



Critical water planning for the Barwon-Darling River

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Current water availability

The following table shows recent flows in megalitres per day (ML/d) along the Barwon-Darling River.

This information can be accessed online at www.waterinfo.nsw.gov.au/drr/darling

	30 Nov ML/d	29 Nov ML/d	28 Nov ML/d	27 Nov ML/d	26 Nov ML/d
Barwon River Mungindi	179	78	79	100	98
Barwon River Walgett	71	68	91	122	168
Barwon River Brewarrina	157	106	33	26	61
Darling River Bourke	568	675	755	706	354
Darling River Louth	126	39	25	20	16

Flows from previous rainfall in Southern Queensland are approaching Brewarrina. Recent local storms have resulted in additional flows upstream and downstream of Bourke.

River management during 2007/08

The NSW Government has committed to securing future town water supplies for Broken Hill for at least 21 months. To achieve this outcome water extractions for commercial purposes along the unregulated Barwon Darling River system are embargoed under Section 22B of the *Water Act 1912*.

This means that water users with water entitlements denoted as B and C Class are restricted from taking water from the river system until further notice. A recent flow in the Barwon Darling has generated good base flow and environmental flow. This has allowed A Class access for permanent plantings. Restrictions are also in place for the pumping of off-allocation/supplementary access in the Namoi, Gwydir and Border Rivers.

Water availability outlook

The Barwon Darling River system is flowing from its headwaters to Lake Wetherell after there being no flow at Wilcannia for 11 months. While current flows are not sufficient to meet the future needs of Broken Hill, this means that any inflows in the coming months are likely to contribute to reaching the target.

A Class licence access can be exercised when flows exceed the appropriate thresholds as shown in the table below.

REACH	GAUGE	CLASS A	
		Height (m)	Flow (ML/d)
Mungindi to Boomi River Confluence (d/s of Presbury)	Mungindi	3.18	230
	Presbury Weir	0.40	220
Boomi River confluence to u/s of Mogil Mogil Weir Pool	Presbury Weir	0.40	220
	Mogil Mogil	1.75	190
Mogil Mogil Weir Pool (Mooni River Confluence)	Mogil Mogil		
Mogil Mogil to Collarenebri	Mogil Mogil	1.75	190
	Collarenebri	1.76	165
Collarenebri to u/s limit of Walgett Weir Pool	Collarenebri	1.76	165
	Tara (Woorawandian)	1.46	100
Walgett Weir Pool	Walgett (Dangar Bridge)		
Walgett to Macquarie River junction	Walgett (Dangar Bridge)	2.33	600
	Boorooma (u/s Macq Jn)	2.90	530
Macquarie River junction to Brewarrina	Geera (d/s Macq Jn)	2.14	530
	Brewarrina	2.35	460
Brewarrina to Culgoa River junction	Brewarrina	2.35	460
	Beemery (u/s Culgoa Jn)	1.75	400
Culgoa River junction to Bourke	Warraweena (d/s Culgoa Jn)	3.60	400
	Bourke	4.06	350
Bourke to Louth	Bourke	4.06	350
	Louth	1.37	260
Louth to Tilpa	Louth	1.37	260
	Tilpa	0.85	215
Tilpa to Wilcannia	Tilpa	0.85	215
	Wilcannia	0.50	123
Wilcannia to u/s Lake Wetherell	Wilcannia	0.50	123

The current embargo on B and C Class access will continue until Broken Hill town water supplies are secure.

Compliance

Licence holders are encouraged to abide by the current embargo and the limited access opportunities for A Class. The penalties for breaching licence conditions or for diverting more water than you are legally entitled to can be severe. The Department of Water and Energy can suspend or cancel licences, and issue fines of up to \$132,000 for an individual or \$275,000 for a corporation.

The Department of Water and Energy and State Water Corporation will continue to monitor compliance along the river system. To ensure that the water management system is run fairly, the community should report any suspected breaches to the Department's compliance staff in Tamworth on (02) 6701 9600. Alternatively, suspected breaches can be reported to your State Water Customer Service Officer, who will refer reports to the Department of Water and Energy. All reports will be treated confidentially.

Contact: Department of Water and Energy: Anne Brook (02) 6701 9662