

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Phil Costa**  
**Minister for Water**  
**Minister for Regional Development**



**Embargo 9 October 2009**

### **DRAFT TOWAMBA RIVER WATER SHARING PLAN NOW ON EXHIBITION**

NSW Water Minister, Phillip Costa, today asked local farmers, industry groups and the wider community to comment on the draft Towamba River water sharing plan for the area's unregulated rivers and alluvial groundwater.

Minister Costa said the draft plan provided a balance for water users and the environment.

“Unregulated rivers and alluvial groundwater aquifers are extremely valuable to the people of NSW,” Mr Costa said.

“Our coastal rivers are home to some of the state’s most significant ecosystems, and the bulk of our aquatic biodiversity.

“Just as importantly, they support a burgeoning coastal population, possess invaluable estuarine areas, and sustain significant irrigation industries.

“This draft Plan covers the coastal catchments from Wallagoot Lake to the Victorian border and includes the towns of Tathra, Merimbula, Pambula, Eden, Towamba and Wyndham,” Mr Costa added.

“The draft macro water sharing plan was developed after targeted consultation with key stakeholder groups.

“This is the next of a series of macro water sharing plans being prepared across the state for unregulated rivers and alluvial groundwater to be placed on public exhibition.

“Unregulated rivers and alluvial groundwater play an important role in providing water for the long-term security for local farming, industries, towns and the environment. If the water resources are under threat, so are they.

“Once finalised, the water sharing plan will be in place for ten years, giving security and certainty for water users and the environment.”

The draft Towamba River water sharing plan is on public exhibition for a period of 40 days until 16 November 2009.

Copies of the draft plan, background document to the draft plan, a guide to the plan, water source report cards and submission forms can be obtained from:

- NSW Office of Water, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water - Suite 2, Bega Centre, 106 Auckland Street, Bega Phone 02 6491 8200
- [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

The draft plan can be viewed at the following locations:

- Wyndham General Store, Monaro Street, Wyndham
- Oaklands Barn and Garden Centre, 3564 Princes Highway, Pambula

- Bega Valley Shire Council, Zingel Place, Bega

Public information sessions will be held at the following locations:

- Wyndham Hall, Corner of Gordon and Clark Streets, Wyndham, Tuesday 20th October 2009, 6:00pm to 7:30pm

How to make a submission:

Email: TOWAMBAWSP@dnr.nsw.gov.au

Post: Andrew Craig

NSW Office of Water

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

PO Box 53

Wollongong NSW 2520

Fax: 02 4224 9730 (Attention: Andrew Craig)

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