

## Floodplain Harvesting Action Plan – tracking progress

1. Use the best available facts, data and scientific analysis to underpin the licensing framework, and explain this work to you.

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Report on how sensitivity and uncertainty in the model has been treated by the department and how much it affects users</b>	Q4 2019	<i>Complete</i> Documentation will now be included in valley-based model reports
<b>Report on the significance of additional rainfall runoff due to irrigation and how this is being managed</b>	Q4 2019	<i>Complete</i> Report available on the website It is proposed that runoff from irrigation areas will not be licensed as floodplain harvesting
<b>Write to individuals to explain the parameters that we will use to work out their licence entitlements</b>	Q1 2020	<i>In Progress</i> Complete for three valleys. Revised target for final two valleys Q3 2020
<b>Publish valley-based model build and model scenario reports</b>	Q3 2020	<i>In Progress</i> Revised target Q3 and Q4 2020
<b>Publish valley-based environmental benefit reports</b>	Q3 2020	<i>In Progress</i> Revised target Q3 and Q4 2020
<b>Hold a focus workshop with peak water user groups in northern NSW valleys to provide information about how the modelling approach applied to individual farms is supported by sensitivity testing</b>	Q3/Q4 2019	<i>Complete</i>
<b>Hold workshops with stakeholders to explain the model build, model scenario and environmental assessment reports on a valley-by-valley basis</b>	Q3 2020	<i>Future Action</i> Revised target Q3 and Q4 2020

2. Set clear rules for floodplain harvesting and consult with you about them

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Publish all independent reviews about policy implementation</b>	Q3 2019	<i>Ongoing</i>
<b>Release a response to each recommendation of the Independent Review of NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy Implementation</b>	Q3 2019	<i>Complete</i> Report available on the website

Release a guideline about how the department is implementing the policy	Q3 2019	<i>Complete</i> Guidelines available on the website
Release proposed water sharing plan and water resource plan rule changes for floodplain harvesting	Q3 2020	<i>In Progress</i> Revised target Q3 and Q4 2020
Hold workshops with stakeholders to explain the guideline	Q3 2019	<i>Complete</i>
Hold workshops with stakeholders about proposed water sharing plan and water resource plan rule changes	Q3 2020	<i>Future Action</i> Revised target Q3 and Q4 2020
Release draft entitlements for comment	Q3/Q4 2020	<i>Future Action</i> Revised target Q4 2020 and Q1 2021
Finalise licenses and amend WSP and submit WRP for re-accreditation	Q2 2021	<i>Future Action</i>

### 3. Ensure the rules are followed

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Target Due</b>	<b>Status</b>
Meet Compliance Compact obligations by publishing a program for improved measurement of floodplain harvesting	Q2 2019	<i>Complete</i> Improvement program available on the website
Release the final Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Policy	Q4 2019	<i>In Progress</i> Policy expected to be approved during July 2020
Require licence holders to install telemetry-ready, continuous water level loggers on all on-farm storages used for floodplain harvesting	Q2-2021	<i>Future Action</i>
Commence enforcement of the new floodplain harvesting licensing framework through the Natural Resources Access Regulator	Q3 2021	<i>Future Action</i>
Develop a best practice guideline for floodplain harvesting measuring in partnership with Queensland and MDBA	Q2 2021	<i>Future Action</i>
Implement best practice guidelines	Q3 2021 onwards	<i>Future Action</i>
Support the development of technologies that enable better auditing and compliance of floodplain harvesting, including through the department's Water Technology Pilot Program	Q3 2019 onwards	<i>Ongoing</i> Information about the Water Technology Pilot Program is available on the website
Encourage the Natural Resource Access Regulator to address unapproved flood works on a risk basis in order to improve outcomes for the environment and downstream water users	From Q3 2019	<i>Ongoing</i>

#### 4. Improve floodplain harvesting management over time

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Collect floodplain harvesting diversion data by implementing the Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Strategy</b>	Q3 2021	<i>Future Action</i>
<b>Consider opportunities to expand the river gauging network to improve the quantification of return flows from the floodplain to the river</b>	Q3 2021	<i>Future Action</i> Options being scoped as part of the Northern Basin Toolkit and Hydrometric Networks and Remote Sensing Project
<b>Continue to invest in remote sensing in order to improve our understanding of flood flow breakouts and return flows from the floodplain to the river</b>	Q3 2021	<i>Future Action</i> Options being scoped as part of the Northern Basin Toolkit and Hydrometric Networks and Remote Sensing Project
<b>Undertake modelling to assess the impacts of climate change on floodplain harvesting, as well as on downstream water users and the environment</b>	Q3 2021	<i>Future Action</i> Will be guided by Regional Water Strategies
<b>Invest in robust monitoring and evaluation programs to better understand the hydrological and ecological impacts of floodplain harvesting</b>	Q3 2021	<i>Future Action</i>
<b>Recalibrate models using floodplain harvesting measurement data</b>	Q3 2021	<i>Future Action</i>
<b>Improve model capability by explicitly representing flows from the floodplain to the river using all new data and information collected</b>	From 2025	<i>Future Action</i>
<b>Review water sharing rules and amend them as necessary to improve the management of floodplain harvesting over time based on improved data and information</b>	From 2025	<i>Future Action</i>