

**NOTICE OF AMENDMENT
TO INTERIM RESOURCE OPERATIONS LICENCE FOR THE
ST GEORGE WATER SUPPLY SCHEME**

***Water Act 2000*
Section 185A**

1. Notice of amendment

This notice is given by the chief executive pursuant to section 185A(2)(b) of the *Water Act 2000*.

2. Water sharing rules amended

The water sharing rules in the Interim Resource Operations Licence for the St George Water Supply Scheme (the 'IROL') are amended for all of the 2009-2010 water year, as specified in clause 3.

3. Details of the amendment

The water sharing rules in S2.3 of Schedule 2 of the IROL are amended as follows:

New section S2.3.7 is inserted after S2.3.6.2 as follows:

“S2.3.7 Low flow management

1. In the event that:

- (a) an inflow occurs to Beardmore Dam; and
- (b) more than 12 months has passed since a flow through event; and
- (c) the following measures are not likely to result in a flow through event
 - (i) the release of all compensation water that may have been stored under S2.3.5.1; and
 - (ii) the reduction of the daily rate of take of water harvesters by 10% for up to five days in accordance with section 4 of the Lower Balonne water management area water sharing rules; and
 - (iii) the reduction of up to 10% of the volume of water that could have been taken by weirs below Jack Taylor Weir under section 5 of the Lower Balonne water management area water sharing rules; and
 - (iv) the management of bifurcation weirs in accordance with section 6 of the Lower Balonne water management area water sharing rules,

then the Licensee is required to release a volume of up to 10% of the inflow up to a maximum of 7,858ML¹ per inflow event that would usually have been stored for use under interim water allocations by shareholders in order to maximise the likelihood of a flow through event. The Licensee must release this water as directed by the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

2. Immediately prior to making a release under subsection 1 above, the Licensee must make a written record of the volume of water in each share and the volume of water that would have been stored in each share had a release not been made under subsection 1.

3. Notwithstanding S2.3.3.5, the volume of inflow that is released under subsection (1) above will not be distributed to shareholders.

¹ The maximum volume of 7,858ML per inflow event represents 10% of the total commandable capacity of Beardmore Dam (78,580ML).

4. If the Licensee accepts any water order placed by shareholder(s) during the time when a measure that is mentioned in subsection 1(c) above is in effect, or when any release is being made under subsection 1, the Licensee must notify the Department of Environment and Resource Management of the details of the total volume of water orders and releases. The Licensee must fulfil a water order by releasing the appropriate withdrawal volume (as calculated using Equation 4 in S2.3.3.4).

5. If a release is made under subsection 1, priority is given to replacing the water that was released under subsection 1 during subsequent flow events. That is, for inflows of up to 730ML/day during subsequent flow events, priority is given to replacing the volume of water that was released under subsection 1, which is water that would usually have been stored for use by shareholders.

Upon the request of the Department of Environment and Resource Management, this volume of 'replacement' water is to be distributed to all shares in proportion to the size of the shares at the time that the release was made under subsection 1. If a share does not have available airspace to accept the total volume of 'replacement' water to be distributed to it, then:

- (a) if there is available airspace to store the water as compensation water – the deficit volume will be stored as compensation water until the share has the required airspace.
- (b) if there is not available airspace to store the water as compensation water – the deficit volume may be made available during subsequent flow events.

6. For this section, a flow through event has occurred when, within a three month period, a flow in the system has reached all of the following points:

- (a) junction of the Culgoa and Darling Rivers;
- (b) junction of the Birrie River and Culgoa River;
- (c) junction of the Bokhara River and Cato Creek; and
- (d) Narran Park Gauging Station.”

4. Water year to which the amendment applies

- a) The amendments detailed in clause 3 commence on 1 July 2009 and continue until the end of the 2009-2010 water year.
- b) On and from the commencement of the 2010-2011 water year, the water sharing rules and infrastructure operating arrangements detailed in the IROL recommence.

5. Reasons for the amendment

I am satisfied that the rules need to be amended because of seasonal conditions and to give effect to sections 38(2)(c) and 38(3)(b)(ii) of the *Water Resource (Condamine and Balonne) Plan 2004* prior to the commencement of the resource operations plan for the area. The amendment provides for improved management of flow events in the plan area in order to meet the objectives of the *Water Resource (Condamine and Balonne) Plan 2004*.

Date of Notice **29 June 2009**



Graeme Milligan
General Manager, Water Accounting and Management