Queensland

Water Resource (Mary Basin) Plan 2006

Explanatory Notes for SL 2006 No. 192

made under the

Water Act 2000

General Outline

Title

Water Resource (Mary Basin) Plan 2006.

Authorising law

Chapter 2, part 3, division 2 of the *Water Act 2000* (Qld).

Policy objectives of the legislation

The objective of the water resource plan (the plan) is to provide a framework for the allocation and sustainable management of surface and subartesian water in the plan area to meet future water requirements, including the protection of natural ecosystems and security of supply to water users. This objective is required by the *Water Act 2000* (the Act). The plan area includes the Mary River and its many tributaries, as well as the Burrum River and Sunshine Coast catchments, including the Maroochy, Mooloolah and Noosa rivers and the coastal streams north of the Noosa River mouth.

The plan provides for the allocation and sustainable management of surface and subartesian water by—

- defining the availability of water in the plan area;

- providing a framework for sustainably managing water and the taking of water;
- identifying mechanisms to deal with future demand for water;
- providing a framework for establishing water allocations;
- managing and licensing the take of subartesian water in the Cooloola Sandmass Subartesian Area;
- providing environmental flow objectives and water allocation security objectives;
- outlining the strategies to achieve the plan outcomes; and
- requiring water and natural ecosystem monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the strategies and objectives outlined in the plan in achieving the outcomes.

Legislation consistent with policy objectives of authorising law

The subordinate legislation is consistent with the policy objectives of the Act.

Estimated cost for Government

Funding for the development of the water resource plan and the resource operations plan has been allocated to the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water under the Water Reform Continuity of Supply funds allocation. Accordingly, the plan should not alter the present cost to government of administering the Act.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The subordinate legislation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

Government departments and agencies affected by the changes have been consulted in respect of the plan. In addition, conservation, agriculture, indigenous, recreation, industry, farming, water service provider and local government groups have been consulted in accordance with the water resource planning process as outlined in the Act.

Outcomes of community consultation are outlined in the separate document *Mary Basin Water Resource Plan Consultation Report*.

Regulatory Impact Statement

Section 58 of the Act states that a regulatory impact statement is not required for the approval of a water resource plan.

Notes on Provisions

Part 1 Preliminary

Short title

Clause 1 sets out the short title to the subordinate legislation.

Purposes of the plan

Clause 2 states the purposes of the plan. These reflect the requirements of section 38 of the Act.

Definitions

Clause 3 specifies that certain terms are defined in the dictionary in schedule 12.

Part 2 Plan area and water to which plan applies

Plan area

Clause 4 states that a map of the plan area is shown in schedule 1. The plan area includes the entire Mary River and its tributaries, including

supplemented water in the Mary River and Baroon Pocket water supply schemes. It also covers the Burrum River catchment, including supplemented water in the Wide Bay Water Supply Scheme, as well as the Sunshine Coast catchments, including the coastal streams north of the Noosa River mouth.

Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area

Clause 5 states that a map of the Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area is shown in schedule 2. The Cooloola Sandmass aquifer is part of the plan area that requires specific management. More information on management of the Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area is provided below in discussion of part 6 of the plan.

Subcatchment areas

Clause 6 state that a map and descriptions of subcatchment areas are shown in schedules 3 and 4 respectively. The use of subcatchment areas provides for more effective management and planning of water allocations by focusing on the ecological and consumptive needs for smaller areas within the overall plan area. This approach also has the benefit of more effective monitoring of the impacts that local changes have on achieving plan objectives.

Information about areas

Clause 7 explains that the exact locations of the plan area, Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area and subcatchment area boundaries are held in electronic map form at departmental offices where they can be inspected in detail.

Nodes

Clause 8 defines nodes mentioned in the plan. Nodes are specific locations on a watercourse within the plan area, where stream flow characteristics are described. In addition, modelled stream flows are estimated and reported to test consistency with environmental flow objectives. Nodes are numbered and their locations are shown on the map in schedule 1 and described in schedule 5.

Water to which plan applies

Clause 9 states that the plan applies to surface water across the entire plan area and to subartesian water in the Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area only. Addressing both surface and subartesian water provides for a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to water management.

However, the plan does not apply to subartesian water in any other part of the plan area artesian water or control of overland flow. Artesian water is water in an aquifer that would flow naturally to the surface when tapped by a bore. Overland flow is water that runs off land following rainfall, either before it enters a watercourse or after it discharges as floodwater from a watercourse or lake. Despite this, monitoring and reporting requirements will ensure that an amendment to the plan can be initiated to regulate either subartesian water in areas outside of the Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area or overland flow if plan outcomes become at risk (see clauses 86 and 90).

Part 3 Outcomes for sustainable management of water

Part 3 provides the outcomes, including the ecological outcomes, which the plan seeks to balance through implementing particular management strategies. Inclusion of these outcomes meets the requirement in section 46(1)(e) of the Act.

Outcomes for water in the plan area

Clause 10 establishes that the outcomes in clauses 11–13 have been derived in consideration of the current state of water resources in the plan area and that allocation and management methods must seek a balance between them.

General outcomes for surface water in the plan area

Clause 11 states the general outcomes for the allocation and sustainable management of surface water in the plan area. These outcomes aim at protecting river health, protecting existing water user access and providing for future water requirements.

General outcomes for subartesian water in the Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area

Clause 12 states the general outcomes for the allocation and sustainable management of subartesian water in the Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area. The outcomes are focussed on protecting the area's sensitive ecosystems. See part 6 for further detail.

The term 'groundwater-dependent ecosystems' used in this clause is a common and scientifically accepted term used within Australia. It refers to ecosystems in the Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area that rely on subartesian water for maintaining high ecological integrity.

Ecological outcomes for particular parts of the plan area

Clause 13 states the ecological outcomes which the plan seeks to achieve in particular parts of the plan area.

The particular parts were identified through community consultation and independent scientific assessments as areas of ecological significance requiring specific ecological outcomes. The outcomes include minimising the extent of impact on flow regimes, minimising changes to the hydraulic habitat requirements (e.g. pools, riffles and cascades—see schedule 12) of native plants and animals and maintaining geomorphic features and processes.

Part 4 Performance indicators and objectives

A performance indicator is defined in the Act to mean a measure that can be calculated and is stated in a water resource plan to assess the impact of an allocation and management decision or proposal on water entitlements and natural ecosystems.

An objective represents a statistic produced by the department's Integrated Quantity and Quality Model (IQQM—see clause 22) that meets a performance indicator. For example, an objective may be to ensure the number of dry spells experienced during the simulation period in accordance with the plan scenario. There are two sets of plan objectives: environmental flow objectives and water allocation security objectives.

Future activities that could potentially affect the allocation and management of water in the plan area (for example, new water resource development, water trades, proposed changes to operational rules, or strategies implemented in a resource operations plan (ROP) would only be approved if they are consistent with the objectives defined in part 4 of the plan. This requirement is separate to any other approvals or assessments that may be required—for example, approvals for works under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* or environmental impact assessments required by other legislation.

The impact on and consistency with the plan's objectives are assessed using the department's IQQM computer program or other approved method. This program simulates stream flows in the plan area over the period 1890 to 1999. Operational rules can be simulated through this period to ensure that objectives are not compromised.

Division 1 Preliminary

Application of pt 4

Clause 14 states that this part applies to surface water only. Subartesian water is dealt with separately in part 6 of the plan.

Division 2 Environmental flow objectives

Environmental flow objectives aim to protect the health of natural ecosystems from future decisions made under the plan. The objectives attempt to minimise change to natural flow conditions and are defined at nodes.

Performance indicators for environmental flow objectives

Clause 15 states the performance indicators for the environmental flow objectives. Natural flow characteristics are described through this combination of performance indicators and objectives. These indicators allow for environmental flow targets to be set to address the environmental impacts that may arise from changes to the flow regime.

The specified indicators are important key flow characteristics and are based on technical advice during plan development. The indicators relate to

periods of no flow, low flow, medium and high flow and flow seasonality. The variability and seasonality of flow regimes within the plan area are unique to each river system and are often critical for many ecological processes.

No one performance indicator or objective, achieved in isolation, is likely to maintain natural stream condition. Rather, several flow characteristics must be supported if the plan's ecological outcomes and objectives are to be achieved.

Environmental flow objectives

Clause 16 states that the environmental flow objectives are stated in schedule 6.

The objectives have been set at a level to address and achieve the general and particular ecological outcomes as set out in part 3. They accommodate future impacts that may occur in various parts of the plan area and balance environmental and consumptive requirements.

The objectives are a numerical target or level of performance to be achieved, and consist of a combination of mandatory and desired objectives. The mandatory objectives ensure that the outcomes are maintained, while the desired objectives, if achieved, will enhance the ecological outcomes.

Any future decisions about allocation and management in the plan area must comply with the mandatory environmental flow objectives. This would be tested by the IQQM or other approved method (see clause 22). The objectives include a range of no flow, low flow, medium to high flow and seasonal flow objectives.

Division 3 Water allocation security objectives

Water allocation security objectives aim to ensure that future decisions about the allocation and management of water made under the plan will not affect the probability of groups of water users being able to obtain water under their water allocations.

Performance indicators for water allocation security objectives

Clause 17 states the performance indicators that define the water allocation security objectives according to whether the indicator is for supplemented or unsupplemented water. See the discussion on schedule 7 for information on water sharing indexes.

The objectives define the minimum long-term performance of a group of water allocations that will be maintained for the life of the plan. Supplemented water is water supplied under an interim resource operation licence, resource operations licence or other authority to operate water infrastructure such as a dam or weir. Unsupplemented water is water that is not supplemented water.

The objectives and indicators for unsupplemented town water supply allocations have been specified differently to provide a more realistic picture of the risk for local governments in managing their supplies. They will also guide development of a critical water supply strategy so that essential services can be maintained during drier periods (see part 5, division 9).

Water allocation security objectives

Clause 18 states that the water allocation security objectives are stated in schedule 7. Water allocation security objectives for supplemented and unsupplemented water are listed in parts 1 and 2 of the schedule respectively.

Water allocation security objectives do not represent a prediction or guarantee of future performance of water allocations in any particular year. The objectives represent how an allocation would have been expected to perform using historical data, assuming full development of the plan's strategic water reserve and other unallocated water, as well as full use of the plan area's water entitlements.

Actual performance under the implemented plan will depend on prevailing climatic factors, water demand distribution patterns and water users' choice in using their entitlements. In other words, the way an entitlement might have performed during the simulation period is not necessarily indicative of how it will perform in the future.

Water allocation security objectives will take effect when the water resource plan is implemented under a ROP. They will apply only to water entitlements that convert to tradable water allocations.

The objectives for supplemented water are specified according to priority groups as set out in clause 59. The objectives for unsupplemented water are based on subcatchment areas and the group of entitlements to which they belong (e.g. town water supply, area-based entitlements or other).

Part 5 Strategies for achieving outcomes (surface water)

Division 1 Preliminary

Strategies for surface water

Clause 19 states that the strategies in part 5 only apply to surface water. Subartesian water is dealt with separately in part 6 of the plan.

Division 2 Decisions made under this plan

Application of division 2

Clause 20 outlines that division 2 generally applies to decisions about water allocation or management in the plan area. However, there are two exceptions—decisions about reinstating or replacing an expired water licence and decisions to grant a water entitlement to local government or a government agency for supply under operations existing on commencement of the plan. These situations are not covered in the plan because they are dealt with under the provisions of the Act.

Decisions consistent with objectives

Clause 21 requires all decisions made about the allocation or management of water in the plan area to be consistent with the environmental flow and water allocation security objectives detailed in clauses 15 and 17. This provides greater certainty and security to allocation holders, ensures environmental flows are maintained and provides consistent and transparent considerations for decision-making.

Decisions about water permits are excluded from this requirement because the water taken during short permit periods is deemed not to affect the objectives, which are derived from long-term historical data. However, separate consideration of the impacts on natural ecosystems and water authorisations is required in granting these permits under section 239 of the Act.

Assessing impact of decisions

Clause 22 states that the department's IQQM computer program is the main method used to assess consistency with environmental flow and water allocation security objectives.

The IQQM simulates all the major surface water processes that occur within a large catchment including water extractions, instream losses and the climatic and seasonal variability in surface water flow. The model was calibrated and validated using historical data from 1890–1999 (109 years). As such, the testing of compliance with the objectives is done by using the simulation data for this period.

The clause also provides that if it is not practicable to use the IQQM, the chief executive may approve another method if the chief executive is satisfied that it is at least as accurate as the IQQM in assessing consistency with plan objectives.

Decisions not to increase amount of water taken

Clause 23 states that the chief executive must not make a decision that would increase the average volume of water available to be taken in the plan area, except in relation to a decision about unallocated water made under clause 26 or a decision about a water permit (see clause 21). The clause effectively caps the amount of water to be taken from the plan area at the amount identified by the plan. This is because the allocation framework has been developed in recognition of full utilisation of existing water entitlements and provision of additional allocation to meet future water needs. Any provision of water outside this framework could potentially affect the general, strategic or town water supply reserves, existing water users or environmental flows.

Subclause 3 addresses applications for taking water under an authorisation that were made, but not dealt with, before the commencement of the plan. A moratorium on applications for surface water was announced in May 2002 under section 26 of the Act. The purpose of the moratorium was to

maintain the level of water being taken or interfered with while the plan was being developed, and it remained in effect until the plan was approved by the Governor in Council.

The moratorium requirements have prevented the department from dealing with surface water licence applications that were received before or after announcement of the moratorium. These applications will be refused as they were made through a process according to conditions and rules of access that have changed on release of the plan (see section 209 of the Act that requires applications inconsistent with a water resource plan to be refused).

Water entitlements will be available only through water trading or the release of unallocated water, which are both water market-based approaches.

Restriction on taking water from waterholes or lakes

Clause 24 places restrictions on taking water from waterholes or lakes. Natural waterholes and lakes are recognised as important habitats and places of refuge for aquatic plants and animals, and can have significant cultural value to traditional owners.

In granting an authorisation that could result in an increased take of water from a waterhole or lake, conditions may be applied to safeguard cultural and environmental values of natural waterholes and lakes. Conditions are not required if the chief executive is satisfied the taking of water will not adversely affect these values.

New restrictions will not be able to be applied to the take of water under a permit, licence or other authorisation that existed at commencement of the plan or a water allocation granted on conversion from an authorisation. The clause details the minimum considerations the chief executive must take into account in setting these conditions, such as the impact the proposed taking may have on environmental, recreation, aesthetic and cultural values. Other matters may also be considered.

Division 3 General, strategic and town water supply reserves

Subdivision 1 Preliminary

Unallocated water held as general, strategic or town water supply reserve

Clause 25 establishes three types of unallocated water for future use—general, strategic and town water supply reserves.

Granting unallocated water

Clause 26 states that unallocated water may be granted from any of the three reserves under a process in the ROP.

Matters chief executive must consider

Clause 27 lists the minimum criteria that must be considered prior to the release of unallocated water under a ROP. These criteria reflect the Queensland Government's policy principles that guide the release of unallocated water. The principles seek to encourage sustainable and efficient use of water resources and are intended to ensure a clear, transparent and consistent statewide approach to providing additional allocation for consumptive use.

The minimum criteria for consideration include the need for, and efficiency of, present and proposed uses of water, the availability of alternative water supplies for the required purpose, environmental and cultural impacts and also the price of the water if being granted through a public ballot or tender process. Other matters may also be considered.

This approach provides flexibility in the plan, which can be used to prevent dealings with unallocated water that would be contrary to achieving plan objectives.

Subdivision 2 General reserve

The general reserve is unallocated water for areas where there is expected to be future water demand and reduced opportunity for water trading due to full utilisation of existing entitlements. This water could be taken for any purpose (including rural) but will only be available under certain flow conditions in order to protect low flows.

Application of sdiv 2

Clause 28 states that subdivision 2 applies to unallocated water that is held as a general reserve.

Granting unallocated water from the general reserve

Clause 29 provides that unallocated water from the general reserve may be granted as unsupplemented water allocations. It specifies the total of the nominal volumes (see clause 61) of granted water allocations for particular subcatchments that must not be exceeded. Subclause 3 lists requirements that must be stated on each water allocation, including the requirement for a flow condition to be set in a way that protects low flows.

Subdivision 3 Strategic reserve

The strategic reserve is unallocated water set aside to meet the future long-term urban water needs of the region. In this way, the reserve supports new or upgraded water supply infrastructure in the plan area.

Application of sdiv 3

Clause 30 states that subdivision 3 applies to unallocated water that is held as a strategic reserve.

Limitation on volume of unallocated water granted

Clause 31 limits the amount of unallocated water that may be granted from the strategic reserve in a year.

Granting unallocated water from the strategic reserve

Clause 32 states the mechanisms under which unallocated water may be granted or reserved. This clause clearly specifies that water from the strategic reserve is set aside for future infrastructure.

Subdivision 4 Town water supply reserve

The town water supply reserve is unallocated water for particular local government areas where there is a demonstrated demand for additional town water supply and for improving use of existing infrastructure.

Application of sdiv 4

Clause 33 states that subdivision 4 applies to unallocated water that is held as a town water supply reserve.

Granting unallocated water from the town water supply reserve

Clause 34 states that unallocated water may be granted or reserved from the town water supply reserve up to the volumetric limits specified (in megalitres per annum—ML/a) for town water supply in the Noosa, Maroochy and Caloundra local government areas.

The allocation for Noosa Shire Council will alleviate pressure on the Mary River during drought conditions, and provide better protection for essential supplies. Additional allocation for Maroochy Shire Council is to meet the future water needs of the local government area, including provision for population growth as identified in the SEQ Regional Plan. As growth of Maleny is also identified in the SEQ Regional Plan as a preferred strategy, the allocation to Caloundra Shire Council will aid in meeting water demand in Maleny by providing for improved use of the Maleny Weirs.

Granting unallocated water from the town water supply reserve for Wide Bay Water Corporation

Clause 35 states that unallocated water from the town water supply reserve may be granted to Wide Bay Water Corporation from the Burrum River, providing certain criteria are met.

The clause allows for the granting of up to 3080ML/a unallocated water from the town water supply reserve and states that this allocation is in addition to the 6300ML/a interim water allocation (iWA) already set aside for Wide Bay Water Corporation in the iROL for the Wide Bay Water Supply Scheme.

These entitlements would only be granted on successful completion of the 2.0 metre raising of Lenthalls Dam, as identified in the iROL for the Wide Bay Water Supply Scheme.

Division 4 Process for granting and amending interim resource operations licence

Subdivision 1 Preliminary

Process for Act, ss 176 and 184A

Clause 36 states that division 4 provides a process for the Act for granting or amending an interim resource operations licence (iROL) to meet future water requirements. The process applies to an iROL for infrastructure identified in the SEQ regional plan or a regional water security program and for which unallocated water is granted or reserved from the strategic reserve under clause 32. In addition, the process applies only until it is replaced by a process stated in the ROP.

Subdivision 2 Interim resource operations licence for particular infrastructure

Applying for, or to amend, interim resource operations licence

Clause 37 states the process for a proposed owner of particular infrastructure identified in the SEQ regional plan or a regional water security program to apply for, or to amend, an iROL. The process outlines notice requirements and the details to be included in an application. This clause permits the chief executive to give a copy of an application to any entity the chief executive considered appropriate.

Additional information may be required

Clause 38 grants the chief executive the power to give notice to an applicant to request additional information about an application. The application lapses if the applicant does not respond to the request within the reasonable time stated in the notice.

Matters chief executive must consider

Clause 39 specifies the minimum criteria that the chief executive must consider for deciding an application. Other matters may also be considered.

Deciding application for, or to amend, interim resource operations licence

Clause 40 details what the chief executive must do if satisfied the application should be approved. The application may be approved all or in part, with or without conditions. When granting or amending the iROL, the chief executive must also reserve, from the strategic reserve, unallocated water required for any proposed iWAs to which the approval applies.

Subdivision 3 Amendment by chief executive

Amending interim resource operations licence by chief executive—Act, s 184A

Clause 41 outlines a process for the Act that enables the chief executive to amend an iROL, at any time, to the extent necessary to meet future water requirements. The clause also allows for an amendment of an iROL that was in existence on commencement of the plan to allow for changes that may be required as a consequence of granting a new iROL for proposed infrastructure.

Notification requirements are detailed in the clause, including provision for the holder to make written submissions on the proposed amendment within 30 business days after the chief executive gives notice of the proposed amendment.

Matters chief executive must consider

Clause 42 specifies the minimum criteria that the chief executive must consider in deciding whether to amend the iROL. Other matters may also be considered.

Deciding whether to amend interim resource operations licence

Clause 43 enables the chief executive to amend the iROL to the extent considered necessary after consideration of clause 42 matters and any other matters considered appropriate.

Subdivision 4 Amendment on application by holder

Amending interim resource operations licence on application by holder—Act, s 184A

Clause 44 outlines a process for the Act that enables the iROL holder to apply for an amendment to an iROL granted under clause 40. The process outlines the details to be included in an application, and permits the chief executive to give a copy of an application to any entity the chief executive considered appropriate.

Additional information may be required

Clause 45 grants the chief executive the power to give notice to an applicant to request additional information about an application. The application lapses if the applicant does not respond to the request within the reasonable time stated in the notice.

Matters chief executive must consider

Clause 46 specifies the minimum criteria that the chief executive must consider for deciding an application. Other matters may also be considered.

Deciding application to amend interim resource operations licence

Clause 47 states that if the chief executive is satisfied the application should be approved, the chief executive must approve the application all or in part, with or without conditions.

Subdivision 5 Granting interim water allocations

Granting interim water allocations—Act, s 189

Clause 48 provides a process for the Act for granting iWAs to an amended iROL that relates to new infrastructure. The clause outlines criteria that the chief executive must be satisfied are met before granting the allocations. Power is also given to the chief executive to request information from the licence holder. This clause does not apply to the amendment of an iROL in existence on commencement of the plan.

Division 5 Resource operations licences

Water allocations to be managed under resource operations licences

Clause 49 states that water allocations for the Mary River, Wide Bay and Baroon Pocket water supply schemes are to be managed under the resource operations licences for the schemes.

Matters chief executive must consider

Clause 50 specifies the minimum criteria that the chief executive must consider when determining operating arrangements and supply requirements for proposed or existing water infrastructure. The criteria include the impacts the infrastructure may have on environmental, recreational, aesthetic and cultural matters. Other matters may also be considered.

Division 6 Granting water entitlements

Water entitlements to replace local government authorities

Clause 51 provides for the granting of water entitlements to replace existing local government authorities to take or interfere with water from particular watercourses in the plan area. The existing authorities are Orders in Council issued under the now repealed *Local Government Act 1936*. These authorities are continued under section 1037 of the Act until replaced with a water entitlement.

The clause states that the authorities must be replaced with water entitlements within 30 business days after the ROP commences, and must impose conditions giving effect to any environmental management or water sharing rules in the ROP.

Replacing water licences

Clause 52 states a process for the Act for the allocation of water to Kilkivan Shire Council under new water licences. These new licences will replace Council's existing licences to take water from Wide Bay Creek and Kinbombi Creek for Kilkivan and Goomeri respectively.

Due to drought, water supply needs for Kilkivan Shire needed to be urgently addressed and could not await provision through the unallocated water release process to be established under the ROP. This is because on occasion, supply arrangements do not satisfy water needs.

The annual volumetric limits on the new licences will be the sum of Council's existing volumetric entitlements and up to an additional 290ML/a—up to 150ML/a for Kilkivan and up to 140ML/a for Goomeri. This water has been set aside for Council subject to conditions reflecting its historical water infrastructure operating arrangements and current demand. However, the clause also specifies criteria that must be considered in deciding the volumes for, and the rate at which water may be taken under, the new licences. The volumes on the licences must not exceed the amounts specified in subclause 3.

Division 7 Converting authorisations to water allocations

By allowing for the establishment of water allocations throughout the plan area, the plan makes a significant change in the way water entitlements will be specified and managed.

Existing water entitlements are currently attached to land and can only be bought and sold with the land to which they apply. Water entitlements that convert to water allocations can be traded separately from land.

When water entitlements convert to tradable water allocations, ownership will be recorded on a title registration system called the "Water Allocations Register", which is similar to the State's Land Titles Register. People will then be free to buy or sell water allocations in much the same way as they buy and sell land.

This market-based system allows people to obtain water and is expected to promote the movement of water to high values uses. It will also provide an incentive for efficiency, with entitlement holders able to sell any surpluses, or use them to enhance their own production.

The rules under which water allocations can be traded, and the areas where trading can occur, will be developed in consultation with the community as part of the resource operations planning process. Among other things, the rules will be structured to ensure consistency with the plan objectives set for water allocation holders and the environment.

Water allocations within a priority group or subcatchment area will also be specified in terms of performance over the simulation period—the water allocation security objective.

Unlike water licences, water allocations are not subject to periodic renewal, and will endure beyond the 10 year life of the plan. However, improved information may lead to better assessments of the water that is available to be shared among users. In such circumstances, the water sharing rules defined in the ROP may be amended. Water users and the general community would be involved in further consultations as part of any such amendment process.

Subdivision 1 General

Definition for div 7

Clause 53 defines 'authorisation' for this division to mean an authorisation or authority mentioned in clause 54.

Application of div 7

Clause 54 explains that division 6 applies to authorisations converted to water allocations, water allocations converted from authorisations and local government authorities replaced with water entitlements under clause 51.

Section 121(1)(a) of the Act establishes that on the day the ROP commences, all authorisations to be converted under the plan will expire and the chief executive must supply the holders of these expired water licences with water allocations or other authorities.

Location for taking water

Clause 55 requires the location for taking water stated on a water allocation to include the place at which water could have been taken under the authorisation. This location to take water is not to be confused with the location of works. For example, a location may be specified as a particular reach of a watercourse, in kilometres or Adopted Middle Thread Distance (see schedule 12), from which water may be accessed.

Traditionally, holders of entitlements were limited to taking water from a specified 'place' that was usually identified by a lot and plan number and was the point where a bore or pump was situated. By changing this to a location, the ROP will allow holders of allocations to take water from anywhere within their designated location, irrespective of where that water is to be used.

Purpose to be stated on water allocation

Clause 56 states that the purpose of the entitlement must be stated on the water allocation. The purpose is to be either 'distribution loss' or 'any'. The 'any purpose' specification is designed to allow maximum flexibility in a trading environment as the entitlement is not tied to a particular activity (e.g. irrigation) and could move to other uses.

Subdivision 2 Water allocations for taking supplemented water

Supplemented surface water entitlements in water supply schemes currently exist as iWAs. The plan provides that all the supplemented surface water iWAs in the plan area will be converted to tradable volumetric water allocations through the ROP. These water allocations will be tradable in accordance with rules established under the ROP.

The ROP will be completed within two years after the commencement of the water resource plan to convert existing supplemented water entitlements in water supply schemes throughout the plan area (see clause 88).

Elements of a water allocation to take supplemented water

Clause 57 outlines what must be stated on a water allocation to take supplemented water and includes location and purpose of take, nominal volume and priority group (see clause 59).

Nominal volume for water allocations to take supplemented water

Clause 58 states that the nominal volume for a water allocation is the annual volume stated on the existing authorisation.

Priority groups for water allocations to take supplemented water

Clause 59 defines water allocations to take supplemented water in the Mary River, Wide Bay and Baroon Pocket water supply schemes as either high or medium priority. If an authorisation is identified by an iROL as high priority, it is in the high priority group. All other authorisations are in the medium priority group.

High priority groups will receive a higher level of reliability of water supply than medium priority groups to reflect the supply provided for under the plan (schedule 7 details the water allocation security objectives). Allocations holders will have the opportunity to change their allocation between priority groups. In doing so, the amount of water under an allocation may be increased or decreased according to the change rules

developed in the ROP. The level of reliability of the supply will also reflect the priority group that the allocation is changed to.

Subdivision 3 Water allocations for taking unsupplemented water

The plan provides for some existing unsupplemented water entitlements (for example, area-based or licences for taking water under 'waterharvesting' conditions) to convert to tradable volumetric water allocations through the ROP. Water allocations will be tradable in accordance with rules established under the ROP. The ROP will be amended within four years (priority area 2) and within six years (priority area 3) after commencement of the water resource plan to effect these conversions (see clause 88).

Elements of a water allocation to take unsupplemented water

Clause 60 outlines what must be stated on a water allocation to take unsupplemented water and includes location and purpose of take, nominal volume, maximum rate of take and annual volumetric limit for the allocation. The allocation may state flow conditions and any other appropriate matters.

Nominal volume for water allocations to take unsupplemented water

The plan proposes that all water entitlements being converted to water allocations will state a nominal volume on the water allocation. The nominal volume represents, in megalitres, the share of water available to holders of water allocations in the particular group of entitlements to which they belong (e.g. town water supply, area-based licences or other entitlements). This volume will be an important part of a water allocation because it will define the water allocation's proportional annual volumetric share of the total water available to a group of water allocations.

The nominal volume should not be confused with the extraction limits that would be applied as part of the water sharing rules to be developed in a ROP—for example, the annual volumetric limit. The water that could actually be taken by the water allocation within a particular year will be subject to the water sharing rules and the actual local availability of water

in each subcatchment area. In dry years, the amount of water that could actually be taken by each water allocation may be less than the nominal volume, while in wetter years the amount of water that could be taken may exceed the nominal volume.

Clause 61 states the criteria that must be considered or ensured in deciding the nominal volumes for water allocations to take unsupplemented water. Subclause (a) specifies matters for consideration including the required volume of water for efficient irrigation of an area, water taking capacity of existing works, volumes and efficiency of past water use, flow conditions under which water may be taken and the local availability of water.

Subclause (b) specifies that the total of the nominal volumes specified on all unsupplemented water allocations in each subcatchment area must not be greater than the volumes for simulated mean annual diversions specified in column 2 (for town water supply), column 3 (for area-based licences) and column 4 (for other authorisations) of the table in schedule 8 of the plan. These simulated mean annual diversion volumes are calculated using the IQQM and represent the average volume of water taken under authorisations in the simulated period (1890–1999).

The process for determining nominal volumes will involve progressive assessment of groups of area licences throughout the plan area by the department prior to their conversion in the ROP.

Annual volumetric limit for taking unsupplemented water

Clause 62 specifies how the annual volumetric limit for the take of water is determined for existing authorisations that are to be converted to water allocations. The annual volumetric limit represents the maximum amount of unsupplemented water that can be taken under an entitlement in a year.

If a licence or authority already states an annual volume, that volume will be used as the annual volumetric limit. Therefore, existing authorisations to take an annual volume of unsupplemented water for town water supplies will have their nominal volume set to the existing annual volume on the authorisation.

For unsupplemented area-based licences that convert to water allocations, the annual volumetric limit will be decided having regard to the minimum criteria set out in subclause 1(b). These criteria include the required volume of water for efficient irrigation of an area, water taking capacity of existing works, volumes and efficiency of past water use, flow conditions under

which water may be taken and the local availability of water. Other matters may also be considered.

For other licences, the annual volumetric limit will be decided having regard to matters set out in subclause 1(c) including the conditions on the existing licence, water taking capacity of existing works and volumes and efficiency of past water use.

Annual volumetric limits are important to ensure that the long-term end-of-system flow objectives are met, as well as providing the basis for establishing water sharing rules. This is to ensure that overall access to the available resource in each part of a subcatchment is managed within a subcatchment area cap.

Maximum rates for taking unsupplemented water

Clause 63 specifies how the maximum rate of taking unsupplemented water under a water allocation is determined.

Where the maximum rate is not stated but a pump size that is listed in schedule 9 is specified on an associated development permit, then the rate stated in schedule 9, column 2 applies. However, if the authorisation holder can demonstrate that the rate of take is different from the rate listed in schedule 9, then in deciding the rate consideration must be given to conditions under which water may be taken, the water taking capacity of the pump and past irrigation or water distribution system and its efficiency. However, the rate cannot be more than that specified for the pump size in schedule 9. These considerations also apply to deciding a rate where an authorisation does not state a maximum rate and where a pump size specified on a related development permit is not mentioned in schedule 9.

Where an authorisation states a maximum rate that is less than the rate in schedule 9 for the existing pump size, then the rate on the authorisation prevails. This is because there are some existing authorisations with special conditions limiting the rate of take despite larger pumps being installed.

The maximum rate for any other authorisation is determined by the chief executive in consideration of the nature of the existing authorisation and the estimated rate that water is taken under the authorisation. However, the rate cannot be more than that specified for the pump size in schedule 9.

Flow conditions for water allocations to take unsupplemented water

Clause 64 states that the conditions on an existing authorisation to take unsupplemented water must be regarded in deciding flow conditions under which unsupplemented water may be taken under an allocation. Essentially, a holder of an allocation cannot take water unless authorisation conditions are met. For example, a condition may specify that water can only be taken when the flow rate of a watercourse is above a specified value.

Division 8 Water licences to take unsupplemented water

Amending water licences for taking unsupplemented water

Clause 65 relates to amending licences to take unsupplemented water that were in existence on commencement of the plan (for example, area-based or water harvesting entitlements).

In parts of the plan area that will not be covered by the ROP, existing licences and other authorisations to take water will continue to have effect and will not be converted to allocations. However, the plan provides that these licences may be amended for consistency with plan objectives to state a purpose, an annual volumetric limit, a maximum rate of take and flow conditions.

Division 9 Critical water supply strategy

As continued take of water during critical water supply periods can affect all users and town water supply, there is a need to develop a "whole-of-basin" critical water supply strategy for the plan area.

Critical water supply strategy

Clause 66 states that a critical water supply strategy for all surface water in the plan area must be developed as part of the ROP. The strategy is needed to ensure essential supplies are met in times of drought conditions worse than any that have occurred in the period of historical record.

Subclause 2 provides that if the strategy is not included in the ROP, the plan must state an amendment will be made in accordance with the Act to include the strategy within five years after commencement of the water resource plan.

Water sharing and infrastructure operating rules

Clause 67 specifies what rules and details must be included in the critical water supply strategy and the necessary consultation with affected parties in deciding the strategy's content. It also requires that the strategy include monitoring and reporting requirements.

Division 10 Miscellaneous

Releasing water through fish ways

Clause 68 requires the use of fish ways to release water from dams or weirs where possible. This aims to mitigate the effects of water infrastructure on fish movement along watercourses. Environmental management rules for infrastructure in the ROP must reflect this requirement.

Part 6 Strategies for achieving outcomes (subartesian water)

The plan manages subartesian water taken only from the Cooloola Sandmass aquifer. Subartesian water is water in an aquifer that does not flow naturally to the surface when tapped by a bore. The area covered by the Cooloola Sandmass aquifer is shown in schedule 2 and is referred to as the Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area.

The Cooloola Sandmass aquifer contains a large volume of good quality water and the area is of high conservation value. Although most of the aquifer lies beneath national park, some groundwater development has occurred. Cooloola Shire Council currently sources the Rainbow Beach town water supply from the aquifer. Several other users take groundwater for commercial or domestic purposes in Rainbow Beach, Teewah Village and Noosa Northshore. If this groundwater extraction is not managed, there is potential for seawater intrusion and impacts on significant

groundwater-fed wetland systems. The plan contains a management framework to protect this valuable resource.

Strategies for subartesian water

Clause 69 states that the strategies in part 6 apply only to subartesian water in the Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area.

Limitation on taking or interfering with subartesian water—Act, s 20(6)

Clause 70 prohibits the taking of or interference with subartesian water unless for stock or domestic purposes or in accordance with a water licence. However, stock or domestic take is only permitted for works in existence immediately before commencement of the plan or where there was no access to reticulated water when the works were installed. Take would continue to be permitted if access to reticulated water was given only after works were installed.

This limitation on take is aimed at sustainable management of the resource and protection of the groundwater-dependent ecosystems of conservation significance.

Restriction on granting water licences

Clause 71 specifies the only purposes for which water licences may be granted to take or interfere with subartesian water from the Cooloola Sandmass aquifer.

Contents of water licence to take subartesian water

Clause 72 states both mandatory and optional details for inclusion on a water licence to take subartesian water.

Decisions about taking subartesian water

Clause 73 specifies the minimum criteria that the chief executive must consider in deciding applications to take or interfere with subartesian water. These include the availability of an alternative water supply, the efficiency of proposed use practices and the effects on surface and ground water flows. Other matters may also be considered.

Restriction on annual volumetric limit for taking subartesian water

Clause 74 states the criteria that the chief executive must consider in deciding the annual volumetric limit for a water licence. The limit must not be more than is estimated to be required for the purpose. In deciding the limits for existing works referred to in clause 76, the chief executive must consider volumes in schedule 10, the likeliness of seawater intrusion of the aquifer and the impact continued taking is likely to have on wetlands and groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

Maximum rate for taking subartesian water

Clause 75 states the process for calculating the maximum rate of take of subartesian water under licence to maintain groundwater levels above sea level for prevention of seawater intrusion of the aquifer. The chief executive decides the process, which may include assessing information obtained from monitoring by the applicant or from computer modelling of hydrologic events.

Licensing existing taking of subartesian water

Clause 76 provides for the licensing of works for taking subartesian water that are in existence at the commencement of the plan. These existing works are listed in schedule 10. The licences replace existing authorities and must be granted in accordance with the Act, only for commercial purposes and on the conditions stated in schedule 10. The licences will be granted without application by the authorisation holder and within 60 business days after commencement of the plan.

The annual volumetric limit on a licence is decided in accordance with clause 74. The limits for licences in schedule 10 have been determined using information collected under a Notice of Works issued in June 2005 in accordance with the Act.

An important distinction between management of groundwater and surface water in the plan area is that subartesian water in the Cooloola Sandmass Subartesian Area will be managed through the water resource plan and will therefore not be dealt with in the ROP.

Stock or domestic use authorised under clause 70 will not require licensing. Subclause 4 also states that unused works to take subartesian water are not an authorised use and therefore licences will not be granted for such works for any purpose.

Licensing existing taking of subartesian water for public amenity

Clause 77 provides for the Environmental Protection Agency to continue to use its works to take subartesian water for public amenity purposes in the Cooloola section of Great Sandy National Park. The clause requires the granting of a water licence for this purpose, in accordance with the Act, within 60 business days. It also specifies conditions on the annual volumetric limit and limits take to the location of the existing subartesian works.

Water licence for Cooloola Shire Council

Clause 78 provides transitional arrangements for Cooloola Shire Council to transfer their surface water take to groundwater extraction over a five year period. This is to allow council sufficient time to move from taking surface water from the creeks, to taking their total allocation from their borefield.

Council is only to take up to a total of 1700ML/annum from the system, whether it is from the creeks, the aquifer or a combination of both sources (i.e. their total annual take from both sources combined could be no greater than 1700ML). The licence must also state the conditions mentioned in subclause 4.

Relationship with Integrated Planning Act 1997

Clause 79 outlines the interaction of the plan with the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* regarding development approval of works for taking subartesian water. Works for taking subartesian water for stock or domestic purposes are self-assessable development. Works for taking subartesian water for any other purposes are assessable development (refer to schedule 8 of the Integrated Planning Act).

Part 7 Strategies for achieving outcomes (general)

Measuring devices

Clause 80 requires meters to be used to measure volumes taken under water entitlements in accordance with the regulation to the Act.

Metering water extractions will promote improved compliance monitoring, reporting and overall management of the resource throughout the catchment, particularly for compliance with the water sharing rules and rate of take limits. It will also lead to improved information being available for future assessments and assist in assessments of the effectiveness of the plan's strategies.

Part 8 Monitoring and reporting requirements

Monitoring and reporting are essential elements of plan implementation because they provide a basis for measuring and enforcing compliance with the plan's objectives and requirements. They also provide a trigger for any review of the plan that may be necessary and help identify further research needs.

Monitoring and regular reporting on the plan will ensure that any emerging issues are addressed promptly through plan amendment, rather than awaiting the mandatory 10 year review. In this way, water users and other interested parties can have confidence in the security of water entitlements beyond the 10 year life of the plan.

Monitoring

Clause 81 details the water and natural ecosystems monitoring requirements used to assist assessing the effectiveness of proposed management strategies (under parts 5 and 6) for achieving the outcomes of the plan stated in part 3. The monitoring requirements are to be achieved by programs undertaken by resource operations licence holders under the ROP. Monitoring programs are also administered by the chief executive or other relevant State agencies. The plan does not direct other State agencies or any other group to perform specific monitoring. However, if current monitoring programs are relevant, this data may be used, which eliminates any unnecessary duplication of monitoring.

Monitoring programs to be undertaken by resource operations licence holders

Clause 82 details specific requirements of a resource operations licence holder's monitoring program. These programs relate to the Mary River, Wide Bay and Baroon Pocket water supply schemes and must be satisfactory to the chief executive.

Resource operations licence holders to give reports

Clause 83 sets out the reporting requirements for a resource operations licence holder in relation to the monitoring programs in clause 82. It specifies the content required and time limits for completing the reports.

Monitoring programs undertaken by Cooloola Shire Council

Clause 84 details specific requirements of Cooloola Shire Council's monitoring program for the Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area. Council is given this responsibility because it is the primary entitlement holder for taking or interfering with water from the aquifer.

Cooloola Shire Council to give reports

Clause 85 specifies Cooloola Shire Council's reporting requirements in relation to the monitoring program required in clause 84.

Minister's report on plan—Act, s 53

Clause 86 specifies the reporting requirements of the Minister, including the timing and content of reports. The report assesses the effectiveness of the implementation of the plan in achieving the plan outcomes. If the Minister is satisfied about any of the matters outlined as triggers in clause 90 for a plan amendment or replacement of the plan, the report must include a consideration of the matters.

As a result of preliminary investigations undertaken in developing the plan, the plan does not regulate the take or interference of groundwater outside of the Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area or overland flow. However, this clause includes the requirement for the Minister to report on groundwater on an annual basis, and on overland flow five years after the resource operation plan's commencement.

In accordance with section 1009 of the Act, the chief executive must make a copy of the report available for inspection or purchase by the public, during office hours on business days, at the head office or the appropriate regional office of the department.

Part 9 Implementing and amending this plan

The water resource plan will be primarily implemented through a ROP. The ROP will set out how existing water entitlements will convert to tradable volumetric water allocations in accordance with the water resource plan. The ROP will also define, for each part of the plan area, the water sharing and environmental flow rules that will be applied in the day-to-day management of stream flows and water infrastructure to ensure the water resource plan's outcomes are achieved. Water service providers will be required to show through monitoring and reporting that operating arrangements for their supply infrastructure comply with these rules.

A critical water supply strategy detailing how water will be managed and shared in times of extreme drought will be another important element of the resource operations plan. In addition, the ROP will detail trading rules for each part of the plan area to ensure that the water resource plan's environmental flow objectives and water allocation security objectives are not compromised under a water market system.

Priorities for converting to, or granting, water allocations

Clause 87 refers to schedule 11 for description of the three priority areas within the plan area for converting entitlements to, or granting, water allocations. Priority area 1 includes the supplemented stream sections—the Mary River, Wide Bay and Baroon Pocket water supply schemes. Priority area 2 includes subcatchments, or parts of subcatchments, which are considered a priority for improved flow management, entitlement specification, additional take of water and potential trading. Priority area 3 includes subcatchments, or parts of subcatchments, that have a recognised demand for trading, additional take of water and improved entitlement specification in the medium to longer term.

Implementation schedule

Clause 88 provides a schedule for implementation of the plan. Whereas certain elements are to be implemented on commencement of the plan or shortly after, this clause provides the longer term staged implementation arrangements. The priority stages are based on relative urgency. Firstly, within two years after the commencement of the plan, the matters detailed in subclause 2 will be implemented through a ROP. Secondly, within four years after the commencement of the plan, the matters detailed in subclause 3 will be implemented through an amendment to the ROP. The ROP must also be further amended within five years to include a critical water supply strategy. Finally, within six years after the commencement of the plan, the matters detailed in subclause 4 will be implemented through an amendment to the ROP.

Minor or stated amendment of plan—Act, s 57

Clause 89 states the types of amendments that may be made to the plan under section 57(b) of the Act that do not require public notification. These amendments allow for efficient and timely responses to changes occurring in the plan area that may be adversely affecting the achievement of plan outcomes.

Amending or replacing plan

Clause 90 outlines the situations where the Minister must consider whether either amending the plan or preparing a new plan is necessary. One aspect of this clause is to ensure that options for making additional water available to meet any future water demand could be considered for inclusion in the plan. This is provided that existing entitlements are being efficiently utilised and an economically viable and ecologically sustainable need for the extra water supplies exists. The Minister may also amend or replace the plan if ecological outcomes are not being achieved or the plan is inconsistent with the SEQ regional plan.

Schedule 1 Plan area

Schedule 1 contains a map of the total area of the Mary Basin to which the plan applies, as well as the location of nodes within the plan area. See clause 4 for more information.

Schedule 2 Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area

Schedule 2 contains a map of the boundaries of the Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area. See clause 5 for more information.

Schedule 3 Subcatchment areas

Schedule 3 contains a map of the subcatchment area boundaries within the plan area. See clause 6 for more information.

Schedule 4 Subcatchment area names

Schedule 4 lists the subcatchment area names in the plan area. See clause 6 for more information.

Schedule 5 Nodes

Schedule 5 lists the nodes used in the plan and their location. The location is given as a measurement of Adopted Middle Thread Distance (AMTD). This gives the distance, measured along the middle of the water system, that a particular node is from the mouth of that water system, or from a junction with the main watercourse. See clause 8 for more information.

Schedule 6 Environmental flow objectives

Schedule 6 states the environmental flow objectives for particular performance requirements. See part 4, division 2 for more information.

Part 1 Low flow objectives

This part states the low flow objectives that should be achieved at particular nodes, except the 'no flow' objective that must be achieved. The following table describes the purposes of the various indicators.

Performance Indicator	Description	Key Ecological and Geomorphological Functions
Daily flow less than 1 megalitre	A broad-brush indicator of low flows and used to determine changes, from reference condition, to periods of low flows.	Dewatering of aquatic habitats, isolation of pools, no fluvial transport of organic matter or sediment, dominance of marine influence in estuaries.
50% and 90% daily flow	A statistical measure of low flow into estuaries.	Maintaining ambient hydrodynamic conditions in the estuaries, maintaining connectivity between pools and between non-tidal reaches and estuaries.
Low flow duration (10cm above cease-to-flow)	A measure of required flow over riffle zones.	Maintain connectivity between pools and riffle operation.
Low flow duration (30cm above cease-to-flow)	A measure of required depth of flow	Fish passage, assuming suitable flow velocities.

Performance Indicator	Description	Key Ecological and Geomorphological Functions
Number of periods of no flow (for example, of at least 1 month but less than 3 months)	Indicator of drying spells, and measure of difference between pre-development and scenario case.	Dewatering of aquatic habitats, isolation of pools, no fluvial transport of organic matter or sediment, dominance of marine influence in estuaries.

Source: Brizga, S.O.: *Burrum River Environmental Flow Strategy*, March 2002.

Part 2 Medium to high flow objectives

This part states the medium to high flow objectives to be achieved at particular nodes. This schedule consists of mandatory and desired objectives. The following table describes the purposes of the various indicators.

Performance Indicator	Description	Key Ecological and Geomorphological Functions
Mean annual flow	A broad brush indicator to quickly indicate volumes of water removed from the system. Mean annual flow does not take into account flow variability.	An important determinant of water availability in riverine systems and overall freshwater input to estuarine and marine areas.
1.5 year daily flow volume	A measure of a volume of flow expected to occur, on average, every 1.5 years.	Localised movement in stream beds, inundation of riparian vegetation.

Performance Indicator	Description	Key Ecological and Geomorphological Functions
5 year daily flow volume	A measure of a volume of flow expected to occur, on average, every 5 years.	Bed movement in whole reaches, riparian zone and wetland wetting.
20 year daily flow volume	A measure of a volume of flow expected to occur, on average, every 20 years. A significantly large flow event that occurred 5 times throughout the simulation period.	"Resets" changes in stream bed stability, provision of wetland connectivity and replenishment.

Source: Brizga, S.O.: *Burrum River Environmental Flow Strategy*, March 2002.

Part 3 Seasonal flow objectives

This part states the seasonal flow objectives to be achieved at particular nodes. The following table describes the purposes of the various indicators.

Performance Indicator	Description	Key Ecological and Geomorphological Functions
Annual proportional flow deviation	A measure of variability of flow.	Significant because native in-stream flora and fauna have adapted to variable flow patterns.
Flow regime class	An indicator of the seasonality of flows, and when large flows normally start occurring.	Lifecycles of riverine, estuarine and marine biota. Trigger flows for ecological processes should reflect timing.

Source: Brizga, S.O.: *Burrum River Environmental Flow Strategy*, March 2002.

Schedule 7 Water allocation security objectives

Schedule 7 states the water allocation security objectives of the plan. See part 4, division 3 for more information.

Part 1 Supplemented water

This part states the water allocation security objectives for supplemented water allocations. The following table describes the performance indicator used for the objectives.

Water User Type	Performance Indicators	Description
Supplemented water	Monthly supplemented water sharing index	The percentage of months that a water user in a particular priority group could have expected to get 100% of their monthly allocation over the simulated period.

The objectives vary for medium priority groups across different water supply schemes due to the modelled availability of water for the number of existing allocations.

Part 2 Unsupplemented water

This part states the water allocation security objectives for unsupplemented water allocations. The following table describes the performance indicators used for the objectives.

Water User Type	Performance Indicators	Description
Unsupplemented water (town water supply)	95% Unsupplemented water sharing index	The percentage of the simulated mean annual diversion that water users, in a particular water group within a particular subcatchment area, could have expected to take in the 95th percentile wettest years.
Unsupplemented water (all entitlements)	Mean unsupplemented water sharing index	The average total volume of water simulated to have been taken annually during the simulation period, within a particular subcatchment area and for a particular water group.

Schedule 8 Volumes for simulated mean annual diversions

Schedule 8 states the nominal volumes for subcatchment areas. See clause 61 for more information.

Schedule 9 Rates and pump sizes

Schedule 9 states the maximum rate of take of water in litres per second according to pump sizes. See clause 63 for more information.

Schedule 10 Water licences to take subartesian water

Schedule 10 lists the water licences that will be granted for taking subartesian water from the Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area. See clauses 74 and 76 for more information.

Schedule 11 Priority areas

Schedule 11 describes the three priority areas for converting to, or granting of, water allocations. See clause 87 for more information.

Schedule 12 Dictionary

Schedule 12 contains the dictionary of defined terms used in the plan.

ENDNOTES

1 Laid before the Legislative Assembly on . . .

2 The administering agency is the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water.