

# Proposed Barmah Choke application protocol for July 2024

This is a protocol for the management of trade applications and processing of trade for the 1 July 2024 Barmah Choke opening. This protocol is developed with the aim of refining the processes for the Barmah Choke July trade opening to improve clarity and consistency across New South Wales (NSW) and Victorian processes. It also forms part of NSW and Victoria's response to actions arising from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) review into the Murray-Darling Basin water markets.

## Protocol

For 1 July 2024, the following protocol will be applied to all trade applications received for the Barmah Choke opening trade opportunity:

1. **Trade application submissions:** NSW and Victoria will continue to operate their own application submission process and maintain separate queues as per previous openings. Each state will open their submission window for applications at a time of their own choosing prior to 10:00 AM AEST 1 July 2024. NSW and Victoria will remain in contact throughout this process.
  - i. Applicants will submit their trade applications during designated submission periods, following the application submission process of each state. This submission process will result in two separate queues of individual trade applications. Both states will share a version of their queue with the other state. This version will include the order the trade applications were received and the volume of each trade application. No personal information is to be shared between states. The submission process will:
    - a) for NSW, remain via the WaterNSW email service.
    - b) for Victoria, remain via the Victorian Water Register.

The submission process and timings are to be communicated to the public in advance of the 1 July 2024 opening.

2. **Processing:** The alternating processing of queued applications between NSW and Victoria will happen from 10:00 AM on 1 July 2024:
  - i. Each state will process all applications that they receive, and they will process those applications in the order that they are received.
  - ii. NSW and Victoria have employed a random selection process to determine which state commences processing trade applications first. This process was conducted with the independent assistance of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. Following this process, it was determined that **Victoria** will be the first to assess an application. If this protocol continues beyond 2024, states will alternate who processes the first application. (Victoria goes first in 2024, NSW goes first in 2025, and so on).
  - iii. The approval of an application in one state will be immediately followed by the processing the next application from the other state.
    - a) If a queued trade application is refused (e.g. due to insufficient account balance or opportunity limit) then the next queued application from the same state will be assessed until one is approved.
  - iv. Processing trade applications in this manner will continue until either one state exhausts their queue or the IVT limit is reached.
  - v. WaterNSW and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) (Victoria) will notify applicants of the status of their applications as per their separate processes by 6:00 PM on 1 July 2024.