

Floodplain harvesting

Macquarie Valley

Fact sheet

Floodplain harvesting refers to the collection, extraction or impoundment of any water flowing across a designated floodplain.

It is important that floodplain harvesting take is licensed to ensure water is measured and managed in accordance with relevant rules and regulations. The licensing structure of floodplain harvesting provides a framework to limit extraction and ensure sustainable take is upheld.

A floodplain harvesting licence authorises a water user to take water. Before water can be taken with a water supply work, that work must be nominated by a floodplain harvesting access licence.

To access information and resources relating to floodplain harvesting including forms, other fact sheets and guides, please visit the [WaterNSW website](#).

Macquarie Valley floodplain harvesting rules

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW) have [consulted with landholders](#) about the process of implementing rules and licensing frameworks for floodplain harvesting in the Macquarie Valley.

The rules for floodplain harvesting access licences in the Macquarie Valley commenced on 1 March 2023. These rules only apply to regulated floodplain harvesting water access licences and include access rules, measurement of take, water account management and dealings.

Macquarie Valley rule summary

- [Macquarie Valley Regulated River Water Source summary of rules](#)



Did you know?

WaterInsights is an interactive web tool, covering more than 800 water sources in NSW. WaterInsights offers comprehensive data from a range of systems. You can use WaterInsights to access information about the Macquarie Valley Regulated River Water Source. We also encourage you to create an account to sign-up for relevant notifications.



Floodplain harvesting

How to become compliant

After the commencement of your floodplain harvesting access licence, you have 12 months to install primary metering equipment. To become compliant:

1. You need to engage a duly qualified person (DQP), who in the instance of floodplain harvesting is a Certified Storage Meter Validator (CSV). To find a DQP local to you, visit the [Irrigation Australia's website](#).
2. The DQP will discuss with you the installation method and measurement equipment required. Your DQP is responsible for registering, installing and validating your measurement devices. They will also establish whether you need to update your storage curve.
3. There are two primary metering methods for measuring floodplain harvesting, **storage measurement** or **point-of-intake measurement**. You can view a list of eligible primary metering equipment information [here](#).

Measuring floodplain harvesting take

- The **storage measurement** method uses a sensor to measure the depth of the water within a storage. The change in volume of your storage is then calculated using the storage curve.
- The **point-of-intake** measurement method is where floodplain harvesting take is measured at the inflow points of an approved water supply work site. It requires specific metering equipment that aligns with the non-urban metering requirements to be installed.

To be eligible for this measurement method, a duly qualified person (DQP) or registered engineer, must approve this work. If you wish to use this method, it is recommended that you ask your DQP to contact WaterNSW.

Taking water with secondary equipment

As one year has passed in the Macquarie Valley since the date licences were issued, you must have a certified primary storage meter installed.

This means you are only authorised to use your secondary measurement device, if your primary measurement device is faulty. In this circumstance you must lodge an S91i using the [S91i self-reporting form](#).

You can find a list of secondary metering devices suitable [here](#).

Nominating a floodplain harvesting event

You can nominate the floodplain harvesting event through your [iWAS](#) account. Your floodplain harvesting event simply records that you commenced and ceased taking floodplain harvesting water. The duration of the nominated floodplain harvesting period is known as the 'measurement period'.

To assist you in nominating a floodplain harvesting event, please refer to our [how to nominate a measurement period guide](#).

The Data Acquisition Service (DAS) is where all your data is transmitted and can be viewed. Please [view our video](#) for further information.



iWAS

To access information relating to our water accounting system, please visit the [WaterNSW iWAS webpage](#).



NSW Water Register

As a licence or approval holder, you can easily view the details and conditions of your licence or approval on the [NSW Water Register](#).

If you need more information, please contact our Customer Service Centre on [1300 662 077](tel:1300662077), Monday to Friday between 8am-5pm or email Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au