

Public Notice

NOTICE OF INTENT
TO AMEND WATER RESOURCE (CONDAMINE AND BALONNE) PLAN 2004
WATER ACT 2000
(Section 40 and section 55(1)(a))
Subartesian Water - Central Condamine Alluvium

1. Notice

This notice of the intention to amend the *Water Resource (Condamine and Balonne) Plan 2004* (the Plan) by the preparation and publication of an amending water resource plan (Amending Plan) is given by the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (the Minister) under section 40 of the *Water Act 2000* (the Act).

2. Intention to amend the *Water Resource (Condamine and Balonne) Plan 2004*

Under section 38(5) of the Act, a water resource plan must regulate the taking of subartesian water if the Minister is satisfied that—

- there is an existing water resource plan – there is a risk that taking, or interfering with, subartesian water in the area may significantly impact on the plan's outcomes; or
- there is a risk that the taking, or interfering with, subartesian water in the area may significantly affect—
 - the availability of water for existing water entitlement holders; or
 - the water requirements of natural ecosystems; or
 - the quality of water.

The Minister is satisfied that these risks exist in relation to subartesian water in that part of the area of the Plan comprising the Central Condamine Alluvium Area (the Amendment Area). The Minister intends to amend the Plan to regulate the taking of subartesian water within the Central Condamine Alluvium Area.

3. Area subject to Plan amendment

The area of the Plan the subject of this amendment (the Amendment Area) is the Central Condamine Alluvium as shown in the map contained in this Notice.

The Map of the Amendment Area contained in this Notice is indicative only. The exact location of the boundaries of the area is held in digital electronic form by the Department of Environment and Resource Management (the Department). The Map may be viewed at the Department's Toowoomba office. Please see clause 9 for the address of the Department's office in Toowoomba.

4. Water subject to intended Plan amendment

The water to which the amendment applies is subartesian water in the Amendment Area other than water managed under the *Water Resource (Great Artesian Basin) Plan 2006*.

5. Information Report

An information report ('the report') has been prepared under section 39 of the *Water Act 2000* about water allocation and sustainable management issues in the Amendment Area. The report also specifies arrangements for establishing a Community Reference Panel ('the panel') to provide advice about matters relevant to the Amending Plan, and proposed arrangements for technical assessments.

Copies of the report can be inspected at, or obtained by contacting, the Department using the details specified in clause 9 of this Notice. Alternatively, the report may be viewed or downloaded from the internet at www.derm.qld.gov.au/wrp/condamine.html.

6. Public information sessions

To provide an avenue for communicating the water planning process with the general community, public information sessions will be held at different locations throughout the proposed plan area. The date and time for the information sessions are:

| Location | Date | Time | Venue |
|------------|-------------|---------------|---|
| Pittsworth | August 27 | 7:00 – 8:00pm | Conference Room Technology Centre 42 Hume Street (Next to the State Primary School, via Short Street turn west onto Hume Street) |
| Dalby | September 9 | 7:00 – 8:00pm | Conference Room Dalby RSL 69 Drayton Street (RSL is located on the Warrego Highway in Dalby near the Myall Creek Bridge) |

7. Submissions

Submissions may be made about the proposal to prepare an Amending Plan or about the establishment of the panel. Anyone may make a submission. Submissions must be:

- in writing and signed by each person who made the submission;
- state the name and address of each person who made the submission;
- state the grounds of the submission and the facts and circumstances relied on in support of the grounds;
- received on or before 5:00 pm, 2 October 2009; and**
- received by the person stated in clause 9 of this Notice.

Email and internet submissions will be accepted.

Submissions should identify information that is considered confidential. The department will endeavour to maintain the confidentiality of information that is identified in this way, however submissions are subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1992 and information may be required to be released upon requests made under this Act. Furthermore, other legal obligations, such as the processes of the courts or natural justice may also override confidentiality.

8. Call for nominations to Community Reference Panel D

Under section 41 of the *Water Act 2000*, the Minister must establish a Community Reference Panel to provide a forum for consultation and communication between the community and the Department. The panel must include representatives of cultural, economic and environmental interests in the proposed plan area to which the Amending Plan is intended to apply. The panel will meet periodically to identify issues, review information and provide input and advice throughout the development of the Amending Plan. The Department is seeking nominations from community members interested in serving on the Condamine Groundwater Community Reference Panel.

A nomination kit, containing the Terms of Reference for selecting the panel members and a nomination form that must be completed as part of the nomination and selection process, will be sent to all those lodging an expression of interest. All interested stakeholders, water users and community members must be nominated through this process.

To lodge an interest in becoming a member of the Condamine Groundwater Community Reference Panel and obtain a nomination kit please, contact the department using the details specified in clause 9 of this Notice. Nominations close on **2 October 2009**.

9. Inquiries

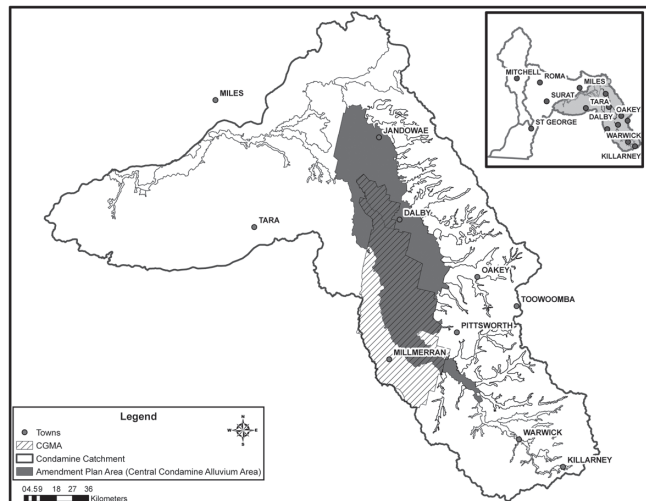
(a) Submissions on the proposal to prepare the Amending Plan must be addressed to:

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|---|---|
| Postal Address: Chief Executive Attn: Mr Steve Flook Water Planning Department of Environment and Resource Management PO Box 318 Toowoomba Q 4350 | Street Address: Chief Executive Attn: Mr Steve Flook Water Planning Department of Environment and Resource Management 203 Tor Street Toowoomba Q 4350 |
| By Email: CondamineGW. WRPAmendment@derm.qld.gov.au | By Facsimile: Attention: Mr Steve Flook (07) 4688 1188 |
| By Internet: http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/wrp/condamine.html | |

(b) Further inquiries should be directed to Mr Steve Flook, Senior Project Officer, Department of Environment and Resource Management on 4688 1000. Alternatively, information can be viewed or downloaded via the internet from www.derm.qld.gov.au/wrp/condamine.html.

Dated this 14th day of August 2009

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
and Minister for Trade



Queensland Government