

Document tendered by	FAHRMANN
Received by	CLERK
Date:	01/11/2023
Resolved to publish	Yes / No

DPE.SO52.1931.0393

## Re: Follow-up from Friday - FPH

**From:** Dan Connor  
**To:** Angus Mackie  
**Cc:** Jim Bentley  
**Date:** Wed, 13 Jul 2022 10:11:38 +1000  
**Attachments:** Unnamed Attachment (68 bytes)

Hi Angus,

I wanted to make two key points for your consideration:

1. The alternate in-valley relaxation targets are about improved optics (in response to concerns from environmental and d/s water users) - they are not about improved water management. It is undeniable that the targets proposed by EHG represent the best understanding of environmental water requirements. It's the appropriateness and efficacy of using them as access rules for FPH to improve the frequency and duration of these flows that is in question. Irrespective, the relaxation targets (either the original or alternative set) will be superseded by the proposed temporary water restrictions imposed under section 324 i.e. the restrictions under s.324 will continue until Menindee Lakes is forecast to hold above 195GL (irrespective of whether the relaxation targets are met). Put simply, given the proposed temporary water restrictions triggers, these relaxation targets will have no practical effect - they simply do some of the work that the temporary water restrictions will otherwise need to do.
2. The most significant environmental benefits from this reform arise from restricting and controlling floodplain harvesting to the water source legal limits - not the proposed access rules. Licensing will return in the order of 100GL to floodplains, river and creeks across the Basin. These benefits will be lost unless both the regulations remain in place and WSPs are commenced. Given that the relaxation targets don't change water management outcomes, my advice is that the Gov't's focus should be on ensuring that the regulations remain in place. If the alternative relaxation targets are important to ensure that the regulations stay in place then I'd accept them, if not then this is just introducing new risks without improving water management outcomes or improving environmental protection. The only way to protect the environment from unconstrained floodplain harvesting is to succeed in licensing.

Trust that this helps.

Thanks

Dan Connor

Director, Healthy Floodplain Project Delivery

Water | Department of Planning and Environment

M | E

Level 3 | 26 Honeysuckle Drive | Newcastle | NSW 2300 | PO Box 2213 Dangar NSW

[www.dpie.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au)

Document tendered by

FAEHRMANN

Received by

CLERK

Date:

7/11/23

Resolved to

High (Yes) No

**Fwd: for next discussion - revised FPH targets & review clause**

From: Angus Mackie  
 To: Dan Connor  
 Date: Thu, 14 Jul 2022 18:39:05 +1000  
 Attachments: Floodplain harvesting flow targets - negotiated targets v3.docx (84.47 kB)  
 From: Honora Campbell  
 Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2022 5:48:11 PM  
 To: Gavin Melvin Angus Mackie

Cc: Christian Dunk  
 Subject: for next discussion - revised FPH targets & review clause  
 Hi colleagues,

As discussed, please see revised proposed targets (attached), with accompanying advice that:

- They have been developed in concert with DPE Water and WaterNSW.
- They have been paired back as much as possible & present the lowest possible requirements to meet ecological requirements – rationales are included in the table.
- **They are unlikely to significantly impact harvesting other than in extreme dry periods.**
  - (on request for uncontrolled flow vs flow rate-based targets) Flow volumes (ML) without a specific flow rate (ML/day) are inadequate.
    - A single volume could accumulate over a long time at a very low flow rate that would have insufficient depth to allow fish to migrate between refuge pools and have insufficient velocity to destratify pools and reduce the risk of blue-green algal blooms.
- They can currently be forecasted by WaterNSW and are already current practice for other triggers in the WSP
  - the North West Flow Plan operates using flow rates
  - Border Rivers WSP announcement of supplementary water (schedule 1) is based on flow targets (expressed as a flow rate) in the Barwon Darling
  - EHG currently has a tool that can assess the proposed flow triggers (as a flow rate) to demonstrate how often they would apply compared to when floodplain harvesting would most likely occur using observed flows at a gauge.
  - EHG is finalising a public version of this tool (as an online platform) that Water can use.

We are offsite tomorrow and noting you will need time to digest & seek advice, **suggest we meet next week to land. Perhaps during cabinet on Monday or midday Tuesday?**

Warm regards,

**Honora Campbell**

Senior Policy Adviser - Environment

Office of the Hon James Griffin MP

Minister for Environment and Heritage

T 8574 7131 M

E

[nsw.gov.au/ministergriffin](http://nsw.gov.au/ministergriffin)

52 Martin Place

Sydney NSW 2000