

Issue

The Association has been in contact with the Department of Water and Energy (DWE) to determine the approximate status of the Macro Water Sharing Plans in NSW.

Background

There are two phases of consultation for the Macro Water Sharing Plans, both facilitated by the CMAs.

- *1. Targeted Consultation Phase*
 - Involving two way consultations between targeted bodies, such as Councils, Water Users Associations, Town Water Suppliers and environmental groups.
- *2. Public Exhibition and Submissions*
 - All parties not involved in the targeted consultation process have an opportunity to view various materials on the proposed plan and can then make a submission to the Department of Water and Energy. The viewing material includes the proposed plan, report cards, maps and background documents. Submissions are typically due within 40 days of the start of the Public Exhibition, but in some circumstances the period is extended. All of this material is posted on DWE's website and is publicly accessible. A submission form is used as the vehicle for providing comments.
http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/water/plans_sharing_0708.shtml

Catchments/ Rivers	Targeted Consultation Phase	Public Exhibition Phase	Comments
Lower North Coast	Complete	Currently Available on Website	
Bellinger	Complete	Will be available for Public Exhibition in near future	(currently with the Ministers Office for approval to proceed with public exhibition)
Greater Metro Region (Surface water and Groundwater)	Commencing soon (approx. February 2008)	Mid-2008	Is currently before cabinet for approval for commencement of targeted consultation
Richmond River and Iron Pot Creek	In progress	Expected in mid 2008	Is complex due to Toonumbar Dam and interaction with TWS augmentation and interconnection plans.
Coffs Harbour	complete	Expected in early 2008	
Tweed	In progress	Expected in mid 2008	There are some complex issues with council and Rouse Water TWS augmentation and interconnection plans.
Lower Murray Darling	Largely Complete	Expected in early 2008	There are some inter-agency discussions at the moment before going to Public Exhibition.
Central Coast	In progress (mainly with Gosford/Wyong Councils Water Authority)	Hoped in early to mid 2008	Complex area considering population growth, TWS augmentation plans and linkages with the Hunter

Hunter unregulated (may need to include provisions relating to Tillegra Dam)	In progress (mainly with Hunter Water Corporation)	Hoped in early to mid 2008	Complex area considering population growth, TWS augmentation plans and linkages with the Central Coast
Gwydir - Unregulated	Work is expected to recommence in approximately late 2008	Expected in early-mid 2009	The National Plan for Water Security will affect this area. There is a need to develop policy before further work.
Border Rivers - Unregulated	Work is expected to recommence in approximately late 2008	Expected in early-mid 2009	The National plan for Water Security will affect this area. There is a need to develop Policy before future work.
South Coast (Clyde)	In progress (more advanced than Tuross and Deua)	Expected in early 2008	Clyde, Tuross and Deua may all require a level of linkage depending on consultation outcomes with Eurobodalla Council (Future development considerations)
South Coast (Tuross, Deua)	In progress	Expected in mid 2008	
South Coast (Murrumbidgee, Wallaga Lakes and Towamba)	Draft Rules have been established, however further work is dependent on the TWS augmentation and interconnection plans for the area, which may also create a connection with the Bega/Brogo plan.	Fair bit of work here. In house discussions	Will need to be connected with Bega Brogo and also consider town water supplies. Further discussions will be held with Council in early 2008 about their TWS augmentation plans.
Brunswick	Largely completed	Expected in early 2008	
Hastings	In progress	Expected in late 2008	Difficult issues in relation to competing environmental and economic needs. There is a need for much more consultation.
Namoi Unregulated	On idle	Expected in early 2009	The National Plan for Water Security will affect this area.
Clarence	Some work is continuing, but current focus is on other North Coast plans.	Expected in early 2009	Some targeted consultation has occurred. More will occur when focus returns to this plan.
Macleay/ Nambucca	Largely completed however current focus is on other North Coast plans.	Expected early 2009	A fair amount of targeted consultation has taken place. There is a need for some further consultation when resources become available especially in relation to Coffs Harbour Council's augmentation plans.

Castlereagh	Some consultation has occurred however on idle at the moment	Expected early 2009	The National Plan for Water Security will affect this area. There is still a large amount of work to be done here.
Macquarie	Some consultation has occurred however consultation is on idle at the moment	Expected early 2009	The National Plan for Water Security will affect this area. There is still a large amount of work to be done here.
Lachlan	Some consultation has occurred however on idle at the moment	Expected early 2009	The National Plan for Water Security will affect this area. There is still a large amount of work to be done here.
Murrumbidgee and Murray Unregulated	There have been some discussions with Council and further discussions are scheduled for later this year, however work is largely being focused on the Lower Murray/Darling plan.	Expected early 2009	The National Plan for Water Security will affect this area. There is still a large amount of work to be done here.
Paroo and Warrego	No targeted consultation to-date.	Expected sometime in 2009	The National Plan for Water Security will affect this area. There is still a large amount of work to be done here.
The Grey Indicates Macro Plans that are currently the most time relevant			

The planning work currently underway for the Greater Metro Region (groundwater) is progressing a number of state-wide policy issues that will be applicable for the rest of the state's macro GW plans.

Opportunity to be involved in targeted consultation phase

- *Local Water Users Associations and NSW Farmers Association*
 - Local Water Users Associations are being included in the targeted consultations for the Macro Plans, however in areas where this is not happening DWE has indicated that NSW Farmers Association could potentially act as a representative "targeted consultee" for those individual licence holders. The issues raised in this phase of consultations are limited to generic/overall comments on the plan provisions not on individual licence holder issues, as DWE has limited resources. More specific details of individual licence holder issues are welcome in the submissions during the Public Exhibition Phase. Submissions will be considered and incorporated into the final plan. An explanation of the decisions made in the plan will be provided.
 - The Association has been placed on the targeted consultees list for the Greater Metro Region plan and we have been requested to notify DWE if we wish to be involved in the consultation process for any of the other plans. This is currently being organised.