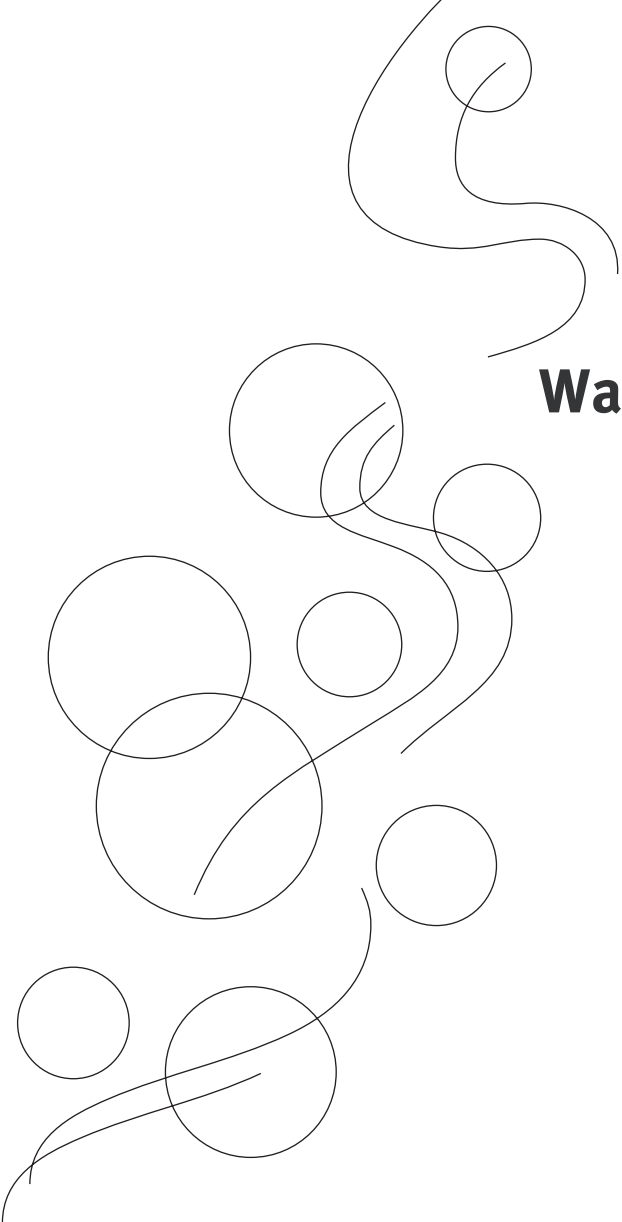




Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine

resource operations plan
January 2006



**Prepared by
Water Planning Group
The Department of Natural Resources and Mines (Queensland)**

This report has been prepared with all due care and diligence, using the best information available at the time of publication; however, the department holds no responsibility for any errors or omissions. Any decisions made by other parties on the basis of this report are solely the responsibility of those parties.

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Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine Resource Operations Plan 2006

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FOREWORD

The Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine 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 (Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine) Plan 2003*. Together, these plans will provide enhanced certainty and security for water users and the natural environment.

Both plans are complementary parts of a water planning process that will ensure that the Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine Rivers 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;
- operation of infrastructure and management of supplemented water in the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme;
- management of unsupplemented water within the Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine catchments;
- 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, in the Warrego basin, 8,000 megalitres of unallocated water may be released through a market-based process. This will provide for further economic opportunity and social equity in the region. Unallocated water has also been set aside in the Nebine and Bulloo basins 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

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- (1) WARREGO, PAROO, BULLOO AND NEBINE
RESOURCE OPERATIONS PLAN 2006**
- (2) APPENDIX A - EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE
WARREGO, PAROO, BULLOO AND NEBINE
RESOURCE OPERATIONS PLAN 2006**
- (3) APPENDIX B - WATER RESOURCE (WARREGO,
PAROO, BULLOO AND NEBINE) PLAN 2003**

WARREGO, PAROO, BULLOO AND NEBINE
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 (Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine) Plan 2003* ('the water resource plan').

2. Name of the resource operations plan

This resource operations plan may be cited as the *Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine 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 1¹.

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) Each water management area shown in Attachment 1 is a water management area for this plan.
- (2) Each zone shown in Attachments 2A to 2D 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*².
- (2) The *Water Monitoring Data Collection Standard* may be reviewed and updated by the chief executive at any time.

¹ This plan area is identical to the plan area for the water resource plan.

² 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.

- (3) The chief executive must notify each resource operations licence holder at least 20 business days before any substantive changes are made to the *Water Monitoring Data Collection Standard*.

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*³.
- (2) The *Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standard* may be reviewed and updated by the chief executive at any time.
- (3) The chief executive must notify the resource operations licence holder at least 20 business days before any substantive changes are made to the *Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standard*.

10. Operating and environmental management rules and monitoring requirements

- (1) 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.
- (2) Where subsection (1) applies, the resource operations licence holder—
- (a) must comply with the reporting requirements for operational or emergency incidents; and
 - (b) may submit an interim program for implementing the rules and requirements of this plan under section 185.

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) The resources operations licence holder must meter, in accordance with national standards, all water allocations managed under the resource operations licence for the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme.
- (4) This section does not apply to water entitlements where then 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 a 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

³ 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.

- (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); and
- (iv) water and natural ecosystem monitoring responsibilities of the resource operations licence holder for Allan Tannock Weir;
- (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) water and natural ecosystem monitoring responsibilities of the resource operations licence holder for Allan Tannock Weir;
 - (vii) arrangements for the collection and assessment of data by the chief executive relating to the water resource plan outcomes; and
 - (viii) those parts of the plan that may be amended under Section 106(b) of the Act;
- (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. Scope of part 1

- (1) This part sets out the process for dealing with the 9,500 megalitres of unallocated water reserved under the water resource plan for ‘any’ purpose.
- (2) All volumes of water referred to in this part are nominal volumes.

Division 1 – Warrego Water Management Areas

15. Scope of division 1

This division sets out the process for dealing with up to 8,000 megalitres of unallocated water from the Upper and Lower Warrego Water Management Areas.

16. Timing of process for making the water available

- (1) Within 12 months of the commencement of this plan, the chief executive will commence the process detailed in this division.
- (2) During the process the chief executive may reserve water for future use.

17. Registration of potential bidders

- (1) Prior to the sale of unallocated water, the chief executive must publish a notice inviting interested parties to apply for registration.
- (2) The notice must be published in a newspaper distributed throughout the plan area and on the departmental website.
- (3) The notice must contain information on—
 - (a) the water available for auction;
 - (b) the location and time of the auction;
 - (c) the registration process; and
 - (d) the date for submission of requests for registration which is to be no less than 30 business days after the date the notice is published.
- (4) A person intending to bid for unallocated water in the Upper and Lower Warrego Water Management Areas must first register with the department.
- (5) Requests for registration must be made in the form approved by the chief executive.
- (6) The chief executive may require a one-off, non-refundable, processing fee to be lodged with the request for registration.
- (7) Registration information required for the Upper and Lower Warrego Water Management Areas may include details of interest in overland flow, proposed usage and location of potential take.
- (8) Unless there is sufficient interest⁴ in the water shown through the registration process, the chief executive may either—
 - (a) cancel the sale and reserve the water for future use;
 - (b) auction the water at a future date under the process detailed in this division; or
 - (c) develop an alternative process to deal with the unallocated water and amend this plan.

Subdivision 1 – Water available for release

18. Upper Warrego Water Management Area

- (1) 4,000 megalitres of unallocated water is available for release in the Upper Warrego Water Management Area.
- (2) This water may be sold via auction in lots of 100 megalitres.
- (3) Up to five lots may be purchased by the successful bidder at the bid price.
- (4) This water may be purchased as a water allocation for taking water from a watercourse or a water licence for taking overland flow water.

⁴ Whether there is 'sufficient interest' will be at the discretion of the chief executive. It will be determined by the number and quality of applications lodged for registration to bid.

19. Lower Warrego Water Management Area

- (1) 4,000 megalitres of unallocated water is available for release in the Lower Warrego Water Management Area.
- (2) This water may be sold via auction as a water allocation for taking water from a watercourse or a water licence for taking overland flow water, with terms consistent with the nominal volumes and maximum rates detailed in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 – Lower Warrego Water Management Area Unallocated Water

Lot no.	Nominal volume (megalitres)	Maximum rate for taking water (megalitres per day)
1	800	100
2	800	100
3	800	100
4	400	50
5	400	50
6	200	25
7	200	25
8	200	25 OR Overland Flow Take
9	200	25 OR Overland Flow Take

Note: Lots 8 and 9 consist of a nominal volume of 200 megalitres each with either a 25 megalitres per day water allocation or a licence to take overland flow water equivalent to an average annual volume of 200 megalitres. The choice will be up to the successful purchaser.

Subdivision 2 – Auction process

20. Process to issue unallocated water

- (1) The chief executive—
 - (a) prior to a public auction, must determine the reserve price per megalitre for water which—
 - (i) will not be made public; and
 - (ii) may be altered at any time;
 - (b) may auction the unallocated water in the packages detailed in sections 18 and 19;
 - (c) will not permit bidding at the auction unless the potential bidder has been registered in accordance with section 17; and
 - (d) will not sell the water if bids do not meet the reserve price.
- (2) If bids do not meet the reserve price, the chief executive may either—
 - (a) reserve the water for future use;
 - (b) re-auction the water at a future date under the process detailed in this division; or
 - (c) develop an alternative process to deal with the unallocated water and amend this plan.

Subdivision 3 – Settling of purchases

21. Process for setting conditions on water entitlements where required

- (1) The chief executive may place conditions on a water entitlement to ensure compliance with the water resource plan to ensure the issuing of the water entitlement is consistent with the—
 - (a) environmental flow objectives of the water resource plan (Sections 10 to 13);
 - (b) water allocation security objectives of the water resource plan (Sections 14 to 15);
 - (c) requirements listed in Sections 41(1)(c), 41(1)(d) and 41(1)(e) of the water resource plan;
 - (d) conditions required in sections 130 (1), (3) and (4) where a water licence will be granted to take overland flow; and
 - (e) consideration of third party impacts.
- (2) If the conditions to be imposed by the chief executive are not acceptable to the prospective purchaser and agreement cannot be reached then the sale may be considered as not having taken place. In this case the authorisation or water allocation may be offered to the second highest bidder for that volume on the day of the auction.

22. Public notification of successful bidders

- (1) Once the auctions detailed in section 20 have been finalised, successful bids must be advertised as a draft amendment to this plan.
- (2) For each of the bids advertised in the draft amendment, the following will be specified—
 - (a) the location of the proposed taking of water;
 - (b) the average annual volume;
 - (c) where information on any draft conditions the chief executive proposes to apply to the proposed water entitlement can be viewed;
 - (d) that written submissions may be made by any entity regarding the granting of the water entitlement; and
 - (e) a day by which submissions must be made and the person to whom and the place where the submissions must be made.

23. Review of submissions and settling of offers

- (1) The chief executive, in settling purchases, will—
 - (a) collate information about any submissions made under section 22 and may refer the information and submissions to a Resource Operations Plan Referral Panel for review and recommendation on how the issues raised in the submissions should be dealt with;
 - (b) consider the submissions received and any recommendations of the Resource Operations Plan Referral Panel; and
 - (c) for each successful bid either—
 - (i) grant a water licence or water allocation; or
 - (ii) further amend the conditions on the water licence or water allocation; or
 - (iii) decide not to issue the water licence or water allocation.
- (2) If the conditions to be imposed by the chief executive are not acceptable to the purchaser then the purchaser may request that the sale be considered as not having taken place. In this case the water licence or water allocation may be offered to the second highest bidder for that volume on the day of the auction.

24. Amendment of the resource operations plan

- (1) Once the process detailed under section 23 is completed, the chief executive will require full payment for the water purchased within 5 business days of the purchaser being notified.

- (2) Following receipt of full payment, the chief executive will grant the water entitlement and amend the resource operations plan to specify the details of all successful bidders.

25 to 30. Section numbers not used⁵

Division 2 – Bulloo and Nebine Water Management Areas

31. Unallocated water reserved for future projects

The 500 megalitres of unallocated water from the Bulloo Water Management Area and the 1,000 megalitres of unallocated water from the Nebine Water Management Area designated for ‘any’ use is reserved for future use.

32. 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.

33 to 40. Section numbers not used

Part 2 – Unallocated Water for Town Water Supply

41. Scope of part 2

This part sets out the process for dealing with 400 megalitres⁶ 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.

42. Unallocated water reserved

The volume of water set aside in section 41 is reserved for future use.

43. 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 in the water management area.
- (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;

⁵ 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.

⁶ This 400 megalitres is made up of 100 megalitres available in the Warrego (Upper and Lower), 100 megalitres in the Paroo, 100 megalitres in the Bulloo and 100 megalitres in the Nebine Water Management Areas.

- (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; and
- (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.

44. 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 43(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.

45. Additional information may be required

The chief executive may require additional information about the submission.

46. 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.

47. Public notification

Once the decision detailed in section 46 has been made, the results of the decision will be advertised and submissions sought.

48. 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 47 in determining the final detail of the water entitlement.
- (2) The water entitlement will be granted through an amendment to the resource operations plan.

49 to 54. Section numbers not used

CHAPTER 3 – DEALING WITH SUPPLEMENTED WATER

55. Scope of chapter 3

This chapter deals with supplemented water supplied from Allan Tannock Weir on the Warrego River.

Part 1 – Granting of a Resource Operations Licence

56. Resource operations licence

- (1) The chief executive must grant a resource operations licence to SunWater for the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme on commencement of this plan.
- (2) Water allocations managed under the resource operations licence are detailed in Attachment 4A.
- (3) The infrastructure associated with the resource operations licence is described in Attachment 5.

Part 2 – Conversion of Supplemented Authorisations

57. Granting of water allocations

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

58 and 59. Section numbers not used

Part 3 – Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme

60. Scope of part 3

This part applies to—

- (a) the holder of the resource operations licence for the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme; and
- (b) all water allocations associated with the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme.

Division 1 – Operating Rules

61. Water year

The water year for this scheme is the 12 months beginning 1 July and ending 30 June.

62. Releases from Allan Tannock Weir

- (1) The resource operations licence holder must minimise the occurrence of adverse environmental impacts (fish stranding, blue-green algae outbreaks, bank slumping, etc.) by ensuring that any reduction or increase in the rate of release of water from Allan Tannock Weir occurs incrementally.
- (2) Where water is released for the purpose of supplementing stock and domestic supplies, this release must occur in accordance with section 63.

63. Storing and releasing water for stock and domestic purposes

- (1) The resource operations licence holder must store and release water to supplement stock and domestic supplies downstream of the weir ('stock and domestic water').

- (2) The resource operations licence holder must maintain an account of stock and domestic water stored in the weir.
- (3) A volume of inflow of up to 300 megalitres per day will be credited against the stock and domestic water account, provided the inflow occurs when the storage level is between—
 - (a) full supply level; and
 - (b) the cease-to-flow level of the valve inlet/outlet works.
- (4) When water is credited against the stock and domestic water account, an equivalent volume must be released or spill the weir within one month of the inflow.
- (5) If the weir reaches the cease-to-flow level of the valve inlet/outlet works, the stock and domestic water account will be reset to zero.

64 to 69. Section numbers not used

Division 2 – Water Sharing Rules

70. Announced allocations

- (1) The resource operations licence holder must determine the announced allocation for each priority group in accordance with this division;
- (2) The announced allocation—
 - (a) must be used to determine the share of water available to be taken by water allocation holders in that priority group;
 - (b) must be rounded to the nearest percent;
 - (c) must not be greater than 100 percent; and
 - (d) must not be reduced during a water year, unless water restrictions are imposed in accordance with the critical water supply arrangements in section 74.
- (3) The resource operations licence holder must—
 - (a) determine an announced allocation by the first of July every water year; and
 - (b) if necessary, revise the announced allocation within ten business days to allow for information obtained at the end of the previous water year; and
 - (c) revise the announced allocation if an inflow occurs that would result in the announced allocation increasing by more than five percent.
- (4) The resource operations licence holder must, within five business days of setting or resetting an announced allocation—
 - (i) publish details of the announced allocation; and
 - (ii) make publicly available details of the parameters used for determining the announced allocation.

71. Taking water under a water allocation

The volume of water taken in a water year under the authority of a water allocation must not exceed the nominal volume of the water allocation multiplied by the announced allocation and divided by 100.

72. Medium priority water allocations

- (1) The announced allocation for medium priority water allocations must be in accordance with the critical water supply arrangements approved by the chief executive.
- (2) Where no critical water supply arrangements have been approved by the chief executive, the resource operations licence holder must determine the announced allocation for medium priority water allocations using the following formula—

$$AA_M = \left\{ \frac{UV - HPA + DIV}{MPA} \right\} \times 100$$

(3) The parameters used in the announced allocation formula are defined in Table 3.1.

73. Announced allocation for high priority

- (1) The announced allocation for high priority water allocations must be in accordance with the critical water supply arrangements approved by the chief executive.
- (2) Where no critical water supply arrangements have been approved by the chief executive, the resource operations licence holder must determine the announced allocation for medium priority water allocations as follows—
 - (a) if the announced allocation for medium priority water allocations is greater than zero then the announced allocation is 100 percent; or
 - (b) if the announced allocation for medium priority water allocations is less than or equal to zero then the percentage is that calculated by the resource operations licence holder using the following formula—

$$AA_H = \left\{ \frac{UV + DIV}{HPA} \right\} \times 100$$

(3) The parameters used in the announced allocation formula are defined in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 – Announced Allocation Formula Parameters

Term	Definition
<p>UV (Useable Volume)</p>	<p>The useable volume of Allan Tannock Weir as determined by the following equation—</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If (CV – DSV – SL – SD) > 0 then UV = CV – DSV – SL – SD otherwise UV = 0</p> <p>Where— CV is the Current Volume in storage. DSV is the dead storage volume in storage (refer to Attachment 5). SL is the projected storage loss (calculated using data in Table 3.2) from Allan Tannock Weir for the remainder of the water year. The storage loss is to be calculated by using the value next to the current month multiplied by the current surface area of the storage. SD is the volume of stock and domestic water held in account at the time of calculation of the announced allocation.</p>
<p>DIV (Diverted Volume)</p>	<p>The volume of water taken by high priority and medium priority water allocation holders in the current water year up to the time of the calculation of the announced allocation.</p>
<p>HPA (Total High Priority Water)</p>	<p>The total volume of high priority water allocations.</p>

Allocations)	
MPA (Total Medium Priority Water Allocations)	The total volume of medium priority water allocations.
AA_M (Medium Priority Announced Allocation Percentage)	Percentage of the water allocation supply volume for medium priority water in the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme that may be taken for the water year.
AA_H (High Priority Announced Allocation Percentage)	Percentage of the water allocation supply volume for high priority water in the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme that may be taken for the water year.

Table 3.2 – Storage Loss Depth for Allan Tannock Weir

Month in which announced allocation is calculated	Storage loss depth (mm)	Month in which announced allocation is calculated	Storage loss depth (mm)
July	1,566	January	763
August	1,505	February	550
September	1,421	March	380
October	1,306	April	232
November	1,157	May	128
December	972	June	56

74. Critical water supply arrangements for the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme

- (1) The resource operations licence holder for the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme must prepare and submit critical water supply arrangements to the chief executive for approval within 12 months of the first high priority water allocation being issued.
- (2) The critical water supply arrangements must—
 - (a) be developed with participation from local government, stakeholders and the community;
 - (b) include triggers for commencement and cessation of the arrangements;
 - (c) include a monitoring and reporting schedule; and
 - (d) consider the following—
 - (i) incremental implementation of restrictions on high priority water allocations prior to the announced allocation for medium priority water reaching zero; and
 - (ii) the minimum requirements for essential services, industry and basic per capita consumption (excluding water for use outside of the home).
- (3) The chief executive, in assessing the proposed critical water supply arrangements, may either—
 - (a) request further information;
 - (b) approve the critical water supply arrangements with or without conditions; or
 - (c) require the resource operations licence holder to submit a proposal for revised critical water supply arrangements.

75. Amendment of critical water supply arrangements

- (1) The resource operations licence holder may submit a proposal for changes to the critical water supply arrangements to the chief executive at any time.
- (2) The chief executive, in assessing or determining a proposal for changes to the critical water supply arrangements submitted under subsection (1), may either—

- (a) request further information;
 - (b) approve the proposed changes to the critical water supply arrangements with or without conditions;
 - (c) approve the proposed changes to the critical water supply arrangements; or
 - (d) refuse the proposed changes to the critical water arrangements.
- (3) The chief executive may amend the critical water supply arrangements, or require the resource operations licence holder to submit a proposal for revised critical water supply arrangements at any time.

76 to 78. Section numbers not used

Division 3 – Water Allocation Change Rules

79. Scope of division 3

This division provides the water allocation change rules for supplemented water allocations.

Subdivision 1 – Permitted changes

80. Changes to priority group

- (1) A water allocation may be changed from a high priority group to a medium priority group or from a medium priority group to a high priority group where—
- (a) the nominal volume of the allocation is adjusted by multiplying it by the conversion factor in Table 3.3 and rounding down to the nearest whole number;

Table 3.3 – Priority Group Conversion Factors

	Conversion factor
From medium to high priority	2/3
From high to medium priority	1.5

- (b) the maximum total nominal volume for all high priority water allocations is 620 megalitres;
- (c) the maximum total nominal volume for all medium priority water allocations is 2,620 megalitres; and
- (d) the minimum total nominal volume for all medium priority water allocations is 1,690 megalitres.

81. Changes to purpose

A change to the purpose of a water allocation is permitted where the change in purpose is from—

- (a) ‘any’ to ‘agriculture’; or
- (b) ‘agriculture’ to ‘any’.

82. Subdivision or 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 priority group as the original allocation; and
 - (b) the sum of the nominal volumes of the new water allocations equals the nominal volume of the original allocation.

- (2) Two or more water allocations may be amalgamated into a new water allocation provided—
- (a) the allocations being amalgamated and the new allocation have the same priority group; and
 - (b) the nominal volume of the new water allocation equals the sum of the nominal volumes of the allocations being amalgamated.

83 and 84. Section numbers not used

Subdivision 2 – Prohibited changes

85. Prohibited changes

The following changes are prohibited and must not be approved—

- (a) a change to the location of a water allocation; or
- (b) a change to a priority group that is not in accordance with the permitted change rule in section 80; or
- (c) a subdivision or amalgamation that is not in accordance with the permitted change rule in section 82.

86 to 88. Section numbers not used

Subdivision 3 – Other changes

89. 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 – Seasonal Water Assignments

90. Seasonal water assignments

The resource operations licence holder may approve a seasonal assignment of a water allocation where the total water use in a water year for the water supply scheme does not exceed the maximum available volume for—

- (a) the water supply scheme; and
- (b) the priority group to which the water being seasonally assigned belongs.

91 to 93. Section numbers not used

CHAPTER 4 – DEALING WITH UNSUPPLEMENTED WATER

Part 1 – Conversion of Unsupplemented Authorisations

94. Granting of water allocations

Details of unsupplemented water allocations converted and granted from existing water authorisations are listed in—

- (a) Attachment 4B for the Upper and Lower Warrego Water Management Areas;
- (b) Attachment 4C for the Paroo Water Management Area;
- (c) Attachment 4D for the Bulloo Water Management Area; and
- (d) Attachment 4E for the Nebine Water Management Area.

Part 2 – Water Sharing Rules

95. 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.

96. Access rules for water allocations in the Upper and Lower Warrego Water Management Areas

Water may only be taken under a water allocation with flow conditions in the Upper and Lower Warrego Water Management Areas during an announced period.

97. Announced period

- (1) An announced period is the period of time for which the chief executive announces that water may be taken under a water allocation with flow conditions or special conditions.
- (2) The chief executive will determine the start and finish of an announced period having regard to the following—
 - (a) if more than six months has passed since a passing flow greater than 1,000 megalitres per day has occurred at the ‘flow reference point’, an announced period must not allow water to be diverted unless—
 - (i) the passing flow related to the flow reference point is greater than the rate specified in the flow conditions on the water allocation; and
 - (ii) 36 hours has lapsed since the flow peak has passed; or
 - (iii) the passing flow related to the flow reference point has exceeded the rate specified in the special conditions on the water allocation.
 - (b) if less than six months has passed since a passing flow of greater than 1,000 megalitres per day has occurred at the flow reference point, an announced period must not allow water to be diverted unless—
 - (i) the passing flow related to the flow reference point is greater than the rate specified in the flow conditions on the water allocation; and
 - (ii) the flow peak has passed; or
 - (iii) the passing flow related to the flow reference point has exceeded the rate specified in the special conditions on the water allocation.
- (3) The chief executive will notify holders of flow conditioned water allocation of the start and end of each announced period.

98. Flow conditions

- (1) Details of flow conditions for water allocations are listed in Attachments 4B to 4E.
- (2) Flow conditions on a water allocation may be amended under section 176 to allow for a change in the flow reference point associated with the allocation.

99. 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.

100 to 103. Section numbers not used**Part 3 – Water Allocation Change Rules****104. Scope of part 3**

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

*Division 1 – Permitted Changes***105. 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.

106. 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.

107 to 109. Section numbers not used*Division 2 – Prohibited Changes***110. Subdivision and amalgamation**

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

- (a) the change is inconsistent with the permitted change rule in section 106; 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.

111 to 113. Section numbers not used

Division 3 – Other Changes

114. 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

115. 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 5, 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

116. 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.

117. Section number not used

CHAPTER 5 – DEALING WITH WATER LICENCES

Part 1 – Dealing with Water Licence Applications

118. 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*.

119. Applications to be refused

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

120. 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 Section 17(b), (d) or (e) of the water resource plan.

121. 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.
- (6) If the proposal is to be located in the following zones, the application must be refused—
 - (a) Bulloo Zone A;
 - (b) Bulloo Zone B;
 - (c) Bulloo Zone C;
 - (d) Bulloo Zone D;
 - (e) Bulloo Zone E;
 - (f) Bulloo Zone F;
 - (g) Bulloo Zone G;
 - (h) Bulloo Zone H;
 - (i) Bulloo Zone I;
 - (j) Paroo Zone A;
 - (k) Paroo Zone B;
 - (l) Paroo Zone C;
 - (m) Paroo Zone D;
 - (n) Paroo Zone E ;
 - (o) Paroo Zone F; and
 - (p) Paroo Zone G.

122. 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.

123 and 124. Section numbers not used

Part 2 – Granting Water Licences for Taking Overland Flow Water

125. 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.

126. 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 127.

127. 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 131 to 134.
- (5) The chief executive must include one or more of the conditions under section 130(1) for a licence granted under Section 212 of the Water Act.

128. Granting a water licence to allow a change to a water allocation under section 115 of this plan

- (1) This section applies if an application is received under section 115 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 127.

129. 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.

130. 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 131 to 134.
- (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.

131. 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
 - (b) 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.

132. 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.

133. 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 131;
 - (c) the storage volume determined in section 132;
 - (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.

134. 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.

135 and 136. Section numbers not used**Part 3 – Amending Existing Water Licences****137. 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 a condition that states—
- (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*⁷ and based on the standard stocking rates for the property.
- (3) The purpose of the water licence must be changed to ‘any’.

138 and 139. Section numbers not used

CHAPTER 6 – MONITORING, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

140. 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.

141. Natural ecosystems monitoring and assessment

The chief executive must collect and record information, including 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.

142. Assessment

- (1) The chief executive must make ongoing assessments of whether the trends in data measured, collected and recorded under sections 140 and 141 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.

⁷ 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.

143. 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.

144. Murray–Darling Basin Cap audit

- (1) Water supply in the Warrego, Paroo and Nebine catchments 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 Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine 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.

145 and 146. Section numbers not used

CHAPTER 7 – RESOURCE OPERATIONS LICENCE HOLDER MONITORING AND REPORTING

147. Scope of chapter 7

This chapter sets out the monitoring requirements that apply to the resource operations licence holder for the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme.

Part 1 – Water Quantity**148. Stream flow (storage inflow and tailwater flow) and storage height**

- (1) The resource operations licence holder must measure and record storage height and volume and flow data in accordance with Table 7.1.
- (2) Storage inflows may be determined based upon the storage inflow derivation technique supplied by the resource operations licence holder. The storage inflow derivation must be supplied to the chief executive within 40 business days of the commencement of this plan for approval.
- (3) Tailwater flows may be estimated using the release curve developed for the discharge works. The discharge works release curve must be supplied to the chief executive within 40 business days of the commencement of this plan for approval.

Table 7.1 – Locations where continuous time series height and volume data and daily flow data are required

Location	Continuous time series height and volume data	Daily flow data
Allan Tannock Weir inflow		✓
Allan Tannock Weir headwater	✓	
Allan Tannock Weir tailwater		✓

149. Releases from Allan Tannock Weir

- (1) The resource operations licence holder must measure and record on a daily basis—
- (a) the volume released;
 - (b) the release rate and for each change in release rate—
 - (i) the change to the release rate;
 - (ii) the date and time of the change; and
 - (iii) the new release rate.
- (2) The resource operations licence holder must record the reason for each release.

150. Stock and domestic releases from Allan Tannock Weir

The resource operations licence holder must record—

- (a) decisions made under section 63; and
- (b) the basis of each decision.

151. Announced allocations

The resource operations licence holder must record details of announced allocation determinations including—

- (a) the announced allocations for medium and high priority allocations;
- (b) the date announced allocations are determined; and
- (c) the value of each parameter applied for calculating the announced allocation.

152. Water taken by water users

The resource operations licence holder must measure and record the volume of water taken by each water user as follows—

- (a) the total volume of water taken quarterly;
- (b) the total volume of water entitled to be taken; and
- (c) the basis for determining the total volume of water entitled to be taken at any time.

153. Seasonal water assignment of water allocation

The resource operations licence holder must measure and record the details of seasonal water assignment arrangements including—

- (a) the name and location of assignees and assignors; and
- (b) the volume of water that has been seasonally assigned by each assignee and assignor.

154. Critical water supply sharing rules

The resource operations licence holder must record details of any restrictions on the supply of high priority water including—

- (a) the dates of restrictions;
- (b) the nature of restrictions; and
- (c) the basis of the determination of restrictions including—

- (i) the minimum allocation for high priority town water supply; and
- (ii) the critical levels for high priority reserves.

155 and 156. Section numbers not used

Part 2 – Impact of Storage Operation on Aquatic Ecosystems

157. Water quality

- (1) The resource operations licence holder must measure and record water quality parameters in accordance with Table 7.2 at the—
 - (a) Allan Tannock Weir storage pond;
 - (b) Allan Tannock Weir inflow; and
 - (c) Allan Tannock Weir outflow.
- (2) Measurements and/or samples must be taken on an event basis. An event is when the overflow meets or exceeds one megalitre per day. The initial measurement must be taken within two weeks of the commencement of the event and thereafter on a monthly basis but no less than three weeks apart.
- (3) Storage inflow, storage pond and storage outflow measurements and/or samples for all the parameters specified in Table 7.2 must be taken on the same day.
- (4) Water quality measurements and/or samples at storages are to be representative of the quality of the water entering, stored in, and leaving the storage.

Table 7.2 – Water quality parameters to be recorded by the resource operations licence holder

Parameter	Collection method	Storage inflow	Storage pond	Storage outflow
Temperature	Field	✓	Profile	✓
Dissolved oxygen	Field	✓	Profile	✓
PH	Field	✓	Profile	✓
Electrical conductivity	Field	✓	Profile	✓
Total nitrogen	Field	✓	✓	✓
Total phosphorus	Field	✓	✓	✓

158 to 161. Section numbers not used

Part 3 – Data Transfer and Recording

162. Quarterly data transfer

The resource operations licence holder must provide the following data to the chief executive after the end of each quarter of every water year, where quarters commence from 1 July—

- (a) stream flow and storage water level – all records referred to in section 148;
- (b) releases from the storage – the daily volumes released referred to in section 149;
- (c) water taken by water users – all records referred to in section 152; and
- (d) water quality – all records referred to in section 157.

163. Monitoring data must be made available

The resource operations licence holder must provide any monitoring data required under this chapter to the chief executive upon request.

Part 4 – Reporting**164. Annual report**

- (1) The resource operations licence holder must submit an annual report to the chief executive after the end of each water year.
- (2) The annual report must include a summary of—
 - (a) announced allocation determinations including—
 - (i) an evaluation of the announced allocation procedures and outcomes; and
 - (ii) the date and value for the initial announced allocation and for each change made to an announced allocation;
 - (b) instances where critical water supply sharing rules have been implemented, including—
 - (i) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the rules and outcomes; and
 - (ii) the commencement dates and time periods for which the rules were in effect;
 - (c) the total volume of water taken by water user and zone;
 - (d) the total volume of seasonal water assignments into each zone and out of each zone; and
 - (e) the total volume of water allowed to be taken under the announced allocation.
- (3) The annual report must include—
 - (a) all details of changes to the storage and delivery infrastructure or the operation of the storage and infrastructure that may impact on compliance with rules in this plan; and
 - (b) details of any new monitoring devices used such as equipment to measure stream flow;
 - (c) a summary of environmental considerations made by the resource operations licence holder in making operational and release decisions;
 - (d) a summary of the environmental outcomes of the decision including any adverse environmental impacts; and
 - (e) an evaluation of the effectiveness of those decisions in preventing or mitigating any adverse environmental impacts on aquatic ecosystems.
- (4) The annual report must include a discussion on any issues that arose as a result of the implementation and application of the rules in this plan.

165. Operational reporting

- (1) The resource operations licence holder must notify the chief executive—
 - (a) upon becoming aware of any of the following operational incidents—
 - (i) non-compliance by the resource operations licence holder with the rules given in this plan; or
 - (ii) instances of fish stranding and kills, blue-green algae growth or bank slumping within Allan Tannock Weir or watercourses associated with the operation of the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme;
 - (b) upon making a decision relating to—
 - (i) an initial announced allocation and/or its revision; or
 - (ii) any restrictions on the taking of medium priority water;
 - (c) upon activating the critical water supply sharing rules; or

- (d) details of any arrangements for addressing circumstances where they are unable to supply water allocations.
- (2) The resource operations licence holder must provide the chief executive with—
 - (a) a report on the occurrence of any of the operational incidents discussed in subsection (1)(a). The report must include details of the incident, conditions under which the incident occurred and any responses or activities carried out as a result of the incident;
 - (b) relevant supporting information used in making a decision relating to—
 - (i) an initial announced allocation and/or its revision; and
 - (ii) any restrictions on the taking of medium priority water;
 - (c) information on the approval of any seasonal assignment by the resource operations licence holder including—
 - (i) the volume of water for each seasonal assignment;
 - (ii) the name of assignees and assignors; and
 - (iii) the properties water is moved to and from.

166. Emergency reporting

In an emergency, the resource operations licence holder must—

- (a) notify the chief executive upon discovery of the emergency; and
- (b) provide a report to the chief executive including—
 - (i) details of the emergency;
 - (ii) conditions under which the emergency occurred;
 - (iii) any responses or activities carried out as a result of the emergency; and
 - (iv) any rules specified in this plan that the licence holder is either permanently or temporarily unable to comply with due to the emergency.

167. Section number not used

CHAPTER 8 – INTERSTATE AGREEMENTS

168. Resource operations plan to meet interstate obligations

- (1) This resource operations plan meets the obligations of the Paroo River Agreement.
- (2) This resource operations plan meets the obligations of the Murray–Darling Basin Agreement.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.

169 and 170. Section numbers not used

CHAPTER 9 – AMENDMENTS TO THE RESOURCE OPERATIONS PLAN

171. Scope of chapter 9

This chapter describes those amendments that may be made to this plan under Sections 106(b) or 105 (5) of the Act.

Part 1 – Amendments not Requiring Public Notification

172. 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.

173. Granting an entitlement for unallocated water

An amendment that provides for granting a water entitlement for unallocated water under section 24 or section 48 of this plan may be made to this plan.

174. 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.

175. Adding additional resource operations plan ‘zones’

- (1) The chief executive may modify existing or create additional resource operations plan zones when there is sufficient justification⁸ to do so.
- (2) New zones will consist of parts of the water management areas 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.

176. 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.

177. Critical water supply sharing for the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme

The plan will be amended to include critical water supply sharing rules for the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme in accordance with sections 74 and 75 of this plan.

178. Changing monitoring, assessment and reporting requirements for the resource operation licence holder.

The chief executive may amend this plan to include improved or more efficient monitoring and assessment and reporting on the water resource plan outcomes specific to the resource operations licence holder.

⁸ ‘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.

179. 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.

180. Changes to the method of determining conditions on an overland flow licence

Sections 125 to 134 of this plan may be amended to allow for an improved method of determining the requirements of a water licence for taking overland flow.

181. 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 a water management area.
- (2) The proposed new operational procedures must meet the water resource plan water allocation security objectives and environmental flow objectives.

Part 2 – Amendments Requiring Public Notification**182. Amendments under the *Water Act 2000***

- (1) The chief executive may amend this plan under Section 105(5) of the *Water Act 2000*.
- (2) An example of amendments that may occur under Section 105(5) of the *Water Act 2000* include, but are not limited to—
 - (a) changes to supplemented water sharing rules; and
 - (b) the addition of a new priority group or reassessment of priority group volume limits in the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme, where the resource operations licence holder has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the chief executive that the proposed changes meet the water resource plan's water allocation security objectives and environmental flow objectives.

183 and 184. Section numbers not used**CHAPTER 10 – IMPLEMENTATION****185. Implementation**

- (1) The chief executive must implement the requirements of this plan as soon as is practicable.
- (2) Subsections (3) to (10) apply where the resource operations licence holder is unable, on commencement of this plan, to comply with—
 - (a) the *Water Monitoring Data Collection Standard* (section 8);
 - (b) the *Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standard* (section 9);
 - (c) the operating and environmental management rules and monitoring requirements (section 10);
 - (d) metering requirements (section 11); or
 - (e) the monitoring and reporting requirements (chapter 7).
- (3) The resource operations licence holder must—
 - (a) within 40 business days of the commencement of this plan, submit a statement of current programs to the chief executive for approval; and

- (b) within six months of commencement of this plan, submit a program for meeting the requirements of this plan to the chief executive for approval. The program must include a timetable and interim methods to be used.
- (4) Where the program submitted relates to the *Water Monitoring Data Collection Standard* under section 8, the program must include the accuracy of methods currently used.
- (5) The chief executive, in assessing any program submitted under subsection (3)(b), may request further information.
- (6) The chief executive, in considering any program submitted under subsection (3)(b), may—
 - (a) approve the program with or without conditions; or
 - (b) require the resource operations licence holder to submit a proposal for a revised program.
- (7) Within 10 business days of making a decision on any program submitted under subsection (3)(b), the chief executive must notify the resource operations licence holder of the decision.
- (8) Following approval of the program by the chief executive, the resource operations licence holder must implement and operate in accordance with the approved program.
- (9) Where there is conflict between the provisions of this plan and the provisions of an approved program, the approved program prevails for the time that the program is in place.
- (10) Where this section applies, the resource operations licence holder may continue to operate under current operation programs prior to approval of a program.

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).

Announced Allocation: For a water allocation managed under a water resource operations licence, it means a number, expressed as a percentage, which is used to determine the maximum volume of water that may be taken in a water year under the authority of a water allocation.

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

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 (m³/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 Attachments 4A to 4E and that will be registered on a water allocation as flow conditions.

Flow peak: This when the flow volume has not risen by more than 1% in twelve hours during a flow event.

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 Attachments 4A to 4E and that will be registered on a water allocation as special or other conditions.

Total Water Use: For a water supply scheme, it is the cumulative volume of water used by all water allocations managed under the licence.

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

ATTACHMENT 1 – WATER MANAGEMENT AREAS

