



Water compliance news

Welcome to NRAR's newsletter, where we share important updates about the NSW water laws, how to make sure you comply and our recent activities.

Last week Minister for Water, Rose Jackson announced that the Department of Planning and Environment will conduct a review of the non-urban metering rules to accelerate progress on compliance. All water users will be given the opportunity to provide feedback and the department will share details about the review as it progresses.

NRAR will continue to ensure compliance with the non-urban metering requirements, and focus on high-volume, high-risk water users, while the review is underway.

A reminder that you can always find important compliance information and more on the [NRAR website](#), or [reach out to us directly](#) by email or phone if you have an enquiry.

Keep reading below to see what this edition covers.



Grant Barnes
Chief Regulatory Officer
Natural Resources Access Regulator

At a glance

In this edition of Water Compliance News read about:

- proposed amendments to the NRAR Regulatory Act
- enforceable undertakings deliver direct benefits to regional
- areas how NRAR are engaging with water users across NSW
- recent news stories about our activities.

Proposed amendments to the NRAR Regulatory Act

Have your say – Proposed amendments to the Natural Resources Access Regulator Regulation 2018

Consultation is now open

Community members are invited to comment on the proposed remake of the Natural Resources Access Regulator Regulation 2018, which is due to expire on 1 September 2023.

The new proposed NRAR Regulation is in the same terms as the current NRAR Regulation, with minor amendments to clause 7, which lists prescribed relevant agencies for the purpose of information exchange. The proposed changes update the list to reflect current agencies and to incorporate additional agencies.

Public consultation on the draft Regulation will run until midnight Monday, 3 July 2023.

To find out more and have your say, visit the [department's website](#).

Enforceable undertakings deliver direct benefits to regional areas



Three of NRAR's recent enforceable undertakings (EUs) have resulted in positive outcomes for regional communities and the environment.

An EU with an irrigator who significantly over-extracted groundwater from the at-risk Lower Namoi Groundwater Source resulted in [thousands of native Golden Perch fingerlings being released](#) into the Namoi River.

An EU with a Carrathool irrigator who over-drew their water [helped to fund improvements to Murray Street Park in Hay](#) such as the installation of an eye-catching new sign, public art and wheelchair accessible pathways.

An EU with an irrigator who significantly exceeded their bore extraction limit [funded a river ecology education program run in remote primary schools along the Darling-Baaka River](#). The program was delivered by Western Landcare NSW.

EUs are a legally binding alternative to court action, which an individual or company can propose if they've breached NSW water laws. NRAR only accepts EU proposals that it considers to be the most appropriate regulatory response, which can deliver positive outcomes in the public interest.

[Read more about NRAR's enforceable undertakings](#)

How NRAR are engaging with water users across NSW



Access licences, irrigation, meters, bores and waterfront works all come with rules and responsibilities.

To help water users understand their responsibilities, our officers attend field days throughout the state, supplying hundreds of water users with advice and the tools they need to comply.

Our officers also visit properties across regional NSW as part of our proactive outreach program. A visit from NRAR's outreach officers is a friendly check-in to make sure you understand how the rules apply to you and help answer any questions you might have. When possible, officers will contact you beforehand to arrange a question visit.

[Stay up to date on where you can find NRAR at an event near you](#)

NRAR in the news

We share information on our recent prosecutions and other activities on both our website, and with the media.

Check out some recent stories below and keep an eye out for us in the news!

- [Native fish stocks boosted following an NRAR legal agreement | ABC New England North West](#)
- [NRAR starts prosecution over alleged offences near wetlands | ABC Mid North Coast](#)
- [The town of Hay got a small upgrade thanks to NRAR | Riverine Grazier](#)
- [NRAR helps landholders understand complex water laws | Hunter Valley News](#)

If you have a friend or colleague who might enjoy this newsletter, they can [subscribe here](#).

Keep in touch with us:



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