

Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water

# Burdekin Groundwater Management Area

Water sharing rules Seasonal water assignment rules WSS/2013/277

Version 6.03 19 August 2022

rdmw.qld.gov.au

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# Version History

Version	Date	Comments	
1.00	17/10/2005	Endorsed	
1.01	25/06/2008	Update department name. Other minor amendments consistent with recent changes to insertion of common notification section, removal of 'relationship with 'management guidelines'.	
2.00	25/05/2010	Update to water sharing rules due to the commencement of the Water Resource (Burdekin Basin) Plan 2007.	
2.01	09/03/2012	Attach latest version of the water use assessment report form. Re-number attachments (the link to the water use assessment report form is to an external webpage so this is now the last attachment in the list.) Change reference to 'Attachment 2 water use assessment report' to indicate this form is available in the Attachments section. Remove text (Qld) from legislative references.	
3.00	11/06/2013	Amend water sharing rules to include groundwater harvesting using 5-year permit.	
4.00	12/06/2015	Amend water sharing rules to; exclude reference to both the annual groundwater permitting and 5 year groundwater harvesting permitting system, inclusion of; seasonal water assignments, prescribed activities allowances, meter readings, contact details. Changed ID number from WAM/2005/2280 to WSS/2013/277	
5.00	06/12/2016	Amended announced entitlement, water accounting and metering sections and other minor amendments. Section references updated to be consistent with the changes from the Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014	
6.00	24/05/2018	Amended announced entitlement, water accounting, metering, added take of water for water harvesting purposes	
6.01	05/04/2019	Updated departmental cover page. Minor amendments to include information about faulty meters.	
6.02	26/10/2020	Amended RN numbers within the tables, maps, metering information and the structure of the document.	
6.03	19/08/2022	Updated departmental template. Minor amendments to section 8 'Metering'.	

# Approval

Position	Name	Date
Director, Operational Policy and Measurement	Toni Stiles	19/08/2022

# Contents

Vers	Version History ii			
Арр	proval	ii		
1.	Overview	1		
2.	Purpose	1		
3.	Description of the water management area	1		
3.1	Plan of the area	1		
3.2	Water to which these rules apply	2		
4.	Water sharing rules	2		
4.1	Nominal and annual entitlement	2		
4.2	Announced entitlement	2		
	4.2.1 Considerations	2		
	4.2.2 Notification	3		
	Water year	3		
	Carry over	3		
-	Forward draw	3		
5.	Seasonal water assignment rules	3		
5.1		3		
5.2	Rules	3		
	<ul><li>5.2.1 General rules</li><li>5.2.2 Horseshoe Lagoon sub-area</li></ul>	3 4		
	5.2.3 Selkirk Coastal and Giru Coastal sub-areas	4		
	5.2.4 Selkirk sub-area	4		
	5.2.5 Other sub-areas	4		
	Approval	4		
5.4	Conditions	5		
6.	Water harvesting – water licence rules	5		
6.1	Water harvesting conditions	5		
7.	Management and accounting	7		
7.1	Stock or domestic allowance	7		
7.2	Prescribed activities	7		
7.3	Water Accounting	8		
8.	Metering	9		
8.1	Installation, maintenance and validation of meters	9		
8.2	Faulty meters	10		
8.3	Meter readings	10		

10.	Conta	act us	12
9.	Resp	onsibilities	11
8.4	Qualit	y check of readings	11
	8.3.2	Meter readings—seasonal water assignments	11
	8.3.1	Triggered meter readings—licences with a water harvesting purpose	10

# Appendices

Appendix A	Sub-areas within the Burdekin groundwater management area
Appendix B	Horseshoe Lagoon zone map for seasonal water assignments
Appendix C	Map of water harvesting management units and representative bores
Appendix D	Accessing water level and quality information

# 1. Overview

This document defines the water sharing rules for the Burdekin groundwater management area, as prescribed in section 27 of the Water Regulation 2016 (Water Regulation), as well as the seasonal water assignment rules prescribed in section 39 of the Water Regulation.

Water sharing rules and seasonal water assignment rules are prescribed under the Water Regulation for a water licence not managed under a water management protocol. Water sharing rules describe the arrangements for access to water within a water management area whilst seasonal water assignment rules describe the arrangements for temporary seasonal trading.

# 2. Purpose

Water sharing rules and seasonal water assignment rules establish a framework for water use accounting, facilitating an auditable trail for the movement of water use within and between entitlements.

Water sharing rules and seasonal water assignment rules also ensure that arrangements for access to water and water use accounting within a water management area are clearly articulated to entitlement holders to provide them with a stable water use accounting regime.

# 3. Description of the water management area

## 3.1 Plan of the area

The Burdekin groundwater management area extends from the Burdekin River approximately 15 kilometres upstream of the town of Clare, northwest to the coastal zone near the Haughton River around the township of Giru. The Burdekin groundwater management area also extends east to the Burdekin River in the vicinity of Mt Kelly. The Burdekin groundwater management area occupies the same area as the Burdekin underground water area. The geographical boundaries of the Burdekin groundwater management area can be viewed on Queensland Globe, or alternatively, are identified on map AP10054 which may be viewed at the department's Ayr office.

For management purposes the Burdekin groundwater management area has been divided into the following 12 sub-areas:

- Clare
- Jardine
- Selkirk
- Giru Coastal
- Mona Park
- Woodhouse
- Haughton
- Mulgrave
- Ironbark
- Horseshoe Lagoon
- Northcote
- Selkirk Coastal

These sub-areas can be viewed in Appendix A (map CAS1605). The sub-area boundaries are based on proximity, local geology and existing hydro-geological conditions, such as transmissivity, storage capacity and proximity to the risk of salt water intrusion.

It should be noted that the Giru Benefited Groundwater Area is managed under the Water Plan (Burdekin Basin) 2007 and not under these water sharing rules.

## 3.2 Water to which these rules apply

The Burdekin groundwater management area water sharing rules and seasonal water assignment rules apply to underground water in the Burdekin River, Barratta Creek and Haughton River catchments within the Burdekin groundwater management area.

A water licence or seasonal water assignment notice is required to take underground water in the Burdekin groundwater management area for purposes other than stock and domestic or prescribed activities as defined in the Water Regulation.

# 4. Water sharing rules

## 4.1 Nominal and annual entitlement

A nominal entitlement is the volume of water authorised to be taken during a water year, as specified on a water licence. This differs from the annual entitlement which is the actual volume of water that a licence holder may use during a water year. The annual entitlement is influenced by announced entitlements and seasonal water assignments.

The annual entitlement for a particular entitlement can be calculated using the following formula:

# Annual entitlement = Nominal entitlement x Announced entitlement +/- Seasonal water assignment\*

\* If applicable

## 4.2 Announced entitlement

In accordance with sections 27 and 29 of the Water Regulation, the chief executive must decide and publish an announced entitlement for the Burdekin groundwater management area before the start of the water year.

The announced entitlement:

- is expressed as a percentage of the entitlement holder's nominal entitlement (it is the percentage of nominal entitlement that may be taken in a water year)
- may only be increased during the water year
- may differ for each sub-area
- does not apply to water licences to take underground water with a purpose of 'water harvesting'.

#### 4.2.1 Considerations

When deciding an announced entitlement, in addition to the considerations specified in section 29 (3) of the Water Regulation, the chief executive must consider the following:

- trends in underground water quality
- for sub-areas near the coast-the risk of saltwater intrusion
- if less than 100 per cent announced entitlement is proposed, recommendations made by the Burdekin River Irrigation Area Irrigators Committee.

### 4.2.2 Notification

The chief executive will publish the announced entitlement on the Business Queensland website before the start of the water year and prior to varying the announced allocation during the water year. The chief executive may:

- give written or digital notice of the announced entitlement to water licence holders
- publish the announced entitlement in the Burdekin Advocate.

## 4.3 Water year

A 'water year' is the accounting period for taking water under a water licence. The water year for the Burdekin groundwater management area is the twelve month period from 1 July to 30 June.

## 4.4 Carry over

Entitlement holders in the Burdekin groundwater management area will not be permitted to carry over unused announced entitlement from the previous water year.

## 4.5 Forward draw

Entitlement holders in the Burdekin groundwater management area will not be authorised to forward draw from the following year's nominal entitlement in advance.

# 5. Seasonal water assignment rules

The holder of a water licence or seasonal water assignment notice in the Burdekin groundwater management area may apply to seasonally assign either all or part of their entitlement.

'Seasonal water assignment' means the assignment, by the holder of a seasonal water assignment notice or a water licence, of the benefit under the notice or licence to another person. A seasonal water assignment applies to a water year and for all or part of the water that may be taken under the notice or licence.

Licences with a purpose of 'water harvesting' cannot be seasonally assigned.

## 5.1 Application

An application for a seasonal water assignment must be made in accordance with Chapter 2, Part 3, Division 2 of the Act. The application may only be made by the holder of a water licence or seasonal water assignment notice (assignor/seller) for the water year in which the application is made.

## 5.2 Rules

#### 5.2.1 General rules

The general rules for all seasonal water assignments in the Burdekin groundwater management area include the following:

- a seasonal water assignment is only allowed for
  - underground water in the Burdekin groundwater management area where both the assignor/seller and the assignee/buyer have works that are metered in compliance with the department's metering standards
  - water licences with a purpose other than 'water harvesting'
- a seasonal water assignment is not allowed if the

- assignor/seller does not have sufficient available entitlement
- chief executive considers that granting the assignment will potentially adversely affect other water users or the aquifer.

#### 5.2.2 Horseshoe Lagoon sub-area

Rules specific to the Horseshoe Lagoon sub-area include the following:

- in zone 1 a seasonal water assignment is only allowed to be assigned
  - within zone 1, with a maximum seasonal water assignment volume of 5 megalitres (ML)
  - to zone 2, with a maximum seasonal water assignment volume of 10 ML
  - to zone 3.
- in zone 2 a seasonal water assignment is only allowed to be assigned
  - within zone 2 with a maximum seasonal water assignment volume of 20 ML
  - to zone 3.
- in zone 3 a seasonal water assignment is only allowed to be assigned within zone 3
- a seasonal water assignment for greater than 10 ML will not be approved where the assignee's works are within 400 metres of an existing water bore on a neighbouring property unless agreement is obtained from the owner of that property.

A map delineating the seasonal water assignment zones in Horseshoe Lagoon is provided in Appendix B.

#### 5.2.3 Selkirk Coastal and Giru Coastal sub-areas

Rules specific to the Selkirk Coastal and Giru Coastal sub-areas include the following:

• A seasonal water assignment is only allowed to be assigned within the assignor/seller's sub-area, with a maximum seasonal water assignment entitlement of 20 ML.

#### 5.2.4 Selkirk sub-area

The Selkirk sub-area has been divided into two areas, zone 1 being north of the Bruce Highway and zone 2 being south of the Bruce Highway. Rules specific to the Selkirk sub-area include the following:

- in zone 1 a seasonal water assignment is only allowed to be assigned
  - within zone 1, with a maximum seasonal water assignment entitlement of 20 ML
  - to zone 2.
- in zone 2 a seasonal water assignment is only allowed to be assigned within zone 2.

#### 5.2.5 Other sub-areas

Rules specific to sub-areas not mentioned above include the following:

• A seasonal water assignment is only allowed to be assigned within the assignor/seller's sub-area.

## 5.3 Approval

The seasonal water assignment has effect from the day the information notice is given to the applicant (assignor/seller). The seasonal water notice only applies for the remainder of the current water year in which the assignment takes place (i.e. the assignment will expire midnight on 30 June).

If the application for seasonal water assignment is approved, the assignor/seller cannot take the assigned water from under the water licence from which it has been assigned. That is, the assignor/seller's annual entitlement is reduced to account for the volume of water that has been

subject of seasonal water assignment and the assignee/buyer's annual entitlement is increased by the volume stated in the notice.

Approval of a seasonal water assignment in one water year does not imply that a similar seasonal water assignment will be approved in subsequent years.

Note: Applications for seasonal water assignments will not be approved retrospectively to cover excess water use. The unauthorised take of water is an offence under the Act and may result in prosecution.

## 5.4 Conditions

The seasonal water assignment notice that is granted to the assignee/buyer will be subject to the conditions:

- prescribed under a regulation
- the chief executive decides to impose for the particular seasonal water assignment notice.

Provisions under the Act allow the take of water under a seasonal water assignment notice to be limited.

A seasonal water assignment notice does not attach to land. If the holder of a seasonal water assignment notice sells their land, the new owner of the same land does not automatically acquire the seasonal water assignment notice. However, the holder of a seasonal water assignment notice may apply to re-assign the unused part of the seasonally assigned water to the new owner.

# 6. Water harvesting – water licence rules

Water licences with the purpose of water harvesting, aim to make productive use of water contained within the water table above a nominated threshold water level in representative monitoring bores.

A nominal volume in megalitres per water year is assigned to the licence. The volume of water available is not subject to announced entitlement and cannot be seasonally assigned. Accessing this volume is subject to the conditions of the licence e.g. water may be taken whenever the water table is above nominated threshold levels within representative monitoring bores (and below electrical conductivity [EC] threshold levels, where applicable).

To facilitate this water table management, the department has installed telemetry on a number of representative monitoring bores and licence holders should monitor current levels on the Business Queensland website. Licence holders may be notified if the water level (and/or EC level) is nearing the threshold level. Pumping must cease once the threshold level is reached. Where applicable, the client's 'Irrigation' water licence volume (or seasonal assignment volume) could then be utilised.

## 6.1 Water harvesting conditions

For authorisations with the purpose of water harvesting, management units (refer Appendix C) are used to define which representative monitoring bores the conditions on the licence will relate to. Licences issued with a purpose of water harvesting are conditioned to permit the take of water when the levels in representative monitoring bores for the licence's management unit are above a target water level.

The target water levels in representative monitoring bores in each management unit can be seen in Tables 1 and 2. The process for viewing current water levels in representative monitoring bores is outlined in Appendix D.

#### Table 1 - Target water levels

Management unit	Representative	Target water levels		
	monitoring bore	Cease water harvesting water level	Restart water level	
		(m AHD)	(m AHD)	
Coastal	11910186 (L)	2.4	3.5	
	11910894 (L)	2.7	3.7	
	11910191 (L)	2.1	3.2	
Horseshoe Lagoon	11910186 (L)	2.4	3.5	
And Horseshoe Lagoon North	11900233 (L)	2.0	3.2	
	11900218 (L)	3.4	4.6	
	11900186 (L)	2.0	3.2	
Giru	11900234 (L)	2.8	3.0	
Jardine 1	11910933 (L)	5.1	5.6	
	11910894 (L)	2.7	3.7	
Selkirk 1	11900089 (L)	8.8	9.0	
	11900209 (L)	4.4	4.6	
	11911019 (L)	3.9	4.1	
Northcote 1	11910985A (L)	9.4	10.0	
	11910923A (L)	6.5	7.1	
	11910980 (L)	7.1	7.7	
	11910204 (L)	10.6	11.3	
Northcote 2	12000197 (L)	12.5	13.4	
	11910204 (L)	10.6	11.3	
	11911006	11.6	12.4	
	12000196	12.6	13.4	
Mona Park	12000197 (L)	12.5	13.4	
	12000190 (L)	11.7	11.8	
Clare	12000040 (L)	14.2	14.5	
	12000178	17.0	17.3	
Mulgrave 1	12001282 (L)	13.7	14.4	
	12001337	15.7	16.4	
Mulgrave-Woodhouse	11910912	14.9	15.9	
	11910856	19.6	20.6	
	12001278	13.0	14.0	
Haughton-Woodhouse	11900203 (L)	16.6	16.9	
	11900217	18.5	18.7	
	11911027	18.1	18.3	
	11900220	18.4	18.6	
	11911028	16.8	17.0	
Haughton 1	11910881	4.8	5.2	
-	11900203 (L)	16.6	16.9	

Management unit	Representative	Target water levels	Target water levels	
	monitoring bore	Cease water harvesting water level (m AHD)	Restart water level (m AHD)	
Haughton 2	11910904	12.1	12.3	
	11911027	18.1	18.3	

(L) indicates a logger is installed

#### Table 2 – Threshold electrical conductivity levels

Management unit	Representative monitoring bore	Threshold electrical conductivity level (μS/cm)
Horseshoe Lagoon	11910186 (L)	1500
And Horseshoe Lagoon North	11900233 (L)	1500
	11900218 (L)	1500
	11900186 (L)	5000
Giru	11900234 (L)	5000
	11900147	5000

When water levels, and/or EC levels, are nearing thresholds licence holders may be informed. When threshold levels are reached in any one of the representative monitoring bores for a management unit, licence holders in that unit may be given 5 business days' notice to cease pumping under the conditions of the licence.

# 7. Management and accounting

### 7.1 Stock or domestic allowance

The take of stock or domestic water is authorised under section 96 of the *Water Act 2000* (the Act). The take of stock or domestic water is separate from the nominal entitlement associated with the water licence. Water authorised to be taken under a stock or domestic allowance is not subject to these water sharing rules and is therefore not affected by the announced entitlement.

The holder of a metered entitlement may notify the department of the stock or domestic allowance claimed. The 'Stock or domestic allowance notification form' (W2F058) is available on the Business Queensland website at www.business.qld.gov.au.

The volume for the stock or domestic allowance is accounted for as the first volume taken in a water year.

## 7.2 Prescribed activities

The take of water necessary to carry out an activity prescribed under section 25 and Schedule 3 of the Water Regulation is authorised under section 101(1)(a) of the Act. The take of water for prescribed activities is separate from the nominal entitlement associated with the water licence.

Water authorised to be taken under a prescribed activity allowance is not subject to these water sharing rules and is therefore not affected by the announced entitlement.

The holder of a metered entitlement may notify the department of the prescribed activity allowance claimed. The volume for the agreed prescribed activities allowance is accounted for as the first volume taken in a water year, along with any stock or domestic allowance.

## 7.3 Water Accounting

For each water year, water use will be accounted for in the following order (see Figure 1 below):

- 1. Stock or domestic allowance; Prescribed activities (if applicable)
- 2. Water harvesting entitlement (if applicable)
- 3. Announced entitlement
- 4. Seasonal water assignment (subject to approval).

#### Start of water year

End of water year

Stock or domestic allowance; Prescribed activities (if applicable)	Water harvesting entitlement (if applicable)	Announced entitlement	Seasonal water assignment (subject to approval)
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Figure 1: Order in which water use will be accounted during the wate	r year
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Tables 3 and 4 provide examples of annual entitlement calculations in instances where a seasonal water assignment has been granted.

#### Assignor/seller

Nominal entitlement (NE) = 100 ML

Date	Description	Annual entitlement calculation	Annual entitlement (AE)	Available entitlement *
1 July 2019	Announced entitlement (ANE) for 2019– 20 water year is 80%	NE x ANE = AE 100 ML x 80% = 80 ML	80 ML	80 ML
5 September 2019	Metered use to date is 30 ML			50 ML
	Licence holder (assignor/ seller) seasonally assigns 20 ML	-20		30 ML
30 June 2020	Total metered use for the 2019- 20 is 50 ML			10 ML
1 July 2020	Announced entitlement for the 2020-21 water year is 100%	NE x ANE = AE 100 ML x 100% = 100 ML		100 ML

\* Available entitlement is the volume of water that a licensee is authorised to take during the remainder of the current water year (i.e. it is the unused volume of annual entitlement).

#### Assignee/buyer

Nominal entitlement = 100 ML

Date	Description	Annual entitlement calculation	Annual entitlement (AE)	Available entitlement *
1 July 2019	Announced entitlement (ANE) for 2019– 20 water year is 80%	NE x ANE = AE 100 ML x 80% = 80 ML	80 ML	80 ML
5 September 2019	Metered use to date is 40 ML			40 ML
	Licence holder receives (is assigned) a seasonal water assignment of 20 ML	+ 20 ML		60 ML
30 June 2020	Total metered use for 2019-20 water year is 95 ML			5 ML
1 July 2020	Announced entitlement for the 2020-21 water year is 100%	NE x ANE = AE 100 ML x 100% = 100 ML	100 ML	100 ML

Table 4 – Calculating seasonal water assignments for assignee/buyer
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\* Available entitlement is the volume of water that a licensee is authorised to take during the remainder of the current water year (i.e. it is the unused volume of annual entitlement).

# 8. Metering

## 8.1 Installation, maintenance and validation of meters

The take of underground water for purposes other than stock, domestic or prescribed activities is required to be metered. The Burdekin groundwater management area is a declared metered entitlement area under Schedule 11 of the Water Regulation.

Water entitlement holders are required to manage the purchase, installation, maintenance and validation (by an authorised water meter validator) of their own water meter(s).

The Queensland Interim Water Meter Standard for Non-Urban Metering (the standard) applies to all unsupplemented take where an entitlement is required to be metered. Further information may be obtained via the Business Queensland website and searching 'Interim water meter standard'.

A water meter validation certificate is required to be completed by an authorised meter validator (validator). The validator who carries out the validation inspection must, within 20 business days after carrying out the inspection, provide a validation certificate for the meter. The holder or owner must, within 20 business days after being given a validation certificate provide a copy to the department. This certificate validates the meter in accordance with the standard and verifies that the holder now has a metered entitlement with an approved meter installed.

Approved meters are required to be revalidated by a validator in accordance with schedule 11 of the Water Regulation. The water entitlement holder must submit a validation certificate when revalidation is completed.

The taking of water under a metered entitlement other than through works that have an approved meter attached is an offence under the Act.

Further information relating to metering may be accessed from the Business Queensland website.

## 8.2 Faulty meters

Water entitlement holders are required to ensure that their meters are operational and report any faults to the department. If a water entitlement holder becomes aware that their meter is faulty, they must:

- 1. Notify the department in writing within 3 business days.
- 2. Repair or replace the meter within 60 business days of notifying the department. Extensions of time will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Within this 60 business day period, users can continue to take water, providing they manually record the water take using the 'water assessment report form'.
- 3. Once the meter has been repaired or replaced, a validation certificate (completed by a validator) along with the completed water use assessment report form are to be submitted to the department.

A faulty meter, as defined in section 105 of the Water Regulation, is a meter which has one of the following defects:

- cannot be read or cannot record the volume of water taken within acceptable tolerances
- · leaks water or air that affects the flow of water through the meter
- does not have a tamper proof seal

## 8.3 Meter readings

Entitlement holders for unsupplemented water within the Burdekin groundwater management area will be required to provide annual end of water year meter readings to the department. The department will provide the licence holder with a notice when meter readings are due, the notice will include details of what information is required. Failure to comply with a notice to supply a meter read is an offence under the Water Regulation.

Subject to the conditions associated with a water licence and or other relevant factors, the chief executive may request the holder of a metered entitlement to submit additional meter reads to the department. Should additional meter reads be required, the department will contact licence holder/s when meter readings are scheduled with details of what information is required.

Further information relating to metering is available on the Business Queensland website or by contacting the department's Ayr office.

#### 8.3.1 Triggered meter readings—licences with a water harvesting purpose

Additional meter readings may also be required to be provided to the department during the water year. For example, the holder of a licence for the take of underground water with a purpose of 'water harvesting', may be required to provide the department with a meter read in accordance with the licence conditions.

In accordance with your water licence conditions, you are required to take meter reads from all of the works associated with a specific water licence, at the commencement and cessation of taking water under the water licence. An example of when taking water under the water licence may commence or cease can be seen in Figure 2.

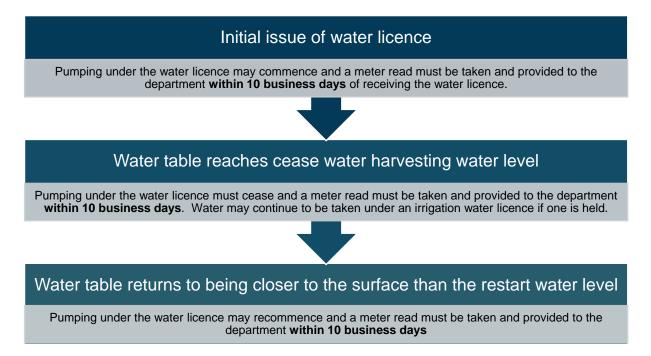


Figure 2 - Meter reading examples

#### **Providing meter reads**

These meter readings should be recorded on the meter reading form that is available on the Business Queensland website. The form must be provided to the department within 10 business days of the take of water either commencing or ceasing.

#### 8.3.2 Meter readings—seasonal water assignments

The assignor/seller is required to supply meter readings with any application for a seasonal water assignment.

The process for the licence holder to supply meter readings is detailed on the application form for seasonal water assignment of a water licence.

## 8.4 Quality check of readings

Meter readings supplied by the licence holder may be subject to a quality check to ensure that the supplied meter reading is accurate.

For example, the supplied meter reading must:

- be equal to or more than the previous reading
- correspond with the sequence of meter readings recorded for that meter by the department.

## 9. Responsibilities

Water entitlement holders:

- Must ensure that the take of water does not exceed the authorised volume of the licence.
- Must ensure that water is taken in accordance with the conditions of the water licence and/or, seasonal water assignment.
- Must be consistent with the water sharing rules and seasonal water assignment rules.

- May apply for a seasonal water assignment, consistent with the seasonal water assignment rules.
- Must install, maintain, arrange validation and read water meters, consistent with the requirements outlined in the Water Regulation.

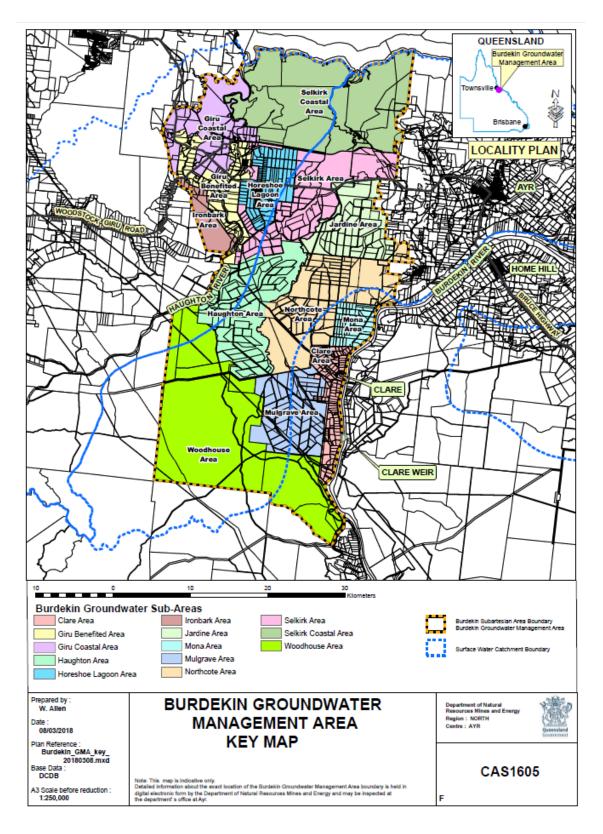
The department:

- Must decide and provide notification of the announced entitlement prior to the commencement of the water year and prior to the commencement of any subsequent variations to the announced entitlement.
- Must decide any applications for seasonal water assignment in accordance with the seasonal water assignment rules.

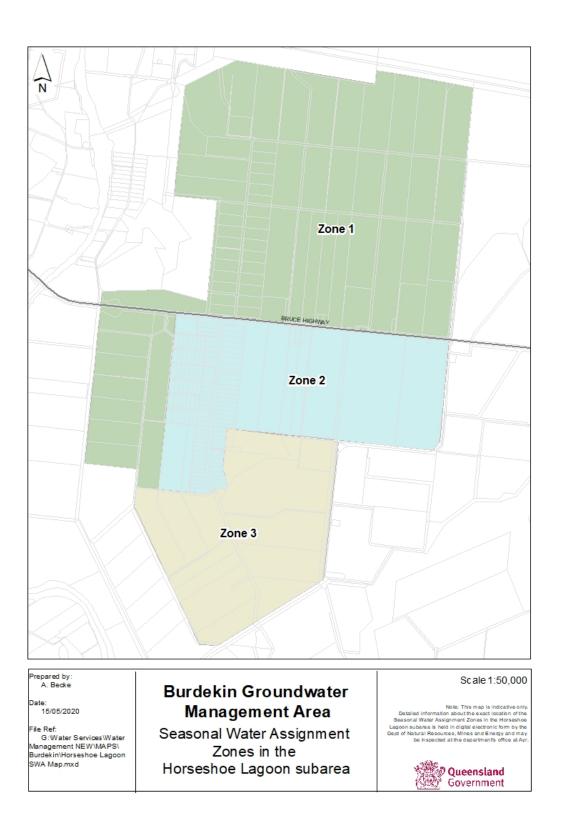
## 10. Contact us

Street Address:	33-43 Little Drysdale St, Ayr QLD 4807
Postal Address:	PO Box 591, Ayr QLD 4807
Telephone:	(07) 4017 0140
Email:	WaterInfoNorth@rdmw.qld.gov.au
Web:	www.business.qld.gov.au

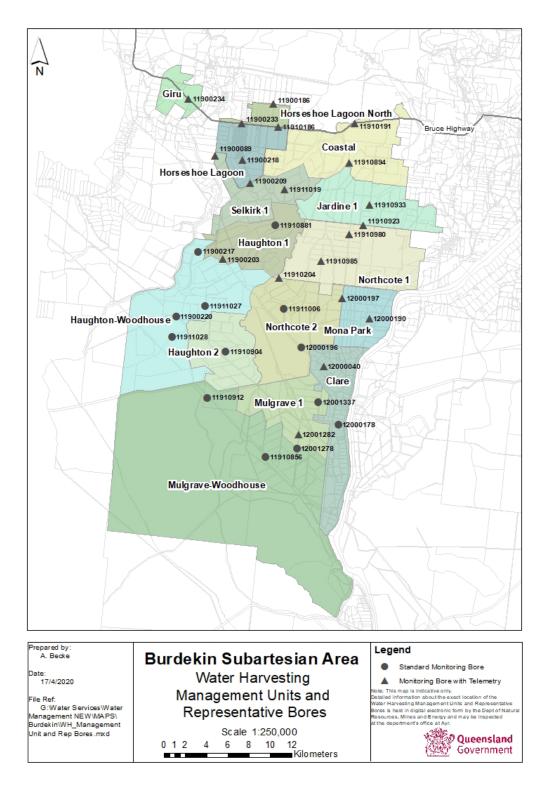
# Appendix A Sub-areas within the Burdekin groundwater management area



# Appendix B Horseshoe Lagoon zone map for seasonal water assignments



# Appendix C Map of water harvesting management units and representative bores



# Appendix D Accessing water level and quality information

The process for viewing current water levels in representative monitoring bores is outlined below.

#### Water monitoring portal (water levels only)

Real time water level measurements can be viewed on the water monitoring portal for representative monitoring bores marked with (L).

The portal can be accessed at the Queensland Government Water Monitoring Information Portal website <u>https://water-monitoring.information.qld.gov.au/</u>.

Bore information can be found under the groundwater data, groundwater stations, Burdekin or Haughton Basin headings using the appropriate registered bore number.

#### Queensland Globe (water level and water quality)

Water level and water quality (electrical conductivity) data can be viewed using the Queensland Globe.

The Queensland Globe is an online interactive tool that turns physical, geographical and spatial data about a particular location into map format. The Queensland Globe allows you to view and explore Queensland spatial data and imagery. It can be accessed through the Business Queensland website by searching 'Queensland Globe'.

Groundwater monitoring information can be found in the Underground Water Mgmt (except GABORA) topic.

#### The department

Water level measurements for all registered monitoring bores can also be obtained by contacting the department's Ayr office.

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