

# **Moreton**

## **Water Management Protocol**

**January 2018  
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# Chapter 1 Preliminary

- 1 **Short title**
  - (1) This water management protocol may be cited as the Moreton Water Management Protocol.
  - (2) Reference in this document to ‘this protocol’ means the Moreton Water Management Protocol.
- 2 **Commencement of the water management protocol**
  - (1) The protocol commenced on 6 December 2016.
  - (2) The amendment to the protocol commenced on 6 March 2020 except Chapter 3, Part 2, Divisions 4 and 5 which commence on 1 April 2020.
- 3 **Purpose of protocol**

This protocol implements parts of the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007.
- 4 **Area to which this protocol applies**

This protocol applies to the area defined in schedule 1 of the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007.
- 5 **Water to which this protocol applies**

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

  - (a) water in a watercourse or lake; and
  - (b) water in springs not connected to groundwater; and
  - (c) groundwater managed under a resource operations licence for the Central Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme.
- 6 **Information about areas**
  - (3) The location of the boundaries of the plan area, water supply schemes, water management areas and zones are held in digital electronic form by the department.
  - (4) The information held in digital electronic form can be reduced or enlarged to show the details of the boundaries<sup>1</sup>.
- 7 **Notifying the resource operations licence holder**
  - (1) The chief executive may determine that the resource operations licence holder for the Cressbrook Creek Water Supply Scheme is required to make releases from Cressbrook Dam or Perseverance Dam
  - (2) The chief executive must notify the resource operations licence holder—
    - (a) within 5 business days of being satisfied that a release is required; and
    - (b) when a release is no longer required.

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<sup>1</sup> The boundaries held in digital electronic form may be inspected at any of the department's offices.

# Chapter 2 Unallocated water

## 8 Scope of chapter 2

This chapter states the process for making available and dealing with unallocated water mentioned in part 5 division 3 of the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007.

## Part 1 Unallocated water reserve type and volume

### 9 Scope of part 1

This part relates to section 25 of the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007.

### 10 Record of volume of unallocated water

The chief executive may keep a register of the volume of unallocated water available.

### 11 Volumes of unallocated water held in general or strategic reserve

The total volumes of water held in a reserve mentioned in section 24 of the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007 are shown in table 1.

**Table 1 – Unallocated water reserve volumes**

| Reserve              | Volumetric limit (ML) by subcatchment area |     |
|----------------------|--|-----|
|                      | 5  | 8   |
| General or strategic |  | 100 |

## Part 2 Releasing unallocated water from the general or strategic reserve

### 12 Scope of part 2

This part relates to section 24A (2) of the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007 and provides additional considerations for making unallocated water available from the general or strategic reserve.

### 13 Considerations for making unallocated water available from the general or strategic reserve

- (1) In preparing and implementing a process to release unallocated water from the general or strategic reserve, the chief executive must consider the following—
  - (a) the purpose for which the water is required;
  - (b) the efficiency of existing and proposed water use practices;
  - (c) the extent to which water is being taken under existing authorisations in the plan area;
  - (d) the availability of an alternative water supply for the purpose for which the water is required;
  - (e) the impact the proposed taking of, or interfering with, the water may have on existing water users in the plan area;

- (f) the impact the proposed taking of, or interfering with, the water may have on the following—
    - (i) water quality;
    - (ii) estuarine areas;
    - (iii) inundation of habitats;
    - (iv) the movement of fish and other aquatic species;
    - (v) the natural movement of sediment;
    - (vi) environmental values, including, for example, recreation and aesthetic values;
    - (vii) cultural values, including, for example, cultural values of the traditional owners of the area; and
  - (g) whether the proposed taking or interfering with, or the proposed use of, the water is likely to—
    - (i) have an adverse effect on groundwater flows; or
    - (ii) lead to degradation of land or downstream watercourses.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not limit the matters the chief executive may consider.

## Part 3 Limitations on water entitlement to be released

### 14 Specification of unallocated water product

Unallocated water will only be made available as a water licence in subcatchment areas 5 and 8.

# Chapter 3 Water allocation dealing rules—supplemented water allocations

## 15 Scope of chapter 3—Act, s. 158

- (1) This chapter provides the water allocation dealing rules for water allocations managed under a resource operations licence within the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007 area.
- (2) Water allocation dealing rules that apply to specific water supply schemes are stated in part 2, divisions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this chapter.

## 16 Definition for this chapter

For this chapter—

**total nominal volume** in a zone is the total nominal volume of all water allocations of the same priority group for—

- (a) the zone; and
- (b) a certificate issued under section 159 of the *Water Act 2000*.

# Part 1 Water allocation dealings—general

## 17 Permitted subdivisions and amalgamations

- (1) Subdivision of a water allocation is permitted where—
  - (a) the sum of the nominal volumes of the new water allocations is equal to the nominal volume of the water allocation that is being subdivided;
  - (b) the location and priority group of the new water allocations are the same as that of the water allocation that is being subdivided; and
  - (c) for a Morton Vale Pipeline zone water allocation, held by the resource operations licence holder, to which section 39 of the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007 applies, if the subdivision relates to an existing water use agreement or supply contract with a water user upon commencement of this protocol, the subdivision—
    - (i) results in water allocations with nominal volumes equal to—
      - (A) the volume stated on an existing water use agreement between the resource operations licence holder and water user; or
      - (B) the volume stated on an existing supply contract between the resource operations licence holder and water user; and
      - (C) the volume stated on a water allocation held by the resource operations licence holder; and
    - (ii) results in any water allocation created in accordance with (i) (A) or (B) being transferred to the water user stated in (i) (A) or (B).
  - (2) Amalgamation of water allocations is permitted where—
    - (a) the nominal volume of the new water allocation is equal to the sum of the nominal volumes of the water allocations that are being amalgamated; and

- (b) the location and priority group of the water allocations that are being amalgamated are the same.

18 Subdivision and amalgamation of a low priority groundwater allocation in the Central Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme

- (1) This section applies—
  - (a) to a low priority groundwater allocation; and
  - (b) where a registered land dealing has occurred, that relates to the place stated on the water allocation—
    - (i) results in a new lot on plan number registered under the Land Act; and
    - (ii) results in a lot on plan number which is different to the original location stated on the water allocation; and
    - (iii) includes land within a groundwater zone; and
    - (iv) results in land parcels where the cumulative total for the area of land to which the dealing applies are not less than, or do not exceed the area of land for the original location.
- (2) The holder of a water allocation to which subsection (1) applies may make an application to the chief executive to—
  - (a) subdivide the water allocation into one or more water allocations; or
  - (b) amalgamate two or more water allocations into 1 or more water allocations.
- (3) In deciding the application, the chief executive must ensure—
  - (a) the subdivided water allocations—
    - (i) are consistent with the section 17(1)(a); and
    - (ii) for the place, must state 1 or more of the new lot on plan numbers resulting from the registered land dealing; or
  - (b) the amalgamated water allocation—
    - (i) are consistent with section 17(2)(a) and
    - (ii) for the place, must state 1 or more of the new lot on plan numbers resulting from the registered land dealing
- (4) If the chief executive approves an application under 3, the chief executive must give the applicant a certificate of the water allocation dealing.
- (5) **Original location** means the location stated as a lot on plan as registered on the water allocation register at the time the land dealing occurred.

19 Assessed changes

- (1) The holder of a water allocation that states the purpose as ‘distribution loss’ may apply to the chief executive, under section 159 of the *Water Act 2000*, to change the purpose of the water allocation to ‘any’.
- (2) The water allocation holder must provide information with the application detailing—
  - (a) that there is sufficient volume held under remaining water allocations to provide for distribution losses within the system;
  - (b) that the proposed change meets the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007 objectives; and
  - (c) any other matters the chief executive considers appropriate.

(3) This section does not apply to a change permitted under section 30.

**20 Application for changes not specified as permitted or prohibited**

An application for a change to a water allocation that is not specified as permitted or prohibited in this chapter may be made in accordance with part 5, division 3, subdivision 4 of the Water Regulation 2016.

## **Part 2 Water allocation dealing rules**

### **Division 1 Water allocation dealings—Central Brisbane River and Stanley River water supply schemes**

**21 Scope of division 1**

This division states water allocation dealing rules for water allocations managed under the resource operations licences for—

- (a) the Central Brisbane River Water Supply Scheme; and
- (b) the Stanley River Water Supply Scheme.

**22 Permitted changes**

The following changes to a water allocation are permitted—

- (a) a change to the location for the taking of water under a water allocation if the change would not result in a total nominal volume in a zone that is greater than the maximum volume as stated in table 2;
- (b) a change to the priority group of a water allocation from high priority to medium priority—
  - (i) where the nominal volume, in megalitres, is calculated by dividing the nominal volume of the water allocation that belongs to the high priority group, by the conversion factor of 1.0; and
  - (ii) provided the total nominal volume does not exceed the maximum total nominal volume for the zone stated in table 2.

**Table 2 – Limits of total nominal volume in a zone**

| Zone              | High priority group water allocations—total nominal volumes | Medium priority group water allocations—total nominal volumes |
|-------------------|---|---|
|                   | Maximum volume (ML)   | Maximum volume (ML)   |
| Brisbane Zone     | 279 000   | 96  |
| Mid-Brisbane Zone |   | 7 376   |
| Somerset Zone     | 5 000   | —   |

**23 Prohibited changes**

A change to the location of a water allocation is prohibited if the change would result in a total nominal volume in a zone that exceeds the maximum total nominal volume for the zone for a priority group stated in table 2.

## **Division 2 Water allocation dealings—Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme**

**24 Scope of division 2**

This division states water allocation dealing rules for water allocations managed under the resource operations licence for the Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme.

**25 Permitted changes**

A change to the location for the taking of water under a water allocation is permitted if the change would not result in a total nominal volume in a zone that is greater than the maximum volume as stated in table 3.

**Table 3 – Limits of total nominal volume in a zone**

| Zone           | High priority group water allocations—total nominal volumes | Medium priority group water allocations—total nominal volumes |
|----------------|---|---|
|                | Maximum volume (ML)   | Maximum volume (ML)   |
| Warrill Zone A | 1 760   | 3 442   |
| Warrill Zone B | 50  | 2 932   |
| Warrill Zone C | 250   | 10 984  |
| Warrill Zone D | 14  | 7 331   |
| Warrill Zone E | 376   | 1 466   |
| Warrill Zone F | 3 876   | 1 466   |

**26 Prohibited changes**

A change to the location of a water allocation is prohibited if the change would result in a total nominal volume in a zone that exceeds the maximum total nominal volume for the zone for a priority group stated in table 3.

## **Division 3 Water allocation dealings—Lower Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme**

### **27 Scope of division 3**

This division states water allocation dealing rules for water allocations managed under the resource operations licence for the Lower Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme.

### **28 Permitted changes**

A change to the location for the taking of water under a water allocation is permitted if the change would not result in a total nominal volume in a zone that is greater than the maximum volume or less than the minimum volume within that zone as stated in table 4.

**Table 4 – Limits of total nominal volume in a zone**

| Zone                 | Medium priority group water allocations—total nominal volume |              |
|----------------------|--|--------------|
|                      | Minimum (ML)   | Maximum (ML) |
| Lower Lockyer Zone A | 2 652  | 3 313        |
| Lower Lockyer Zone B | 536  | 886          |
| Lower Lockyer Zone C | 2 185  | 2 793        |
| Lower Lockyer Zone D | 3 352  | 3 792        |
| Lower Lockyer Zone E | 2 421  | 3 175        |

## **Division 4 Water allocation dealings—Central Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme (surface water)**

### **29 Scope of division 4**

This division states water allocation dealing rules for surface water allocations managed under the resource operations licence for the Central Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme.

### **Subdivision 1 Permitted changes**

#### **30 Change to priority group**

A change to the priority group is permitted if—

- (a) the change is from high priority to medium priority B; and
- (b) the location stated on the water allocation is the Morton Vale Pipeline zone; and
- (c) the change would not result in a total nominal volume in a zone that is greater than the combined maximum allowable nominal volume in that zone in table 5; and
- (d) the water allocation holder has provided information with the application detailing that there is sufficient volume held under water allocations to provide for distribution losses within the system.

- (e) **Distribution loss** means water that is lost when delivering water for water allocations in reticulated areas via constructed infrastructure through processes such as (but not limited to) evaporation, seepage, pipeline leakage, accidental loss through temporary pipe failure (breaks), loss through pressure relief systems and scouring.

### 31 Change to purpose

A change to the purpose from “distribution loss” to “any” is permitted if the holder of the allocation has also applied to change the priority group in accordance with section 29.

### 32 Change to a location

A change to the location for the taking of water under a water allocation is permitted only if—

- (a) the change would not result in a total nominal volume in a zone that is greater than the maximum allowable nominal volume for each priority group stated in table 5.

**Table 5 – Limits of total nominal volume in a zone**

| Zone                                 | Maximum allowable nominal volume (ML) |                         |                         |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                      | High priority group                   | Medium priority B group | Medium priority C group |
| Central Lockyer Surface Water Zone 1 | —                                     | —                       | 1 963                   |
| Central Lockyer Surface Water Zone 2 | —                                     | —                       | 2 094                   |
| Central Lockyer Surface Water Zone 3 | —                                     | —                       | 1 168                   |
| Central Lockyer Surface Water Zone 4 | —                                     | —                       | 6                       |
| Central Lockyer Surface Water Zone 5 | —                                     | —                       | 73                      |
| Morton Vale Pipeline zone            | 185                                   | 3 692                   | —                       |

## Subdivision 2 Prohibited changes

### 33 Prohibited changes

A change to a water allocation is prohibited unless explicitly permitted under—

- (a) this division; or
- (b) part 1.

## Division 5 Water allocation dealings—Central Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme (groundwater)

### 34 Scope of division 5

This division states water allocation dealing rules for groundwater allocations managed under the resource operations licence for the Central Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme.

## Subdivision 1 Permitted changes

### 35 Change to a location

A change to the location for the taking of water under a medium priority groundwater allocation is permitted only if the change would not result in a total nominal volume in a zone that is greater than the maximum volume stated in table 6.

**Table 6 – Limits of total nominal volume in a zone**

| Zone                                | Maximum allowable nominal volume (ML)<br>for Medium priority A group |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Central Lockyer Groundwater Zone 2  | 799  |
| Central Lockyer Groundwater Zone 3a | 1 267  |
| Central Lockyer Groundwater Zone 5  | 927  |
| Central Lockyer Groundwater Zone 6  | 2 232  |
| Central Lockyer Groundwater Zone 8  | 2 529  |
| Central Lockyer Groundwater Zone 9  | 1 778  |

## Subdivision 2 Prohibited changes

### 36 Prohibited changes

A change to a groundwater allocation is prohibited unless explicitly permitted under—

- (a) this division; or
- (b) part 1.

# Chapter 4 Warrill Valley Water Management Area

## 37 Scope of chapter 4

This chapter sets out process for making announced periods for water licences with a purpose of water harvesting located within the Warrill Valley Water Management Area as detailed in attachment 1.

## 38 Announced period

- (1) The chief executive must develop and make available a procedure for determining the start and finish of an announced period.
- (2) In determining the start and finish of an announced period, the chief executive must have regard to information provided by the resource operations licence holder about—
  - (a) when flows exceed operational and user requirements of the Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme; and
  - (b) the expected duration of flow events.
- (3) For this section—

**announced period** means the period of time, as determined and announced by the chief executive, when water may be taken in a water year under the authority of a water allocation.

# Chapter 5 Performance assessment

## 39 Water monitoring

- (1) The chief executive must measure or collect and keep publicly available, records of—
  - (a) water quantity;
  - (b) water quality;
  - (c) water taken;
  - (d) nominal volume of water permanently traded and seasonally assigned;
  - (e) the number of permanent trades and seasonal assignments; and
  - (f) prices for water permanently traded.
- (2) For groundwater within groundwater unit 1 in implementation area 1 that is not groundwater in the Central Lockyer Valley water supply scheme, the chief executive must collect and analyse relevant information about groundwater, including—
  - (a) trends in the levels of the groundwater;
  - (b) the volume of groundwater used;
  - (c) the recharge characteristics of the groundwater; and
  - (d) the quality of the groundwater.
- (3) The chief executive may use information collected to support water resource assessment and reporting.

## 40 Natural ecosystems monitoring

The chief executive must collect and keep publicly available information on ecological assets that are linked to the ecological outcomes of the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007.

## 41 Assessment

The chief executive must make ongoing assessments of whether the trends in the data measured, collected and recorded as required by this chapter indicate that the outcomes specified in the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007 are being achieved.

# Attachment 1 Warrill Valley Water Management Area

