

# Basin Plan Water Resource Plan Requirements Position Statement 5A - Interceptions

<b>POLICY ISSUE</b>	<b>What interception activities have the ‘potential to have a significant impact on’ water resources, and what monitoring and management actions are to be included in the WRP?</b>
<b>REFERENCES</b>	Basin Plan Chapter 10, Part 5 – Interception Activities

<b>MDBA POSITION STATEMENT</b>	
<p>When developing a WRP to meet the requirements of Chapter 10 Part 5, consideration must be given to all interception activities as defined by the Water Act s4. This is a broader set of activities than those outlined in the definition of forms of take in the Basin Plan s1.07. The Water Act, under s4, defines interception activities as the interception of surface water or groundwater that would otherwise flow, directly or indirectly, into a watercourse, lake, wetland, aquifer, dam or reservoir that is a Basin water resource eg: mining activity as well as some land use changes, including peri-urban development. This position statement addresses the operation of Part 5 of Chapter 10 that deals with this issue.</p> <p>To meet the requirements of Part 5 the following should be addressed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A WRP must specify whether any type of interception activity in the water resource plan area has the potential to have a significant impact on:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the water resources of the WRP area, or</li> <li>b. water resources which are hydrologically connected to the water resources of the WRP area.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. In relation to this requirement:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. When identifying the potential for an interception activity to have a ‘significant impact’ the WRP must have regard to the risk assessment (Chapter 10 Part 9). MDBA will expect the WRP response to s 10.23 to be consistent with the findings of the risk assessment. If the risk assessment identifies risks arising from interception activities as medium or higher risks, MDBA will consider such activities to have the potential to have a ‘significant impact’.</li> <li>b. In considering whether there is potential for ‘significant impact’, regard must also be had to those factors outlined in s10.23(3). Further, s10.23 requires the WRP to identify activities with the potential to have significant impact on hydrologically connected resources outside of the WRP area.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. The WRP must list those interception activities which have the potential to have a significant impact on the water resource.</li> <li>4. The WRP must, for interception activities with potential to have a significant impact on the water resource, set out a process for:</li> </ol>	

<b>MDBA Reference:</b>	D16/5031	<i>Accessed:</i>
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- a. monitoring the impacts on water resources of the WRP area from that interception activity (s10.24), as well as impacts on any hydrologically connected resources and;
  - b. outline actions to be taken in the event that the above monitoring shows that impacts of the activity (or of several types of activity together) compromise the meeting of an environmental watering requirement, or there is an increase in the quantity of water being intercepted by the activity (s10.25).
5. For example:
- a. The process for monitoring could be met by including any monitoring of interception activities that is being undertaken in the specific year, in a State's annual 'Statement of Assurance'. Monitoring may be undertaken less frequently than annually, but there must be a regular pattern of monitoring for each interception activity identified as having potential for significant impact.
  - b. Actions to be taken in the event that monitoring identifies the impacts outlined in s10.25(1) (see point 4(b) above), could include requiring reporting of the proposed actions to be completed within 12 months, or sooner, if justified (eg: consider scale and impact of the activity). This could be included in the States annual 'Statement of Assurance'. Where this occurs the reporting could also include a description of the outcomes of any actions taken.
  - c. The type of actions in the annual 'Statement of Assurance' that MDBA expects to see are actions directed at reducing and managing impacts immediately and into the future. If impacts on meeting an environmental watering requirement, or increases in the quantity of water being intercepted, are accounted for by the method under s 10.10 for determining permitted take, no further actions need to be identified (s10.25(2)).
6. Other position statements relevant to this statement that should be considered are:
- PS 2B – interpreting 'significant hydrological connectivity',
  - PS 1B – interpreting 'have regard to',
  - PS 3E – determining take,
  - PS 3F – changing forms of take, and
  - PS 3J – limiting take.

## **Rationale**

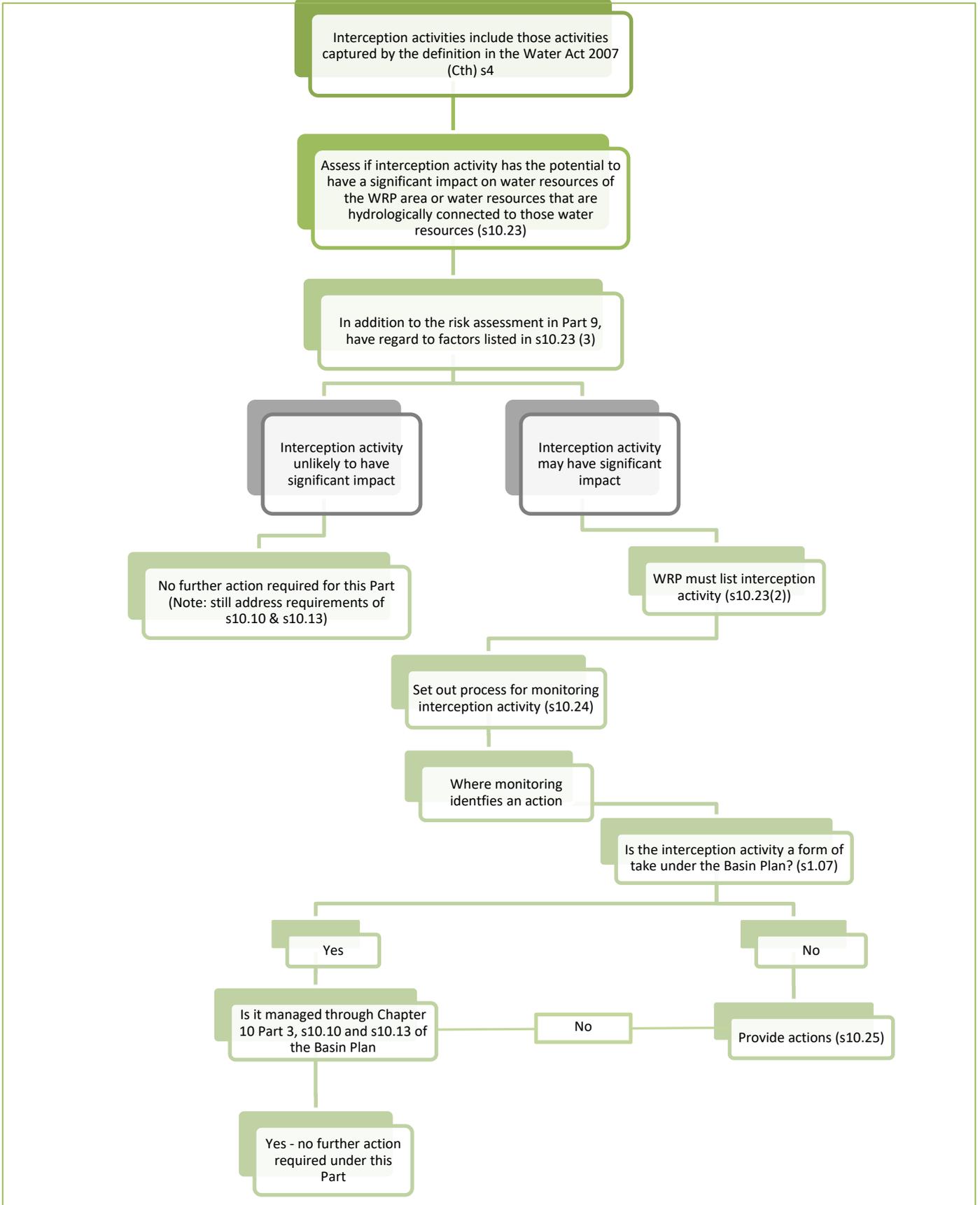
When identifying interception activities with potential to have a significant impact, consideration is to be had to the impacts of the activity both on an activity-by-activity basis, or cumulatively.

In determining whether an interception activity has the potential to have a 'significant impact' on water resources, the WRP needs to have been prepared having regard to the risk assessment, as well as to the factors listed in s 10.23(3). If an interception activity is identified in the risk assessment as being of a medium to high risk to water resources, then the MDBA takes the view that it has the potential to have a significant impact on the resources for the purposes of s 10.23.

The Handbook for Practitioners (2013) also contains material regarding WRP content for Part 5 (pp 63-67).

<b>MDBA Reference:</b>	D16/5031
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**Process map for Part 5**



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