

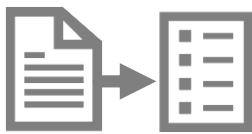
NSW Water Sharing Plans

The NSW Government developed Water Sharing Plans (WSPs) for surface water and groundwater systems in NSW following the introduction of *the Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)*. The fundamentals of the Water Sharing Plans are:



WSPs have a **10-year lifespan**. Prior to their expiry, each WSP must be reviewed in order to determine whether it should be extended or replaced.

An **extension** refers to the extension of the plan for a further 10 years without change. **Replacement** is where changes to the existing plan are proposed.



From Water Sharing Plan to Water Resource Plan



NSW Water Sharing Plans were made under the *Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)* from 2004 onwards.

The current NSW **Water Sharing Plans will be part of the Water Resource Plans** and continue to perform their role as the NSW legislative instrument that defines how water is shared, governed and allocated.

*Under the *Basin Plan 2012*, New South Wales is required to develop 22 Water Resource Plans for inland regions in NSW by 2019.



Content of Water Resource Plans

Set out water sharing arrangements for consumptive users	Establish rules to meet environmental and water quality objectives	Show compliance with the Sustainable Diversion Limits*	Include Water Quality Management Plans	Provide for environmental watering	Establish an extreme events policy
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Principle for the development of Water Resource Plans

Legislative Requirements (Basin Plan)

“There will be no adverse impacts on water available to a water access licence holder.”

“There will be no net reduction in the protection of planned environmental water.”

“The Commonwealth is responsible for “bridging the gap” between existing water sharing plan limits and Sustainable Diversion Limits (SDL);
The Water Resource Plans will meet the requirements set out in the Basin Plan 2012.”

State Requirements (NSW)

1 Balance the social, economic and environmental needs of the community and catchments.

2 Cost neutral for NSW licence holders.

3 Minimise change for Water Sharing Plans within their initial ten-year period.

*The Basin Plan sets limits on the quantities of surface and groundwater that can be taken from Basin water resources for agriculture and other consumptive purposes. These limits are known as sustainable diversion limits (SDLs). Water resource plans have a fundamental role in ensuring that SDLs are implemented from 2019 and beyond.