



Queensland

Water Resource (Whitsunday) Plan 2010

Explanatory Notes for SL 2010 No. 17

made under the
Water Act 2000

General outline

These explanatory notes are a 'plain English' version of the *Water Resource (Whitsunday) Plan 2010* ('the plan'). They are intended to provide the reader with some explanation and background information on the sections in the plan.

The numbering of the explanatory notes corresponds with the numbering of the plan. These notes should be read in conjunction with the plan. These explanatory notes are not intended to be comprehensive but merely a guide to assist the reader in understanding the plan.

Title

Water Resource (Whitsunday) Plan 2010.

Authorising law

Chapter 2, Part 3, Division 2 of the *Water Act 2000*.

Policy objectives of the legislation

A purpose of the *Water Act 2000* ('the Act') is to advance the sustainable management and efficient use of water and other resources by establishing a framework for the planning, allocation and use of water (s10). The policy objectives of the plan operate within this overarching purpose and provide a framework for the allocation and sustainable management of surface water, overland flow water and groundwater in the plan area to meet future water requirements, including the protection of natural ecosystems and security of supply to water users. The plan area includes the following watercourses and their tributaries—

- Proserpine River
- Thompson Creek
- O'Connell River
- Six Mile Creek (part)

The plan provides for the allocation and sustainable management of surface water, overland flow water and groundwater by—

- defining the availability of water in the plan area;
- providing a framework for sustainably managing water and the taking of water;
- identifying priorities and mechanisms for dealing with future water requirements;
- providing a framework for establishing water allocations to take surface water;
- providing a framework for reversing, where practicable, degradation that has occurred in natural ecosystems;
- regulating the taking of overland flow water; and
- regulating the taking of groundwater.

Legislation consistent with policy objectives of authorising law

Section 38 of the Act provides for the Minister to prepare a water resource plan for any part of Queensland to advance the sustainable management of water.

Alternative means of achieving policy objectives

The Act sets out the framework for the development of a water resource plan.

There are no alternative means of achieving the policy objectives.

Estimated cost for government

Funding for the development and implementation of the water resource plan has been allocated to the Department of Environment and Resource Management 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 principals

The Plan, which is 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, cultural, economic and environmental interest 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 Whitsunday 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

Chapter 1 Preliminary

Chapter 1 provides preliminary information about the plan including the short title of the plan, the purposes of the plan and where definitions for particular words used in the plan can be found.

Short title

Clause 1 sets out the short title to the subordinate legislation ('the plan').

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 8.

Chapter 2 Plan area and water to which plan applies

Chapter 2 defines the plan area, subcatchment areas for the plan, and the nodes mentioned in the plan. This chapter also states where information about the boundaries of the plan area and other areas referred to in the plan are held. The water to which the plan applies is also stated in this part of the plan.

Plan area

Clause 4 states that a map of the plan area is shown in schedule 1. The plan area includes the following rivers and their tributaries—

- Proserpine River
- Thompson Creek
- O'Connell River
- Six Mile Creek (part)

Subcatchment areas

Clause 5 states that a map of subcatchment areas in the plan area is shown in schedule 2.

Declaration about watercourse—Act, s 1006

Clause 6 declares that water in an aquifer under the Proserpine River (AMTD 25.7km to 57km) or under land adjacent to this part of the Proserpine River is declared to be water in a watercourse.

Groundwater declared to be water in a watercourse will be allocated and managed as surface water. Declared water underneath and adjacent to this part of the Proserpine River will be managed as part of the Proserpine River Water Supply Scheme.

Where it can be demonstrated that groundwater declared to be water in a watercourse is not hydraulically connected to water in the stream at a particular location, this water will be managed as groundwater.

An owner of land adjacent to this part of the Proserpine River may take groundwater for stock or domestic purposes only without the requirement for a water licence. Land adjacent to the Proserpine River is land within 200m either side of the river. The adjacent land does not necessarily need to abut the banks of the river.

Information about areas

Clause 7 provides information for accessing further detail of the plan area boundaries which are held in digital electronic form at departmental offices where they can be inspected in detail.

Nodes

Clause 8 defines the nodes mentioned in the plan. Nodes are generally defined as specific locations on a watercourse within the plan area. They can be used within the water resource plan and the resource operations plan where a definitive location or reference point is necessary. For example, nodes are used in the specification of environmental flow objectives as described under chapter 4, part 2 of this plan. They can also be used to specify flow management rules in the resource operations plan. Nodes are numbered and their locations are shown on a map in schedule 3, part 1 and described in schedule 3, part 2.

Water to which plan applies

Clause 9 states that the plan applies to surface water as water in a watercourse, lake or spring, or as overland flow water. The plan also applies to groundwater within the plan area.

Chapter 3 Outcomes for sustainable management of water

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

Outcomes for water in plan area

Clause 10 establishes that the outcomes in clauses 11 to 14 have been derived in consideration of the current state of water resources in the plan area, recognising that the natural state of watercourses, lakes, springs and groundwater sources has changed because of water infrastructure, flow supplementation and water use. The clause also establishes that water is to be allocated and managed in a way that seeks to achieve a balance in the general, general ecological and specific ecological outcomes of the plan.

The term balance does not necessarily imply that each outcome will be given equal weighting or that any specific weighting is attached to particular outcomes. Instead, the outcomes should be seen as a complementary set of responses to the altered natural condition of watercourses, lakes and springs resulting from water resource development.

General outcomes

Clause 11 states the general outcomes for the allocation and sustainable management of water in the plan area. These outcomes give an overview of what the plan is expected to achieve through implementing the identified management strategies. The outcomes involve protecting natural ecosystem processes, protecting existing water user access, promoting water use efficiency and providing for future water requirements.

General ecological outcomes

Clause 12 states the general ecological outcomes for the plan area. The plan seeks to achieve these outcomes, which include maintaining natural flow variability and connectivity, maintaining the freshwater and sediment delivery to the sea, and promoting an improved understanding of how flows affect ecosystem health.

General ecological outcomes relating to the connectivity of groundwater and surface water

Clause 13 states the general ecological outcomes that relate to maintaining groundwater and surface water connectivity in the plan area. The plan seeks to maintain the connectivity between groundwater and surface water systems and support all groundwater dependent ecosystems.

Specific ecological outcomes

Clause 14 states the specific ecological outcomes for the allocation and management of water in particular parts of the plan area. These specific ecological outcomes do not limit the outcomes in clauses 11, 12 and 13, which apply to the whole plan area.

Outcomes specific to particular parts of the plan area, including those areas with important environmental values, were identified through community consultation and independent scientific assessments. Such specific outcomes relate to the Proserpine River, Repulse Bay and the Proserpine-Goorganga Plain Wetland.

Chapter 4 Objectives and performance indicators

Chapter 4 states the performance indicators, environmental flow objectives and water allocation security objectives for surface water (excluding overland flow water) in this plan.

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 or management decision or proposal on water allocations and natural ecosystems.

The environmental flow objectives and water allocation security objectives (defined in schedule 4 of the Act) are stated in schedules 4 and 5 of the plan respectively. They represent statistically derived values for performance indicators which are produced by the department's Integrated Quantity and Quality Model (see clause 36).

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) will only be approved if they are consistent with the objectives defined in schedules 4 and 5 of the plan. This requirement is separate to any other approvals or assessments that may be required-for example, approvals for works under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* or environmental impact assessments required by other legislation.

The impact on and consistency with the plan's objectives are assessed using the department's Integrated Quantity and Quality Model computer program or an other approved method. This program simulates stream flows, water diversions and other attributes in the plan area over the period 1890 to

2004. Operational rules can be simulated through this period to ensure that plan objectives are met.

Part 1 Preliminary

Application of ch 4

Clause 15 states that this chapter of the plan applies only to surface water in the plan area, excluding overland flow water.

Part 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 changes to natural flow conditions and are defined at nodes.

Environmental flow objectives

Clause 16 states that the environmental flow objectives are set out in schedule 4 of the plan.

The objectives are statistically derived values that must be met and support the achievement of the general and specific ecological outcomes as set out in chapter 3. The plan's objectives accommodate additional unallocated water that is provided for in various parts of the plan area and balance environmental and consumptive requirements. No single 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.

Any future decisions about the allocation and management of water resources in the plan area must be consistent with the environmental flow objectives. These decisions will be tested by the Integrated Quantity and Quality Model or other approved method (see clause 36). Environmental

flow objectives relate to a range of conditions, including periods of no-flow, low-flow, medium-flow to high-flow and seasonal flow patterns.

Performance indicators for environmental flow objectives

Clause 17 states the performance indicators for the environmental flow objectives. Natural flow characteristics are maintained through this combination of performance indicators and objectives. These indicators specify the parts of the flow cycle that will be subject to the values set out for the environmental flow objectives listed under schedule 4.

The specified performance indicators represent important key flow characteristics and are based on technical advice received during plan development. 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. The performance indicators measure how well the implemented plan is performing in achieving its specified objectives.

Part 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 protect the probability of water users being able to obtain water under a water allocation.

Water allocation security objectives

Clause 18 states that the water allocation security objectives are set out in schedule 5. The objectives associated with supplemented water allocations are specified according to priority groups and are listed in part 1 of schedule 5. The objectives associated with unsupplemented water allocations are provided for each water allocation group and are listed in part 2 of schedule 5.

Water allocation security objectives are statistically derived values that provide a measure of how allocations would have been expected to perform during the historical period of records used for the flow simulations that

supported plan development. The simulations assumed the full use of existing water entitlements.

The objectives do not represent a prediction or guarantee of future performance of water allocations in any particular year. Instead, actual performance under the implemented plan will depend on prevailing climatic factors, water demand distribution patterns and water users' decisions about using their entitlements.

Performance indicators for water allocation security objectives

Clause 19 states the performance indicators for the water allocation security objectives associated with supplemented and unsupplemented water allocations. These indicators allow for water allocation security objectives to be established to protect the long-term probability of obtaining water under a water allocation.

The performance indicators represent the probability with which water users can expect to be able to access their entitlements, assuming the conditions for the historic period of record on which they are based prevail over the life of the plan. Performance indicators are expressed in terms of annual, monthly and other supply probabilities.

Chapter 5 Strategies for achieving outcomes

Chapter 5 sets out the strategies that will be implemented to achieve the plan's outcomes that are specified in chapter 3. Inclusion of these strategies meets the requirement of section 46(1)(f) of the Act.

Part 1 Strategies for both surface water and groundwater

Division 1 General provisions

Application of pt 1

Clause 20 states that this part of the plan applies to both surface water (including overland flow water) and groundwater.

Measuring devices

Clause 21 states that a measuring device must be used to measure the volume of water taken under interim water allocations, water allocations and water licences that state an annual volumetric limit. This requirement will take effect following finalisation of the resource operations plan, from the day the water entitlements are declared to be metered entitlements under the *Water Regulation 2002*, part 7.

Measured water use is fundamental to the sustainable management of the state's water resources so that accurate information on the amount of water taken from our catchments is recorded.

Metering will provide information to ensure that water users comply with the conditions of their water entitlement thereby ensuring that water users take no more than their allowed share. Measuring devices will also provide accurate water use data to assist water users to improve their water use management and efficiency. It will also support improved planning for the future and a better understanding of how water resources support the rural economy, communities and the natural environment.

The installation of meters in the plan area and other parts of Queensland is part of a state-wide program.

Matters to be considered for environmental management rules

Clause 22 sets out the factors the chief executive must consider in determining the environmental management rules that will be established under the resource operations plan. Matters include—

- streamflows that provide for flow seasonality, connectivity within and between riverine environments, riffle habitats and other streambed features, and replenishment of refuge pools
- the impact of taking or interfering with water on environmental attributes, and aesthetic and cultural values.

The chief executive will also consider any other relevant factors to ensure that the environmental management rules are sufficiently comprehensive to achieve the water resource plan outcomes.

Matters to be considered for water sharing rules

Clause 23 states the matters the chief executive must consider in formulating water sharing rules for supplemented and unsupplemented water that will be specified in the resource operations plan.

For supplemented water, the existing water sharing rules must be considered, as well as the extent to which existing supply arrangements are linked to the natural occurrence of streamflows and water availability.

For unsupplemented water, the water sharing rules are to be decided after considering existing water sharing arrangements, local availability of water, the conditions under which water may be taken, daily volumetric limits, nominal entitlements and possible impacts the rules will have on all entitlements in the plan area.

The chief executive will also consider any other relevant factors in deciding the water sharing rules.

Division 2 Continued effect of moratorium notice

A moratorium on applications for water was notified on 20 March 2006 and amended on 5 September 2008 under section 26 of the Act. The moratorium was introduced to ensure that the plan could be developed while maintaining the level of water being taken or interfered with.

Clause 24 continues, in part, the effect of the moratorium notice. The clause applies to applications that would increase the amount of water taken or interfered with, change the location of take, increase the maximum rate of take, change the conditions, including flow conditions, under which

water may be taken or change the purpose for which the water may be taken. The provisions will remain in effect until the resource operations plan is finalised. Until then, applications that meet the criteria listed will not be accepted, and those that were accepted but not processed before notification of the moratorium, will not be dealt with.

This clause does not apply to an application related to-

- water being used for a State purpose (i.e., a project of State or regional significance);
- stock or domestic purposes;
- a water permit;
- reinstating or replacing an expired water licence or subdividing or amalgamating an existing water licence(s); and
- an interim water allocation.

Division 3 Unallocated water

Subdivision 1 Preliminary

Application of div 3

Clause 25 states that this part of the plan applies to unallocated water.

Subdivision 2 Interim arrangements for applications

Interim arrangements for applications about unallocated water

Clause 26 allows for water licences for specified uses to be granted from the unallocated water reserves before the resource operations plan has been finalised. The specified purposes are—

- State purposes
- stock or domestic purposes

The section specifies that water granted for State purposes can only be granted from the strategic unallocated water reserve.

Subdivision 3 General reserves and strategic reserves

Unallocated water held as general reserve or strategic reserve

Clause 27 specifies that unallocated water will be held as general reserve or strategic reserve.

Subdivision 4 Limitations on granting unallocated water

Purposes for which unallocated water may be granted

Clause 28 states that unallocated water held as general reserve may be granted for any purpose.

This clause also states that unallocated water held as strategic reserve may only be granted for a State purpose (i.e. a project of State or regional significance).

Total volume of unallocated water

Clause 29 states that schedule 6 sets out the total volumes of unallocated water that are available in certain subcatchment areas. The subcatchment areas are defined in schedule 2.

The total volume of unallocated water available will be the sum of all of the nominal entitlements of water licences and the sum of all of the annual volumetric limits of water allocations granted in the relevant subcatchment area.

Period for which strategic unallocated water is granted for particular State purpose

Clause 30 states that the right to take water under a water licence granted from the strategic reserve returns to the State when the project is completed.

Projects that may be considered to be of regional significance

Clause 31 states the factors the Chief Executive must consider in determining whether a project is of regional significance. These factors include, the plan outcomes set out in chapter 3, the social and economic impacts the project would have on the region, and the public interest and welfare of its people. Any other relevant factors can also be considered by the chief executive.

Flow conditions for general unallocated water

Clause 32 applies to any new water entitlements to take groundwater or surface water.

New entitlements granted from the general unallocated water reserve may only be granted with a flow condition that prevents the taking of groundwater or surface water that is required to maintain—

- the connectivity of low flow habitats throughout subcatchment areas
- wetted habitats at riffles and other streambed features
- natural seasonality of flows
- replenishment of refuge pools
- groundwater flows
- contributions from aquifers to the flow of water in watercourses
- connectivity between rivers, their riverine environments and floodplains

Subdivision 5 Dealing with unallocated water under resource operations plan generally

Preparing and implementing process under the resource operations plan generally

Clause 33 outlines how unallocated water is to be dealt with under the resource operations plan. Unallocated water that is to be reserved in the resource operations plan is expected to cater for additional and potential water demands from within and adjacent to the plan area.

This clause also states criteria that must be considered prior to the release of unallocated water under the resource operations plan. These criteria seek to encourage the sustainable and efficient use of water when providing additional water for consumptive use. The impact the proposed taking of, or interfering with, the water may have on the resource operations licensee and the distribution operations licensees will be considerations for the chief executive.

The considerations listed in this clause do not limit matters the chief executive may consider in developing and implementing this process. The clause also establishes that the resource operations plan will state that unallocated water granted as a water licence for irrigation purposes requires that the holder of the licence will require an approved land and water management plan prior to using the water.

Part 2 Additional strategies for surface water

Division 1 Preliminary

Application of pt 2

Clause 34 states that this part will set out the strategies that will apply to surface water in addition to those specified in part 1.

Decisions consistent with objectives

Clause 35 specifies that all decisions about the allocation and management of surface water must be consistent with the environmental flow objectives and water allocation security objectives detailed in schedules 4 and 5 respectively. This provides greater certainty and security to water allocation holders, ensures environmental flows are maintained and establishes consistent and transparent criteria for decision making.

Decisions about water permits are excluded from this provision because these temporary entitlements are issued to support short-term projects, such as road construction and generally involve comparatively small volumes of water.

Assessing impact of decisions

Clause 36 states that the department's Integrated Quantity and Quality Model will be used to assess whether proposals about the allocation and management of water in the plan area will be consistent with the environmental flow and water allocation security objectives.

The model contributed to the plan's development by simulating the flow patterns that would have occurred in the absence of development over the 114-year period for which flow and climatic data was available for the plan area (1890-2004). The model was then used to provide an indication of the levels of performance that could be supported for water allocations and environmental flows.

The clause allows the chief executive to approve an alternative method if it is as accurate as the model in deciding whether proposals are consistent with the environmental flow and water allocation security objectives.

Division 2 Strategies for supplemented water only

Division 2 sets out specific provisions that will apply only to supplemented water.

Subdivision 1 Resource operations licences and distribution operations licences

The supply and distribution of supplemented water in the plan area will be managed under a resource operations licence held by the owner of the water supply scheme and distribution operations licences held by the owners of distribution infrastructure.

Water allocations to be managed under a resource operations licence

Clause 37 specifies that supplemented water allocations that convert from interim water allocations in the Proserpine River Water Supply Scheme will be managed under a resource operations licence. The requirements will take effect when the water resource plan is implemented under a finalised resource operations plan.

Water allocation to which water is to be distributed under a distribution operations licence

Clause 38 specifies that supplemented water allocations from the Proserpine River Water Supply Scheme that are distributed through infrastructure owned by the Kelsey Creek Water Board or the Six Mile Creek Water Supply Board will be distributed under separate distribution operations licences.

A distribution operations licence will be granted to each of the boards under the resource operations plan to formalise their role as owners and operators of their respective distribution infrastructure.

Matters to be considered for infrastructure operating rules

Clause 39 specifies matters that the chief executive will consider when determining the infrastructure operating rules for proposed or existing water infrastructure. The chief executive may also consider other factors when determining these rules.

The infrastructure operating rules specified in the resource operations plan will ensure that the infrastructure managed under the resource operations

licence or distribution operations licences is compatible with plan objectives.

Subdivision 2 Converting authorisations to water allocations

Purpose of sdiv 2

Clause 40 states that the subdivision contains strategies for authorisations that will convert to supplemented water allocations under the resource operations plan. These authorisations comprise interim water allocations to take water from the Proserpine River Water Supply Scheme and those in Kelsey Creek Water Board and Six Mile Creek Water Supply Board areas. The strategies will also apply to water allocations for distribution losses to be granted to the two boards.

The provisions are consistent with section 121(1)(a) of the Act, which specifies that on the day the resource operations plan commences, all authorisations to be converted under the plan will expire and that the chief executive will grant new water allocations.

Converting interim water allocations to take water from Proserpine River Water Supply Scheme

Clause 41 states that interim water allocations managed in the Proserpine River Water Supply Scheme will convert, to supplemented water allocations under the resource operations plan.

Granting water allocations for distribution loss

Clause 42 specifies that the chief executive will grant water allocations to the Kelsey Creek Water Board and Six Mile Creek Water Supply Board for distribution loss purposes.

Elements of water allocation

Clause 43 lists the attributes that will be specified on supplemented water allocations. These elements include the location from which water may be taken, the purpose for which water may be taken, the nominal volume for

the allocation and the priority group to which the allocation belongs. The following clauses in this subdivision describe how these elements are to be determined.

Location for taking water under water allocation

Clause 44 states that the location for taking water stated on a water allocation must include the place at which water could have been taken under the authorisation. The location for a water allocation will be specified as a particular reach of a watercourse (known as a zone) from which water may be accessed.

Currently, holders of water entitlements are limited to taking water from a specified 'place', which is usually identified by a lot and plan. By changing this location to a zone, the resource operations plan will allow water to be taken under a water allocation anywhere within the designated zone.

Purpose to be stated on water allocation

Clause 45 states that the purpose stated on a supplemented water allocation will be 'rural', 'distribution loss' or 'any'.

Existing authorisations that would be converted to an allocation for a 'rural' purpose would currently have a stated purpose of stock, domestic, irrigation, stock intensive, agriculture or similar purpose.

For other existing authorisations, the purpose stated on a water allocation must be 'any'. Typically, these existing authorisations would currently have a stated purpose of town water supply, mining or industrial.

The purpose of the water allocations that will be granted to the Kelsey Creek Water Board and the Six Mile Creek Water Supply Board will be 'distribution loss'.

Nominal volume for water allocation

Clause 46 states that the nominal volume (defined in schedule 4 of the Act) for a water allocation converted from an authorisation in the Proserpine River Water Supply Scheme is the volume stated on the authorisation. The nominal volumes for the water allocations granted to the Kelsey Creek Water Board and the Six Mile Creek Water Supply Board will be 2500ML and 300ML respectively.

Priority groups for water allocations

Clause 47 establishes the priority groups to which supplemented water allocations in the Proserpine River Water Supply Scheme will belong to.

Supplemented water allocations managed in the Proserpine River Water Supply Scheme will belong to one of four priority groups.

Those authorisations identified by an interim resource operations licence as high priority will belong to priority group A. These authorisations are generally associated with town water supply. Those allocations that belong to priority group A generally have a greater long-term probability of obtaining water than the other priority groups.

Authorisations identified by the interim resource operations licence as medium priority or that are for distribution loss will belong to priority group A1.

The supplemented water allocations in the Six Mile Creek Water Supply Board authority area will belong to priority group A2.

The supplemented water allocation in the Kelsey Creek Water Board authority area will belong to priority group A3.

Division 3 Strategies for unsupplemented water only

This division sets out the specific strategies that will apply only to unsupplemented water. This includes water that will be taken under entitlements that convert to water allocations and water that will be taken under water licences.

Subdivision 1 Converting authorisations to water allocations

Purpose sdiv 1

Clause 48 states that this subdivision outlines the strategies for authorisations that will convert to unsupplemented water allocations under the resource operations plan.

The provisions are consistent with section 121 (1)(a) of the Act, which specifies that on the day the resource operations plan commences, all authorisations to be converted under the plan will expire and the chief executive will grant the new unsupplemented water allocations that are specified.

Restrictions on taking water from waterholes

Clause 49 allows the chief executive to place restrictions on taking unsupplemented water from waterholes. Natural waterholes are recognised as important habitats and refuges for aquatic plants and animals and are often of significant cultural value to the traditional owners.

The chief executive will consider the impact of taking water on the cultural and ecological attributes of these features and, where necessary, set conditions to ensure they are maintained.

If the application of a condition to a water licence or a water allocation, where an existing authorisation is in place at the plan's commencement, would cause the holder of the entitlement economic hardship, then the chief executive may choose not to impose a condition.

Authorisations to be converted to water allocations

Clause 50 states that the authorisations to be converted to unsupplemented water allocations are existing water licences for taking unsupplemented water from the Andromache River and its tributaries downstream from its confluence with Horse Creek AMTD37.8km and the O'Connell River and its tributaries downstream from its confluence with Kanaka Creek AMTD 52.9km.

Elements of water allocation

Clause 51 sets out the attributes that will be specified on a water allocation to take unsupplemented water. They comprise the location at which water may be taken, the purpose for which it may be taken, a nominal volume, a maximum rate at which water may be taken, daily and annual volumetric limits, the flow conditions that must be met before water can be taken under the allocation, and the water allocation group to which the allocation belongs. Clauses 52 to 59 explain how the elements are to be determined.

Location for taking water under water allocation

Clause 52 states that the location for taking water stated on a water allocation must include the place at which water could have been taken under the authorisation. The location for a water allocation will be specified as a particular reach of a watercourse (known as a zone) from which water may be accessed.

Currently, holders of water entitlements are limited to taking water from a specified 'place', which is usually identified by a lot and plan. By changing this location to a zone, the resource operations plan will allow water to be taken under a water allocation anywhere within the designated zone.

Purpose to be stated on water allocation

Clause 53 states that the purpose stated on an unsupplemented water allocation will be 'rural' or 'any'.

Existing authorisations that would be converted to an unsupplemented allocation for a 'rural' purpose would currently have a stated purpose of stock, domestic, amenities, irrigation, stock intensive, agriculture or similar purpose.

For other authorisations, the purpose stated on a water allocation must be 'any'. Typically, these existing authorisations would currently have a stated purpose of town water supply, mining or industrial. Additionally, authorisations with a stated purpose that is only for waterharvesting would be converted to an unsupplemented water allocation with a purpose of 'any'. However, if an existing authorisation had a stated purpose of 'irrigation/waterharvesting' or similar, then the converted unsupplemented water allocation would have a purpose of 'rural'.

Nominal volume for water allocation

Clause 54 lists the factors the chief executive will consider in determining the nominal volume for unsupplemented water allocations. They comprise the local availability of water, the conditions under which water may be taken under the authorisation (such as flow conditions), any annual volume stated on an existing authorisation and the simulated mean annual diversion for the entitlement. Simulated mean annual diversion, which provides the basis for establishing nominal volumes of water harvesting allocations, is calculated using the Integrated Quantity and Quality Model computer

program (see clause 36). It represents the simulated average volume of water that could have been taken under an authorisation or group of authorisations during the historic period of record.

The nominal volume is an important element of an unsupplemented water allocation because it represents, in megalitres, the share of the total volume of water available to be taken by the holder of the water allocation in water allocation groups in the plan area.

The nominal volume for an unsupplemented water allocation should not be confused with the annual volumetric limit which represents the maximum amount of water authorised to be taken in a water year. The amount of water that could actually be taken in any particular year will be subject to a number of factors including the local availability of water. In dry years, the amount of water available to be taken may be less than the nominal volume, while in wetter years the amount of water available to be taken may exceed the nominal volume.

Maximum rates

Clause 55 specifies how the maximum rate at which water may be taken under an unsupplemented water allocation is to be determined.

If a maximum rate of take is stated on an existing authorisation then that same rate will apply to the water allocation.

If a maximum rate of take is not stated, but a pump size is specified, the rate will be determined under the pump rating table set out in schedule 7. If a pump size is stated but not listed in the schedule, the chief executive will determine a maximum rate having regard to column 2 of the schedule.

The maximum rates for other types of authorisations will be determined having regard to the type of authorisation and an estimate or measurement of the rate at which water can be taken.

However, if the holder of an entitlement demonstrates that a different rate should apply than that determined with reference to schedule 7, the chief executive may determine an alternative rate. In determining a new rate, the chief executive will have regard to the conditions under which water may be taken, the water taking capacity of the existing pump and the associated irrigation or water distribution system that was installed for up to ten years before the commencement of the plan. The efficiency of the irrigation or water distribution system will also be considered.

Daily volumetric limits

Clause 56 specifies how daily volumetric limits will be determined for unsupplemented water allocations.

If a maximum daily limit is stated on an existing authorisation then that same daily limit will apply to the water allocation.

If a daily limit is not stated, but a pump size is specified, the rate will be determined under the pump rating table set out in schedule 7. If a pump size is stated but not listed in the schedule, the chief executive will determine a limit, having regard to column 3 of the schedule.

The daily limit for other types of authorisations will be determined having regard to the type of authorisation and an estimate or measurement of the rate at which water can be taken.

Where the holder of an entitlement demonstrates that a different daily limit should apply than that determined with reference to schedule 7, the chief executive may determine an alternative limit. In determining a new daily limit, the chief executive will have regard to the conditions under which water may be taken, the water taking capacity of the existing pump and the associated irrigation or water distribution system that was installed for up to ten years before the commencement of the plan. The efficiency of the irrigation or water distribution system will also be considered.

The daily volumetric limit for a water allocation will not exceed the total volume that could be taken in a day at the maximum rate decided for the allocation, as determined under Clause 55.

Annual volumetric limits

Clause 57 specifies how annual volumetric limits for unsupplemented water allocations will be determined. The annual volumetric limit will be the maximum amount of water that can be taken under an allocation in any water year and differs from the nominal volume determined under Clause 54.

Where an annual volume is already stated on the existing water authorisation, that annual limit will apply to the unsupplemented water allocation.

For authorisations that state an area in hectares that may be irrigated, the annual limit will be based on the intended purpose, but calculated at a rate of not more than 5 megalitres per hectare.

For all other authorisations, annual volumetric limits will be determined having regard to the conditions under which water may be taken, the water taking capacity of the existing pump, the volume required for the allocation's intended purpose and the associated irrigation or water distribution system that was installed for up to ten years before the commencement of the plan. The efficiency of the irrigation or water distribution system will also be considered.

Conditions relating to flow conditions

Clause 58 states that in deciding flow conditions under which water may be taken under a unsupplemented water allocation, the chief executive must consider the conditions stated on the existing authorisation.

Water allocation groups for water allocations

Clause 59 states that unsupplemented water allocations in subcatchment areas D and E belong to water allocation group 1 where the existing authorisation does not state a flow condition. If a flow condition is stated on the existing authorisation, the unsupplemented water allocation will belong to water allocation group 2.

Subdivision 2 Water licences

Application of sdiv 2

Clause 60 introduces subdivision 2 as providing the strategies that will apply to water licences to take unsupplemented water.

Elements of water licence

Clause 61 sets out the elements that must be specified on a water licence to take unsupplemented water. These elements comprise the purpose for which water may be taken, the maximum rate at which water may be taken, a daily volumetric limit, a nominal entitlement and any flow conditions that may apply to the licence.

Purpose to be stated on water licence

Clause 62 states that the purpose to be stated on a new water licence replacing an existing water licence, will be 'stock and domestic' if the purpose of the existing licence is stock or domestic. If the purpose of the existing licence is irrigation, stock intensive, agriculture or similar purpose then the purpose on the new licence will be 'rural'.

For other existing licences, the purpose on the new licence must be 'any'. Typically, these existing licences would currently have a stated purpose of town water supply, mining or industrial. Water licences with a stated purpose that is only for waterharvesting would be converted to a water licence with a purpose of 'any'. However, if an existing licence had a stated purpose of 'irrigation/waterharvesting' or similar, then the new water licence would have a purpose of 'rural'.

Maximum rates

Clause 63 specifies how the maximum rate for taking water under an unsupplemented water licence will be determined.

If a maximum rate of take is stated on an existing authorisation then that rate will apply to the new water licence.

If a maximum rate of take is not stated, but a pump size is specified, the rate will be determined under the pump rating table set out in schedule 7. If a pump size is stated but not listed in the schedule, the chief executive will determine a rate having regard to column 2 of the schedule.

The rates for other types of authorisation will be determined having regard to the type of authorisation and an estimate or measurement of the rate at which water can be taken.

If the holder of an existing licence demonstrates that a different rate should apply than that determined with reference to schedule 7, the chief executive may determine an alternative rate. In determining a new rate, the chief executive will have regard to the conditions under which water may be taken, the water taking capacity of the existing pump and the associated irrigation or water distribution system that was installed for up to ten years before the commencement of the plan. The efficiency of the irrigation or water distribution system will also be considered.

Daily volumetric limits

Clause 64 specifies how daily volumetric limits will be determined for unsupplemented water licences.

If a daily limit is stated on an existing licence, then that limit will apply to the new water licence.

If a daily limit is not stated, but a pump size is specified, the limit will be determined under the pump rating table set out in schedule 7. If a pump size is stated but not listed in the schedule, the chief executive will determine a limit having regard to column 3 of the schedule.

The daily limits for other types of licences will be determined having regard to the purpose of the existing licence and an estimate or measurement of the rate at which water can be taken.

If the holder of an existing water licence demonstrates that a different limit should apply than that determined with reference to schedule 7, the chief executive may determine an alternative limit. In determining the new limit, the chief executive will have regard to the conditions under which water may be taken, the water taking capacity of the existing pump and the associated irrigation or water distribution system that was installed for up to ten years before the commencement of the plan. The efficiency of the irrigation or water distribution system will also be considered

The daily volumetric limit for a new water licence will not exceed the total volume that could be taken in a day at the maximum rate decided for the water licence as determined under Clause 63.

Nominal entitlements

Clause 65 specifies how nominal entitlements for unsupplemented water licences will be determined. The nominal entitlement for a water licence will be the maximum amount of water that can be taken under the licence in any water year.

Where an annual volume is stated on the existing water licence, the new water licence will state the same volume.

Existing water licences that state an area in hectares that may be irrigated, the volume to be stated on the new water licence will be determined having regard to the intended purpose of the licence, but calculated at a rate of not more than 5 megalitres per hectare.

For other existing water licences, the volume will be determined having regard to the conditions under which water may be taken, the water taking capacity of the existing pump, the volume required for the licence's intended purpose and the associated irrigation or water distribution system that was installed for up to ten years before the commencement of the plan. The efficiency of water use will also be considered.

Conditions for taking

Clause 66 allows the chief executive to specify any flow conditions for taking unsupplemented water under a licence that are considered necessary to support the outcomes of the water resource plan. Conditions could be set to preserve or maintain—

- dry season low flows, including base flows; or
- levels in waterholes and bedsands.

Division 4 Regulating overland flow water only

Division 4 deals with the regulation of overland flow water in the plan area. This division outlines the limitation on taking overland flow water in the plan area, situations where the taking of water using particular existing overland flow works is authorised, the process for granting water licences under the resource operations plan, and the relationship with the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.

Limitation on taking overland flow water—Act, s 20(6)

Clause 67 specifies the situations in which a person may take overland flow water.

In the plan area, overland flow water may not be taken other than—

- for stock or domestic purposes (see schedule 4 of the *Water Act 2000* for the definition of ‘stock purposes’ and ‘domestic purposes’); or
- for any other purpose if the works for the taking of overland flow water have a capacity of not more than 20ML; or

- under a water licence that authorises the take of overland flow; or
- the amount necessary to satisfy the requirements of an environmental authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*; or
- the amount necessary to satisfy the requirements of a development permit for carrying out an environmentally relevant activity, other than for a mining or petroleum activity, under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*; or
- for capturing contaminated agricultural runoff water as defined in the ‘Code for Assessable Development for Operational Works for Taking Overland Flow Water’.

The provisions also allow for the continued use of overland flow works of more than 20 megalitres that predate the plan, subject to the owner notifying the chief executive of details of the works. The criteria associated with this are set out under clause 68.

Taking water using particular existing overland flow works authorised

Clause 68 authorises the owner of land on which existing overland flow works are situated to continue to take overland flow water using works for a period of 1 year after the commencement of the plan. This clause does not apply to existing works for taking overland flow water that may be taken under clause 67(2)(a) to (f).

The owner of land to which the clause applies must, using the approved form, give the chief executive notice of the existing overland works and any further information reasonably required by the chief executive about the works. The owner will then be authorised to continue to take overland flow water using the works beyond the 1 year period.

If the chief executive grants a water licence to the owner of the land for the taking of overland flow water by using the existing works, the authorisation to use the existing works ceases to apply.

Granting water licences for using particular existing overland flow works

Clause 69 applies if the resource operations plan states a process for the allocation of water under a water licence to replace an authority given under clause 68(3) which allowed for the continued use of existing works to take overland flow water.

In following the process for granting a water licence, the chief executive must have regard to the average annual volume of overland flow water that could have been taken using the existing works immediately before the commencement of the plan. The chief executive must also consider the estimated annual volumes of overland flow water taken using the existing works during the period of not more than 10 years prior to the commencement of the plan.

Additionally, the chief executive may consider the extent to which the existing works allowed the taking or storage of other water under another authorisation. For example, the existing overland flow works may also allow the storage of water taken from a watercourse under a water licence which may affect the amount of overland flow water captured by the existing overland flow works.

The chief executive may also consider other matters as necessary. The process allows the chief executive to request, from the owner of the works, a certificate from a registered professional engineer of Queensland, which states information about the works including the capacity and rate at which water can be taken by the works.

Relationship with Sustainable Planning Act 2009

Clause 70 states that development approval is required under the relevant code for assessable development prior to constructing works that allow the taking of overland flow water in the plan area. Works that are assessable development require a development permit under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.

Clause 70(2) states that repairs or maintenance of existing works to take overland flow water for purposes other than those described in clause 67(2)(a) to (e) are not assessable development if the works were constructed under a development permit and the repair or maintenance does not alter the design of the works.

Works that are self-assessable development do not require a development permit but must conform with the relevant self-assessable development code. Works for the taking of overland flow that are self-assessable for the *Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009* are—

- works for the taking of overland flow water only for stock or domestic purposes (and for no other purpose);
- works that allow the taking of overland flow water for any purpose which have a storage capacity of not more than 20ML; and
- works for the taking of only the amount of overland flow water necessary to satisfy the requirements of an environmental authority, or a development permit for carrying out an environmentally relevant activity, other than for a mining or petroleum activity, under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

Part 3 Additional strategies for groundwater only

Application of pt 3

Clause 71 states that the strategies stated in this part will apply solely to groundwater in addition to the generic strategies set out in part 1.

Limitation on taking groundwater—Act, s 20(6)

Clause 72 alters the groundwater that may be taken under section 20(6) of the *Water Act 2000*.

In the plan area, groundwater may not be taken other than—

- for stock or domestic purposes (and for no other purpose);
- under a water permit; or
- under a water licence.

The provisions also allow for the continued use of certain existing works for taking groundwater in those circumstances detailed in clause 73.

Taking groundwater using existing works

Clause 73 authorises the owner of land in the “undeclared area”, on which there are existing works for taking groundwater other than for stock and domestic purposes, to continue to take overland flow water by using these works for a period of 1 year after the commencement of the plan.

The owner of land must, using the approved form, give the chief executive notice of the existing overland works and any further information reasonably required by the chief executive about the works. The owner will then be authorised to continue to take overland flow water using the works beyond the 1 year period.

Once the chief executive grants a water licence to the owner of land for the taking of groundwater by using the existing works to the owner of land, the authorisation to use the existing works ceases to apply.

Existing works are works for taking groundwater for purposes other than stock purposes or domestic purposes and that, in the chief executive's opinion, were being used or were capable of being used at the commencement of the plan.

For this section, “undeclared area” means those parts of the plan area that were outside of the pre-existing “Proserpine subartesian area”.

Granting water licences for using particular existing works

Clause 74 states that the chief executive will grant a water licence for taking groundwater to the owners of works for taking groundwater who have notified the chief executive under section 73.

Water licences to take groundwater

Clause 75 states that all water licences to take groundwater will specify a nominal entitlement, the purpose for which groundwater may be taken, a monthly or quarterly volumetric limit that may be taken, and any conditions under which groundwater may be taken.

Nominal entitlements for authorisations

Clause 76 states the process to be followed by the chief executive when deciding the nominal entitlements for authorisations for taking

groundwater. The authorisations to which this process applies involve existing works in the plan area.

Clause 76(2) requires the chief executive to decide the nominal entitlement to be the lesser of the volumes estimated under the methods in clause 76(6).

When estimating a volume under 76(6) on the basis of multiplying the capacity of the works by the number of hours operated during a 12 month period, the chief executive must decide the capacity of the works to be either the design or equipped pumping rates. If there is only a valid pumping test from which a design pumping rate for the bore can be estimated, then the design pump rate is the capacity. If there is only an equipped rate available, then the equipped rate is the capacity. If there is a design pumping rate and an equipped rate for a bore, then the lesser of these rates is the capacity of the existing works. The number of hours for which the bore is operated is to be no more than 1200 hours. When estimating the number of hours the chief executive must have regard for the efficiency of use and the availability of water from other water sources.

Under clause 76(6), when estimating the volume to have been pumped for irrigation purposes during the relevant period, the chief executive must not determine a volume to be more than 5 megalitres per hectare irrigated. When estimating the volume being pumped during a relevant period, for purposes other than irrigation, the chief executive must not determine the volume to be more than 10 megalitres.

In addition to the above matters, the calculation of the volume to be placed on an authorisation must also consider the availability of groundwater in the aquifer. The availability of groundwater is to be no more than 1 megalitre per hectare of aquifer under the land on which the works are located.

However, if the chief executive is satisfied that the volume of groundwater taken is more than the volume estimated, the chief executive may decide a nominal entitlement that is more than the estimated volume.

In deciding a higher volume, the chief executive must consider—

- the capacity of the existing works installed (as defined in clause 76(6));
- the number of hours the works were operated;
- the volume of groundwater calculated by the chief executive to have been taken, using existing works, for irrigation of crops grown during the relevant period;

- the volume of groundwater calculated by the chief executive to have been taken, using existing works, for purposes other than irrigation;
- the efficiency of the use of groundwater for the purpose;
- the availability of groundwater in the aquifer being accessed by the existing works;
- the availability of water from other sources; and
- the density of bores in the particular locality being considered.

The density of bores in the area is a consideration because of the need to evaluate whether or not there is potential for excessive pumping interference between bores during peak demand periods.

The chief executive is not limited to the above matters and may consider other matters to ensure consistency with plan outcomes.

Purpose to be stated on water licence to take groundwater

Clause 77 states that the purpose to be stated on a water licence to take groundwater will be ‘rural’ if the purpose of the existing licence is irrigation, stock intensive, agriculture, agricultural dewatering or similar purpose.

If no water licence exists and the intended use of the water licence is for irrigation, stock intensive, agriculture, agricultural dewatering or similar purpose, then the purpose on the licence will also be ‘rural’.

If none of these uses or similar are stated on an existing licence or the purpose is not related to any of these uses, the purpose to be stated on the licence will be ‘any’.

Relationship with Sustainable Planning Act 2009

Clause 78 states that works for taking groundwater for purposes other than stock or domestic uses are assessable development under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. This means that a development permit will be required under the relevant code prior to constructing works that allow the taking of groundwater in the plan area.

Works that are self-assessable development, including works to take groundwater for stock or domestic purposes, do not require a development

permit but must conform with the relevant self-assessable development code.

Clause 78(3) states that repairs or maintenance of existing works to take groundwater for purposes other than stock and domestic are not assessable development if the works were constructed under a development permit and the repair or maintenance does not alter the design of the works.

Chapter 6 Monitoring and reporting requirements

Chapter 6 details the monitoring and reporting requirements for the plan. Monitoring and reporting are essential elements of a water resource plan's implementation because they provide a basis for measuring the effectiveness of the plan's strategies in achieving its outcomes.

Monitoring

Clause 79 specifies the water and natural ecosystems monitoring requirements for the plan. Detailed monitoring and reporting requirements will be set out in the resource operations plan.

The monitoring requirements include water monitoring, natural ecosystem monitoring and other monitoring required by the chief executive. Specific water monitoring requirements include stream flows, groundwater levels, taking and diverting water, releases for water storages and water quantity for water storages including inflow and storage volume. Natural ecosystems monitoring requirements include the volume, frequency, duration and timing of stream flows and information on hydraulic habitat requirements for ecological assets in the plan area.

The monitoring requirements are to be achieved by programs undertaken by operators of infrastructure and through programs administered by the chief executive or other relevant State agencies. The plan does not direct other State agencies to perform specific monitoring. However, if current monitoring programs undertaken by other agencies are relevant, these data may be used, thereby avoiding duplication of monitoring efforts.

Monitoring programs undertaken by operators of infrastructure

Clause 80 states that operators of infrastructure for interfering with water (a resource operations licence holder or a distribution operations licence holder) must develop and undertake monitoring programs detailed for them in the resource operations plan.

The programs used must assist the chief executive to assess the effectiveness of the strategies outlined in chapter 5.

Operators of infrastructure to give reports

Clause 81 specifies that an operator of infrastructure for interfering with water must give a written report to the chief executive relating to the operation of infrastructure, detailing—

- the information obtained from the monitoring programs mentioned in clause 80;
- decisions made by the operator in managing water and infrastructure or distributing water;
- information about non-compliance by the operator with the requirements of the resource operations plan; and
- any remedial or emergency action taken by the operator.

This clause also specifies the timing for giving these written reports.

More information on the reporting requirements will be specified in the resource operations plan.

Minister's report on plan—Act, s 53

Clause 82 specifies the requirements for the preparation of the Minister's report on the plan. The intent of this report is to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the plan in achieving the plan's outcomes.

The first report must be prepared for the financial year in which the resource operations plan commences. A subsequent report must be prepared for each financial year the plan is in force. Each report must be prepared within 6 months after the end of the financial year to which the report relates.

If the Minister is satisfied about any of the matters outlined in clause 85 of this plan, as being triggers for considering amending or replacing the plan, the report must include a consideration of the matters. 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.

Chapter 7 Implementing and amending this plan

Chapter 7 outlines the schedule for implementing the plan. It also specifies the factors that will initiate minor or stated amendments for the plan and those that will trigger a new plan to be developed.

Implementation schedule

Clause 83 states the proposed arrangements for implementing the plan. The water resource plan will be primarily implemented through a resource operations plan to be prepared within two years of the plan's commencement.

The key elements of the resource operations plan will be—

- to convert authorisations in the specified priority areas to water allocations;
- to specify the environmental management rules, infrastructure operating rules, water sharing rules, water allocation change rules and seasonal water assignment rules that will apply for the Proserpine River Water Supply Scheme;
- to establish a process to deal with unallocated water that is available to meet future water needs in the plan area;
- to establish a process for granting water licences to take overland flow water;
- to provide better specification for all other water licences; and

- to implement the monitoring requirements set out in chapter 6.

Minor or stated amendment of plan—Act, s 57

Clause 84 states the types of amendments that may be made to the plan under s57(b) of the Act. A minor amendment is one to correct a minor error or to make a change that is not a change of substance. A stated amendment is one that is specified in the water resource plan.

Clause 84 provides for a number of amendments to be made to the plan including—

- an amendment or addition of an environmental flow objective if it would achieve an equivalent or improved ecological outcome without adversely affecting the water allocation security objectives or the plan's outcomes;
- an amendment or addition of a water allocation security objective is provided for under this clause so long as it does not affect existing water allocations, the environmental flow objectives or the plan's outcomes;
- an amendment or addition of a node, priority group, water allocation group or a monitoring or reporting requirement;
- an amendment to adjust the boundaries of a subcatchment area;
- an amendment to the maximum capacity of works for taking overland flow water permitted without an authorisation stated in clause 67(2)(b); and
- an amendment to the provisions continuing the effect of the moratorium, if notice of the amendment is published as if it were a moratorium notice under section 26 of the Act.

These types of amendments to the plan allow for efficient and timely responses to changes occurring in the plan area.

Amending or replacing plan

Clause 85 outlines situations where the Minister must consider amending the plan or preparing a new plan.

The Minister must consider amending or replacing the plan if satisfied, in relation to the plan general outcomes, that water entitlements in the plan

area are not sufficient to meet water needs and that an ecologically sustainable use for additional water exists. In considering whether water entitlements are sufficient, the Minister must have regard to a number of matters including, the extent to which water is being taken under existing entitlements, the efficiency of water use, emerging water demands, water savings that may be made from improvements in water use efficiency or the use of water from other sources and the likely timeframe for additional water requirements.

Additionally, the Minister must consider amending or replacing the plan if satisfied that the plan's general ecological outcomes or specific ecological outcomes are not being achieved.

This clause ensures there is a mechanism for a possible amendment of the plan if a major change in circumstances related to water demand or environmental water needs arises.

Schedules

Plan area

Schedule 1 shows the area to which this plan applies.

Subcatchment areas

Schedule 2 shows the boundaries for the subcatchments referred to in the plan.

Nodes

Schedule 3 part 1 shows the location of nodes referred to in the plan. Schedule 3 part 2 lists the nodes and their location as Adopted Middle Thread Distance (AMTD), which is the distance to the node in kilometres from the mouth of a river, or junction with a main watercourse, measured along the middle of the watercourse (see clause 8).

Environmental flow objectives

Schedule 4 states the environmental flow objectives for the plan categorised which are as low flow and medium to high flow objectives (see chapter 4 part 2).

Water allocation security objectives

Schedule 5 states the water allocation security objectives for supplemented water allocations and unsupplemented water allocations under the plan (see chapter 4 part 3).

Water allocation security objectives for supplemented water allocations are specified according to priority groups as set out in clause 47 of the plan and those for unsupplemented water allocations are categorised on the basis of water allocation groups as outlined in clause 59 of the plan.

Total of nominal entitlements for all water licences and annual volumetric limits for all water allocations

Schedule 6 provides the volumes of unallocated water available for subcatchments in the plan area. The unallocated water has been divided into general unallocated water and strategic unallocated water reserves (see chapter 5 division 3).

Rates, volumetric limits and pump sizes

Schedule 7 states the rates, volumetric limits and pump sizes for determining details to be stated on water licences, in accordance with clauses 55, 56, 63 and 64 of the plan, as—

- maximum rate of take of water in litres per second; and
- the daily volumetric limit in megalitres according to pump sizes.

Dictionary

Schedule 8 is a dictionary of defined terms used in the plan.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Laid before the Legislative Assembly on . . .
- 2 The administering agency is the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

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