

5.3 Ovens system

Variation to the Seasonal Watering Plan 2018-19

This variation was made to the Ovens system section of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2018-19* via an out-of-session VEWH Commission decision made on 6 June 2019.

Please note the amended text in red below.

Table 5.3.1 Potential environmental watering actions and objectives for the Ovens system

Potential environmental watering	Environmental objectives
Summer/autumn low flow fresh in reaches 1, 4 and 5 (1 fresh of 430 ML/day for 3 days in reaches 1 and 4, 130-260 ML/day in reach 5 in December-May)	Provide flow cues to stimulate movement of native fish Maintain connectivity between pools for fish movement and water quality Provide small variations in river levels to move sediment and maintain waterbug habitat Scour biofilm from the river bed
Summer/autumn/winter low flows ¹ in reaches 1, 2 and 3	Maintain connectivity between pools for fish movement and water quality Provide small variations in river levels to move sediment and maintain waterbug habitat

Table 5.3.2 Potential environmental watering for the Ovens system under a range of planning scenarios

Planning scenario	Dry	Average	Wet ¹
Expected river conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible winter/early spring unregulated flows Highly likely low summer/autumn flows Bulk water release unlikely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High winter/spring unregulated flows Possible summer/autumn low flows Bulk water release likely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High unregulated flows throughout most of the year Bulk water release likely All flow objectives achieved naturally
Expected availability of water for the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 ML Lake William Hovell 73 ML Lake Buffalo 123 ML total 		

¹ Operational releases from storage can vary, with water for the environment used to provide some variability over one or two days

Planning scenario	Dry	Average	Wet ¹
Potential environmental watering	Summer/autumn/ <i>winter</i> low flows	Summer/autumn fresh Summer/autumn/ <i>winter</i> low flows	None required
Possible volume of water for the environment required to meet objectives	123 ML	123 ML	0 ML

¹ Spill conditions likely to mean water for the environment cannot be released under wet conditions.