

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW ENVIROMENTAL WATER RULES NOW IN PLACE

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New rules to access water in several costal water systems are now in effect under a plan to protect water for all users and the environment for the next 10 years, Minister for Water, Phil Costa said today.

“Water is the lifeblood of our state and these plans will set in place the water sharing rules for the next 10 years to ensure we have clean healthy water supplies well into the future,” Mr Costa said.

“The plan outlines trigger points for accessing water to ensure no water is taken from our natural water supplies when water levels are low.

“These rules are essential for the sustainable management of this important resource – they provide industry with security and certainty of access and recognise the significance of water to Aboriginal people.”

Mr Costa said water sharing plans are a key component of the NSW Government’s State Plan to provide a secure and sustainable water supply for all users and improve the health of our riverine ecosystems.

“Water is a community resource which we all share and is our most vital asset – we need to strike a balance for the environment and for the community,” Mr Costa said.

“The plan involved extensive consultation with water users, the agriculture industry and the community, to ensure a balance for water users and the environment.

Mr Costa said the plan will enhance water trading, giving users greater flexibility in deciding how to run their business.

“Water sharing plans is essential to provide security and certainty of access for industries that rely on this important resource,” Mr Costa said.

“Water licence holders affected by the plans will receive information on what the plan means to their respective activities for accessing water.”

Copies of the water sharing plans for the;

- Central Coast Unregulated Water Sources
- Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources
- Lower North Coast Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources
- Coffs Harbour Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources can be obtained from the Department of Water and Energy website – www.dwe.nsw.gov.au
- The plans took effect 1 August 2009.

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