

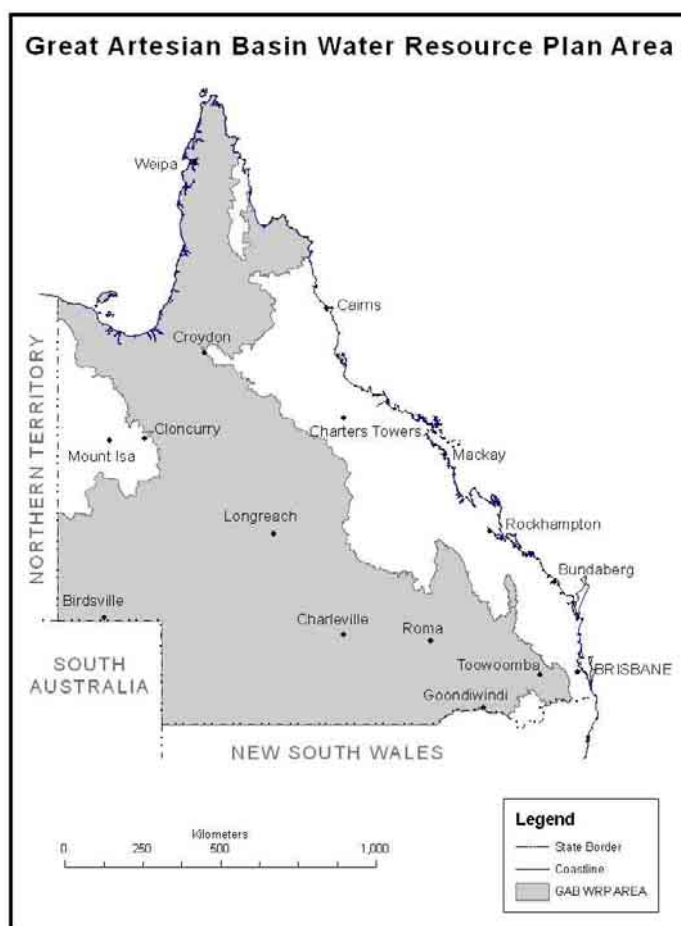


Great Artesian Basin licence relocation rules

Water licensees in the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) are now able to relocate water by transferring, amending or amalgamating all or part of their water licences.

The map below shows where water licences can be relocated within the GAB.

Relocation rules and conditions are stated in the *Great Artesian Basin Resource Operations Plan 2006* (ROP).



Water can only be relocated within a management unit. However, subject to licence conditions, water can be sourced from one management area and used within another area.

A list of the GAB management units and corresponding aquifers is outlined in Schedule 4 of the *Water Resource (Great Artesian Basin) Plan 2006* (WRP).

Water licences

A water licence allows a licensee to take a defined volume of water from a given water source at a specific location.

The location from which water may be taken is often limited within a given parcel of land but can be constrained in other ways, such as distances from a property boundary.

When the parcel (or all parcels) of land to which a water licence is attached is sold, the water licence is transferred to the new owner. To change the location, the licensee is required to apply for a separate amendment to the existing licence. The process for such an amendment is similar to the process for a new application.

Relocation of licences

Relocation of a water licence is a specific type of transfer involving a change in the location from which water may be taken. This enables a licensee to permanently trade and/or transfer a water licence without transferring the land to which the licence is attached.

A water licence holder (the proposed transferor) may relocate all or part of their water licence to a person (the proposed transferee) who is/will be the owner of the land to which the water licence will be relocated.

A relocation allows existing and potential licence holders to access additional water or obtain greater flexibility to move water to other parcels of land. Water licence relocations can include one or more of the following type of changes:

- transferring the water licence to another person (the transferee) and changing the location from which water may be taken
- amending the water licence to change the location from which water may be taken or the purpose for which water may be taken
- amalgamating the water licence with another water licence held (or to be held) by the transferee.



Application process

Applicants must submit the approved application form to the Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW). The application must be made jointly by the transferor and the transferee. To obtain an application form visit the NRW website <www.nrw.qld.gov.au>.

Rules and criteria (such as those for protecting springs and existing entitlements) for the relocation of water licences are set out in the ROP. In some cases, the requirements of a wild river declaration or additional conditions (e.g. land ownership confirmation) may also apply.

If the application does not meet the assessment criteria it may be approved with conditions or refused.

There is no formal conveyancing or settlement process, or legislated cooling off period. Once the water licence relocation has taken effect, it is completed. As such, applicants need to take special care when completing the relocation details on the application form.

Fees and charges

A non-refundable application fee (specified on the application form) must be paid for all applications.

Related information

Only water licences stating a volumetric limit can be relocated—to the maximum amount stated on the original licence.

Licences for stock and domestic purposes cannot be relocated.

Licences granted for town water supply and those granted for a specific project (such as mining) can be relocated but are not permitted to change the original purpose. A similar condition applies to licences granted from the state reserve.

Detailed rules for relocation of water licences in the GAB can be found in Chapter 6 of the ROP.

The grant of a water licence does not authorise the construction or installation of works for taking water (such as bores), or any associated development.

Where required, a development permit under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* must be held before works are constructed. In some cases a development permit may not be required but a compliance with the self assessment code may be necessary.

For more information on development permits and self assessment codes visit <www.nrw.qld.gov.au>.

Under a relocated water licence an approved Land and Water Management Plan (LWMP) is required before water can be used for the purpose of irrigation.

Further information

For more information please contact or visit one of the following NRW service centres:

- Toowoomba—(07)4688 1000/203 Tor Street
- Rockhampton—(07) 4938 4943/209 Bolsover Street
- Longreach—(07) 4650 1930/Landsborough Highway, Longreach
- Mareeba—(07) 4048 4850/167 Walsh Street
- Brisbane—1800 113 473.

Download copies of the ROP and WRP at <www.nrw.qld.gov.au>.

Download copies of the development permit application forms and the self assessment codes from the Department of Infrastructure and Planning website <www.ipa.qld.gov.au>.

Download copies of the LWMP guidelines at <www.nrw.qld.gov.au>.

August 2008
W133

For further information phone 13 13 04