

# Distribution Operations Licence

## Water Act 2000



### Name of licence

Lower Burdekin Distribution Operations Licence

### Holder

Lower Burdekin Water Board

### Water plan

The licence relates to the Water Plan (Burdekin Basin) 2007.

### Water infrastructure

The water infrastructure to which the licence relates is detailed in attachment 1.

### Authority to take and interfere with the flow of water

The licence holder is authorised to take water or interfere with the flow of water to the extent necessary to distribute water using the infrastructure to which the licence relates.

### Authority to use watercourses to distribute water

The licence holder is authorised to use the watercourses within Burdekin Zone A, as defined in the Water Plan (Burdekin Basin) 2007, for the distribution of supplemented water, including sections of tributaries where supplemented water is accessible.

### Conditions

#### 1. Operating and supply arrangements

1.1. The licence holder must operate the water infrastructure and supply water in accordance with an approved operations manual made under this licence.

#### 2. Environmental management requirements

2.1. The licence holder must operate in accordance with the environmental management rules set out in attachment 2.

#### 3. Metering

3.1. The licence holder must meter the taking of water under all water allocations and seasonal water assignments to which the holder distributes water.

#### 4. Monitoring and reporting requirements

4.1. The licence holder must carry out and report on the monitoring requirements as set out in attachment 3.

4.2. The licence holder must provide any monitoring data required under 3.1 to the chief executive within a stated time upon request.

4.3. The licence holder must ensure that the monitoring, including the measurement, collection, analysis and storage of data, is consistent with the Water Monitoring Data Collection Standards<sup>1</sup>.

4.4. The licence holder must ensure that the transfer of data and reporting are consistent with the Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standards<sup>2</sup>.

#### 5. Other conditions

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<sup>1</sup> The Water Monitoring Data Collection Standards can be inspected at any of the department's offices or accessed online at: <[www.dnrm.qld.gov.au](http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au)>

<sup>2</sup> The Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standards can be inspected at any of the department's offices or accessed online at: <[www.dnrm.qld.gov.au](http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au)>

- 5.1. The operating and supply arrangements and the monitoring required under this licence do not apply in situations where implementing the rules or meeting the requirements would be unsafe to a person or persons. In these circumstances the licence holder must comply with the operational or emergency reporting requirements prescribed in part 2 of attachment 3.
- 5.2. The licence holder may at any time submit an interim program or an amendment to an existing program to the chief executive for approval in accordance with attachment 4, if the holder proposes to operate in a way that does not meet the requirements of this licence.
- 5.3. Where there is conflict between the requirements of this licence and an approved program, the program prevails for the time it is in place.

**Commencement of licence**

The licence took effect on 14 December 2009

**Granted on 14 December 2009**

**Amended under section 1259 of the *Water Act 2000* on 11 May 2017**

**SIGNED**

**Leanne Barbeler  
A/Executive Director, Water Policy**

# Attachment 1 Infrastructure details for Lower Burdekin Distribution Operations Licence

**Table 1 – Earth dams**

Description of water infrastructure	
Earth dam designed to create a pumping pool to supply Warrens Gully pump station	Temporary structures constructed using in situ riverine material which is subject to being washed away during a flood event. These works are associated with and necessary for the taking and interfering with water under the authority of the distribution operations licence.
Earth dam designed to create a pumping pool to supply McDowells* pump station	
Earth dam designed to create a pumping pool to supply Down River* pump station	
Earth dam designed to create a pumping pool to supply The Rocks* pump station	
Earth dam upstream of the Burdekin Bridge designed to create a pumping pool to supply Plantation Creek* pump station	
Earth dam downstream of the Burdekin River anabranh junction with the Burdekin River, designed to divert water towards Down River* pump station and to divert water into the Burdekin River anabranh to supply Rita Island* pump station	
Earth dam in the Burdekin River anabranh downstream of Seaforth Creek, designed to create a pumping pool to supply Rita Island* pump station	

\*These works are owned and operated by the North & South Burdekin Water Boards.

**Table 2 – Diversion channels—Burdekin River—AMTD 9.0 km**

Description of water infrastructure	
Channel created to divert water to earth dam in the Burdekin River anabranh downstream of Seaforth Creek.	Temporary structure constructed using local or imported sand or clean rock fill which is subject to being washed away during a flood event. The works are associated with and necessary for the taking and interfering with water under the authority of the Distribution Operations Licence.

# Attachment 2 Environmental management rules

## 1 Minimum stream flow requirements

- (1) The licence holder must ensure that there is a minimum stream flow at Node 1—equal to the cumulative daily flows recorded at Node A and Node B, up to 360 ML/day.
- (2) In meeting the requirements of subsection (1), the licence holder must collaborate with the resource operations licence holder for the Burdekin Haughton Water Supply Scheme on appropriate release strategies for the Lower Burdekin.
- (3) In this section—

**Node 1**, is defined in the Water Plan (Burdekin Basin) 2007, but can be considered as the mouth of the Burdekin River at AMTD 6.0 km.

**Node A**, is the Sellheim GS (120002C) on the Burdekin River (AMTD 299.0 km).

**Node B**, is the Red Hill Creek GS (120219A) on the Bowen River (AMTD 36.8 km).

# Attachment 3 Licence holder monitoring and reporting

## Part 1 Monitoring requirements

### Division 1 Water quantity

#### 1 Water taken by water users

The licence holder must record the volume of water taken by each water user for each zone as follows—

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

### Division 2 Impact of infrastructure operation on natural ecosystems

#### 2 Bank condition

- (1) The licence holder must inspect banks for evidence of collapse and/or erosion identified within ponded areas of each storage listed in attachment 1 of this licence and downstream reaches, following instances of—
  - (a) rapid water level changes; or
  - (b) large flows through storage; or
  - (c) other occasions when collapse and/or erosion of banks may be likely.
- (2) For subsection (1), downstream of the relevant infrastructure means the distance of influence of infrastructure operations.
- (3) Any instances of bank slumping or erosion observed must be investigated to determine if the instability was associated with the nature or operation of the infrastructure.

#### 3 Fish stranding

The licence holder must record and assess reported instances of fish stranding in watercourses and ponded areas associated with the operation of the licence holder's infrastructure as listed in attachment 1 of this licence to determine if any instance is associated with the operation of that infrastructure.

## Division 3 Data transfer

### 4 Data transfer to resource operations licence holder

Upon request by the resource operations licence holder for the Burdekin Haughton Water Supply Scheme, the licence holder must transfer all data measured, collected and recorded—

- (a) that is reasonably required by the resource operations licence holder to comply with the resource operations licence; and
- (b) within 15 business days of a request being made, or another timeframe if mutually agreed.

## Part 2 Reporting requirements

### 5 Reporting requirements

The licence holder must provide operational and emergency reports.

### 6 Operational or emergency reporting<sup>3</sup>

- (1) The licence holder must notify the chief executive—
  - (a) within one business day of becoming aware of any of the following operational incidents—
    - (i) non-compliance by the licence holder with the operating and supply arrangements in the approved operations manual for this licence;
    - (ii) instances of fish stranding or bank slumping downstream of the water infrastructure to which this licence relates;
  - (b) of circumstances and any alternate arrangements where water is unable to be supplied; and
  - (c) of an emergency where, as a result of the emergency, the licence holder cannot comply with the conditions of this licence.
- (2) Further to any notification under subsection (1)(a), the licence holder must provide a report to the chief executive which includes details of—
  - (a) the incident or emergency;
  - (b) conditions under which the incident or emergency occurred;
  - (c) any responses or activities carried out as a result of the incident or emergency; and
  - (d) in relation to an emergency only—any requirements under this licence that the licence holder is either permanently or temporarily unable to comply with due to the emergency.
- (3) A report provided under subsection (2) that relates to an operational incident must be provided to the chief executive within five business days of notification of the incident.

### 7 Notification of resource operations licence holder

The licence holder must notify the resource operations licence holder for the Burdekin Haughton Water Supply Scheme upon discovery of an emergency.

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<sup>3</sup> This does not preclude requirements for dam safety under the *Water Act 2000* and any other applicable legislation.

# Attachment 4 Establishing an interim program

## 1 Interim program

- (1) An interim program or amendment to an existing program must include—
  - (a) a timetable and interim arrangements to be used; and
  - (b) a justification for how the interim arrangements will achieve an equivalent outcome or provide a pathway to compliance with the licence.
- (2) Following approval of a program by the chief executive, the licence holder must—
  - (a) publish details of the approved program on their website; and
  - (b) operate in accordance with the approved program.