

Floodplain harvesting

Gwydir Valley

Fact sheet

Floodplain harvesting refers to the collection, extraction or impoundment of any water flowing across a designated floodplain.

In relation to licensing, floodplain harvesting refers to the capture of rainfall runoff, whether contaminated or not, and overbank flow. The definition of floodplain harvesting has been outlined in the [NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy](#).

A floodplain harvesting licence authorises a water user to take water. Before water can be taken with a water supply work, that work must be nominated by a floodplain harvesting access licence.

To access information and resources relating to floodplain harvesting including forms, other fact sheets and guides, please visit the [WaterNSW website](#).

Gwydir Valley floodplain harvesting rules

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW) have [consulted with landholders](#) about the process of implementing rules and licensing frameworks for floodplain harvesting in the NSW northern basin.

The rules for floodplain harvesting access licences in the Gwydir Valley commenced on 15 August 2022. These rules apply to both regulated and unregulated floodplain harvesting water access licences and include access rules, measurement of take, water account management and dealings.

Gwydir Valley rule summaries

- [Gwydir Regulated River Water Source summary of rules](#)
- [Gwydir Unregulated River Water Source summary of rules](#)



Did you know?

WaterInsights is an interactive web tool, covering more than 800 water sources in NSW. WaterInsights offers comprehensive data from a range of systems. You can use WaterInsights to access information about the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source and Gwydir Unregulated River Water Source. We also encourage you to create an account to sign-up for relevant notifications.



Floodplain harvesting

How to become compliant

After the commencement of your floodplain harvesting access licence, you have 12 months to install primary metering equipment. To become compliant:

1. You need to engage a duly qualified person (DQP), who in the instance of floodplain harvesting is a Certified Storage Meter Validator (CSV). To find a DQP local to you, visit the [Irrigation Australia's website](#).
2. The DQP will discuss with you the installation method and measurement equipment required. Your DQP is responsible for registering, installing and validating your devices. They will also establish whether you need to update your storage curve.
Please note: Your work will only be registered as compliant once you have been issued a Validation Certificate. If you have not received your Validation Certificate, please contact your DQP.
3. There are two primary metering methods, **storage measurement** or **point-of-intake measurement**. You can view a list of eligible primary metering equipment information [here](#).

Measuring floodplain harvesting take

- The **storage measurement** method uses a sensor to measure the depth of the water within a storage. The change in volume of your storage is then calculated using the storage curve.
- The **point-of-intake** measurement method is where floodplain harvesting take is measured at the inflow points of an approved water supply work site. It requires specific metering equipment that aligns with the non-urban metering requirements to be installed.

To be eligible for this measurement method, a duly qualified person (DQP) or registered engineer, must approve this work. If you wish to use this method, it is recommended that you ask your DQP to contact WaterNSW.

Taking water with secondary equipment

As one year has passed in the Gwydir Valley since the date licences were issued, you must have a certified primary storage meter installed.

This means you are only authorised to use your secondary measurement device, if your primary measurement device is faulty. In this circumstance you must lodge an S91i using the [S91i self-reporting form](#).

You can find a list of secondary metering devices suitable [here](#).

Nominating a floodplain harvesting event

You can nominate your floodplain harvesting event through your [iWAS](#) account. Your floodplain harvesting event simply records that you commenced and ceased taking floodplain harvesting water. The duration of the nominated floodplain harvesting period is known as the 'measurement period'.

To assist you in nominating a floodplain harvesting event, please refer to our [how to nominate a measurement period guide](#).

The Data Acquisition Service (DAS) is where all your data is transmitted and can be viewed. Please [view our video](#) or [DAS user guide](#) for further information.



To access information relating to our water accounting system, please visit the [WaterNSW iWAS webpage](#).



As a licence or approval holder, you can easily view the details and conditions of your licence or approval on the [NSW Water Register](#).

If you need more information, please contact our Customer Service Centre on **1300 662 077**, Monday to Friday between 8am-5pm or email Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au