

# Border Rivers groundwater management area water sharing rules and seasonal water assignment rules

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## Version history

Version	Date	Comment
1	25/09/2006	Final
1.1	08/02/2007	Minor amendment update Departmental name
1.2	22/02/2007	Update contact details and amend
2	04/09/2008	Provision of additional explanation of the Part A and Part B charges relating to seasonal water assignments and other minor amendments.
3	06/05/2009	Amendments to contents and structure
4	22/09/2010	Amendments include change to water year, increased maximum volume of forward draw and change to the maximum volume allowed for a seasonal water assignment.

# Policy

## Overview

This policy defines the water sharing rules for the Border Rivers groundwater management area as prescribed in section 64 of the Water Regulation 2002 (Qld) (Water Regulation) and the seasonal water assignment rules, as prescribed in section 15 of the Regulation.

This policy also defines the rules for water accounting and metering for underground water licences managed within the Border Rivers groundwater management area.

## *Water sharing rules*

Water sharing rules are the rules prescribed under the Water Regulation for a water licence not managed under a resource operations plan. Water sharing rules describe the management arrangements for access to water within a water management area.

## *Purpose of water sharing rules*

Water sharing rules establish a framework for water use accounting and as such provide an accountable and auditable trail for the movement of water use within and between water licences.

Water sharing rules also ensure that arrangements for access to water and water use accounting within a water management area are clearly articulated to water licence holders, to provide them with a stable water use accounting regime.

## *Description of the water management area*

### **Geographical boundaries**

The Border Rivers groundwater management area extends along the Dumaresq River from Mingoola to the Keetah Bridge in Southern Queensland. It covers the extent of the alluvial sediments associated with the Dumaresq River that lie to the north of the River—as the river forms the Queensland/New South Wales border, the extent of the alluvial sediments that lie to the south of the river are managed by New South Wales.

The principal tributaries of the Dumaresq River in Queensland are Pike Creek and Macintyre Brook.

The Border Rivers groundwater management area consists of two sub-areas. The sub-areas are managed separately and are assessed independently for the purpose of determining announced allocation and for determining rules for seasonal water assignments. The sub-area boundaries are based on local geology and existing hydro-geological conditions, such as transmissivity and storage capacity. The sub-areas can be described as follows:

- sub-area 1—extends from the confluence of Blackfellow Creek with the Dumaresq River, upstream to Mingoola
- sub-area 2—extends from the confluence of Blackfellow Creek with the Dumaresq River, downstream to where the Keetah Bridge crosses the Dumaresq River.

## *Water to which the water sharing rules apply*

The Border Rivers groundwater management area water sharing rules apply only to underground water contained within the alluvial sediments associated with the Dumaresq River which are confined to a paleochannel that extends from Mingoola to Keetah. The alluvial sediments are generally greater than 30 metres below surface and are up to 50 metres thick and do not outcrop within the Border Rivers groundwater management area. For management definition purposes, these sediments are known as the Border Rivers alluvium.

## ***Water to which the water sharing rules and seasonal water assignment rules do not apply***

The water sharing rules and the seasonal water assignment rules do not apply to:

- any other water contained within the Border Rivers groundwater management area, for example the Dumaresq River alluvium
- the take of underground water from the Border Rivers alluvium for stock or domestic, town water supply or urban purposes.

## ***Plan of water management area***

A plan (CAS1907) has been prepared for the Border Rivers groundwater management area, which shows the extent of the management area including the alluvial boundaries and sub-areas. This plan (CAS1907) is included as Attachment 1.

Note: The attached map is indicative only and is not the legally recognised map of the area under the provisions of the Water Regulation. The area and the exact location of the boundaries of the water management area are held in digital electronic form by the department and may be inspected by the public at the department's Goondiwindi office.

## ***Granting of new or increased nominal entitlements***

The chief executive must not make a decision that will result in an increase in the volume of water taken from the Border Rivers groundwater management area apart from a decision required to be made under the Water Act 2000 (Qld) (Water Act) or its subordinate legislation:

- about a water permit, or
- about reinstating or replacing an expired water licence, or
- for the taking of underground water for stock or domestic purposes.

Such decisions will maintain the integrity of an agreement reached between the New South Wales Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management and the Border Rivers Commission to cap the volume allocated from the underground water system at 30,000 megalitres per water year to be shared across both states.

## ***Water year***

The 'water year' for a water licence, is defined as the accounting period prescribed under a regulation for the licence or until a period is prescribed under a regulation, it is the accounting period stated in the water licence for taking water under the water licence.

The water year for the Border Rivers groundwater management area is the twelve month period of 1 July in each year to 30 June in the year following.

## ***Transitional arrangements for the 2010–2011 water year***

The 2010–2011 water year for the Border Rivers groundwater management area is the nine month period from 1 October 2010 to 30 June 2011.

### ***Nominal entitlement and annual entitlement***

'Nominal entitlement' is the volume of water authorised to be taken during a water year, as specified on the water licence.

The volume of water that a water licence holder is authorised to take during a water year is the 'annual entitlement' that is established from the announced entitlement, calculated as a percentage of the nominal entitlement and adjusted to allow for the volumes of forward draw provided in these water sharing rules.

### ***Transitional arrangements for the 2010–2011 water year***

The nominal entitlement for the 2010–2011 water year remains the full volume of the nominal entitlement specified on the water licence. The annual entitlement for the 2010–2011 water year remains the full volume of the announced entitlement.

### ***Stock or domestic allowance***

A stock or domestic allowance may be mentioned on a water licence that has a volumetric entitlement. (If there is no stock or domestic allowance specified on the front of the water licence, then an allowance may be established by agreement with the department under departmental policy.) This allowance is the annual volume of water taken through water meters used in connection with a water licence that is not accrued as water taken under the licence.

The stock or domestic allowance is separate from the nominal entitlement associated with the water licence. Water taken within a stock or domestic allowance is not managed under these water sharing rules, that is, the stock or domestic allowance is not affected by the announced entitlement, nor can it be the subject of seasonal water assignment.

Where a stock or domestic allowance has been established, the first volume of water taken through the relevant meter in a water year is the volume of the stock or domestic allowance and will not be debited as a volume taken against the licence.

### ***Announced entitlement: overview***

The chief executive must decide an announced entitlement for the Border Rivers groundwater management area.

'Announced entitlement':

- is a percentage of the nominal entitlement of a water licence that may be taken in a water year and is all or part of the annual entitlement for the water licence
- will be decided before the start of the water year to which the announced entitlement relates
- may be increased during the water year
- may be different in each sub-area
- may be announced differently for each water licence
- does not apply to water licences with the purpose of urban or town water supply unless specified by the chief executive.

## ***Announced entitlement: considerations***

The chief executive must undertake the considerations specified in section 66(3) of the Water Regulation when deciding the announced entitlement. That is, the chief executive must consider the following to the extent appropriate for the area:

- trends in underground water levels
- long term average sustainable yield
- historical water use
- anticipated water use
- water available to supplement water licences in the area
- weather conditions, including weather forecasts.

In addition to the considerations specified in section 66(3) of the Water Regulation, the chief executive will also consider any recommendations made by the Dumaresq Valley Irrigators Association, the New South Wales Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water and the Border Rivers Commission.

## ***Announced entitlement: notification***

The chief executive must:

- give written notice of the announced entitlement to the holders of the water licences to which the entitlement relates, or
- publish the announced entitlement in the Goondiwindi Argus and Macintyre Gazette, or
- publish the announced entitlement on the department's web site on the internet.

Notification of the initial announced entitlement for a water year will be made within 10 business days prior to the start of that water year. For subsequent variations to the announced entitlement, the chief executive will endeavour to provide notification of the revised announced entitlement within 10 business days of its commencement.

## ***Annual entitlement***

'Annual entitlement' is the volume of water able to be taken by a water licence holder for that water year. As stated in section 67(1) of the Water Regulation, the annual entitlement is calculated by:

- multiplying the nominal entitlement for the water licence by the announced entitlement
- adjusting the calculated volume for any forward draw that applies to the water licence for the water year.

If, throughout the water year, seasonal water assignment or other water sharing options are approved in relation to a particular water licence, the annual entitlement will be progressively adjusted.

## ***Annual entitlement formula***

The annual entitlement for a particular water licence can be calculated using the following formula:

$$AE = NE \times ANE - FD \text{ (previous year)}^* \pm SWA^* + FD^* \text{ (following year)}$$

Where:

AE = annual entitlement  
NE = nominal entitlement

ANE = announced entitlement (expressed as a decimal)

FD = Forward draw

SWA = seasonal water assignment

\* = if applicable

Note: Examples of how annual entitlement is calculated (based on a 1 July to 30 June water year) are provided in the tables below (shown in the 'new balance' column in the tables). The first table includes an example where the client seasonally assigns water to another water licence holder. The second table includes an example where the client obtains water through a seasonal water assignment from another water licence holder. The addition of or reduction of allocated water is shown in the 'applied volume' column.

Example 1: Example of how annual entitlement is calculated and includes an example where the client seasonally assigns water to another water licence holder.

	Date	Type	Description	Previous Balance	Applied Volume	New Balance	Explanation
	Water Year 2004-2005	Start of new water year					
1	1/07/2004	Nominal Entitlement	Unsupplemented Water for 12345R 100 ML	0.000	0.000	0.000	Initial balance nil. This shows what the nominal entitlement is for authorisation number 12345R, prior to the announced entitlement at the start of the water year.
2	1/07/2004	Announced Entitlement	100 ML @ 80 % for 12345R	0.000	80.000	80.000	Announced entitlement means that 80% of the 100 ML is available (see applied volume column). Applied volume column shows the event of water being allocated to the client. Balance changes to 80 ML because the annual entitlement has now been allocated to the client.

3	30/09/2005	Meter Reading provided indicating that 20 ML of water had been used since last meter reading	A meter reading shows client has used 20 ML of the 80 ML available (this deduction is shown in line 4).				
4	30/09/2004	Announced Entitlement	Use of 20 ML of Announced Entitlement	80.000	-20.000	60.000	The 20 ML used shown in the last meter reading must be taken out. This is done in the applied volume column (see negative 20 ML). This leaves the client with 60 ML of water.
5	2/11/2004	Seasonal Water Assignment	SWA to 55555R 20 ML	60.000	-20.000	40.000	The client is seasonally assigning 20 ML to another water licence holder (this is evident in looking at the negative 20 ML in the applied volume column). The client is left with 40 ML.
6	30/06/2005	Meter Reading provided indicating that 10 ML of water had been used since last meter reading	A meter reading shows the client has used 10 ML of the 40 ML available (this deduction is shown in line 7).				
7	30/06/2005	Announced Entitlement	Use of 10 ML of Announced Entitlement	40.000	-10.000	30.000	The client still has 40 ML, but the 10 ML used shown in the last meter reading must be taken out. This is done in the applied volume column (see negative 10 ML). This leaves the client with 30 ML at the end of the water year. However,

							because carry over is not permitted in Border Rivers groundwater management area - the client will lose this annual entitlement because they did not use it.
8	Water Year 2005-2006	Start of new water year					
9	1/07/2005	Nominal Entitlement	Unsupplemented Water for 12345R 100 ML	0.000	0.000	0.000	Initial balance nil. This shows what the nominal entitlement is for authorisation number 12345R, prior to the announced entitlement at the start of the water year.
10	1/07/2005	Announced Entitlement	100 ML @ 70 % for 12345R	0.000	70.000	70.000	This line shows the new announced entitlement of 70% (of 100 ML nominal entitlement) for the new water year. See the applied volume column for the addition of the 70 ML annual entitlement.

Example 2: Example of how annual entitlement is calculated and includes an example of carry over and an example where the client obtains water through a seasonal water assignment from another water licence holder.

	Date	Type	Description	Previous Balance	Applied Volume	New Balance	Explanation
	Water Year 2004-2005	Start of new water year					
1	1/07/2004	Nominal Entitlement	Unsupplemented Water for	0.000	0.000	0.000	Initial balance nil. This

			12345R 100 ML				shows what the nominal entitlement is for authorisation number 12345R, prior to the announced entitlement at the start of the water year.
2	1/07/2004	Announced Entitlement	100 ML @ 80 % for 12345R	0.000	80.000	80.000	Announced entitlement means that 80% of the 100 ML is available (see applied volume column). Applied volume column shows the event of water being allocated to the client. Balance changes to 80ML because the annual entitlement has now been allocated to the client.
3	12/10/2004	Meter reading provided – indicating that 70 ML of water had been used since last meter reading	A meter reading shows client has used 70 ML of the 80 ML available.				
4	12/10/2004	Announced Entitlement	Use of 70 ML of Announced Entitlement	80.000	-70.000	10.000	This line shows that the 70 ML used was deducted from the 80 ML, leaving only 10 ML water.
	* Client sends notification to DERM to advise forward draw use may occur	As the client only has 10ML left, the client wants to forward draw more water from the next year. The client notifies the Department accordingly. While up to					

		<p>20% of the client's nominal entitlement can be forward drawn, only the required amount is forward drawn (i.e. the whole 20% is not automatically forward drawn). NB: calculation of forward draw starts from when the client exceeds their annual entitlement, not from notification. Notification is an administrative requirement so that the department is aware the client will be forward drawing.</p>					
5	2/11/2004	<p>Meter reading provided – indicating that 20 ML of water had been used since last meter reading</p>	<p>A meter reading shows client has used 20 ML, but only had 10 ML available (hence the need for the forward draw). Note the actual forward draw itself is shown in line 8.</p>				
6	2/11/2004	<p>Announced Entitlement</p>	<p>Use of 10 ML of Announced Entitlement</p>	10.000	-10.000	0.000	<p>10 ML of the existing balance is taken (negative 10ML in applied volume column) to account for some of the 20ML water used. Another 10 ML will need to be drawn (see line 8). There is no water available to be</p>

							used (see nil balance), and still another 10 ML to be made up.
7	2/11/2004	Forward Draw	Transfer of 10 ML of Forward Draw from Water Year	0.000	10.000	10.000	The 10 ML forward draw water is allocated to the client at this point (see the addition of 10ML in the applied volume column). Note this line only shows the addition of the 10ML forward draw water, it is not actually deducted until line 8 (hence why there is a 10 ML balance).
8	2/11/2004	Forward Draw	Use of 10 ML of Forward Draw	10.000	-10.000	0.000	It is at this point that the rest of the 10 ML to make up the 20 ML used is taken from the forward drawn water (see the negative 10 figure in the applied volume column). There is now a nil balance, but the 20 ML of water used for the 2/11/2004 meter reading is now fully accounted for.
9	2/11/2004	Seasonal Water Assignment	SWA from 55555R 30 ML	0.000	30.000	30.000	As the client has no water, the client decides to obtain 30ML by purchasing a seasonal water assignment from authorisation No. 55555R (see 30 ML in applied volume column). Now the client has

							30ML available for use.
10	30/06/2005	Meter Reading provided indicating that 20 ML of water had been used since last meter reading	A meter reading shows client has used 20 ML of the 30 ML of water they bought through seasonal assignment (the use of the water is shown in line 11).				
11	30/06/2005	Seasonal Water Assignment	Use of 20 ML Seasonal Water Assignment	30.000	-20.000	10.000	The client had 30 ML of seasonal water assignment, but used 20 ML, and so only now has 10 ML left at the end of the water year. However, because carry over is not permitted in Border Rivers groundwater management area - the client will lose this annual entitlement because they did not use it.
12	Water Year 2005-2006	Start of new water year					
13	1/07/2005	Nominal Entitlement	Unsupplemented Water for 12345R 100 ML	0.000	0.000	0.000	This shows what the nominal entitlement is for authorisation number 12345R, prior to the announced entitlement at the start of the water year.
14	1/07/2005	Announced Entitlement	100 ML @ 70 % for 12345R	0.000	70.000	70.000	The allocation was announced at 70% of the client's nominal entitlement (therefore the applied

							volume column now shows 70 ML (100 NE x 70 % = 70 ML)).
15	1/07/2005	Forward Draw Transfer	Transfer of 10 ML of Forward Draw to Water Year	70.000	-10.000	60.000	The 10 ML of forward draw water taken last year (see line 7 and 8) has to be subtracted from the current year's water. The 10 ML is subtracted from the 70 ML AE water (see the negative 10 ML in the applied volume column). This leaves the client with 60 ML available. Note that the forward draw water must always be accounted for in the water year immediately following its use.

## ***Carry over***

Water licence holders in the Border Rivers groundwater management area are not authorised to carry over unused announced entitlement from the previous water year.

'Carry over' is the unused component of an announced entitlement that a water licence holder may access in the water year, following the water year for which the announced entitlement was available.

## ***Forward draw***

Water licence holders in the Border Rivers groundwater management area are authorised to forward draw from the following year's nominal entitlement.

'Forward draw' is the volume, expressed as a percentage of the water licence's nominal entitlement, which the water licence holder may take during the current water year.

Forward draw water is accounted for in the water year immediately following its use. That is, at the start of a new water year, the volume of water taken as forward draw in the previous year is deducted from the current

year's announced entitlement.

## ***Forward draw: rules***

- The maximum volume of water that may be forward drawn is 25% of the nominal entitlement specified on a water licence.
- Forward draw is allowed only if the water licence holder has notified the department, using the Forward draw form, that the holder is about to commence to take water under forward draw arrangements. The form is included as Attachment 2 and is also available from the department's Goondiwindi office.
- Water is allowed to be taken under forward draw arrangement only after the water licence holder has used all of the holder's announced entitlement and seasonal water assignment (if applicable).
- The chief executive may decide not to authorise forward draw for a particular water year if the chief executive considers that authorising forward draw may adversely impact the natural environment or other water users. In such instances the chief executive will notify water licence holders in the Border Rivers groundwater management area prior to the commencement of the water year.
- If the chief executive considers that granting the forward draw will potentially adversely affect other water users or the environment, the application will be refused.
- An adverse effect on another water user includes adversely affecting the quality of the water available to other water users.

## ***Forward draw: approval***

Water may be taken under forward draw arrangements once the water licence holder has notified the department, using the Forward draw form (Attachment 2), that they are about to commence taking water under forward draw arrangements.

## ***Forward draw: conditions***

In the event of the sale of a property, any water that has been taken under forward draw arrangements will be transferred to the new water licence holder (ie, the volume of water that has been taken under forward draw arrangements will be subtracted from the following water year's annual entitlement). The new water licence holder is entitled to forward draw from the following year's nominal entitlement the volume available under forward draw arrangements.

In the event that a water licence is subdivided, the default position will be that any water taken under forward draw arrangements will be accounted for against each of the new water licences in proportion to the volume of the nominal entitlement authorised under each new water licence. Alternate arrangements may also be made between the chief executive and the licensee provided such arrangements are made prior to the subdivision of the water licence.

For example, water licence 'A' authorising a nominal entitlement of 100 ML is sub-divided to create two new water licences - water licence 'B' authorising a nominal entitlement of 60 ML and water licence 'C' authorising a nominal entitlement of 40 ML. The holder of water licence 'A' had taken 10 ML of water under forward draw arrangements prior to the subdivision. Consequently, 6 ML of forward draw will be accounted for against water licence 'B', and 4 ML of forward draw is accounted for against water licence 'C'.

Entitlement available through forward draw arrangements cannot be seasonally assigned.

## ***Seasonal water assignment: overview***

Water licence holders or seasonal water assignment notice holders in the Border Rivers groundwater management area may apply for a seasonal water assignment of their entitlement.

'Seasonal water assignment' for a water licence, means the assignment by the holder of a seasonal water assignment notice or a water licence of the benefit under the notice or licence to another person. A seasonal water assignment applies to a water year and for all or part of the water that may be taken under the seasonal water assignment notice or water licence.

## ***Seasonal water assignment: application***

An application for a seasonal water assignment may be made by the holder of a water licence or by the holder of a seasonal water assignment notice (assignor/seller) for the water year in which the application is made. The application must:

- be made using the approved form
- be supported by sufficient information to enable the chief executive to make a decision
- include the name and address of the proposed assignee/buyer and water licence number
- include the written consent of the proposed assignee/buyer
- be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

As a seasonal water assignment applies to the current water year only, an application for a seasonal water assignment can not be made prior to the commencement of the water year.

In assessing the application the chief executive must:

- if the application is in accordance with the seasonal assignment rules - approve the application, with or without conditions
- if the application is not in accordance with the seasonal assignment rules - refuse the application
- give the applicant an information notice as soon as practicable after deciding the application
- if the application is approved - as soon as practicable after approving an application give the assignee/buyer a seasonal water assignment notice, with or without conditions for the current water year.

## ***Seasonal water assignment: rules***

- A seasonal water assignment is not allowed where the assignor/seller or the assignee/buyer has an unpaid water invoice.
- A seasonal water assignment is only allowed where the works from which water is to be taken are attached to a water licence authorising the take of water from the Border Rivers alluvium for a purpose that is irrigation, agriculture or stock intensive. These works must be metered.
- A seasonal water assignment is allowed:
  - within sub-area 1
  - within sub-area 2
  - from sub-area 2 to sub-area 1.
- A seasonal water assignment is not allowed:
  - from sub-area 1 to sub-area 2.
- A seasonal water assignment may not be approved if the chief executive considers that the granting of the assignment might result in adversely impacting the natural environment or other water users.
- An adverse effect on another water user includes adversely affecting the quality of the water available to other water users.
- Until 30 June 2015, a seasonal water assignment will not be approved if the assignment results in the annual entitlement of the assignee/buyer's water licence exceeding a volume that is equivalent to six megalitres per hectare of alluvium associated with the land attached to the water licence at the time of originally granting the water licence.
- From 1 July 2015, the maximum volume that may be assigned to each assignee/buyer's water licence is 25% of the nominal entitlement of the assignee/buyer's water licence.

- A seasonal water assignment will be refused if the assignor/seller does not have sufficient available entitlement.
- Water may not be assigned from water licences with a stated purpose of urban or town water supply.

## ***Seasonal water assignment: approval***

The seasonal water assignment has effect from the day the information notice about the decision is given to the applicant (assignor/seller). The seasonal water assignment notice only applies for the remainder of the current water year in which the assignment takes place (i.e. the assignment will expire midnight on 30 June).

If the application for seasonal water assignment is approved, the assignor/seller, cannot take the assigned water under the water licence from which it has been assigned, that is, the assignor's/seller's annual entitlement is reduced to account for the volume of water that has been the subject of seasonal water assignment and the assignee's/buyer's annual entitlement is increased (as shown in the examples in the 'Annual entitlement' section above and the 'Water accounting' section below).

If the assignee/buyer holds a water licence for the Border Rivers groundwater management area, the seasonal water assignment notice has the effect of increasing the volume of water authorised to be taken under the assignee's/buyer's water licence by the volume stated in the notice.

Approval of a seasonal water assignment in one water year does not imply that a similar seasonal water assignment will be approved in subsequent years.

Note: Applications for seasonal water assignment cannot be made retrospectively to cover excess water use. Any unauthorised water use in excess of the annual entitlement may result in prosecution under the provisions of the Water Act.

## ***Seasonal water assignment: conditions***

The seasonal water assignment notice that is granted to the assignee/buyer will be subject to the conditions:

- which the water licence (from which the water was assigned) is subject
- prescribed under a regulation
- that the chief executive decides to impose for the particular seasonal water assignment notice.

Sections 25, 243 and 244 of the Water Act apply to a seasonal water assignment notice. These provisions allow for limiting the take of water under a seasonal water assignment notice and the surrender or cancellation of a seasonal water assignment notice.

A seasonal water assignment notice does not attach to land. If the holder of a seasonal water assignment notice sells the land, the new owner of the same land does not automatically acquire the seasonal water assignment notice. However, the holder of a seasonal water assignment notice may apply to re-assign the unused part of the seasonally assigned water to the new owner (or to another water licence holder in the Border Rivers groundwater management area, subject to the seasonal water assignment rules).

## ***Water accounting***

For each water year, water use will be accounted for in the following order (depicted in the diagram below):

Stock or domestic allowance (if applicable)

- Announced entitlement
- Seasonal water assignment (subject to approval)
- Forward draw (if applicable)

Start of water year

End of water year

Stock or domestic allowance (if applicable)	Announced entitlement	Seasonal water assignment (subject to approval)	Forward draw (if applicable)
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## ***Water charges***

Refer to the Water Regulation for details about how water charges are calculated.

Part A (nominal allocation) charges are unaffected by seasonal water assignments, that is, the assignor/seller remains responsible for the payment for the water allocation charge of the seasonally assigned water. These charges are based upon the nominal entitlement.

Part B (water use) charges are based upon actual water use. The assignee/buyer of the seasonal water assignment is responsible for payment of the water use charge for the volume of water that is taken under the seasonal water assignment.

## ***Meter readings***

### **Departmental meter readings**

Water meters will be read two times per water year, usually at the end of March and September until 2011 and thereafter at the end of June and December to align with the new water year.

As it is not feasible to read all the meters in a management area on the last day of the water year, the meter readings will normally be taken within a 10-day window, for example, five days before and five days after that day. This meter reading will be deemed to be the final meter reading for the end of the water year for water accounting purposes.

### **Water entitlement holder supplied meter readings**

The water licence holder may provide an alternative acceptable meter reading to the department's final meter reading. This meter reading should be provided to the department within 10 business days of the end of the water year. In exceptional circumstances, a meter reading provided by a water licence holder may be accepted up to 12 months after the end of the water year.

If a water licence holder wishes to provide the department with an exact final meter reading for the end of the water year, they may submit this information:

- within 10 business days of the end of the water year—in writing, to the contact listed at the section 'Contact details', or
- after 10 business days (but within 12 months) of the end of the water year—in a statutory declaration to the contact listed in the section 'Contact details'. Supporting evidence (such as a diary or meter book) must accompany the statutory declaration. The water licence holder must also provide a reason for not submitting the reading within the 10 business days following the end of the year.

Information that is required to accompany the meter reading includes:

- date of reading
- water licence number reference
- works reference
- meter serial number.

It can be arranged for the department to read the water meter if the water licence holder does not want to supply meter readings in the event of sale of a property. A charge will be levied for these readings and details of the charges are described in schedule 16 of the Water Regulation.

## **For forward draw**

The water licence holder is required to supply a meter reading with a notification for taking water under forward draw arrangements.

## **For seasonal water assignments**

The assignor/seller is required to supply meter readings with any application for a seasonal water assignment.

The process for the water licence holder to supply meter readings is detailed on the application form for seasonal water assignment of a water licence.

The assignee/buyer will be required to provide a meter reading under the seasonal water assignment notice, prior to taking water under the seasonal water assignment notice.

## **Quality check of readings**

Meter readings supplied by the water licence holder are subject to a quality check to ensure that the supplied meter reading is accurate.

For example:

- it must be equal to or more than the previous reading
- the supplied meter reading must correspond with the sequence of meter readings recorded for that meter by the department.

## ***Meter malfunction***

Meter malfunctioning or breakdown must be reported to the department as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made to repair or replace the water meter. During the period between reporting the incident and the repair/replacement of the meter, the water licence holder must complete a Water Use Assessment Report to account for water use during this time. A Water Use Assessment Report is included as Attachment 3 and is also available from your local departmental office.

## ***Contact***

For any enquiries relating to water management within the Border Rivers groundwater management area, please contact:

Position: Senior Natural Resource Officer

Street Address: 42 Callandoon Street, Goondiwindi QLD

Postal Address: Locked Bag 4 Goondiwindi QLD 4390

Telephone: (07) 4671 6100 Facsimile: (07) 4671 3163

## Responsibilities

Water licence holders within the Border Rivers groundwater management area:

- must ensure that water is taken in accordance with the conditions of the water licence and is consistent with the water sharing rules
- may apply for a seasonal water assignment in accordance with the seasonal water assignment rules.

The department must:

- provide notification of the announced entitlement prior to the commencement of the water year and prior to the commencement of any subsequent variations to the announced entitlement
- decide the application in accordance with the seasonal water assignment rules.

# Legislation

*Water Act 2000* (Qld)

Water Regulation 2002 (Qld)

## Appendices

Attachment 1 Map CAS1907 <attachments/wsr-2204-border-map-cas1907.pdf>

Attachment 2 Forward draw form <attachments/form-w2f089-fwd-draw-notif.pdf>

Attachment 3 Water use assessment report <attachments/water-use-assess-report.pdf>