



3 July 2020

Via email:

To: nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au

Submission on the review of the Water Sharing Plan for the Towamba River Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources Order 2010 (the Plan)

Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC) welcomes the opportunity to participate in the review process for the *Water Sharing Plan for the Towamba River Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources Order 2011* (the Plan). BVSC's submission, as invited by the Natural Resources Commission letter of 15 May 2020, is provided by way of this letter.

Further input from BVSC will be provided as the review proceeds in 2020/21. This includes both information for the Plan and Background Document.

In general, BVSC has supported and valued the Plan since its introduction in December 2010. It has provided structure to, and an understanding of, local water management in the Bega Valley Shire. It has helped to foster stakeholder communication and cooperation with the sharing of water in times of drought. The vision and objectives of the Plan are appropriate and important. The emphasis on environmental water for the water sources in this Plan is supported. The rules for available water determinations, water allocations and daily access have been useful for town water supply system planning required to meet future water demands and levels of service. Total Daily Extraction Limits for local water utility access licences have enabled the setting of programmed SCADA control of water extraction from the Kiah borefield.

The Plan has not been without some problems and shortcomings, made apparent during the last 10 years, inclusive of drought. Table 1 aims to document these from a predominantly local water utility (town water supply) perspective.

The clauses, issues and suggestions for review in Table 1. are preliminary. All draft changes to the Plan will require BVSC appraisal at a later review stage.

Table 1. Overview of the Plan clauses requiring review from a predominantly local water utility and town water supply perspective

Clause	Issue	Suggestion
30 and 31 (1) and (2)	Lacks clarity on responsibility and accountability for calculating current levels of annual extraction and assessment against the long-term average annual extraction limit after each water year. It is unclear if this information is available and if the analysis is completed each year.	For review. Defining responsibility and accountability for these annual tasks is important.

Clause	Issue	Suggestion
34	Commencement of this plan has passed.	Reword for BVSC review.
38 (1) (2)	For the period of the first three water years in which this Plan has effect has passed	Reword for BVSC review.
Table B	Flow (ML/d) and notes on percentiles are based on data pre-2010	Rework column 5, percentiles and table using analysis all flow data to date, for BVSC review.
Part 9 Division (2)	Rules applying to water supply works that take water in these alluvial sediments is worded differently to the Bega-Brogo WSP which uses Rules applying to water supply works that take groundwater. The words "from these alluvial sediments" is unclear.	Consider rewording for improved clarity.
42 (6) (a)	Prior to the commissioning of the Bega to Yellow Pinch Dam pipeline is no longer relevant. The pipeline was commissioned in 2012.	Delete (a) (i) (ii) and (iii).
42 (6) (b)	After the commissioning of the Bega to Yellow Pinch Dam pipeline is no longer necessary for the Plan. The pipeline was commissioned in 2012.	Delete reference to after the commissioning of the Bega to Yellow Pinch Dam pipeline.
42 (6) (b)	Occasionally there is a need to access > 1ML/d water from these alluvial sediments when flows are in the Very Low Flow and Low Flow classes. This occurred in January 2020 when a helicopter ditched in Ben Boyd Dam (BBD) during the bushfires. BBD is the alternative source of water during Very Low Flow and Low Flow class periods. Algal blooms and water quality problems in BBD can also result in a situation where >1 ML/d from the Kiah borefield may be required.	Consider an emergency provision clause that will allow >1 ML/d from the Kiah borefield when flows are in the Very Low Flow and Low Flow classes. This clause needs to have the flexibility to be enacted on short notice.
61 and 62 (1)	The requirement to keep a logbook for local water utility access licence	Consider a new clause specific to LWU access licences with conditions for data

Clause	Issue	Suggestion
	is questioned. LWU have flow metering and SCADA to record dates and volumes, for town water supply.	capture relevant to monitoring systems for LWU.
Schedule 3, 2	Licences 10BL1157814, 10BL157925 and 10BL163209 are unknown.	For clarification and review by BVSC.
Schedule 3, 3	Licences 10BL101261, 10BL101262, 10BL104484, 10BL105071, 10BL12033, 10BL139023, 10BL139024 and 10BL139025 have been converted to Water Management Act 2000 licence 10CA117701 (10AL117700).	Update for review by BVSC.

Yours sincerely,



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