within this water source (Clause 66). 	<p>Threatened fish species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olive Perchlet • Purple-spotted Gudgeon • Silver Perch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very low flows must be verified and increased where necessary to a level that ensures stream connectivity on at least 95% of the days that the water source is flowing. • Environmental base flows must be fully protected from Stock and Domestic, and Town Water Supply pumping. • There must not be any increase in the volume of water entitlements on account of rural subdivisions. • The Mooki River C1 Class BAR must be reduced from 80% to 60% within two years, consisting of a reduction to 70% in year one and a reduction to 60% in year two. • The reassignment of entitlements from A and B Class to C Class flows must not impact upon the environments' share of water. • Strategies must be investigated by which the BAR entitlement is reduced to a level that is ecologically sustainable. • Trading rules should have flexibility to allow for environmental outcomes. <p>Verdict DO NOT GAZETTE</p>

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Tenterfield Creek (NSW Border Rivers Valley)	E	<p>EHW (Clause 21) This water source has been divided into a number of sub-catchments or zones according to the flow conditions within that part of the catchment. Whilst Environmental Health Water has been identified for each of the flow classes in each of the zones, it is difficult to assess whether the flow volumes involved will adequately 'protect the water source and its dependent ecosystems'. This is of particular concern when the river is in 'Very Low Flow' and 'A Class' conditions, and when fish species are particularly vulnerable.</p> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Water users are allowed to pump below the cease-to-pump level for the first 8 years of the Plan and allows users to pump out of pools after the creek has ceased flowing restricted by a height limit in the pools. ✓ Section 42(2) clauses allowing for very low flow levels to be altered following field verification (Clause 70 and 71), ✘ however the ability to change the volume of very low flows protected is not determined by ecological requirements, but by preset parameters. ✘ The Minister may consider applications for in-stream dams within this water source (Clause 67). 	<p>Threatened fish species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olive Perchlet • Purple-spotted Gudgeon • Silver Perch <p>Threatened terrestrial species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Brown Bittern • Black-necked Stork • Black-throated Finch • Glossy Black Cockatoo • Magpie Goose • Regent Honeyeater Square-tailed Kite • Swift Parrot • Turquoise Parrot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water users must be required to comply with the proposed cease-to-pump level by the third year of the Plan. • Very low flows must be verified and increased where necessary to a level that ensures stream connectivity on at least 95% of the days that the water source is flowing. • Environmental base flows must be fully protected from Stock and Domestic, and Town Water Supply pumping. <p>Verdict DO NOT GAZETTE</p>
Adelong Creek (Murrumbidgee Valley)	D	<p>EHW (Clause 16) Environmental Health Water has been identified for the different classes of water. However it is difficult to assess whether the flow volumes involved will adequately 'protect the water source and its dependent ecosystems'. This is of particular concern when the river is in 'Very Low Flow' and 'A Class' conditions, and when fish species are particularly vulnerable.</p> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ No Section 42(2) clauses allowing for very low flow levels to be altered following field verification (Clause 70 and 71). ✘ The Minister may consider applications for in-stream dams within this water source (Clause 58). 	<p>Threatened fish species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macquarie Perch • Silver Perch • Southern Pygmy Perch • Trout Cod <p>Threatened terrestrial species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Bell Frog 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Section 42(2) clause must be included allowing for very low flow levels to be altered following field verification. • Very low flows must be verified and increased where necessary to a level that ensures stream connectivity on at least 95% of the days that the water source is flowing. • Environmental base flows must be fully protected from Stock and Domestic, and Town Water Supply pumping. <p>Verdict DO NOT GAZETTE</p>

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Tarcutta Creek (Murrumbidgee Valley)	C	<p>EHW (Clause 21) Environmental Health Water has been identified for the different classes of water. However it is difficult to assess whether the flow volumes involved will adequately 'protect the water source and its dependent ecosystems'. This is of particular concern when the rivers are in 'Very Low Flow' and 'A Class' conditions, and when fish species are particularly vulnerable.</p> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Section 42(2) clauses allowing for very low flow levels to be altered following field verification (Clause 71 and 72), ✗ however the ability to change the volume of very low flows protected is not determined by ecological requirements, but by preset parameters. ✗ The Minister may consider applications for in-stream dams within this water source (Clause 68). 	<p>Threatened fish species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macquarie Perch • Silver Perch • Southern Pygmy Perch • Trout Cod <p>Threatened terrestrial species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regent Honeyeater • Southern Bell Frog 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very low flows must be verified and increased where necessary to a level that ensures stream connectivity on at least 95% of the days that the water source is flowing. • Environmental base flows must be fully protected from Stock and Domestic, and Town Water Supply pumping. <p>Verdict GAZETTE</p>
Upper Billabong (NSW Murray Valley)	C	<p>EHW (Clause 21) Environmental Health Water has been identified for the different classes of water. However it is difficult to assess whether the flow volumes involved will adequately 'protect the water source and its dependent ecosystems'. This is of particular concern when the rivers are in 'Very Low Flow' and 'A Class' conditions, and when fish species are particularly vulnerable.</p> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Section 42(2) clauses allowing for very low flow levels to be altered following field verification (Clause 69 and 70), ✗ however the ability to change the volume of very low flows protected is not determined by ecological requirements, but by preset parameters. ✗ The Minister may consider applications for in-stream dams within this water source (Clause 66). 	<p>Threatened fish species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Pygmy Perch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very low flows must be increased where necessary to a level that ensures stream connectivity on at least 95% of the days that the water source is flowing. • Environmental base flows must be fully protected from Stock and Domestic, and Town Water Supply pumping. • Limit extractions to the current peak daily demand. <p>Verdict GAZETTE</p>

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Castlereagh River above Binnaway (Castlereagh Valley)	B	<p>EHW (Clause 21) This water source has been divided into a number of sub-catchments or zones according to the flow conditions within that part of the catchment. Whilst Environmental Health Water has been identified for each of the flow classes in each of the zones, it is difficult to assess whether the flow volumes involved will adequately 'protect the water source and its dependent ecosystems'. This is of particular concern when the river is in 'Very Low Flow' and 'A Class' conditions, and when fish species are particularly vulnerable.</p> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Section 42(2) clauses allowing for the alteration of Very Low Flow levels (Clause 71) and establish C Class thresholds (Clause 73) following field verification, ✗ however the ability to change the volume of very low flows protected is not determined by ecological requirements, but by preset parameters. ✓ No new in-stream dams will be approved within this water source (Clause 68). 	<p>Threatened fish species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olive Perchlet • Purple-spotted Gudgeon • Silver Perch • Southern Pygmy Perch • Macquarie Perch <p>Threatened terrestrial species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Bell Frog 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very low flows must be verified and increased where necessary to a level that ensures stream connectivity on at least 95% of the days that the water source is flowing. • Environmental base flows must be fully protected from Stock and Domestic, and Town Water Supply pumping. <p>Verdict GAZETTE</p>
Mandagery Creek (Lachlan Valley)	B	<p>EHW (Clause 21) This water source has been divided into a number of sub-catchments or zones according to the flow conditions within that part of the catchment. Whilst Environmental Health Water has been identified for each of the flow classes in each of the zones, it is difficult to assess whether the flow volumes involved will adequately 'protect the water source and its dependent ecosystems'. This is of particular concern when the river is in 'Very Low Flow' and 'A Class' conditions, and when fish species are particularly vulnerable.</p> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Section 42(2) clauses allowing for very low flow levels to be altered following field verification (Clause 70 and 71), and for the establishment of EHW for C class licences (Clause 72), ✗ however the ability to change the volume of very low flows protected is not determined by ecological requirements, but by preset parameters. ✓ No new in-stream dams will be approved within this water source (Clause 58). 	<p>Threatened fish species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macquarie Perch • Silver Perch <p>Threatened terrestrial species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Bell Frog 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very low flows must be verified and increased where necessary to a level that ensures stream connectivity on at least 95% of the days that the water source is flowing. • Environmental base flows must be fully protected from Stock and Domestic, and Town Water Supply pumping. <p>Verdict GAZETTE</p>

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Rocky Creek, Cobbadah, Upper Horton and Lower Horton (Gwydir Valley)	B	EHW (Clause 21) Environmental Health Water has been identified for the different classes of water. However it is difficult to assess whether the flow volumes involved will adequately 'protect the water source and its dependent ecosystems'. This is of particular concern when the rivers are in 'Very Low Flow' and 'A Class' conditions, and when fish species are particularly vulnerable. Comments ✓ Section 42(2) clauses allowing for very low flow levels to be altered following field verification (Clause 70 and 71), ✗ however the ability to change the volume of very low flows protected is not determined by ecological requirements, but by preset parameters. ✓ No new in-stream dams will be approved within this water source (Clause 67).	Threatened fish species • Olive Perchlet • Purple-spotted Gudgeon • Silver Perch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very low flows must be verified and increased where necessary to a level that ensures stream connectivity on at least 95% of the days that the water source is flowing. • Environmental base flows must be fully protected from Stock and Domestic, and Town Water Supply pumping. Verdict GAZETTE

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.