



A Guide to the
Water Sharing Plan for the
**Dorrigo Plateau Surface Water Source and
the Dorrigo Basalt Groundwater Source**

(as amended 1 July 2004)

Additional information

This publication is a guide only. It is not intended to set out all the requirements of the water sharing plan. Anyone requiring details of how their legal rights are affected should refer to the gazetted water sharing plan.

Should you require further information on any aspect of water sharing in the Dorrigo Plateau, or a copy of the statutory plan, please contact:

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A Guide to the Water Sharing Plan for the Dorrigo Plateau Surface Water Source and the Dorrigo Basalt Groundwater Source

(as amended 1 July 2004)

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Introduction

This guide provides an explanation of the main sections of the Water Sharing Plan for the Dorrigo Plateau Surface Water Source and the Dorrigo Basalt Groundwater gazetted on 21 February 2003 and including the amendments gazetted on 1 July 2004.

The Plan commenced on 1 July 2004 and applies to 30 June 2014. It is a legal document made under the *Water Management Act 2000*. The Plan is implemented by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR).

The water sharing rules allocate water for the environmental needs of the water sources and direct how water is to be shared among different water users. For some water users, the water sharing rules are quite different to the pre-plan arrangements. The changes in the Plan are necessary to provide adequate protection for the environment, particularly during periods of low flow, and to ensure that the water sources are sustainable for the long-term. The Plan also more clearly defines the access rights of individual water **access licence** holders. However, a number of the Plan's provisions will be phased in over time as the required gauging and metering systems are put into place.

Many technical aspects of the water sharing rules are quite complex, and are not fully addressed in this summary guide. For specific details of the rules you should refer to the statutory plan (see *Additional information* for further details).

In some cases, new terminology has been introduced to ensure that the Plan is consistent with the Act. These new terms are highlighted in the text (**bold text**) and are explained in the glossary provided at the back of this guide.

Background

The Plan area includes two water sources, a surface water source - the rivers and creeks of the Dorrigo Plateau - and a groundwater source - the Dorrigo Basalt Aquifer. The Dorrigo Plateau is located in the south-western corner of the Clarence Catchment and forms the headwaters of the Nymboida River, a major tributary of the Clarence. A number of national parks are located downstream of the Plan area, as is the extraction point for the Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour water supply systems.

The surface water source covers an area of about 962 square kilometres and is dominated by rolling hills cleared for agriculture with pockets of vegetated gorge country. The groundwater source covers approximately 480 square kilometres. It overlaps with the southern portion of the surface water source.

Rivers on the Dorrigo Plateau flow most of the year due to contributions from groundwater. River flows have been measured for over 50 years. High flows tend to occur between March and May, with low flows occurring between September and December. It is during these low flow months that water demands for irrigation are high.

Surface water is extracted for a number of different uses, including the irrigation of fodder for beef and dairy grazing, cut flowers, and vegetables, particularly potatoes, as well as aquaculture, town water supply for Dorrigo and stock and domestic purposes. Groundwater is extracted mainly for stock and domestic purposes, however, the largest extraction is for commercial bottled water.

The Plan recognises that Dorrigo Plateau is an area of spiritual and cultural significance for the Gumbainggirr people.

Development of the Plan

A draft plan was prepared by the Upper North Coast Water Management Committee (established by the Minister as an advisory committee) and placed on public display by the Minister for Land and Water Conservation during 2002. The Committee included representatives of water users (dairy, horticulture, cropping, grazing and commercial fishing industries), environmental interests, Aboriginal communities, local councils and government agencies (the then Department of Land and Water Conservation, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Environment Protection Authority, NSW Agriculture and NSW Fisheries). During the development of the draft plan, the Committee held

public meetings and forums with specific interest groups, such as industry and water users, and consulted with representatives of the Gumbaingirr people.

The Plan was made by the Minister for Land and Water Conservation. It was based on the recommendations of the Water Management Committee, the submissions arising from the public display of the draft plan and agreed Government policy. Some subsequent amendments were made to the Plan and it commenced on 1 July 2004.

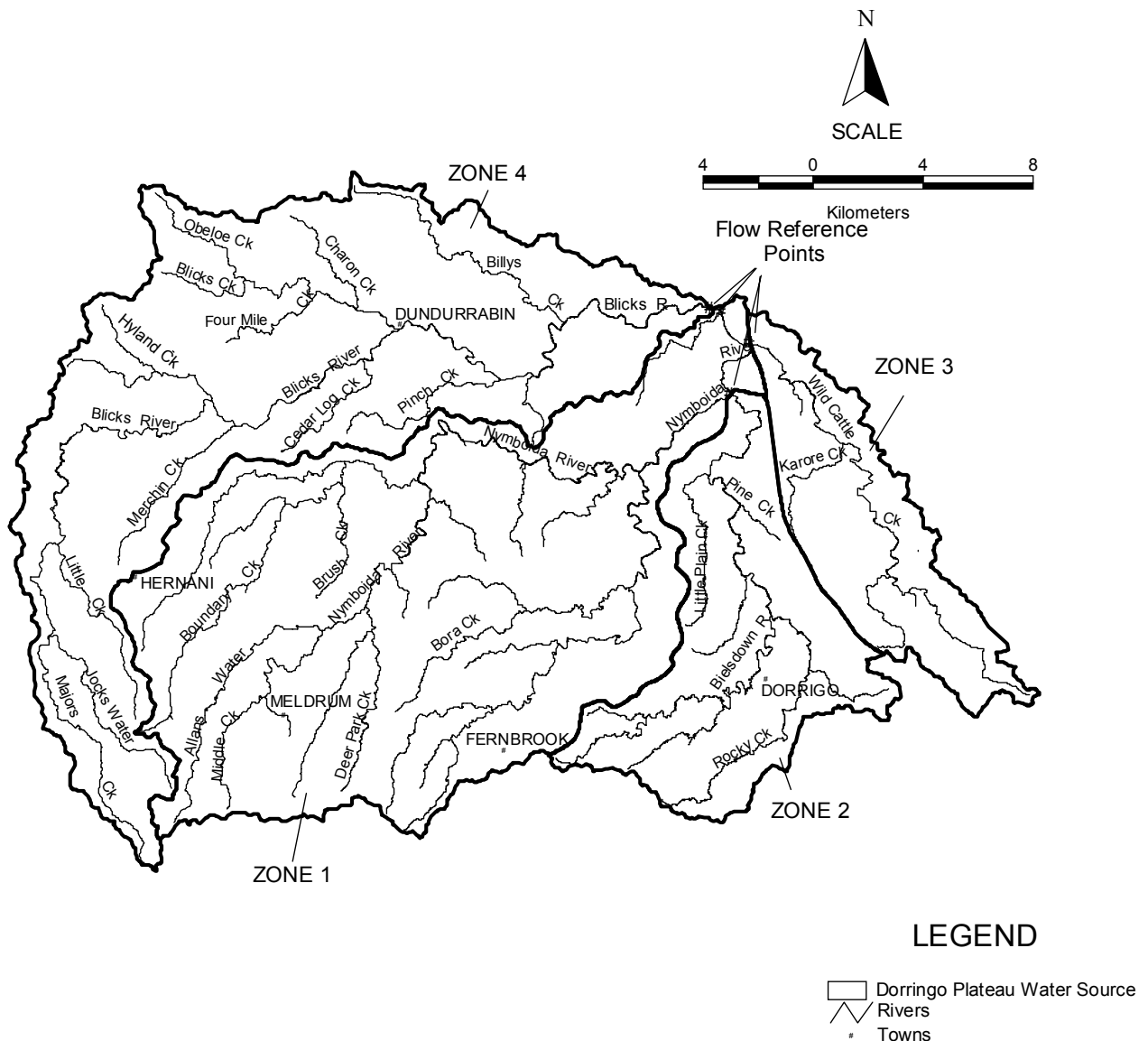
Area of the Plan

The Plan applies to the Dorrigo Plateau, its tributaries and the basalt aquifer as shown in the following two maps.

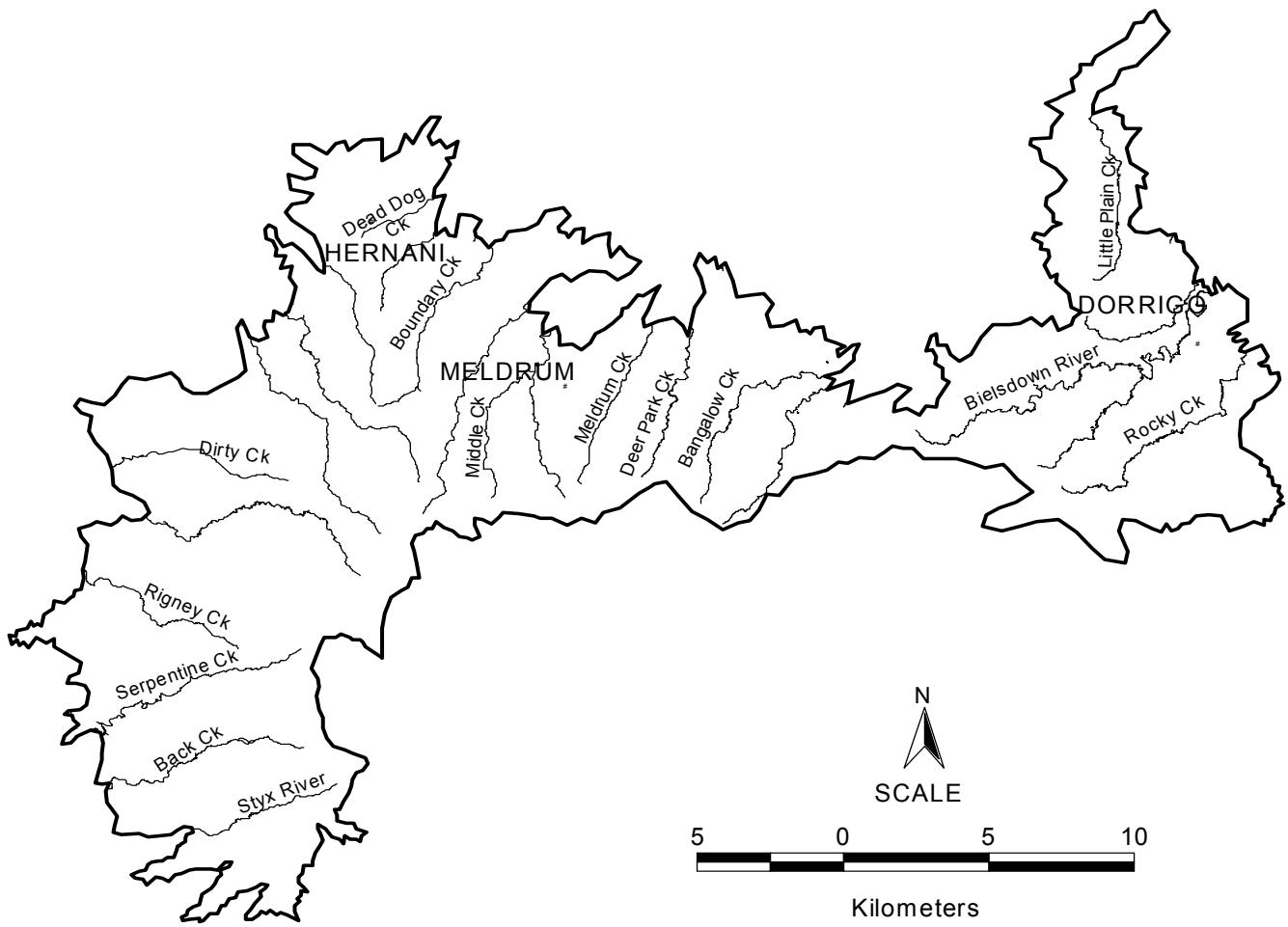
The surface water source is divided into four management zones:

- Zone 1 – Upper Nymboida River,
- Zone 2 – Bielsdown River,
- Zone 3 – Wild Cattle Creek, and
- Zone 4 – Blicks River.




MAP: Dorrigo Plateau Surface Water Source



MAP: Dorrigo Plateau Basalt Groundwater Source

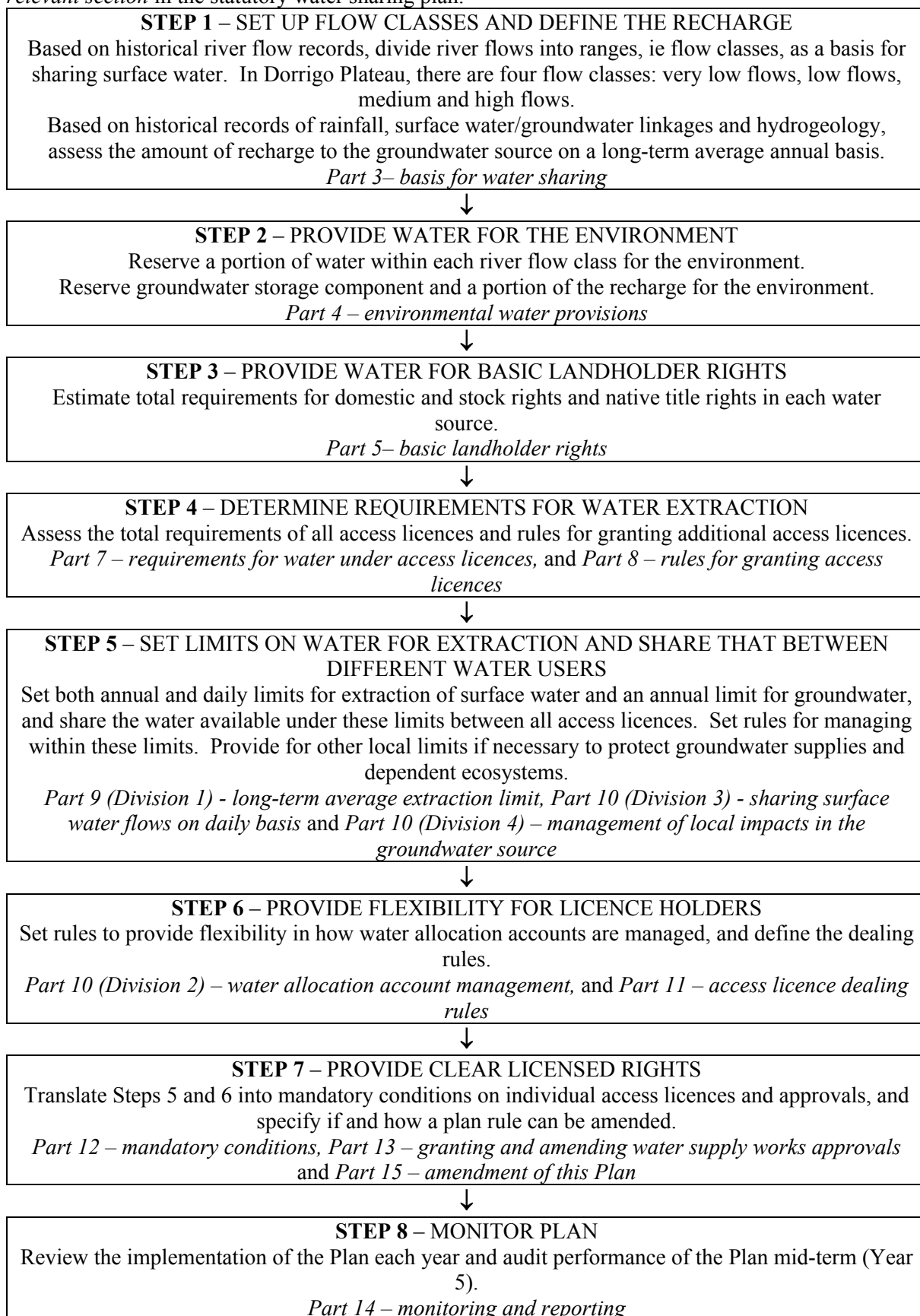


LEGEND

-  Dorrigo Basalt Groundwater Source
-  Rivers
-  Towns

How is water shared in the surface water & groundwater sources?

This chart shows how the rules of the Plan are put into effect and relates these 8 key steps to the *relevant section* in the statutory water sharing plan.



Vision

The vision of the Plan is to have informed, productive communities on the Dorrigo Plateau, living sustainably in a healthy environment by protecting:

- groundwater and surface water dependent ecosystems,
- the quality of water,
- natural and cultural values of national parks and reserves,
- security for domestic water supplies,
- access to flows for agricultural industries,
- Aboriginal cultural knowledge,
- low flows impacted by structures, and
- downstream flows and the health of the Clarence River,

through cooperatively managing water with greater equity and awareness.

Basis for water sharing

Dorrigo Plateau Surface Water Source is regarded as a stressed river system. This means that, relative to the natural flows in the river, the potential demand for extraction by water users is high. If everyone pumped water at the same time there would not be enough water for all existing water users and the environmental needs of the river.

Climate and river flows, and therefore the water available to meet all competing needs, vary from year-to-year and day-to-day. The Plan sets a limit, or a cap, on overall surface water extractions on an annual basis (the long-term average **extraction limit**) and also limits daily extractions (**total daily extraction limits - TDEL**).

The long-term average extraction limit is determined as one figure for all the unregulated rivers in the Nymboida catchment, not just for an individual surface water source such as Dorrigo Plateau. Extractions across this whole area – the Nymboida River **Extraction Management Unit** – will be monitored and any controls on annual extractions will be implemented across the Unit (this is discussed further in *Long-term average extraction limit*).

Over time, daily extractions will also be managed and controlled within the surface water source. This will be done through a series of **flow classes** covering the full range of flows that can occur in the surface water source on a daily basis. These flow classes will be introduced as the appropriate gauges and meters are installed. DIPNR will notify licence holders when the flow classes are to commence.

The daily flow classes in the Dorrigo Plateau Surface Water Source are:

TABLE: Flow classes in the Dorrigo Plateau Surface Water Source (ML/day)

| Flow Class* | Zone 1 | Zone 2 | Zone 3 | Zone 4 |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Very low flow class | less than 75 | less than 23 | less than 17 | less than 13 |
| Low flows or A class | 75 to 128 | 23 to 60 | 17 to 22 | 13 to 40 |
| Moderate flows or B class | 128 to 221 | 60 to 128 | 22 to 54 | 40 to 119 |
| High flows or C class | greater than 221 | greater than 128 | greater than 54 | greater than 119 |

(*as measured at the **flow reference point** at the downstream end of each zone).

Within each of these flow classes, the Plan defines how much water can be extracted under each category of water access licence. These are the **total daily extraction limits** (TDELS).

The Dorrigo Basalt Groundwater Source is considered to be at medium risk from over-extraction and contamination. The availability of groundwater differs across the groundwater source. The level of recharge to the groundwater source also varies from year-to-year. The Plan therefore uses the **average**

annual recharge as the basis for groundwater sharing. This is estimated at the start of the Plan at 50,000 megalitres per year (ML/year).

Environmental water provisions

The Act requires that water be allocated for the fundamental health of a river or aquifer and its dependent ecosystems as a first priority. The Plan does this by setting aside a proportion of each river flow class and a proportion of the recharge to the groundwater source for environmental needs.

In particular, the maintenance of water in the river during the very low flow periods is essential to provide refuge areas for fish and aquatic species. A cease to pump condition applies to the majority of water access licences (those known as unregulated river access licences which cover irrigation, farming, industrial uses) when the flow is:

- at or below 75 ML/day (for Zone 1),
- at or below 23 ML/day (for Zone 2),
- at or below 17 ML/day (for Zone 3), and
- at or below 13 ML/day (for Zone 4).

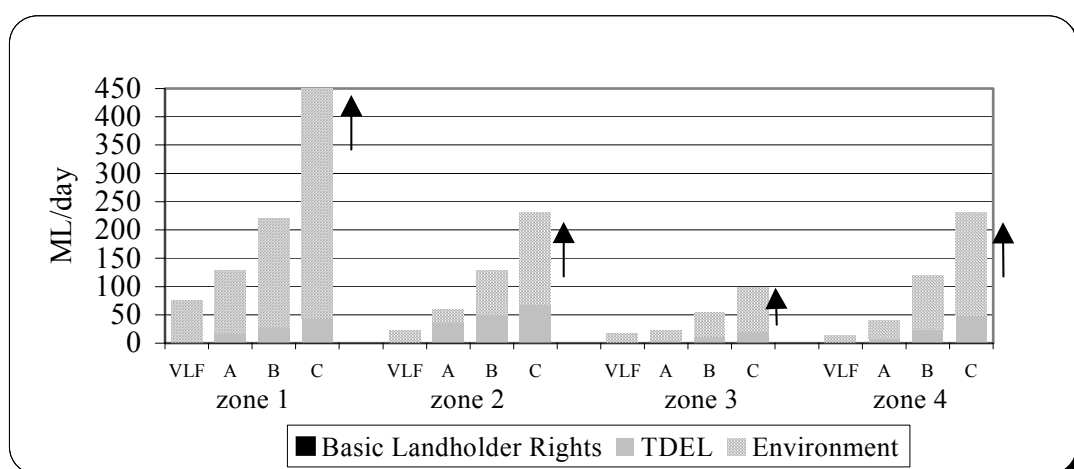
Limited volumes are available below this cease to pump threshold for:

- basic landholder rights
- local water utility access in Zone 2
- for water access licence holders listed in Schedule 7 that require continued access to water for hygiene and health purposes.

A standard amendment was made to all unregulated river water sharing plans allowing licence holders who historically required water for dairy washdown, fruit washing, poultry watering and animal hygiene to extract up to 20 kilolitres per day during very low flows periods. At the start of the plan, twenty such licence holders had been identified in the Dorrigo surface water source. A provision exists for licence holders to be added to Schedule 7 if they are identified at a later stage. Note: only licence holders existing at the start of the plan can be added to Schedule 7.

In the other flow classes (A, B and C), the TDEL will determine how much water can be taken by extractive users – the rest will remain in the river for the environment. The following diagram illustrates the broad relationship between the shares to the environment (at maximum flow) and to extractive water users in each flow class. Note that the upper limit on the ‘C class’ is dependent on river height, ie the environmental share will continue to increase as flow increases.

GRAPH: Dorrigo Plateau daily flow shares - zones 1 to 4



Managing the surface water source within the overall long-term average extraction limit ensures that the environmental provisions are protected from increases in water extraction. The environmental health water provisions will contribute to the protection of the surface water source for traditional Aboriginal use and to improved water quality.

In regard to the groundwater source, the Plan reserves the long-term average storage component (less extraction for basic landholder rights) and 90% of the average annual recharge for the environment. There are a range of ecosystems dependent on groundwater in the area and groundwater is also a significant contributor to base river flows during dry times.

Basic landholder rights

The Plan provides for domestic and stock rights and native title rights – both **basic landholder rights** which allow extraction of water from a river or aquifer and do not need to be licensed. They however require a **water supply works approval** for any bore or spearpoint.

At the start of the Plan, the water requirements for domestic and stock rights totalled 0.078 ML/day for the surface water source (0.03 ML/day in Zone 1, 0.02 ML/day in Zone 2, 0.008 ML/day in Zone 3, 0.02 ML/day in Zone 4) and 111.2 ML/year for the groundwater source. There are currently no extractions for native title rights from the surface water or groundwater sources. However, both forms of right may increase during the Plan's ten-year term.

Basic landholder rights can be restricted to protect the environment, for reasons of public health or to protect water availability for other basic landholder rights.

Requirements for water under access licences

Other than basic landholder rights, water extraction must be authorised under a water access licence.

There are different types and sub-categories of water access licences relevant to the Dorrigo water sources:

- local water utility – for town water supply purposes,
- domestic and stock – for those who cannot access water under basic landholder rights (ie their property does not directly front a river or overlie an aquifer),
- Aboriginal cultural – for personal, domestic and communal purposes (up to 10 ML/year per licence) by Aboriginal persons or communities,
- Aboriginal commercial – for commercial purposes (up to 10 ML/year per licence) by Aboriginal persons or communities
- research – for scientific research, experimentation or teaching (up to 10 ML/year per licence), provided any primary production resulting from the research program is not sold.
- unregulated river – this covers general commercial purposes such as irrigation, industry and farming from the river
- aquifer – this covers general commercial purposes such as irrigation, industry and farming from groundwater.

Each water access licence specifies a **share component**. The share component of specific purpose licences such as local water utility, domestic and stock, research, Aboriginal cultural and Aboriginal commercial is expressed as a number of megalitres. The share component of a general unregulated river or an aquifer access licence is expressed as a number of shares.

At the start of the Plan, the requirements for all categories of water access licences from the Dorrigo surface water source totalled 9,902 ML and from the Dorrigo Basalt groundwater source totalled 254 ML (1 share at the start of the plan is considered equivalent to 1 megalitre per year).

The total share component may change during the term of the Plan as a result of the granting or cancellation of licences, or because of variations to local water utility access licences. Towns may be granted an increased share component as a result of population growth and they, under certain

circumstances, may also receive credits for water returned to the surface water source from treated effluent.

Granting access licences

Additional general unregulated river access licences will not be granted. However exemptions apply for surface water licences for additional local utility supply, domestic and stock, Aboriginal cultural, Aboriginal commercial and research purposes (with a maximum application of 10 ML/year for the last three sub-categories).

In the groundwater source, applications can be made for Aboriginal cultural and research purposes. However the Minister may declare a controlled allocation order in the groundwater source allowing applications to be made for general purpose aquifer access licences. Once the total of the share components of all water access licences equals the extraction limit, no further aquifer access licences will be granted.

Long-term average extraction limits

In the surface water source, it is important that total annual extraction does not increase as this would threaten the security of supply to water users and the environmental provisions of the Plan. The long-term average **extraction limit** for the surface water source will be determined and managed across the entire Nymboida River Extraction Management Unit. If surface water extractions are exceeding the limit, then they must be reduced until they are brought back into line with this figure. This will be done through reductions in how much water can be extracted in the subsequent year by unregulated river access licences.

The long-term average extraction limit for the groundwater source is 5,000 ML/year. This is based on the **sustainable yield**, which is the recharge minus the proportion reserved for environmental health. With licensed share components totalling 254 ML at the start of the Plan, additional aquifer access licences may be granted up to the extraction limit.

The proportion of the recharge reserved for the environment may be varied, based on an assessment of the impacts, when total share components reach the extraction limit. This in turn will vary the extraction limit. The Plan however specifies that the extraction limit for the groundwater source may not be increased or decreased by more than 25%.

Available water determinations

At the start of each **water year**, on 1 July, an **available water determination** (AWD) is made defining how much of the share component is available under each category of water access licence.

The AWD for local water utility and domestic and stock access licences will be 100%. The AWD for unregulated river and aquifer access licences will normally be 1 megalitre per share but may be less if the extraction limit is being exceeded.

For the surface water sources in 2004/2005 special AWDs of 200% for local water utility and domestic and stock licences and 2 megalitres per share for unregulated river access licences were made to accord with previous agreed rules. This, combined with the carryover rules (see next section on *Water allocation accounts*), enables these licence holders to use up to twice their water allocation in a year provided that over a consecutive three year period they do not exceed the sum of their water allocations for those three years.

Water allocation accounts

A water allocation account has been established for each water access licence. Water is credited to the account when an AWD is made and debited when water is extracted.

For the groundwater source, at the end of each 12-month period, water allocation accounts are closed and a new allocation commences for the following year. There is no carry over of unused water between years.

For the surface water source, unused water can be carried over from one water year to the next up to a maximum of 100% of share component.

Sharing surface water flows on a daily basis

For water to be shared fairly amongst all surface water users and to ensure protection of the environmental water, limits are set on how much water can be taken from a particular flow class on a daily basis. The total daily extraction limit (TDEL) for water access licences in each flow class is as follows:

Table: Total daily extraction limits for water access licences in each flow class (ML/day)

| Flow Class | Zone 1 | Zone 2 | Zone 3 | Zone 4 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Very low flow class | *0 | 0* | 0* | 0* |
| Low flows or A class | 17.2 | 36 | 4.4 | 8 |
| Moderate flows or B class | 26.5 | 51.2 | 10.8 | 23.8 |
| High flows or C class | 43.5 | 69 | 21.2 | 48.6 |

*This is zero for the majority of water access licence holders. However licence holders in Schedule 7 are permitted to access limited volumes for dairy wash-down and hygiene purposes from the very low flow class. In Zone 2, access to very low flows of up to 1.5 ML/day is also allowed for local water utility purposes.

The TDEL assigned to various categories of water access licence in each zone for the A to C Classes is shown in the following tables.

TABLE: Total Daily Extraction Limits - Zone 1 (ML/day)

| Flow Class | Domestic and stock access licences | Unregulated river access licences | Unassigned | Total* |
|------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|--------|
| A Class | 0.1 | 8.8 | 8.3 | 17.2 |
| B Class | 0.1 | 8.8 | 17.6 | 26.5 |
| C Class | 0.1 | 8.8 | 34.6 | 43.5 |

* Water for basic landholder rights has been estimated at 0.03 ML/day for each flow class in Zone 1. This is in addition to the licensed TDELs.

TABLE: Total Daily Extraction Limits - Zone 2 (ML/day)

| Flow Class | Local water utility | Domestic and stock access licences | Unregulated river access licences | Unassigned TDEL | Total* |
|------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| A Class | 1.5 | 0.3 | 34.2 | 0 | 36 |
| B Class | 1.5 | 0.3 | 49.4 | 0 | 51.2 |
| C Class | 1.5 | 0.3 | 50.4 | 16.8 | 69 |

* Water for basic landholder rights has been estimated at 0.02 ML/day for each flow class in Zone 2. This is in addition to the licensed TDELs.

TABLE: Total Daily Extraction Limits - Zone 3 (ML/day)

| Flow Class | Domestic and stock access licences | Unregulated river access licences | Unassigned | Total* |
|------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|--------|
| A Class | 0.1 | 2 | 2.3 | 4.4 |
| B Class | 0.1 | 2 | 8.7 | 10.8 |
| C Class | 0.1 | 2 | 19.1 | 21.2 |

* Water for basic landholder rights has been estimated at 0.008 ML/day for each flow class in Zone 3. This is in addition to the licensed TDELs.

TABLE: Total Daily Extraction Limits - Zone 4 (ML/day)

| Flow Class | Domestic and stock access licences | Unregulated river access licences | Unassigned | Total* |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| A Class | 0.1 | 4.4 | 3.5 | 8 |
| B Class | 0.1 | 4.4 | 19.3 | 23.8 |
| C Class | 0.1 | 4.4 | 44.1 | 48.6 |

* Water for basic landholder rights has been estimated at 0.02 ML/day for each flow class in Zone 4. This is in addition to the licensed TDELS.

Except for some unregulated river access licences that currently have high flow conditions, all access licences will be able to extract water from each of the A, B and C flow classes. **Individual daily extraction limits (IDELs)** for each flow class will be specified on the water access licence. The Department will advise what the flow class is on any given day.

When the daily flow shares are introduced, group management will provide licence holders with more flexibility in the way they can manage their IDELS. This will operate similar to a formal rostering system. It permits an individual access licence holder to exceed their IDEL provided the group, as a whole does not, and provided the water is available in their water allocation account.

Group management will enable more flexible pumping regimes. In turn, access licence holders will be required to maintain accurate records of their pumping times and rates, to enable total water extraction within Dorriggo Plateau Surface Water Source to be monitored.

Management of local impacts in the groundwater source

Groundwater extractions may cause problems in a localised area even though the total extraction from the groundwater source is within the extraction limit. For example, there may be changes to groundwater dependent ecosystems, water levels, water quality, or interference between users. Many of these changes may lead to permanent damage to the aquifer if no action is taken.

The Plan sets distance limits between any new bores and existing bores, from groundwater dependent ecosystems and from sources of contamination. Restrictions on pumping from a local area may also be applied for a period of time if necessary because of declining water levels or water quality. The restrictions may limit extraction on a yearly, monthly or even weekly basis. These rules are known as **local impact management**.

Group management is available in groundwater areas where there are restrictions on pumping because of local impacts. This provides access licence holders with more flexibility in the way they can manage the restrictions. An individual may exceed their restricted extraction condition provided the group, as a whole, does not. However, the individual cannot extract more than their share component and must have the water available in their water account.

Access licence dealing rules

Access licence dealings or water dealings include the following:

- sale or transfer of the ownership of an access licence (called a 'transfer'),
- change in the location where a water access licence can be used
- sale (called an 'assignment') of the share component or extraction component of an access licence
- subdivision or consolidation of access licences
- sale of account water (called an 'assignment of water allocation'),
- change in the category of an access licence (called a 'conversion')
- rental of a water access licence (called a 'term transfer')

For more information on the types of access licence dealings and their applications forms refer to the information on *Water dealings* on DIPNR's website. Note: metering of water extractions is required before assignments of water allocations can take place.

The main provisions for the surface water source are:

- trading can occur between zones, but not into certain parts of Zone 2,
- local water utility very low flow access cannot be traded,
- trading is permitted between water sources within the extraction management unit provided the water sharing plan for the other water source allows this, and
- unregulated river access licence share components in this surface water source may be exchanged for those of runoff harvesting access licences in this surface water source, although a conversion factor will apply.

The Plan prohibits groundwater dealings:

- to or from sources outside of the Plan,
- if adverse local impacts would result,
- if the total share component or water allocations would exceed the extraction limit for the zone, and
- converting an access licence from one category to another.

Mandatory conditions

The Plan sets out a number of conditions that are applied to water access licences and **water supply work approvals**. These conditions are designed to protect the rights of all users in the water source and the environmental water rules of the Plan. They cannot be removed or altered unless the Plan itself is amended.

Monitoring and reporting

The Plan includes performance indicators against which the performance of the Plan will be monitored to determine if it is meeting its objectives. The Plan will be audited every five years. The Natural Resources Commission must undertake a review of the Plan prior to any decision to extend its term or to make a new plan.

In addition, an Implementation Program is to be established setting out the means by which the provisions of the Plan are to be achieved. This Implementation Program will be reviewed each year and the results reported in the Department's Annual Report.

Plan amendments

An important aspect of the Plan is that it provides certainty to water users in terms of their access to water. This is because the rules for the next decade are defined and documented in the Plan.

A plan may be amended, without triggering compensation, if it provides for such an amendment. The Plan allows an amendment to:

- the very low flow provisions based on field verification studies by year 5 and the consequent assignment of unassigned TDEs and IDEs,
- the proportion of the recharge reserved as environmental health water and therefore the long-term average extraction limit for the groundwater source,
- the long-term average extraction limit of the Nymboida River Catchment Extraction Management Unit as a result of the issue or cancellation of access licences, and
- inclusion of additional high priority groundwater dependent ecosystems.

Glossary of terms

access licences provide the licence holder with a share of the available water in the water source. The access licence is separate from the approvals required for water use, or for the water supply works, eg. the pump, dam or bore.

access licence dealings refer to a range of changes to a water access licence or the water held under the account for that licence. These include a change in the ownership of all or part of a licence, a change in the location from which water is extracted, movement of extraction components or water allocations between licences, or a change in the category of the water access licence.

available water determinations (AWDs) are the means by which water is allocated to water access licences each year. An AWD for the licence category adds volumes of water (ie. water allocations) to the water accounts of all licences in that category. It specifies the percentage of the share component that a licence holder can extract. The available water determination will also ensure that long-term extraction does not exceed the extraction limit.

average annual recharge is the volume of water added to the groundwater source naturally, usually by infiltration from rainfall and river flows, and assessed on a long-term average basis. This recognises that the amount of recharge to a groundwater source can vary from year-to-year depending on climatic conditions.

basic landholder rights cover 3 types of rights that do not require a water access licence. The first allows rural landholders along the riverfront or overlying a groundwater source to extract water for domestic household and stock watering purposes (*domestic and stock rights*). Domestic and stock rights replace riparian rights under the *Water Act 1912*. The second right allows landholders to capture a portion of the runoff from their land in farm dams (*harvestable rights*). Harvestable rights do not involve extraction directly from the river and so have not been provided for in the plan. The third right allows Aboriginal native title holders (as determined under the Commonwealth's *Native Titles Act 1993*) to extract water for a range of personal, domestic and non-commercial communal purposes (*native title rights*).

embargoes prohibit the granting of applications for further water access licences, except for those purposes specifically exempted, for example, for increased town water supplies.

extraction component is part of the water access licence, and specifies the sections of the water source from which water may be taken. It may also specify the times and rates at which water can be taken.

extraction limit is the average yearly volume of water that can be extracted from a water source by all water access licences.

extraction management unit is the grouping of surface water sources for the purpose of managing annual average extraction.

flow classes describe the range of daily flow levels in unregulated rivers and provide the framework for sharing of water on a daily basis.

flow reference point is the site from which the flows are calculated to determine the flow class.

harvestable rights allow landholders, under the NSW Farm Dams Policy, to capture and use 10 per cent of the average regional rainfall runoff on their land in farm dams. Harvestable rights are intended to satisfy essential farm needs such as stock watering, and house and garden requirements, but can be used for any purpose, including commercial irrigation.

individual daily extraction limit (IDEL) is the daily volume limit for a particular licence holder for each flow class. The IDEL will be specified on the water access licence and is a share of the total daily extraction limit.

local impact management is required when concentrated pumping causes the groundwater level to drop in a particular area or causes water quality problems. The Plan sets distance limits for new bores and allows restrictions the amount of water that can be extracted within an area for a period of time.

share component of the water access licence is the volume share of water made available in a water source. It is similar to the entitlement volume on previous water licences under the *Water Act 1912*. The amount of water a licence holder is allocated in any year as a result of an available water determination is based on their share component. Other rules, such as carryover, are also based on the share component.

sustainable yield is the volume that can be extracted by all water users in a groundwater source without causing unacceptable impacts. The average annual recharge minus the portion reserved for the environment determines the sustainable yield.

total daily extraction limit (TDEL) is the limit on the daily volume of water that licence holders in a particular category can take from a particular flow class.

water supply works approval permits water supply works (pumps, dams, bores) to be built and operated at specified locations.

water year is the 12 months running from 1 July to 30 June.