

APPENDIX A

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE WARREGO,

PAROO, BULLOO AND NEBINE

RESOURCE OPERATIONS PLAN 2006

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THE EXPLANATORY NOTES

The explanatory notes are a ‘plain English’ version of the Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine Resource Operations Plan 2006 (‘the plan’). The numbering of the explanatory notes corresponds with the numbering of the resource operations plan which should be read in conjunction with these notes.

The plan has been made to implement the *Water Resource (Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine) Plan 2003* (‘the water resource plan’). The plan and the water resource plan apply to regulated and unregulated water within the following catchments—

- Warrego;
- Paroo;
- Bulloo; and
- Nebine.

While these notes are intended to assist the reader in interpreting the Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine Resource Operations Plan 2006, the reader should refer to the statutory plan for the water management rules themselves.

Section numbers not used

Certain sections of the plan are titled ‘Section numbers not used’. Because of the size and complexity of the plan, some section numbers have been deliberately left blank. This will allow the plan to be amended if necessary at a later date without the whole plan having to be renumbered.

CHAPTER 1 - PRELIMINARY

1. Water resource plan implemented through the resource operations plan

This section states that the purpose of the plan is to implement the *Water Resource (Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine) Plan 2003*. The resource operations plan sets out the rules and requirements that guide the day to day management of surface water and water infrastructure in order to achieve the objectives of the *Water Resource (Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine) Plan 2003*.

2. Name of the resource operations plan

This section states the name of the plan.

3. Commencement of the resource operations plan

The plan commences on the first business day after notification in the *Queensland Government Gazette*.

4. Plan area

The geographic area to which these rules apply is shown on the map in Attachment 1 and includes the Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine River catchments.

5. Water to which this plan applies

The plan applies to all water within a watercourse, lake or spring including water collected in a weir or dam constructed across a watercourse, lake or spring in the plan area and also includes overland flow water.

6. Water Management Areas and Resource Operations Plan Zones

In order to allow for consistent application of management rules, the plan area (made up of the Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine catchments) has been broken up into five water management areas. These water management areas are shown in Attachment 1.

Every water allocation in the plan area has been assigned to a specific resource operations plan zone. The zones were determined by dividing the watercourse into separate reaches based on hydrological characteristics. They provide for geographic management of water trading and will be used to allow assessment and minimisation of the impacts of trades and water management decisions on other water users and the environment. Trading of allocations may occur between zones, subject to appropriate conditions (refer to Chapter 4, Part 3).

7. Information about areas

Interested persons will be able to identify in greater detail where zone boundaries lie in relation to property boundaries and watercourses by inspection of digital information held at the Department of Natural Resources and Mines head office at 41 George St, Brisbane (phone - 131304), or by contacting their local office.

8. Departmental water monitoring data collection standard

All water resource monitoring and data retention requirements in the plan must be conducted in accordance with the department's *Water Monitoring Data Collection Standard*. The standard addresses, amongst other things—

- external standards;
- responsibilities;
- requirements;
- definitions;
- accuracy of continuous recorded data;
- accuracy of intermittent data;
- water sample analysis methods, resolution and minimum reporting limits; and
- natural ecosystem monitoring methods.

The *Water Monitoring Data Collection Standard* is maintained on the department's website and will be updated regularly to ensure that the most recent industry best practice methods are used. It is the responsibility of the relevant monitoring body to ensure that they are collecting data in accordance with the most recent version of the standard.

The *Water Monitoring Data Collection Standard* is not continually specified in the plan in order to avoid excessive amendments and allow the standard to be regularly updated to reflect best practice. Any substantive changes to the standard will involve prior notification to the resource operations licence holder.

9. Departmental water monitoring data reporting standard

Water resource monitoring data must be transferred and published in accordance with the department's *Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standard*. The *Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standard* includes format requirements and timeframes within which data must be transferred.

The *Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standard* is maintained on the department's website and will be updated to ensure that the most recent industry best practice methods are used. It

is the responsibility of the relevant monitoring body to ensure that they are reporting data in accordance with the most recent version of the standard.

The *Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standard* addresses, amongst other things—

- data format and levels of accuracy;
- data fields; and
- timeframes for reporting requirements.

The *Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standard* is not continually specified in the plan in order to avoid excessive amendments and allow the standard to be regularly updated to reflect best practice. Any substantive changes to the standard will involve prior notification of the resource operations licence holder.

10. Operating and environmental management rules and monitoring requirements

This section states that, where it is unsafe for a person or persons to carry out operating and environmental management rules or reporting requirements under the plan, the resource operations licence holder does not need to comply with that rule or requirement until it is safe to do so.

The resource operations licence holder must comply with all other rules and requirements of the plan including reporting requirements and may submit an interim program for achieving compliance with the plan rules and requirements in accordance with section 185.

11. Metering

Water entitlements, to which the plan applies, including water allocations and water licences, will be metered to provide data for water management activities including demonstrating compliance with management rules. Metering water use is fundamental to the responsible management of the State's water resources.

Requirements for metering are covered by the regulation made under the *Water Act 2000*.

12. Sustainable management of water

As required under Section 98(1)(e) of the *Water Act 2000*, this section specifies the manner in which the plan seeks to sustainably manage water resources in the plan area.

13. Addressing water resource plan outcomes

As required under Section 98(1)(g) of the *Water Act 2000*, this section specifies the manner in which the plan seeks to achieve the general outcomes and ecological outcomes set out in the water resource plan.

Attachment 3 of the plan sets out how the rules and requirements of the plan are linked to the outcomes of the water resource plan.

CHAPTER 2 – DEALING WITH UNALLOCATED WATER

Up to 9,500 ML per year of unallocated water is available for future use for ‘any’ purpose within the plan area and this is comprised of—

- 4,000 megalitres of unallocated water in the Upper Warrego Water Management Area;
- 4,000 megalitres of unallocated water in the Lower Warrego Water Management Area;
- 500 megalitres of unallocated water in the Bulloo Water Management Area; and
- 1,000 megalitres of unallocated water in the Nebine Water Management Area.

A total of 400 megalitres of unallocated water is available for the purpose of ‘town water supply’ and this is broken up into—

- 100 megalitres in total in the Upper and Lower Warrego Water Management Area;
- 100 megalitres in the Paroo Water Management Area;
- 100 megalitres in the Bulloo Water Management Area; and
- 100 megalitres in the Nebine Water Management Area.

Part 1 – Unallocated Water for ‘Any’ Purpose

14. Scope of part 1

This section states that part 1 details a process for dealing with the unallocated water available in the plan area.

Division 1 – Warrego Water Management Areas

15. Scope of division 1

This section states that this division details how unallocated water in the Warrego Water Management Area will be dealt with.

16. Timing of process for making the water available

This section describes the timeframe in which the chief executive will commence the processes described in this division.

It also allows the chief executive to reserve the water for future use.

17. Registration of potential bidders

This section describes the processes and procedures that the—

- chief executive must follow when releasing the unallocated water; and
- potential bidders must follow to register for the auction of unallocated water.

Subdivision 1 – Water available for release

18. Upper Warrego Water Management Area

This section details—

- how much unallocated water is available in the area;
- the size of the lots;
- how many lots can be purchased by a single bidder at one price; and
- the type of allocation (waterharvesting or overland flow).

19. Lower Warrego Water Management Area

This section details—

- how much unallocated water is available in the area;
- the size of the lots;
- how many lots can be purchased by a single bidder at one price; and
- the type of allocation (waterharvesting or overland flow).

Subdivision 2 – Auction process

20. Process to issue unallocated water

This section details the rules for the auction and the process that the chief executive must follow when the bids do not meet the reserve price.

Subdivision 3 – Settling of purchases

21. Process for setting conditions on water entitlements where required

This section describes the factors that must be considered by the chief executive when determining conditions to be imposed on the purchased water. It also details the options available in the event that a prospective purchaser rejects the imposed conditions.

22. Public notification of successful bidders

This section describes the process for advertising the details of successful bids following the auction in order to allow the community to comment on the issuing of the licence.

23. Review of submissions and settling of offers

Describes the process the chief executive must follow in reviewing and considering submissions made on the proposed entitlement and states that he/she must make a decision on the approval of the entitlement. It also provides an exit option if the potential purchaser is not satisfied with the chief executive's decision.

24. Amendment of the resource operations plan

Specifies when the purchaser will pay for the entitlement. On completion of the process the plan is amended to include the new entitlement.

25 to 30. Section numbers not used

Division 2 – Bulloo and Nebine Water Management Areas

31. Unallocated water reserved for future projects

Unallocated water in the Bulloo and Nebine catchments is reserved for allocation at a future date.

32. Future amendment to allow release of unallocated water

When a decision is made to release some or all of the reserved unallocated water in the Bulloo and Nebine Water Management Areas, the plan will be amended through a formal process, which will involve public consultation.

Section 41 of the water resource plan details the criteria the chief executive must consider when releasing unallocated water.

33 to 40. Section numbers not used**Part 2 – Unallocated Water for Town Water Supply****41. Scope of part 2**

This section states that this part details how unallocated water for town water supply will be dealt with.

42. Unallocated water reserved

This section specifies that the water for town water supply is reserved for release at a future date.

43. Process for making the reserved water available

The unallocated water will be reserved until a local government requesting unallocated water for town water supply provides a written submission demonstrating that the water is needed. This section lists the information that must be provided to the chief executive to enable a decision to be made.

44. Assessment of submission for the reserved water

This section sets out the matters that must be considered by the chief executive when assessing a submission for the unallocated water.

45. Additional information may be required

This section states that the submitter may be asked to provide additional information to enable the chief executive to assess the submission.

46. Deciding the submission

The chief executive will, based on assessment of a submission, decide to—

- make the reserved water available and determine the conditions and price to be applied; or
- not make the reserved water available.

Where the decision is to make the reserved water available, the chief executive will determine the maximum rate of take, volume and any access conditions for the licence or allocation. This decision and the conditions to be imposed on the water may be reviewed if additional information is received.

47. Public notification

This section states that the public must be notified of the decision detailed in section 46 and that public submissions be sought on the issuing of the licence or allocation.

48. Granting a water entitlement to a local authority

This section states that the chief executive may consider issues raised in the submissions when determining the final conditions on the licence or allocation.

49 to 54. Section numbers not used

CHAPTER 3 – DEALING WITH SUPPLEMENTED WATER

55. Scope of chapter 3

This section states that this chapter will detail the rules for supplemented water from Allan Tannock Weir for the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme.

Part 1 – Granting of a Resource Operations Licence

A resource operations licence is a licence granted under the *Water Act 2000* to make provision for the management of supplemented water supply schemes (i.e. where water from storages supplements ‘run of the river’ flows). A resource operations licence will be issued to SunWater for the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme and will replace the current interim resource operations licence. Under the resource operations licence, SunWater is required to comply with the rules and requirements of the plan.

56. Resource operations licence

This section provides for the granting of a resource operations licence to SunWater for the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme.

Attachment 4A provides details of the water allocations managed by the resource operations licence holder. Attachment 5 identifies the infrastructure (storages and associated works) and the watercourses used for water distribution which are associated with the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme.

Part 2 – Conversion of Supplemented Authorisations

57. Granting of water allocations

This section states where in the plan to find details of supplemented water allocations granted or converted from existing water authorisations.

58 and 59. Section numbers not used

Part 3 – Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme

60. Scope of part 3

This section states that this part applies to the resource operations licence holder for the scheme and all associated water allocations within the scheme.

Division 1 – Operating Rules

61. Water year

This section defines the water year to be applied to the plan area. This runs from 1 July to 30 June, the same as a financial year.

62. Releases from Allan Tannock Weir

This section states that the resource operations licence holder must minimise the occurrence of adverse environmental impacts which may result from changes to releases from the weir.

63. Storing and releasing water for stock and domestic purposes

This section states that the resource operations licence holder must provide water for stock and domestic users downstream of the weir. It also describes how stock and domestic water is to be released and accounted for.

64 to 69. Section numbers not used

Division 2 – Water Sharing Rules

70. Announced allocations

This section specifies the general rules regarding the making of announced allocations.

71. Taking water under a water allocation

The volume of water that may be taken during the water year under a water allocation cannot be greater than the announced allocation volume at that time. For example, where the nominal volume of a water allocation equals 100 megalitres and the announced allocation equals 80 percent, then the announced allocation volume (for that allocation) is 80 megalitres.

72. Medium priority water allocations

Medium priority water allocations must be determined in accordance with the critical water supply arrangements approved by the chief executive under section 74 of the plan. If no such arrangements are in place, then the allocations are to be determined using the formula and parameters specified in this section.

73. Announced allocation for high priority

High priority water allocations must be determined in accordance with the critical water supply arrangements approved by the chief executive under section 74 of the plan. If no such arrangements are in place, then the allocations are to be determined using the formula and parameters specified in this section.

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

Critical water supply arrangements must be developed by the resource operations licence holder and provided to the chief executive for approval. The purpose of the critical water supply arrangements is to set out rules for the sharing of water in times of severe water shortages. For example, restrictions may be needed for high priority water users prior to the allocation for medium priority users becoming zero. The water allocation security objectives from the water resource plan for both high and medium priority groups must still be achieved.

Preparation of the critical water supply arrangements must involve stakeholder and community consultation and the strategy must address the terms of reference specified in subsection 2.

75. Amendment of critical water supply arrangements

This section allows the chief executive to amend the critical water supply arrangements at any time and also allows the scheme licence holder to submit proposed amendments at any time.

76 to 78. Section numbers not used

Division 3 – Water Allocation Change Rules

79. Scope of division 3

This section states that this division details the water allocation change rules for supplemented water.

80. Changes to priority group

Changes in priority group between medium and high priority are permitted.

The nominal volume associated with the medium priority water allocation must be multiplied by the conversion factor of 2/3 when converting from the medium to the high priority group. This conversion factor accounts for the increase in reliability that is achieved with a high priority allocation and ensures that there is no impact on other water users reliability as a result of the conversion.

A change in priority group from high to medium priority is also permitted under this section. The nominal volume associated with the high priority water allocation must be multiplied by the conversion factor of 1.5 when converting from high to the medium priority group.

Converted nominal volumes must be rounded down to the nearest whole number.

81. Changes to purpose

This section states that a change in purpose between 'agriculture' and 'any' is permitted.

82. Subdivision or amalgamation

This section states that amalgamation or subdivision of supplemented water is permitted provided there is no change to—

- the total nominal volume; and the
- priority group.

83 and 84. Section numbers not used

Subdivision 2 – Prohibited changes

85. Prohibited changes

This section defines prohibited changes to supplemented water allocations. Prohibited changes include—

- a change in location (zone); or
- a change in priority groups or a subdivision/amalgamation that is not in accordance with the permitted change rules.

86 to 88. Section numbers not used

Subdivision 3 – Other changes

89. Application for changes not specified as either permitted or prohibited

Any changes that are not listed as permitted or prohibited but relate to one or more elements of the allocation mentioned in Section 128 of the *Water Act 2000*, may be applied for in accordance with Section 130 of the *Water Act 2000*. This involves—

- an application being made to the chief executive;
- the application being supported by sufficient information to enable the chief executive to make a decision; and
- a fee being paid.

The applicant will be responsible for all costs associated with assessment of the application. The chief executive will then decide whether to allow or not allow the change.

Division 4 – Seasonal Water Assignments

90. Seasonal water assignments

The resource operations licence holder is responsible for dealing with applications for seasonal water assignments. Seasonal assignments are permitted provided they do not result in water use in the water supply scheme or priority group exceeding the maximum water available in a water year.

91 to 93. Section numbers not used

CHAPTER 4 – DEALING WITH UNSUPPLEMENTED WATER

Part 1 – Conversion of Unsupplemented Authorisations

94. Granting of water allocations

This section states where in the plan to find details of unsupplemented water allocations granted or converted from existing water authorisations.

Part 2 – Water Sharing Rules

95. Access rules for all water allocations

This section specifies when water can be taken under a water allocation.

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

In these water management areas, the department will announce when water may be taken under a water allocation.

97. Announced period

This section details how the chief executive will determine when an announcement will be made.

The department will determine when the flow conditions exist and will notify water allocation holders when water may be taken under a water allocation.

98. Flow conditions

The flow condition stated on a water allocation is the stream flow that must be occurring at the nominated flow reference point before water can be taken.

Amendments may be made to the allocation in order to change the location of the flow reference point. Any changes will be in accordance with section 176 of the plan.

99. Volumetric limit

The volumetric limit is the maximum volume of water that may be taken under a water allocation in any water year.

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

This section states that this part details the water allocation change rules for unsupplemented water.

*Division 1 – Permitted Changes***105. Change of location for allocations with nil passing flow condition**

Allocations with nil passing flow conditions have been converted from direct irrigation/area licences which did not have flow conditions as they were granted on the basis of making use of waterholes in the river.

The plan provides ‘permitted’ rules for the relocation of an allocation with a nil passing flow condition. The provisions are detailed in this section but are intended to ensure that there are no impacts on existing water users or the environment as a result of the change.

106. Subdivision and amalgamation

This section states that amalgamation or subdivision of unsupplemented water is permitted provided there is no change to the—

- total nominal volume;
- volumetric limit;
- rate of take;
- flow conditions; and the
- location of the original water allocation.

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

This section defines when the subdivision and amalgamation of water allocations will be prohibited.

111 to 113. Section numbers not used*Division 3 – Other Changes***114. Application for changes not specified as either permitted or prohibited**

Any changes that are not listed as permitted or prohibited but relate to one or more elements of the allocation mentioned in Section 128 of the *Water Act 2000*, may be applied for in accordance with Section 130 of the *Water Act 2000*. This involves—

- an application being made to the chief executive;
- the application being supported by sufficient information to enable the chief executive to make a decision; and
- a fee being paid.

The applicant will be responsible for all costs associated with assessment of the application. The chief executive will then decide whether to allow or not allow the change.

Division 4 – Water Allocations Used in Conjunction with Overland Flow Works

115. Application to remove the special condition

This special condition applies to water allocations that take water from a watercourse and store it in works (storage) that also take overland flow. The condition ties the water allocation to the particular works.

When the special condition is changed or removed it potentially frees up space in the works for more overland flow and thus could result in growth in overland flow take which is prohibited under Section 18 of the water resource plan.

If an application to remove the special condition is received then an overland flow licence will be issued limiting the overland flow take to levels at the commencement of the plan.

Part 4 – Seasonal Water Assignments

116. Seasonal water assignment rules

Seasonal assignment of unsupplemented water allocations is allowed where there is—

- no change to the zone from which water will be taken;
- no requirement on the allocation to store the water in a particular works;
- there is no change to the flow condition; and
- if the water allocation being seasonally assigned has a nil passing flow condition then specific limitations are imposed on the take of water.

117. Section number not used

CHAPTER 5 – DEALING WITH WATER LICENCES

Part 1 – Dealing with Water Licence Applications

118. Scope of part 1

This section states that this part details how the department will deal with water licence applications.

119. Applications to be refused

This section states that water licence applications must be refused unless this part explicitly provides for accepting or dealing with the application.

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

Some licence applications may be accepted and dealt with. These are applications—

- to reinstate or replace expired licences;
- to grant a water entitlement to a local government or a government agency for supply under operations that were in existence before 9 June 2001; and

- for a water entitlement from an owner of land who does not adjoin a watercourse, lake or spring, to take water for stock or domestic purposes using works that were in existence before 9 June 2001.

121. Applications to interfere with water by impounding flow

This section states that a water licence application for instream works (e.g. dam or weir) will be considered where the storage is for—

- stock and domestic purposes;
- a pumping pool associated with a water entitlement; or
- to store water for town water supply, where an application has been made by a local government.

Applications will not be approved if the storage is for a purpose not listed above.

In assessing whether to approve or refuse an application for a licence to interfere with water, the chief executive will consider—

- the size of the storage;
- other water supplies on the property; and
- the stock and domestic requirements of the property.

Conditions may be included on the licence to maintain passing flows and limit the size of the structure.

For an application for a licence to interfere with water that is submitted by a local government for the purpose of town water supply, the volumetric limit and rate of take of any water allocation associated with the licence to interfere must be reduced. This is done to account for additional water ‘taken’ as a result of the use of the storage. The allocation will also be linked to the weir and any flow threshold conditions be removed.

Any applications for storages, pumping pools or diversion channels for any purpose (including those listed above) in any of the resource operations plan zones of the Paroo and Bulloo Rivers will be refused.

122. Applications for a water licence to replace an overland flow authority

States that part 2 of this chapter deals with applications for a water licence to replace an overland flow authority.

123 and 124. Section numbers not used

Part 2 – Granting Water Licences for Taking Overland Flow Water

125. Scope of part 2

This section states that this part will detail how a water licence to take overland flow water will be granted.

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

This section states that an authority to take overland flow can be replaced by a licence anywhere in the plan area in accordance with section 127 of the plan.

127. Granting a water licence under Section 36 of the water resource plan

Authorisations were granted to the owners of overland flow works that notified the department (under Section 34 of the water resource plan) of the details of their works by December 2004. Under this notification process, details relating to the size of the works were included and recorded on the authorisation.

If an owner of such works plans to reconfigure the works such that the annual average diversion may be increased, a notice will be issued to them stating that a water licence will be granted to them for the works. This notice may also request a certified report from the owner about the existing works.

The chief executive will then identify the maximum rate for taking overland flow water, the storage volume, volumetric limit and an annual average diversion for the water licence.

If the works are already licensed under this process, then the chief executive may use the same process to amend the licence if required.

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

When an application under section 115 of the plan to remove a special condition (condition that ties the allocation to a particular storage) from a water allocation is received, the applicant must send a certified report on the works within 90 days. This will allow the chief executive to determine the conditions and grant a licence for the works.

129. Certified reports for overland flow works

The certified reports for the works must provide the information requested in the notice sent by the chief executive under section 127 of the plan. The reports will identify the infrastructure, its operation and its ability to take overland flow water.

130. Conditions for taking overland flow water

Conditions will be placed on water licences for taking overland flow water. These conditions will ensure that no more water is taken by the works than was originally authorised. This will ensure that the water allocation security objectives and the environmental flow objectives that provide security for water users and maintain the health of the riverine ecosystems are not changed.

131. Assessment of maximum rate for taking overland flow water

This section details how the maximum rate for taking overland flow water will be assessed.

132. Assessment of storage volume

This section details how the storage volume of an overland flow storage will be assessed.

133. Assessment of the volumetric limit for taking overland flow water

This section details how the volumetric limit for taking overland flow water will be assessed.

134. Assessment of the average annual diversion of overland flow water

This section details how the average annual diversion for taking overland flow water will be assessed.

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

Stock and/or domestic water licences will be amended within 12 months of the commencement of the plan to include—

- a maximum rate of take;
- a specified purpose of ‘any’; and
- a maximum volume of water that can be taken in a water year.

138 and 139. Section numbers not used

CHAPTER 6 – MONITORING, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

140. Water monitoring

Data will be collected and recorded in order to determine current and future trends in water use, trading, seasonal assignments and water use efficiency. Several years of data collection may be required before trends can be determined. Data will be collected from a variety of sources including water meters, agency monitoring programs and associated programs. The data collected as part of the monitoring programs will be based on indicators for each outcome and will be made publicly available. These activities will also contribute to an improved information base for future water planning within the plan area.

141. Natural ecosystems monitoring and assessment

Natural ecosystem monitoring will involve identification of ecological assets that are linked to the ecological outcomes of the water resource plan. An ecological asset can be a species, group of species, a biological function or particular ecosystem or place of value for which water is critical.

It is impractical to monitor every species or process associated with the identified ecological assets. Instead, indicators that are representative of each asset will be monitored. Monitoring of an indicator will involve looking for evidence that the water requirements of an ecological asset (or its representative indicator) have been provided. A detailed understanding of the biology of organisms is required in order to find critical ecological responses (e.g. breeding behaviour, successful recruitment) that depend on specific aquatic conditions (such as, water depth, water velocity, length of time of inundation and seasonal timing).

The department will need to determine if flow requirements specified in the rules of the plan provide opportunities for an ecological response.

Where required, further investigations will be undertaken to increase our understanding of the environmental water requirements of the organisms. The monitoring program will be altered when necessary in response to new and improved information.

As further information is obtained and the understanding of the biology of a particular organism increases, it is envisaged that ongoing assessment of the links between water management and achieving ecological outcomes will be more accurate and informative.

Sites for natural ecosystem monitoring will be established at locations where either the plan's rules and requirements have an influence on the indicators of the ecological assets or where it is suitable to carry out investigations to increase our understanding of the organisms' environmental water requirements. The timing and the nature of data collection will be determined by the specific flow events that occur within the plan area or by the type of investigative work undertaken.

142. Assessment

An assessment of the overall performance of the water resource plan will be based on analysis of the data collected under sections 140 and 141. The assessment will allow the chief executive to determine if the strategies of the water resource plan have been successful in seeking to achieve the general and ecological outcomes of the water resource plan.

Where it is determined that the general or ecological outcomes in the water resource plan are not being achieved, the Minister must consider amending the water resource plan. The findings and progress of the assessment will be presented, along with all of the other monitoring results, in the Minister's annual report.

143. Links to other monitoring programs

This section states that information gathered by other monitoring programs may be used to help with the assessment of the performance of ecological outcomes detailed in the water resource plan.

Other monitoring programs carried out in the Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine plan area seek to address differing issues and hence involve collection of different types of information. These programs are often conducted by bodies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, universities and cooperative research centers and include short-term, local projects of 2 or 3 year duration that are targeted at particular issues. Although they are not directly related to the plan, they may provide additional data and findings for assessment purposes.

144. Murray–Darling Basin Cap audit

As part of Queensland's agreement to the Murray–Darling Basin Cap, the take of water in the plan area will be managed to comply with this agreement.

Under this agreement, the measured volume of water that is taken from each catchment will be audited against the annual diversion target each year. This target is calculated using a catchment model, the 'Integrated Quantity and Quality Model', or by way of any assessment method deemed appropriate by the chief executive.

If the measured volumes do not balance with the annual diversion target then the plan may be amended to achieve the Cap outcomes.

145 and 146. Section numbers not used

CHAPTER 7 – RESOURCE OPERATIONS LICENCE HOLDER MONITORING AND REPORTING

147. Scope of chapter 7

This section states that this chapter applies to the resource operations licence of the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme.

Part 1 – Water Quantity

148. Stream flow (storage inflow and tailwater flow) and storage height

This section states that the scheme licence holder must measure and record details relating to storage volume and height and flow data. Table 7.1 specifies the locations where continuous time series height and volume data and daily flow data are required.

To determine the amount of inflow and estimate the tailwater flows, the scheme licence holder must submit an inflow derivation technique and a discharge works release curve within 40 business days of the commencement of the plan. The chief executive must approve a technique that is appropriate.

149. Releases from Allan Tannock Weir

This section requires the scheme licence holder to record the volume, rate of release and reason for each storage release made at Allan Tannock Weir.

150. Stock and domestic releases from Allan Tannock Weir

The scheme licence holder must make a record of each release for stock and domestic requirements and the reasons why the release occurred.

151. Announced allocations

This section requires the scheme licence holder to record the details of each announced allocation, including how it was determined.

152. Water taken by water users

Every quarter, the scheme licence holder must record and collate the volume of water taken for each water user. The total volume of water entitled to be taken by all water users and the basis for determining this total must also be recorded.

153. Seasonal water assignment of water allocation

This section requires the scheme licence holder to record the details of assignees (the person that an interest or right is being transferred to) and assignors (the person transferring that right) and the volume of water seasonally assigned by assignees and assignors.

154. Critical water supply sharing rules

This section requires the resource operations licence holder to record specific information relating to the imposition of critical water supply arrangements, specifically the basis, timing and nature of restrictions imposed on water users. In addition, the licence holder must record the critical levels for high priority reserve and minimum levels for high priority town water supply.

155 and 156. Section numbers not used

Part 2 – Impact of Storage Operation on Aquatic Ecosystems

157. Water quality

The scheme licence holder must monitor water quality to determine the impact that the storages have on water quality. This section details where and when samples are to be taken to determine the quality of water entering, stored in and leaving the storage. The gathered information will be used to help improve the management of storages, with the aim of minimising the impacts that water quality may have on downstream habitats.

158 to 161. Section numbers not used

Part 3 – Data Transfer and Recording

162. Quarterly data transfer

This section identifies the data measured, collected and recorded under sections 148, 149, 152, 157 of the plan which must be submitted to the chief executive on a quarterly basis.

163. Monitoring data must be made available

The scheme licence holder must retain all data that forms the basis for decisions regarding the operation of storages to allow those decisions to be fully audited by the chief executive.

Part 4 – Reporting

The annual report is based on data provided to the chief executive each quarter plus information provided in operational and emergency reports during the year. The report allows the chief executive to review the scheme licence holder's operations for the year.

164. Annual report

The resource operations licence holder must submit an annual report to the chief executive that summarises and discusses the data collected during the water year relating to the operation and environmental impacts of the storage, water allocation and use. The annual report also provides the resource operations licence holder with an opportunity to discuss any implementation or application issues.

Infrastructure operation requirements in the plan have been based on existing works and any substantial changes to these works (i.e. not including minor changes such as repairs or replacement of components due to regular maintenance) must be reported to keep the chief executive up to date with scheme arrangements and to allow the chief executive to assess potential impacts of changes on water allocation security objectives and environmental flow objectives.

This section provides prescriptive guidelines for the resource operations licence holder to prepare the annual report.

165. Operational reporting

This section provides prescriptive guidelines for the resource operations licence holder to notify the chief executive regarding the operation of the water supply scheme.

Upon becoming aware of an operational incident or making a decision in regards to the availability of water being taken under allocation, the scheme licence holder must ensure that the department has been notified.

An operational report on the incidents listed in this section must be supplied to the chief executive. The report should include the details of the incident, the cause of the incident and any responses carried out as a result of the incident. Any other supporting information should be attached to the report.

The requirements of reporting a decision regarding to the availability of water being taken under allocations (for example, announced allocations, restrictions on medium priority water and seasonal assignments) is also outlined. In brief, the scheme licence holder must provide the chief executive with detail of the decision and supporting information that justifies the decision.

166. Emergency reporting

Emergency reports are required to make the department aware of any emergencies that may impact on the scheme licence holder's ability to implement the requirements of the plan. This report provides information that will assist the chief executive to determine if any immediate action is required in response to the emergency.

The scheme licence holder must notify the chief executive of any emergency and must provide a full report on the emergency. An emergency for the purpose of the plan includes an occurrence that, by the nature of its severity, extent or timing, might be regarded as an emergency (for example contamination of water supply, structural damage to infrastructure or a danger to human health).

167. Section number not used

CHAPTER 8 – INTERSTATE AGREEMENTS

168. Resource operations plan to meet interstate obligations

This section lists the interstate agreements the plan is consistent with. It also states that the plan may be amended to accommodate the requirements of any new interstate agreement.

169 and 170. Section numbers not used

CHAPTER 9 – AMENDMENTS TO THE RESOURCE OPERATIONS PLAN

171. Scope of chapter 9

This section states that this chapter details the different arrangements for making amendments to the resource operations plan.

Part 1 – Amendments not Requiring Public Notification

These amendments do not require public notification and consultation.

172. Implementing an amendment to the water resource plan

This section states that any amendment that is necessary as a consequence of an amendment to the water resource plan may be made to the plan.

173. Granting an entitlement for unallocated water

An amendment may be made to the plan to provide for granting water allocations for successful unallocated water applicants accepted under sections 24 or 48 of the plan.

174. Changing monitoring, assessment and reporting requirements

This section states that any amendment to monitoring, assessment and reporting provisions may be made where that amendment will result in a more efficient or improved monitoring, assessment or reporting program for the department.

175. Adding additional resource operations plan ‘zones’

This section states that the chief executive can modify the plan zones through subdivision and amalgamation of existing zones or by creating new zones.

176. Changes to flow conditions

This section states that the chief executive may change the location of a flow reference point on a water allocation. The new reference point will possess the same passing flow requirement of the old reference point and the change must not result in a reduction in availability of water to the water allocation.

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

Once the critical water supply sharing rules for the Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme have been approved by the chief executive, the plan will be amended.

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

This section states that any amendment to monitoring, assessment and reporting provisions may be made where that amendment will result in a more efficient or improved monitoring, assessment or reporting program for the scheme licence holder.

179. Granting a water allocation to replace a water licence that has a volumetric limit

An amendment may be made to the plan where a water licence with a maximum daily rate of take and a volumetric limit can be converted into a water allocation. This new allocation must not have a larger volumetric limit or daily rate of take and must not result in an increased average volume of water taken.

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

If a better method of determining conditions for an overland flow licence becomes available, then this section allows for the new method to replace the existing method detailed in sections 125 to 134 of the plan.

181. Changes to unsupplemented water sharing rules

If, after a future review of operational procedures and community consultation in a water management area, it is decided that it is appropriate to change the unsupplemented water sharing rules then this section provides for this. The new rules must be consistent with the water resource plan and must not impact upon the security of water for water users or the environmental flow objectives.

Part 2 – Amendments Requiring Public Notification

182. Amendments under the Water Act 2000

This section provides examples of the types of amendments that the chief executive may make to the plan in accordance with Section 105 of the *Water Act 2000*.

183 and 184. Section numbers not used

CHAPTER 10 – IMPLEMENTATION

185. Implementation

This section defines the timeframe that the chief executive has to implement the plan, which is as soon as is practical.

If the resource operations licence holder for Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme is unable to meet the requirements of sections 8, 9, 10, 11 or chapter 7 of the plan at the plans commencement, they must submit a program which details how they will meet the requirements of the plan. This program must be approved by the chief executive.