

Approval to take under Temporary Water Restrictions



Responsive management of temporary water restrictions

Approval to take from Namoi, Gwydir and Barwon under Temporary Water Restriction (Northern Basin) (Floodplain Harvesting) Order 2020

Water may be taken for the purpose of floodplain harvesting in accordance with the exemptions under the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018* for the floodplain (or part of the floodplain) as described in the table below.

The temporary water restriction is in place until 28 February 2020.

| Floodplain | Approval Period (inclusive) |
|--|---|
| Lower Namoi Valley Floodplain within following water sources specified in the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Namoi Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2012</i> : Pian Creek, Lower Namoi, and Barandine Creek | 10 th February to 13 th February 2020 |
| Barwon-Darling Floodplain within the following water sources specified in the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Namoi Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2012</i> : Pian Creek, and Barandine Creek | |
| Gwydir Valley Floodplain within the following water sources specified in the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Gwydir Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2012</i> : Mehi River, Barwon, and Thalaba Creek | |
| Barwon-Darling Floodplain within the following water sources specified in the <i>water sharing plan for the Gwydir unregulated and alluvial water sources 2012</i> : Mehi River, Barwon, and Thalaba Creek | |

Further details about the temporary water restriction can be found on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment website.

Reasons for Approval

Over the last 3 days there has been in excess of 250mm of rain in some locations across the Namoi and lower Gwydir. This has resulted in large volumes of overland flow on the floodplains in these areas, as well as flash flooding.

All interim flow targets have been met in the Namoi valley, and it is now forecast that interim targets will be met at Tilpa, and possibly Wilcannia, on the Barwon Darling system. Flow forecasting indicates that flows will not be adequate enough to provide any flows into the lower Darling system.

Flows from the Mehi have been backing up due to high flows in the Barwon Darling.

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The main intent of lifting this order to minimise flood impacts, and allow farmers to move water around their property to avoid damage to on-farm infrastructure. The temporary lifting of this order will also allow some access to floodplain water.

Due to these conditions, I am satisfied there is sufficient water available for higher priority needs to approve the take of floodplain water at the locations, and for the period, specified in the Table above.

This approval is given in accordance with the Temporary Water Restriction (Northern Basin) (Floodplain Harvesting) Order 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'V. O'Keefe'.

Vanessa O'Keefe

A/Executive Director, Water Planning Policy and Sciences, Water Group

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

DATE: 10/02/2020

Note

See clause 39AA of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018* for an exemption in relation to a water supply work approval for the purpose of floodplain harvesting subject to certain conditions. See clause 17AA of Schedule 4 to the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018* for an exemption in relation to a water access licence for the purpose of floodplain harvesting subject to certain conditions.