

Opportunity to register interest to access Riverina Aboriginal cultural water allocation



About the Aboriginal Cultural Water Allocation

Riverina Aboriginal communities are invited to express their interest in water flows for Aboriginal cultural uses.

Each year Riverina Local Land Services has access to 2,150 ML of share component of Murrumbidgee Valley high-security water.

This water allocation is there to meet the unique purposes of the Traditional Owners of the Murrumbidgee catchment.

Aboriginal communities have the opportunity to apply to use some or all of the water for cultural purposes.

It cannot be used for commercial purposes.

Where can the water be used?

The Aboriginal cultural water allocation can potentially be used in areas where stored water can be supplied from Burrinjuck and Blowering Dams. This includes the following areas:

- Murrumbidgee River below Burrinjuck Dam
- Tumut River below Blowering Dam
- regulated creeks west of Collingullie such as Beavers Creek, Old Man Creek and Bundiggerry Creek
- upper parts of Yanco Creek and Columbo Creek (south of Narrandera)
- irrigation areas around Leeton, Griffith, Coleambally and Hay.

See map on page 3.

What you need to apply

Your proposed water extraction point must have an existing pump, or be able to be delivered via gravity (eg in the large irrigation areas).

The pump or diversion point must be licenced with WaterNSW (ie have a Works Approval) and have an existing meter on it.

Small pumps such as those used for stock or domestic use are not eligible.

Roles of applicants and Local Land Services

We (Local Land Services) will coordinate the expression of interest (EOI) process in conjunction with the Riverina Local Land Services Aboriginal Advisory group.

We can also assist in guiding you through the WaterNSW Works Approval and EOI processes if required.

The applicant will need to arrange all aspects of on-ground delivery. This may include arranging permission from landholders (eg to flood a particular wetland), supplying the pumping infrastructure or paying for pumping costs.

How to apply

We're inviting Aboriginal community groups or individuals to let us know if they are interested in accessing cultural water through the cultural access licence. Please consider the following:

- Where could water flows be used for cultural purposes in future years? It must have a cultural heritage benefit.
- The owner of the land must consent in advance to the possible watering event. The owner also must agree to the use of their private pump. This must be negotiated by the community group, not Local Land Services.
- The cost to pump or divert the water must be agreed between the landowner and the community group. Local Land Services only provides access to the water entitlement, not the pumping costs.

If you can reach an agreement in principle with the landholder, then please consider registering your interest in gaining access to the water allocation in future years.

This is a two-step process.

Step 1 - Submit an expression of interest to register your pumping point

To start the application process, Aboriginal community groups or individuals need to send us an expression of interest to register the nominated pumping point **by midnight Sunday 8 May 2022**.

This needs to include the details of the agreement with the landholder/pump owner (Attachment 1). Both the community group and landholder must sign this agreement in advance.

You also need to nominate the WaterNSW Works Approval of the pumping point and agree for us to register the pumping point on our cultural access licence.

After you have let us know these details, we will then contact you and all other applicants each year, asking if you want to send an expression of interest to access and use some or all of the water.

Step 2: Submit an expression of interest to access the water (each year)

Each year (usually around June/July) we will ask for expressions of interest to access the annual water allocation.

When this opens, you will need to provide details on:

- how much water you are applying for?
- where it will be used?
- when it will be used?
- what are the specific cultural benefits?
- how does this proposal fit with recent watering events (or lack of events)?

You will also need to agree for us to monitor and record the water use. This may include onsite visits, photographs and video during the watering event.

Your expression of interest and any others will then be assessed by our staff. We will let you know the result.

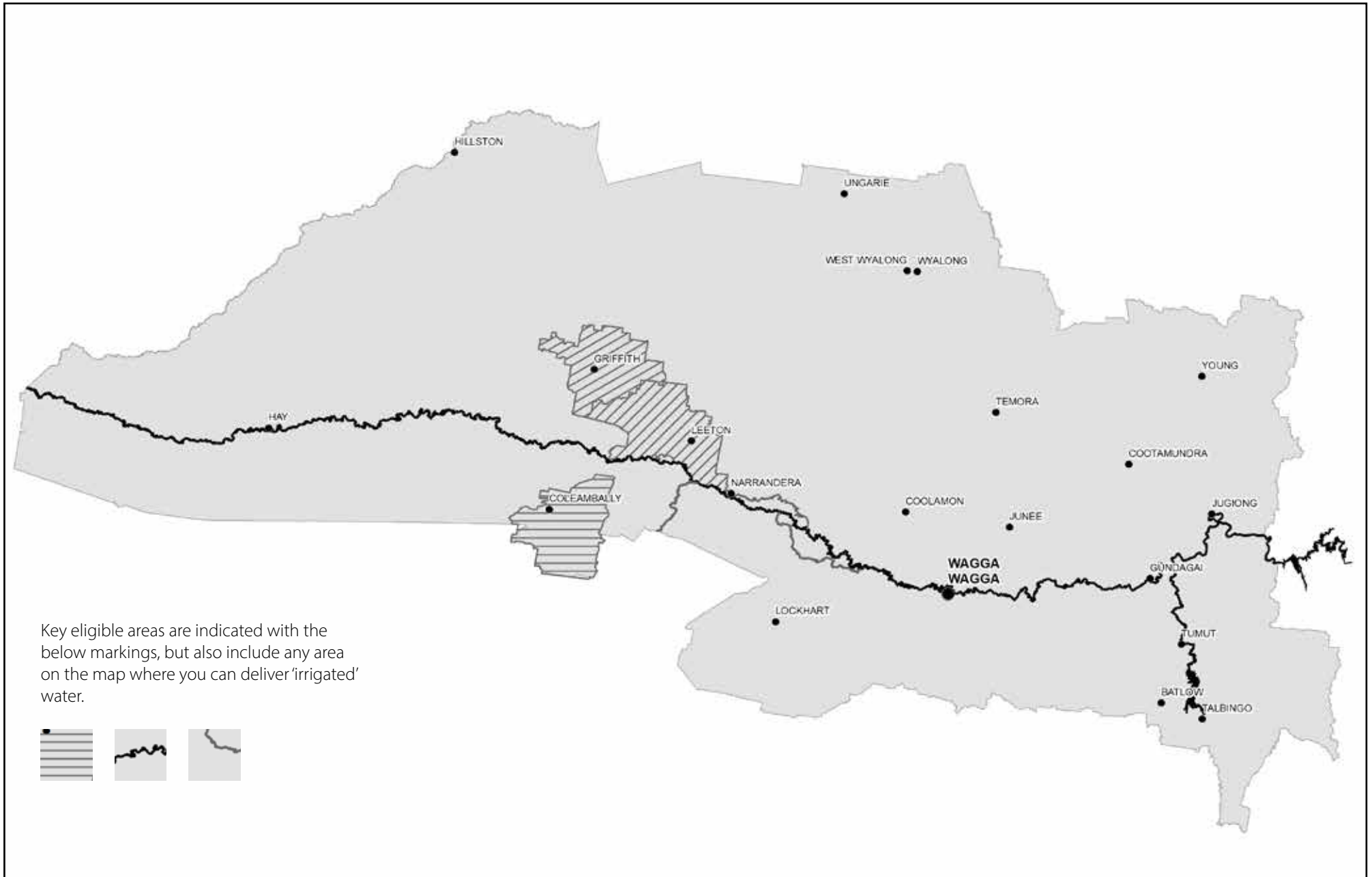
Further Information

Greg Packer, Senior Land Services Officer
(Aboriginal Communities)

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Indicative map of eligible areas



Attachment 1: Expression of interest to register for future access to Murrumbidgee Valley cultural access licence water

Name of Applicant/Community Group

Name of applicant: _____

Are you an Aboriginal person?

Yes No

Do you represent an Aboriginal community or community group?

Yes No

What is the name of the group: _____

Australian Business Number (ABN): _____

If Yes, is the group an incorporated body?

Yes No

If Yes, what is the trading name of the group? _____

If you are not an Aboriginal person or representing an Aboriginal Community, you must attach evidence of support by Aboriginal People or an Aboriginal organisation.

Evidence attached? Yes No

Contact person for Applicant/Community Group

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Position in organisation/group: _____

Daytime phone number: _____ Mobile phone number: _____

Email: _____

Postal Address

PO Box or Street Address: _____

Suburb/Town: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____

Preferred method of contact:

Email Mobile Daytime phone Mail

Water Works Approval

What is the works approval number of the site where the water will be diverted from?

Briefly describe the location of the above works.

What are the works (eg pump or regulator)?

Where will the water be used?

Briefly describe the location of where the water will be used.

Consent of the landholder or entity responsible for the land where the water will be used.

I hereby confirm that I am the owner/person responsible for managing the site where water may be used for cultural heritage benefit at the location described above. I confirm that the water will not be used for commercial purposes.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Consent of the holder of the works approval.

I hereby confirm that I am the authorised holder of the above work approval. I confirm that I support future applications to access cultural access licence water and if approved, they may be taken via this work approval.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

