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What is a Water Allocation Restriction?

A Water Allocation Restriction is a management tool. Water Stewardship Division ("WSD") staff place *Water Allocation Restrictions* on streams to alert other WSD staff of current or potential water allocation concerns. Restrictions may range from including minimum fish flow clauses in a water licence, to suspending the issuance of any further licences on a water body. When a recent investigation of a water source indicates that the source is nearing or has reached full allocation, the Regional WSD Technician will initiate a Water Allocation Restriction. This information is considered, along with all other relevant information, when making future water allocation decisions.

The Water Allocation Restriction is entered into the Water Rights Information System (WRIS) database. Abbreviations used in WRIS for the various types of restrictions are:

- RNW** **Refused No Water** indicates a previous application for a water licence was refused because there was insufficient water in the stream to grant the application.
- PWS** **Possible Water Shortage** indicates that this stream is nearing the Fully Recorded stage and there is the potential for periods of insufficient water.
- FR** **Fully Recorded** indicates that based on the information available at the time of the last inspection, no further licences should be considered on this stream.
- FR-EXC** **Fully Recorded except for** indicates that based on the information available at the time of the last inspection, no further licences should be considered on this stream except for licences for the specified purposes and/or quantities.
- OR** **Office Reserve** indicates this specialized comment should be taken into consideration before making any water allocation decisions regarding this stream.