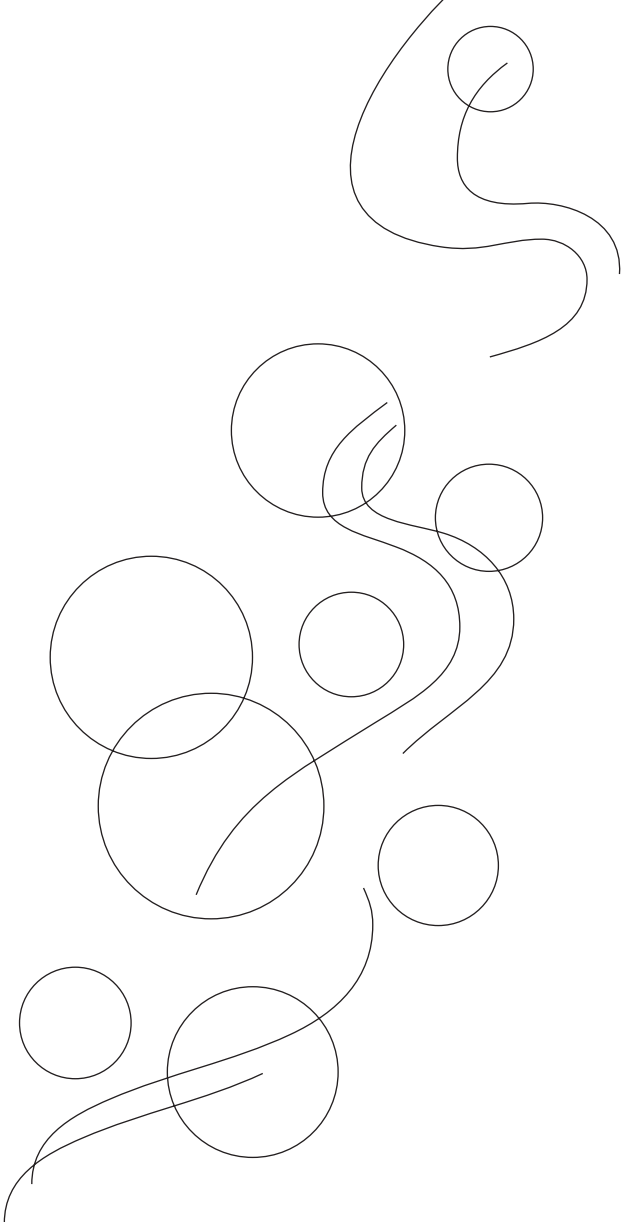


# Moonie

## resource operations plan February 2006



Moonie Resource Operations Plan 2006

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# FOREWORD

The Moonie Resource Operations Plan has been finalised following a period of consultation and review that began with the release of a draft plan in February 2005.

The finalised plan will implement the objectives and outcomes specified in the *Water Resource (Moonie) Plan 2003*. Together, these plans will provide enhanced certainty and security for water users and the natural environment.

The resource operations plan contains proposals for the many issues that must be addressed in implementing the *Water Resource (Moonie) Plan 2003*.

Both plans are complementary parts of a water planning process that will ensure that the Moonie River and other watercourses in the plan area are sustainably managed for the benefit of future generations.

The resource operations plan contains arrangements for—

- converting existing water authorisations into tradable water allocations;
- management of unsupplemented water within the Moonie catchment;
- trading of water allocations;
- rules to allow changes to water allocations;
- dealing with unallocated water;
- water and ecosystem monitoring; and
- amendments to the plan through public notification and consultation.

In addition, 1,100 megalitres of unallocated water has been set aside in the Moonie basin and will be reserved for future release.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the development of this plan for all their hard work and input.

**Bob McCarthy**  
**Director-General**  
**Department of Natural Resources and Mines**

**THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING:**

**(1) MOONIE RESOURCE OPERATIONS PLAN 2006**

**(2) EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE MOONIE  
RESOURCE OPERATIONS PLAN 2006**

**(3) WATER RESOURCE (MOONIE) PLAN 2003**

**MOONIE**

**RESOURCE OPERATIONS PLAN 2006**

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## CHAPTER 1 – PRELIMINARY

### 1. Water resource plan implemented through the resource operations plan

This resource operations plan implements the *Water Resource (Moonie) Plan 2003* ('the water resource plan').

### 2. Name of the resource operations plan

This resource operations plan may be cited as the *Moonie Resource Operations Plan 2006* ('the plan').

### 3. Commencement of the resource operations plan

This plan commences on the first business day after it is notified in the *Queensland Government Gazette*.

### 4. Plan area

This plan applies to the area shown as the plan area on the map in Attachment 1<sup>1</sup>.

### 5. Water to which this plan applies

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

- (a) water in a watercourse, lake or spring; and
- (b) overland flow water.

### 6. Water Management Areas and Resource Operations Plan Zones

- (1) The Moonie catchment has one water management area as shown in Attachment 1.
- (2) Each zone shown in Attachments 1 and 2 is a resource operations plan zone ('zone') for this plan.
- (3) A water management area or zone includes—
  - (a) each part of a watercourse, lake or spring that lies within the water management area or zone; and
  - (b) those sections of tributaries where there is access to flow or pondage from a watercourse or lake within the water management area or zone.

### 7. Information about areas and zones

- (1) The exact boundary of the plan areas and zones is held in digital electronic form by the department.
- (2) The information held in digital electronic form can be reduced or enlarged to show the details of the boundaries.
- (3) The boundaries in digital electronic form may be inspected at the department's head office in Brisbane.

### 8. Departmental water monitoring data collection standard

- (1) Where this plan requires monitoring by a person or entity, including measurement, collection, analysis or storage of data, the person or entity must ensure the monitoring is consistent with the *Water Monitoring Data Collection Standard*<sup>2</sup>.
- (2) The *Water Monitoring Data Collection Standard* may be reviewed and updated by the chief executive at any time.

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<sup>1</sup> This plan area is identical to the plan area for the water resource plan.

<sup>2</sup> The *Water Monitoring Data Collection Standard* can be accessed on the department's website at <http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au> or alternatively, inspected at the department's head office in Brisbane.

## 9. Departmental water monitoring data reporting standard

- (1) Any data that is transferred or published must be in a format consistent with the chief executive's *Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standard*<sup>3</sup>.
- (2) The *Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standard* may be reviewed and updated by the chief executive at any time.

## 10. Operating and environmental management rules and monitoring requirements

The water management rules and monitoring requirements of this plan do not apply in situations where carrying out those rules or requirements would be unsafe for a person or persons.

## 11. Metering

- (1) Metering of the taking of water must be in accordance with the arrangements prescribed by the regulation made under the *Water Act 2000* ('the Act').
- (2) Taking water under a water entitlement must be metered where a volumetric limit is stated on the water entitlement.
- (3) This section does not apply to water entitlements where the purpose is stated as stock or domestic.

## 12. Sustainable management of water

This plan, in implementing the water resource plan, provides for the sustainable management of water by—

- (a) facilitating the allocation of water and contributing to the fair, orderly and efficient allocation of water to meet community needs by—
  - (i) detailing processes for dealing with unallocated water;
  - (ii) granting entitlements for the taking of and interfering with water; and
  - (iii) establishing water allocations that are tradable and separate from land;
- (b) contributing to the protection of biological diversity and health of natural ecosystems and contributing to the protection and where possible reversal of the degradation of water, watercourses, lakes, springs, aquifers, natural ecosystems and other resources by detailing—
  - (i) processes for dealing with unallocated water;
  - (ii) the flow access conditions for entitlements; and
  - (iii) arrangements for the collection and assessment by the chief executive of data relating to the outcomes for the water resource plan (including ecological outcomes);
- (c) contributing to improving the confidence of water users regarding the availability and security of water authorisations by detailing—
  - (i) processes for dealing with unallocated water;
  - (ii) flow access conditions for entitlements;
  - (iii) licensing for overland flow works;
  - (iv) change rules for water allocations in the plan area;
  - (v) processes for dealing with applications for water licences relating to unsupplemented water in watercourses, lakes and springs;
  - (vi) arrangements for the collection and assessment of data by the chief executive relating to the water resource plan outcomes; and
  - (vii) those parts of the plan that may be amended under Section 106(b) of the Act.

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<sup>3</sup> The *Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standard* can be accessed on the department's website at <http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au> or alternatively, inspected at the department's head office in Brisbane.

- (d) contributing to increasing community understanding and participation in the sustainable management of water by—
  - (i) providing opportunities for community participation and submissions as part of plan development; and
  - (ii) clearly specifying rules and arrangements for the allocation and management of water in the plan area, including explanatory notes that provide details of the intent and application of each section of the plan.

### **13. Addressing water resource plan outcomes**

- (1) This plan addresses water resource plan outcomes by—
  - (a) specifying processes, rules and limits, consistent with the environmental flow objectives and water allocation security objectives specified in the water resource plan; and
  - (b) providing monitoring and reporting arrangements that will assist in the ongoing assessment of whether water allocation and management arrangements in the plan area will contribute to the achievement of the water resource plan outcomes.
- (2) Attachment 3 lists the outcomes of the water resource plan and how the provisions in this plan are linked to those outcomes.

## **CHAPTER 2 – DEALING WITH UNALLOCATED WATER**

### **Part 1 – Unallocated Water for ‘Any’ Purpose**

#### **14. Unallocated water reserved for future projects**

The 1,100 megalitres of unallocated water in the Moonie Water Management Area designated for ‘any’ use is reserved for future use.

#### **15. Future amendment to allow release of unallocated water**

- (1) When determining the need for unallocated water, the chief executive will have regard to Section 41 of the water resource plan.
- (2) If the chief executive decides to release some or all of the reserved unallocated water, this plan will be amended.

**16 to 18. Section numbers not used<sup>4</sup>**

### **Part 2 – Unallocated Water for Town Water Supply**

#### **19. Scope of part 2**

This part sets out the process for dealing with 100 megalitres of unallocated water reserved by the water resource plan for town water supply, as well as any additional volume reserved by the chief executive for town water supply from the water reserved for ‘any’ purpose under part 1 of chapter 2 of this plan.

#### **20. Unallocated water reserved**

The volume of water set aside in section 19 is reserved for future use.

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<sup>4</sup> Because of the size and complexity of this plan some section numbers have been deliberately left blank. This will facilitate any plan amendments that may occur without the need for the whole plan to be renumbered.

**21. Process for making the reserved water available**

- (1) The reserved water may be made available for town water supply if the chief executive—
  - (a) receives a submission in writing from a local government within the plan area requesting that the reserved water be made available;
  - (b) is satisfied that additional water is needed for town water supply; and
  - (c) the request does not exceed the amount of unallocated water made available for town water supply.
- (2) In making a submission for reserved water to be made available, the applicant must provide the following—
  - (a) when the water will be required;
  - (b) the volume of water required;
  - (c) a statement detailing how the requirements under Section 41(1) of the water resource plan have been met;
  - (d) information demonstrating that the water is needed to meet town water demands in the designated area;
  - (e) details of the proposed arrangements for the taking of the water;
  - (f) information demonstrating that the proposed arrangements for the taking of the water are consistent with the water resource plan;
  - (g) evidence that—
    - (i) best practice water use efficiency measures will be or are being employed;
    - (ii) future demand is projected to exceed current available resources within the life of the water resource plan; and
    - (iii) the proponent has consulted with other local authorities in the plan area and information as to their agreement or objection to the taking of unallocated water is provided.

**22. Assessment of submission for the reserved water**

- (1) In assessing a submission for the reserved water to be made available, the chief executive must consider—
  - (a) the matters specified in section 21(2) of this plan; and
  - (b) whether the submission is consistent with the Strategic Asset Management Plan (or the equivalent plan) in the local government area of the proponent.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not limit the matters the chief executive may consider.

**23. Additional information may be required**

The chief executive may require additional information about the submission.

**24. Deciding the submission**

- (1) Where the chief executive decides to make the reserved water available, the chief executive must determine—
  - (a) the maximum rate of take and volume of water to be released;
  - (b) the price for the water that will be made available;
  - (c) conditions under which the water may be taken; and
  - (d) whether the water entitlement will be granted as a water licence or as a water allocation.
- (2) The chief executive may review the decision made under subsection (1) as a result of receiving additional information.

**25. Public notification**

Once the decision detailed in section 24 has been made, the results of the decision will be advertised and submissions sought.

**26. Granting a water entitlement to a local authority**

- (1) When granting a water entitlement to the local authority, the chief executive may consider issues raised in submissions made under section 25 in determining the final detail of the water entitlement.
- (2) The water entitlement will be granted through an amendment to the resource operations plan.

**27 and 28. Section numbers not used****CHAPTER 3 – DEALING WITH UNSUPPLEMENTED WATER****Part 1 – Conversion of Unsupplemented Authorisations****29. Granting of water allocations**

Details of unsupplemented water allocations converted and granted from existing water authorisations are listed in Attachment 4.

**Part 2 – Water Sharing Rules****30. Access rules for all water allocations**

The holder of a water allocation must not take water under the allocation unless—

- (a) the passing flow exceeds the flow condition for that allocation at the specified reference point on the allocation;
- (b) water is taken at a rate not exceeding the maximum daily rate on the allocation;
- (c) the allocation holder complies with any special conditions on the allocation; and
- (d) water is taken from the location specified on the allocation.

**31. Flow conditions**

- (1) Details of flow conditions for water allocations are listed in Attachment 4.
- (2) Flow conditions on a water allocation may be amended under section 130 to allow for a change in the flow reference point associated with the allocation.

**32. Volumetric limit**

A water allocation holder must not take more water under the allocation in any water year than the volumetric limit for the allocation.

**33 to 41. Section numbers not used****Part 3 – Water Allocation Change Rules****42. Scope of part 3**

This part provides the water allocation change rules for unsupplemented water allocations.

## *Division 1 – Permitted Changes*

### **43. Change of location for allocations with nil passing flow condition**

- (1) This section applies to a water allocation that has a flow condition that allows water to be taken when there is no passing flow ('a nil passing flow condition').
- (2) A change to the location on the allocation is permitted provided—
  - (a) there is no change to the zone from which water may be taken;
  - (b) after the change is made, the allocation includes the following special condition:
 

'Taking water under this water allocation is prohibited whenever the water level in the waterhole is less than 0.5 metres below the level at which it naturally overflows';
  - (c) after the change is made, the 'place' component of the location of the water allocation must be limited to an area no larger than the ponded area of the waterhole from which the water will be taken;
  - (d) if the change will allow water to be taken from a different waterhole, the holder of the allocation has the written consent of—
    - (i) the owners of land adjacent to the waterhole; and
    - (ii) the holders of any water allocations with a nil passing flow condition that can take water from the waterhole; and
  - (e) if the change will allow water to be taken from within the full supply level of an authorised weir, the holder of the allocation has the written consent of the owner of the weir.

### **44. Subdivision and amalgamation**

- (1) The subdivision of a water allocation ('the original allocation') into two or more water allocations is permitted provided—
  - (a) the new water allocations have the same flow conditions and location as the original allocation; and
  - (b) the sum of the nominal volumes, rates of take and volumetric limits of the new water allocations each equal the nominal volume, rate of take and volumetric limit of the original allocation.
- (2) Two or more water allocations may be amalgamated into a new water allocation provided—
  - (a) the water allocations have the same flow conditions and location; and
  - (b) the nominal volume, rate of take and annual volumetric limit of the new water allocation are equal to the sum of each of the nominal volumes, rates of take and volumetric limits of the allocations that are being amalgamated.

### **45 to 51. Section numbers not used**

## *Division 2 – Prohibited Changes*

### **52. Prohibited changes**

Subdivision or amalgamation is prohibited and must not be approved where—

- (a) the change is inconsistent with the permitted change rule in section 44; or
- (b) for subdivision, the change would result in a nominal volume that is not a whole number and is less than five megalitres; or
- (c) for subdivision, the proportional change in the maximum diversion rate is not equal to the proportional change in the volumetric limit.

**53 to 59. Section numbers not used***Division 3 – Other Changes***60. Application for changes not specified as either permitted or prohibited**

An application for a change to a water allocation that is not specified as permitted or prohibited may be made in accordance with Section 130 of the Act.

*Division 4 – Water Allocations used in Conjunction with Overland Flow Works***61. Application to remove the special condition**

- (1) This section applies to an application to change a special condition on a water allocation that requires water taken under the allocation to be stored in particular works, where the works allow taking of overland flow water ('the overland flow dam').
- (2) The chief executive must not approve the change unless the chief executive grants, in accordance with chapter 4, part 2 of this plan, a water licence for taking overland flow water to the owner of the overland flow dam.

**Part 4 – Seasonal Water Assignments****62. Seasonal water assignment rules**

The chief executive may approve a seasonal assignment of a water allocation provided that—

- (a) there is no change to the zone for the take of water under a seasonal assignment;
- (b) the water allocation does not have a special condition that requires it to be stored in particular works;
- (c) the flow condition under which water may be taken under seasonal assignment is the same as the flow condition for the water allocation that is being seasonally assigned; and
- (d) if the water allocation being seasonally assigned has a nil passing flow condition, then the allocation can only take water from a waterhole or weir provided the following conditions are met—
  - (i) taking water is prohibited whenever the water level in the waterhole is 0.5 metres below the level at which it naturally overflows;
  - (ii) if the assignment results in water being taken from a different waterhole then the assignee has the written consent of—
    1. the owners of land adjacent to the waterhole; and
    2. the holders of any water allocations with a nil passing flow condition that can take water from the waterhole; and
  - (iii) if the assignment results in water being taken from within the full supply level of an authorised weir then the assignee has the written consent of the owner of the weir.

**63 to 70. Section numbers not used**

## CHAPTER 4 – DEALING WITH WATER LICENCES

### Part 1 – Dealing with Water Licence Applications

#### 71. Scope of part 1

This part applies to each application for a water licence to take or interfere with water made under Section 206 of the *Water Act 2000* including an application originally made under the *Water Resources Act 1989*.

#### 72. Applications to be refused

The chief executive must refuse the application unless this part explicitly provides for accepting or dealing with the application.

#### 73. Applications to take water from a watercourse, lake or spring

- (1) This section applies to an application to increase the take of water from a watercourse, lake or spring.
- (2) The chief executive may accept and deal with the application if it is for a water licence mentioned in Sections 17(b), (d) or (e) of the water resource plan.

#### 74. Applications to interfere with water by impounding flow

- (1) This section applies to an application to interfere with water in a watercourse.
- (2) The chief executive may accept an application if the purpose of the proposed interference is—
  - (a) to provide a pumping pool to enable the taking of water under a water entitlement or other authorisation under the Act;
  - (b) to store water for stock use or domestic uses; or
  - (c) to store water for town water supply—
    - (i) to enable the taking of water under a water allocation to supply town water; and
    - (ii) where the application is made by a local government.
- (3) The chief executive must refuse an application for a water licence to interfere with water—
  - (a) for the purpose described in subsection (2)(a) if the total volume of the proposed storage is greater than two megalitres;
  - (b) for the purpose described in subsection (2)(b) if the total volume of the proposed storage is greater than the reasonable annual volume assessed for water requirements for stock purposes or domestic purposes for the property considering—
    - (i) existing water supplies on the property, including existing water storages, groundwater and dams taking overland flow water; and
    - (ii) the local availability of water at the proposed site.
  - (c) for the purpose described in subsection (2)(c) where the chief executive decides to not grant the application to change a water allocation of the type mentioned in subsection (4).
- (4) Before granting an application for a water licence for the purpose defined in subsection (2)(c)—
  - (a) the applicant must have applied to change the water allocation that is intended to authorise the take of water associated with the proposed interference by—
    - (i) reducing the nominal volume of the allocation by an amount that would not allow an increase in the average volume of water available to be taken from the plan area;
    - (ii) removing any condition stating a flow threshold for taking water; and

- (iii) requiring that the allocation be taken only from the impounded area;
  - (b) the chief executive may also change—
    - (i) the volume limit; and
    - (ii) the maximum rate of take on the water allocation;
  - (c) the chief executive must have approved the change.
- (5) The chief executive may include conditions on a water licence—
- (a) that maintain the passing flows provided under the flow threshold condition on the water allocation; and
  - (b) that limit the maximum volume of the storage to a size no greater than that necessary for the purpose, having regard to—
    - (i) the conditions of the associated water allocation; and
    - (ii) the local availability of water.

### **75. Applications for a water licence to replace an overland flow authority**

An application for a water licence to replace an overland flow authority may be accepted and dealt with under the provisions of part 2 of this chapter.

### **76 to 80. Section numbers not used**

## **Part 2 – Granting Water Licences for Taking Overland Flow Water**

### **81. Scope of part 2**

For granting a licence under Section 212 of the Water Act, this part states—

- (a) for Section 36 of the water resource plan, the process for granting a water licence to replace the authority under Section 34 of the water resource plan;
- (b) for this plan, the grounds and process for granting a water licence to replace an authority under Section 34 of the water resource plan;
- (c) requirements for certified reports for an overland flow storage;
- (d) matters the chief executive must consider; and
- (e) conditions the chief executive must include on the licence.

### **82. Parts of the plan area and works for taking overland flow water where an authority may be replaced by a water licence**

- (1) An authority to take overland flow water may be replaced by a licence for any location in the plan area.
- (2) The take of water through any works authorised to continue taking water under Section 34 of the water resource plan may be licensed through the process in section 83.

### **83. Granting a water licence under Section 36 of the water resource plan**

- (1) The chief executive may at any time—
  - (a) grant a licence for the take of overland flow water to replace the authority under Section 34 of the water resource plan;
  - (b) amend a licence for the take of overland flow water granted under Section 212 of the Water Act because of Section 35 of the water resource plan.
- (2) Before granting or amending a water licence under subsection (1), the chief executive must issue a notice to the owner of the land—
  - (a) clearly identifying the existing works; and
  - (b) stating that a water licence will be granted or amended for the take of overland flow water for the existing works.

- (3) A notice under subsection (2) may also request the owner of the land to provide a certified report about the existing works.
- (4) In making a decision about granting or amending a licence under subsection (1), the chief executive must—
  - (a) consider any certified report available to the chief executive about the existing works; and
  - (b) where a certified report is available for the existing works, calculate and consider the matters specified in sections 87 to 90.
- (5) The chief executive must include one or more of the conditions under section 86(1) for a licence granted under Section 212 of the Water Act.

#### **84. Granting a water licence to allow a change to a water allocation under section 61 of this plan**

- (1) This section applies if an application is received under section 61 of this plan, for a change to a water allocation to remove a special condition.
- (2) To enable the chief executive to determine the conditions for granting the water licence, the owner of existing works that take overland flow must within 90 business days provide a certified report.
- (3) The chief executive may then grant a licence under section 83.

#### **85. Certified reports for overland flow works**

- (1) For the purpose of this part, a certified report is a report prepared in accordance with the standards and requirements set out in a notice provided by the chief executive.
- (2) The purpose of the certified report is to provide the chief executive with an accurate representation of—
  - (a) the infrastructure to which the report relates;
  - (b) how the infrastructure operates; and
  - (c) the ability of the infrastructure to take overland flow water.
- (3) The chief executive may require that the certified report is to be verified and signed by a Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland.

#### **86. Conditions for taking overland flow water**

- (1) A water licence for taking overland flow water may include one or more of the following conditions—
  - (a) a maximum rate for taking water in megalitres per day;
  - (b) a storage volume in megalitres;
  - (c) a volumetric limit; and
  - (d) an average annual diversion.
- (2) The assessment of these conditions must be in accordance with sections 87 to 90.
- (3) The chief executive may impose conditions in addition to those mentioned above, including—
  - (a) a limit on the amount of water that can be taken in a period; and
  - (b) a limit on the volume that can be stored at any time.
- (4) Subsection (3) does not limit the conditions which the chief executive may impose.

#### **87. Assessment of maximum rate for taking overland flow water**

- (1) The chief executive must determine the condition limiting the maximum rate for taking overland flow water having regard to—
  - (a) if the works are taking overland flow water using a pump, the information about pump sizes and maximum rates that are stated in schedule 3 of the water resource plan; or

- (c) if the works are taking overland flow water other than by using a pump, the rate will be determined having regard to the information provided in the certified report.

### **88. Assessment of storage volume**

The chief executive must determine the condition limiting the storage volume having regard to the information provided in a certified report.

### **89. Assessment of the volumetric limit for taking overland flow water**

- (1) In assessing the volumetric limit for taking overland flow water, the chief executive must have regard to the following parameters—
  - (a) the catchment characteristics;
  - (b) the maximum rate determined in section 87;
  - (c) the storage volume determined in section 88;
  - (d) the pattern of usage demand from the storage based on water requirements having regard for the use being made of the water; and
  - (e) the extent to which the storage works would also be filled under the authority of other authorisations to take water.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not limit the matters the chief executive may consider.

### **90. Assessment of the average annual diversion of overland flow water**

The chief executive must determine the average annual diversion having regard to—

- (a) the volumetric limit; and
- (b) any other conditions related to when water may be taken under the authority.

### **91 and 92. Section numbers not used**

## **Part 3 – Amending Existing Water Licences**

### **93. Water licences where the purpose is for stock and domestic use**

- (1) This section applies to a water licence in the plan area that has as its purpose any of the following—
  - (a) stock;
  - (b) stock water;
  - (c) stock watering;
  - (d) stock and domestic;
  - (e) waterharvesting for stockwater;
  - (f) waterharvesting for stock purpose/s; or
  - (g) a similar purpose.
- (2) Within 12 months of the commencement of this plan the chief executive must amend the water licence to include conditions that state—
  - (a) a maximum rate for taking water, calculated in accordance with Section 25 of the water resource plan; and
  - (b) a volume of water that can be taken in a water year, calculated by using Tables 1 and 2 in the worksheet in schedule 1 of the *Code for Self Assessable Development for Taking Overland Flow Water for Stock and Domestic Purposes*<sup>5</sup> and based on the standard stocking rates for the property.

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<sup>5</sup> The *Code for Self Assessable Development for Taking Overland Flow Water for Stock and Domestic Purposes* can be accessed on the department's website at <http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au> or alternatively, inspected at any of the department's offices.

(3) The purpose of the water licence must be changed to ‘any’.

**94 to 104. Section numbers not used**

**CHAPTER 5 – MONITORING, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING**

**105. Water monitoring**

- (1) The chief executive must measure, or collect and keep publicly available, records of—
  - (a) water quantity;
  - (b) water taken;
  - (c) prices for water permanently traded;
  - (d) the number of permanent trades and seasonal assignments; and
  - (e) nominal volume of water permanently traded and seasonally assigned.
- (2) The chief executive must collect and record publicly available information on—
  - (a) future consumptive demands for water; and
  - (b) water use efficiency.
- (3) The chief executive may use information collected to support water resource assessment and reporting.

**106. Natural ecosystems monitoring and assessment**

The chief executive must collect and record information on—

- (a) ecological assets that are linked to the ecological outcomes of the water resource plan; and
- (b) the critical water requirements of biological indicators of the ecological assets.

**107. Assessment**

- (1) The chief executive must make ongoing assessments of whether the trends in data measured, collected and recorded under sections 105 and 106 of this plan indicate that outcomes specified in the water resource plan will be achieved.
- (2) The chief executive’s assessments will be used in assisting the Minister to prepare a report under Section 48 of the water resource plan.

**108. Links to other monitoring programs**

Information collected as part of other monitoring and assessment programs in the catchments may be used to help with the assessment of the ecological outcomes detailed in the water resource plan.

**109. Murray–Darling Basin Cap audit**

- (1) Water supply in the Moonie catchment must be managed to comply with the *Murray–Darling Basin Agreement*.
- (2) The ‘measured volume’ is the total volume of water taken from the catchment for each water year under—
  - (a) water allocations; and
  - (b) overland flow.
- (3) The ‘annual diversion target’ is the total volume of water that would have been taken under the water authorisations and sharing rules detailed in the Moonie Resource Operations Plan 2006.

- (4) Calculation of the target level will be undertaken using the IQQM computer program. If it is not practicable to use the IQQM computer program, another assessment method approved by the chief executive may be used.
- (5) The measured volume will be compared with the annual diversion target for the audited water year in accordance with the process identified in the *Murray–Darling Basin Agreement*.
- (6) If following the audit process under the *Murray–Darling Basin Agreement* it is determined that action should be taken to bring the cumulative measured volume back into balance with the Cap, then actions may be taken which may include amending the resource operations plan.

**110 to 116. Section numbers not used**

## **CHAPTER 6 – INTERSTATE AGREEMENTS**

### **117. Resource operations plan to meet interstate obligations**

- (1) This resource operations plan meets the obligations of the Murray–Darling Basin Agreement.
- (2) At the commencement of this resource operations plan there are no other agreements between Queensland and New South Wales that apply to water in the plan area.
- (3) In accordance with Section 31 of the water resource plan, the resource operations plan may be amended to give effect to any interstate agreement regarding the supply of water that may be signed after the commencement of the plan.

**118 to 124. Section numbers not used**

## **CHAPTER 7 – AMENDMENTS TO THE RESOURCE OPERATIONS PLAN**

### **125. Scope of chapter 7**

This chapter describes those amendments that may be made to this plan under Section 106(b) of the Act. These amendments do not require public notification.

### **126. Implementing an amendment to the water resource plan**

An amendment that is necessary to implement an amendment to the water resource plan made under Section 57(b) of the Act may be made to this plan.

### **127. Granting an entitlement for unallocated water**

An amendment that provides for granting a water entitlement to a local authority for unallocated water under section 26 of this plan may be made to this plan.

### **128. Changing monitoring, assessment and reporting requirements**

- (1) An amendment that provides for improved or more efficient monitoring for assessing the water resource plan outcomes may be made to this plan.
- (2) Such amendments may include but are not limited to the following—
  - (a) changing indicators for water quality or biological monitoring;
  - (b) an increase or addition to monitoring requirements if further information is required;
 and

- (c) a reduction or removal of State monitoring requirements if the chief executive is satisfied that no further information or benefit is gained from the continuation of the monitoring requirements.

### **129. Adding additional resource operations plan ‘zones’**

- (1) The chief executive may modify existing or create additional resource operations plan zones when there is sufficient justification<sup>6</sup> to do so.
- (2) New zones will consist of parts of the water management area dealt with under this plan that are not yet classified as resource operations plan zones.
- (3) New zones may be amalgamated with existing zones.
- (4) Existing zones may be subdivided into new zones.

### **130. Changes to flow conditions**

- (1) At any time during the operation of this plan the details of flow conditions specified on a water allocation may be amended to a new reference point provided that the availability of water to the allocation is not reduced.
- (2) The new reference point will refer to a passing flow that will be representative of the passing flow conditions at the reference point that is being replaced.
- (3) The water allocation must be amended in accordance with Section 125 of the Act.

### **131. Granting a water allocation to replace a water licence that has a volumetric limit**

An amendment that provides for the granting of a water allocation to replace a water licence that has been amended to include a daily rate and a volumetric limit, where the conversion of the water licence to a water allocation does not increase the volumetric limit or daily rate and the average volume of water taken may be made to this plan.

### **132. Changes to the method of determining conditions on an overland flow licence**

Sections 81 to 90 of this plan may be amended to allow for an improved method of determining the requirements of a water licence for taking overland flow.

### **133. Changes to unsupplemented water sharing rules**

- (1) This plan may be amended to allow for changes to the unsupplemented water sharing rules that may result from a future review of operational procedures and community consultation in the water management area.
- (2) The proposed new operational procedures must meet the water resource plan water allocation security objectives and environmental flow objectives.

### **134 to 139. Section numbers not used**

## **CHAPTER 8 – IMPLEMENTATION**

### **140. Implementation**

The chief executive must implement the requirements of this plan as soon as is practicable.

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<sup>6</sup> ‘Sufficient justification’ includes proposals to trade water or issue a new authorisation into an area that is not presently defined as a ‘zone’ under section 6 of this resource operations plan.

## GLOSSARY

**Act:** Is the *Water Act 2000*.

**AMTD:** The adopted middle thread distance. For the purposes of this plan it is the distance measured upstream from the NSW border (AMTD = 0 at the border).

**Average Annual Volume:** A volume of water expressed as a long-term modelled average over a period of climatic record.

**Change Certificate:** A certificate issued under Section 129 of the *Water Act 2000*.

**Chief Executive:** The chief executive officer of the department responsible for administering the *Water Act 2000*.

**Department:** The department responsible for administering the *Water Act 2000*.

**Discharge:** Discharge is the rate at which a volume of water passes a point in a stream or pipeline per unit of time. This could be measured in litres per second (L/s), cubic metres per second (m<sup>3</sup>/s) or in megalitres per day (megalitres/day).

**Existing Water Authorisations:** Means a water licence, interim water allocation or other authority to take water that has effect immediately prior to the commencement of this plan.

**Flow Conditions:** The passing flow conditions at a specified reference point as detailed in the flow condition columns in Attachment 4 and that will be registered on a water allocation as flow conditions.

**Gauging Station:** The complete installation at a measuring site on a watercourse where water level and discharge records are regularly obtained.

**Location:** For a water allocation, means the zone, or zone and place, from which water under the water allocation can be taken.

**Nil Passing Flow Condition:** An allocation that has as its flow condition 'nil' thus permitting water to be extracted at any time subject to availability and the conditions on the allocation and in the resource operations plan.

**Ponded Area:** Area of inundation at full supply level of a storage.

**Publish:** Means—

- (a) if the provision states the way the notice must be published – in the way stated in the provision; or
- (b) if the provision does not state the way the notice must be published – in a newspaper circulating generally throughout the area for which the notice is published.

**Resource Operations Plan Zone:** A geographic location defined by a reach of a watercourse. A resource operations plan zone defines the location of a water allocation and operational arrangements under this plan.

**Special Conditions:** Other conditions that are detailed in the special condition columns in Attachment 4 and that will be registered on a water allocation as special or other conditions.

**Water Year:** The period from 1 July to 30 June in the following year.

# ATTACHMENT 1 – WATER MANAGEMENT AREA AND RESOURCE OPERATIONS PLAN ZONES

