

Baffle Creek Basin

Water Management Protocol

December 2016



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Contents

| | | |
|---------------------|--|----------|
| Chapter 1 | Preliminary..... | 1 |
| 1 | Short title | 1 |
| 2 | Commencement of the water management protocol..... | 1 |
| 3 | Purpose of protocol | 1 |
| 4 | Area to which this protocol applies | 1 |
| 5 | Water to which this protocol applies | 1 |
| 6 | Information about areas | 1 |
| 7 to 10 | Section numbers not used | 1 |
| Chapter 2 | Unallocated water | 2 |
| 11 | Scope of chapter 2 | 2 |
| 12 | Record of volume of unallocated water..... | 2 |
| Part 1 | Unallocated water reserves..... | 2 |
| 13 | Unallocated water reserves..... | 2 |
| Part 2 | Granting from strategic reserve or general reserve | 2 |
| 14 | Unallocated water product specification | 2 |
| 15 | Process for granting unallocated water held as strategic or general reserve—Act, ss. 116 and 147 | 3 |
| 16 | Water licences for taking water from a watercourse, lake or spring | 3 |
| 17 | Water licences for taking overland flow water..... | 3 |
| 18 | Determining nominal entitlement for water licences to take overland flow water by particular works | 3 |
| 19 | Special conditions for licences granted from the strategic reserve..... | 4 |
| 20 to 30 | Section numbers not used | 4 |
| Chapter 3 | Performance assessment..... | 5 |
| 31 | Water monitoring | 5 |
| 32 | Natural ecosystems monitoring | 5 |
| 33 | Assessment and reporting | 5 |
| Attachment 1 | Baffle Creek Basin Water Plan area | 6 |

Chapter 1 Preliminary

1 Short title

This water management protocol may be cited as the Baffle Creek Basin Water Management Protocol 2016¹.

2 Commencement of the water management protocol

This protocol commences on the 6 December 2016.

3 Purpose of protocol

This protocol implements the Water Plan (Baffle Creek Basin) 2010.

4 Area to which this protocol applies

This protocol applies to the plan area for the Water Plan (Baffle Creek Basin) 2010 as shown in attachment 1.

5 Water to which this protocol applies

This protocol applies to the following water in the plan area—

- (a) water in a watercourse, lake or spring; and
- (b) overland flow water.

6 Information about areas

- (1) The exact location of the boundaries of the plan area and its catchments and subcatchments are held in digital electronic form by the department.
- (2) The information held in digital electronic form can be reduced or enlarged to show the details of the boundaries².

7 to 10 Section numbers not used

¹ To allow for future amendments to this plan, some section numbers have been deliberately left blank. This will facilitate any plan amendments that may occur without the need for the whole plan to be renumbered.

² The boundaries held in digital electronic form may be inspected at any of the department's offices.

Chapter 2 Unallocated water

11 Scope of chapter 2

This chapter states the process for making available and dealing with unallocated water mentioned in chapter 5, part 2, of the Water Plan (Baffle Creek Basin) 2010.

12 Record of volume of unallocated water

- (1) The chief executive must keep a register of the volume of unallocated water available.
- (2) This register must be updated after the granting of a water entitlement.

Part 1 Unallocated water reserves

13 Unallocated water reserves

- (1) Unallocated water is held in the following reserves—
 - (a) strategic reserve; and
 - (b) general reserve.
- (2) At the time of commencement of the Water Plan (Baffle Creek Basin) Plan 2010, the total volume of each reserve, including the catchment areas from which the water will be made available, is shown in table 1.

Table 1 – Total volumes for unallocated water

| Catchment area | Total volume (ML) | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | Strategic reserve | General reserve |
| Littabella Creek catchment area | 0 | 5000 |
| Baffle Creek catchment area | 3000 | 5000 |
| Broadwater Creek catchment area | 0 | 1000 |
| Eurimbula Creek catchment area | 0 | 500 |
| Worthington Creek catchment area | 0 | 100 |

Part 2 Granting from strategic reserve or general reserve³

14 Unallocated water product specification

Where the chief executive decides to grant unallocated water it must be as a water licence.

³ Sections 25 and 29 of the Water Plan (Baffle Creek Basin) 2010 state all the strategic and general reserves for the Baffle Creek Basin.

15 Process for granting unallocated water held as strategic or general reserve—Act, ss. 116 and 147

- (1) The process for granting unallocated water must be in accordance with the requirements prescribed in part 2, division 1C of the Water Regulation 2016.
- (2) In releasing and granting unallocated water the chief executive must have regard to the matters listed in section 32(2) of the Water Plan (Baffle Creek Basin) 2010.

16 Water licences for taking water from a watercourse, lake or spring

- (1) Water licences granted from the unallocated water reserves to take water from a watercourse or spring must be granted in accordance with sections 31 and 41 of the Water Plan (Baffle Creek Basin) 2010.
- (2) In accordance with section 30 of the Water Plan (Baffle Creek Basin) 2010, the chief executive must not grant a water licence to take unallocated water if the location of the proposed take is a lake.

17 Water licences for taking overland flow water

- (1) Water licences granted from the unallocated water reserves to take overland flow water must be granted in accordance with section 54 of the Water Plan (Baffle Creek Basin) 2010.
- (2) The nominal entitlement for a licence to take overland flow water by particular works must not be greater than the volume determined under section 18 of this protocol.
- (3) In this division—

particular works means a gully dam, hillside storage or similar storage that is used to take and store overland flow water.

gully dam means an earth embankment built across a waterway, valley, depression or drainage line. This generally incorporates an earthen bywash at one or both ends to pass surplus water.

hillside storage means an earth dam located in a hillside or slope, and not in a defined depression or waterway. It is usually three-sided or curved.

18 Determining nominal entitlement for water licences to take overland flow water by particular works

- (1) The nominal entitlement for a water licence to take overland flow water by particular works is to be determined using equation 1.

Equation 1—

$$\mathbf{NE} = \mathbf{SV}_{\mathbf{OLF}} \times f_{ne}$$

Where—

NE = nominal entitlement in megalitres

SV_{OLF} = proposed overland flow storage volume in megalitres

f_{ne} = nominal entitlement factor determined in accordance with subsection (2).

- (2) The nominal entitlement factor must be decided by the chief executive using—
 - (a) the storage/catchment ratio for the proposed overland flow storage determined under subsection (3); and

- (b) the linear interpolation or extrapolation of the storage/catchment ratios stated in table 2, column 1, and the corresponding values for the nominal entitlement factor (f_{ne}) stated in table 2, column 2.
- (3) The storage/catchment ratio for the proposed overland flow storage is to be determined using equation 2.

Equation 2—

$$\text{Storage / catchment ratio} = \frac{SV_{OLF}}{A_{catchment}}$$

Where—

SV_{OLF} = proposed overland flow storage volume in megalitres

$A_{catchment}$ = catchment area, in hectares, of the proposed overland flow storage.

Table 2 – Nominal entitlement factor (f_{ne})

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|-------------------------|---|
| Storage/catchment ratio | Nominal entitlement factor (f_{ne}) |
| 30 | 0.06 |
| 10 | 0.15 |
| 7.5 | 0.18 |
| 5 | 0.24 |
| 4 | 0.29 |
| 3 | 0.35 |
| 2 | 0.42 |
| 1 | 0.63 |
| 0.5 | 0.83 |
| 0.1 | 1.12 |

19 Special conditions for licences granted from the strategic reserve

In granting a water licence from the strategic reserve for a project of State significance or a project of regional significance, the chief executive must impose a condition on the licence that on conclusion of the project the volume of water returns to the strategic reserve.

20 to 30 Section numbers not used

Chapter 3 Performance assessment

31 Water monitoring

- (1) The chief executive must measure or collect and keep publicly available, records of—
 - (a) water quantity;
 - (b) water taken; and
 - (c) construction of new bores.
- (2) The chief executive may use information collected to support assessment and reporting.

32 Natural ecosystems monitoring

The chief executive must collect and record information on—

- (a) ecological assets that are linked to the ecological outcomes of the Water Plan (Baffle Creek Basin) 2010;
- (b) the critical water requirements of ecological assets in the plan area, such as the volume, frequency, duration and timing of stream flows;
- (c) the provision of the critical water requirements of ecological assets for the Water Plan (Baffle Creek Basin) 2010.

33 Assessment and reporting

- (1) The chief executive must assess the data measured, collected and recorded under sections 31 and 32 of this protocol against the outcomes specified in the Water Plan (Baffle Creek Basin) 2010.
- (2) The chief executive's assessment may be used in assisting the minister to prepare a report under section 57 of the Water Plan (Baffle Creek Basin) 2010.

Attachment 1 Baffle Creek Basin Water Plan area

section 4

