

Water Resources (Water Available from Areas) Determination 2019

Disallowable instrument DI2019–39

made under the

Water Resources Act 2007, s17 (Amounts of water available from areas)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Section 17 of the *Water Resources Act 2007* (*the Act*) requires the Minister to determine the amounts of surface and ground water available from areas supplying water for the Australian Capital Territory. The determination is also required to meet the Territory's obligations under the Basin Plan, made under the *Water Act 2007* (Cwlth).

When making the determination, the Minister must take the following into account:

- the Environment Flow Guidelines;
- the total water resources of the Territory;
- any studies and research undertaken by the ACT Government to establish sustainable yields for the water management area.

This instrument determines the total annual water available from water and sub-water management areas available to the ACT and reflects the current Environmental Flow Guidelines.

For all water and sub-water management areas except Cotter and Googong, maximum surface water available for taking is 10% of the flow greater than the 80th percentile. In the Cotter and Googong water management areas, the 80th percentile is protected and available take is total flow less the 80th percentile flow.

In the Lower Molonglo and Central Molonglo water management areas, water available for take can include, respectively, the Canberra treated sewage effluent returned to river from the Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre (approximately 30,600ML/yr¹) and Queanbeyan's effluent returned to river from the Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant (approximately 3,250ML/yr), subject to total net water take remaining below the ACT net Sustainable Diversion Limit.

¹ ML denotes megalitres, i.e. 1,000,000 litres, 1 GL equals 1000 ML

Maximum groundwater available for taking is equal to 10% of the estimated recharge to groundwater.

The amounts in schedule 1 have been developed through the ACT Source model and are based on the rules in the current environmental flow guidelines, the total water resources of the Territory, the requirements of the Basin Plan and specific investigations undertaken by the ACT Government to establish sustainable yields of surface and groundwater within catchments under ACT responsibility.

The instrument revokes the *Water Resources (Water available from areas) Determination 2007 (No 1)* (DI2007-191).