

# Cooper Creek

## Resource Operations Plan

November 2013

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## Foreword

It is a great pleasure to note that Cooper Creek Resource Operations Plan 2013 has been finalised following a period of consultation and review that began with the release of the draft plan on 28 September 2012.

The resource operations plan supports the Queensland Government four pillar economy by making water available for future development and enabling water licences to be relocated within certain areas in the catchment. The resource operations plan implements requirements of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011 by specifying rules for sustainably managing surface water resources in the plan area. The plan provides a process for releasing up to 2200 megalitres of unallocated water to provide for future growth and economic opportunities. An Indigenous reserve of 200 megalitres is also available for those projects which meet the aims of the reserve, to help Aboriginal people achieve their economic and social aspirations. The resource operations plan supports additional small-scale irrigation opportunities which is enabled by the permanent and seasonal transfer of water licences located on the Longreach Waterhole and the permanent transfer of irrigation licences currently located on the Currareva Waterhole.

The plan provides for the management of overland flow water as well as water in a watercourse, lake or spring, and sets out monitoring and reporting requirements for the plan area.

Existing water licences have been amended under the plan provisions, to ensure they are consistent with the water resource plan. The plan contains the terms and conditions for existing water licences. These amendments will clarify entitlements and encourage water use efficiency.

Community participation throughout the Cooper Creek planning process has been important in providing information and views on a wide range of relevant issues. I would like to thank the many groups and individuals who participated in the development of this plan.

Dr Brett Heyward

**Director-General**

Department of Natural Resources and Mines

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# Chapter 1 Preliminary

## 1 Short title

- (1) This resource operations plan may be cited as the Cooper Creek Resource Operations Plan 2013<sup>1</sup>.
- (2) Reference in this document to ‘this plan’ means the Cooper Creek Resource Operations Plan 2013.

## 2 Commencement of the resource operations plan

This plan commences on the first business day after it is notified in the Queensland Government Gazette.

## 3 Purpose of the plan

This plan implements the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011.

## 4 Interpretation of words in this plan

The dictionary in Attachment 1 defines particular words used in this plan

## 5 Plan area

This plan applies to the area shown as the plan area on the map in Attachment 2.

## 6 Relocation zones

- (1) Each of the relocation zones shown on the map in Attachment 3 is a relocation zone for this plan.
- (2) Each relocation zone includes—
  - (a) each part of a watercourse, lake or spring that lies within the relocation zone as specified in Table 1 of Attachment 3; and
  - (b) those sections of tributaries where there is access to flow or pondage from a watercourse or lake within the relocation zone.

## 7 Information about areas

- (1) The exact location of the boundaries of the plan area and relocation zones is held in digital electronic form by the department.
- (2) The information held in digital electronic form can be reduced or enlarged to show the details of the boundaries<sup>2</sup>.

## 8 Water to which this plan applies

- (1) This plan applies to the following water in the plan area<sup>3</sup>—
  - (a) water in a watercourse or lake;
  - (b) water in springs not connected to—
    - (i) artesian water; or
    - (ii) subartesian water connected to artesian water;

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<sup>1</sup> Some section numbers have been deliberately left blank. This will facilitate any plan amendments that may occur without the need for the whole plan to be renumbered

<sup>2</sup> The boundaries in digital electronic form may be inspected at any of the department’s offices.

<sup>3</sup> Subartesian water that is hydraulically linked to water in a watercourse, lake or spring is declared to be water in the watercourse under section 9 of Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011.

- (c) overland flow water, other than water in springs connected to—
  - (i) artesian water; or
  - (ii) subartesian water connected to artesian water.

## 9 Sustainable management of water

This plan, in implementing the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011, provides for the sustainable management of water by—

- (1) allowing for the allocation and use of water and contributing to the fair, orderly and efficient allocation of water to meet community needs including economic development in accordance with ecologically sustainable development principles, by—
  - (a) stating a process for dealing with unallocated water;
  - (b) stating a process for dealing with applications and granting of authorisations for the taking of, and interfering with, water; and
  - (c) establishing transferable water licences in specific zones.
- (2) protecting the biological diversity and health of natural ecosystems that are maintained by the connectivity of water, watercourses, lakes, springs and aquifers, maintaining the quality of naturally occurring water and other resources, and contributing to the protection of and, where practicable, minimising the degradation of water, watercourses, lakes, springs, aquifers, natural ecosystems and other resources by—
  - (a) considering environmental requirements when issuing unallocated water and other entitlements;
  - (b) detailing arrangements for the collection and assessment of data by the chief executive; and
  - (c) regulating overland flow water.
- (3) contributing to the recognition of interests of Aboriginal people and their connection with the landscape in water planning by stating a process for dealing with unallocated water from the Indigenous reserve.
- (4) contributing to improving the confidence of entitlement holders regarding the availability and security of water entitlements by—
  - (a) stating a process for dealing with unallocated water;
  - (b) regulating the use of overland flow water;
  - (c) amending existing water licences to clarify entitlements;
  - (d) detailing arrangements for the collection and assessment of data by the chief executive relating to Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011 outcomes; and
  - (e) detailing stated amendments under section 106(b) of the *Water Act 2000* that can be made to this plan.
- (5) contributing to increasing community understanding and participation in the sustainable management of water by—
  - (a) providing opportunities for community participation and submissions as part of this plan's development; and
  - (b) clearly specifying the rules and arrangements for the allocation and management of water in the plan area.
- (6) aligning, as far as practicable, with other statutory frameworks covering the plan area.

**10 Addressing water resource plan outcomes**

- (1) This plan addresses Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011 outcomes by—
  - (a) specifying processes, rules and limits, the application of which are consistent with the objectives specified in the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011; and
  - (b) providing monitoring and reporting arrangements to assist in the ongoing assessment of whether water management arrangements in the plan area will contribute to the achievement of outcomes in the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011.
- (2) Table 1 in Attachment 5 lists the outcomes of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011 and how the rules of this plan are linked to those outcomes.

**11 Not used<sup>4</sup>**

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<sup>4</sup> Refer to footnote for section 1.

## Chapter 2 Unallocated water

### 12 Scope of Chapter 2

This chapter states the process for dealing with unallocated water mentioned in section 16 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011.

### 13 Record of volume of unallocated water

- (1) The chief executive may establish a register for recording of the volume of unallocated water that is dealt with.
- (2) This register must be updated after the granting of a water entitlement.

## Part 1 Granting unallocated water from reserves

### Division 1 General

#### 14 Process for granting unallocated water

- (1) The process for granting unallocated water is the process prescribed in Part 2, Division 1C of the Water Regulation 2002.
- (2) In granting unallocated water the chief executive must—
  - (a) have regard to:
    - (i) the matters listed in section 19 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011; and
    - (ii) provisions of any wild river declaration covering the plan area
  - (b) grant any unallocated water as a water licence.

### Division 2 Terms and conditions for a water licence

#### 15 Scope of Division 2

This division details terms and conditions that the chief executive must include on licences to take water granted under this chapter.

#### 16 Water licences for taking water from a watercourse, lake or spring

The granting of a water licence from the unallocated water reserves to take water from a watercourse, lake or spring must be in accordance with Part 4 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011.

#### 17 Water licences for taking overland flow water

- (1) A water licence granted from the unallocated water reserves for taking overland flow water—
  - (a) must state the purpose for which water may be taken under the licence;
  - (b) must state at least one of the following—
    - (i) the maximum stored volume;
    - (ii) the maximum rate at which the water may be taken under the licence;
    - (iii) the daily volumetric limit for the licence;
    - (iv) the annual volumetric limit for the licence;

- (v) the mean annual volume for the licence.
- (2) The chief executive may impose conditions in addition to those mentioned above including—
  - (a) a limit on the amount of water that can be taken in a period; and
  - (b) a limit on the volume that can be stored at any time.
- (3) Subsection (2) does not limit the conditions which the chief executive may impose.

**18 Additional conditions for water licences granted from the Indigenous reserve**

- (1) This section applies to water licences granted from the Indigenous reserve.
- (2) Water licences must include a condition to the effect that the taking of water under the licence may be seasonally assigned in accordance with the seasonal water assignment rules specified in the resource operations plan.
- (3) If the water licence is granted for a project, the water licence must include a condition to the effect that—
  - (a) the volume of water is only granted for the life of the project, and
    - (i) on completion of the project, the volume of water returns to the Indigenous reserve, or
    - (ii) when the volume of water is no longer needed—the volume of water returns to the Indigenous reserve.

**19 Additional condition for water licences granted from the strategic reserve**

- (1) This section applies to water licences granted from the strategic reserve.
- (2) Water licences must include a condition to the effect that—
  - (a) the volume of water granted is only granted for the life of the project, and
  - (b) that on completion of the project, the volume of water returns to the strategic reserve.

## Chapter 3 Granting and amending authorisations

### 20 Scope of chapter 3

This chapter gives effect to Chapter 4, Part 3, section 20 and Part 4, sections 23, 31 and 32 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011.

### 21 Granting water licences to replace authorities (s. 20 Water Resource Plan)

- (1) This section sets out the process for granting water licences to replace existing water authorisations in accordance with section 212 of the *Water Act 2000*.
- (2) Within 120 business days of the commencement of this plan, the chief executive must grant each water licence in accordance with Attachment 4, Table 1, columns 1 to 2 of this plan.

### 22 Amending existing water licences (s. 23, s. 31 and s. 32 Water Resource Plan)

- (1) This section sets out the process for amending existing water licences in accordance with section 217 of the *Water Act 2000*.
- (2) Within 120 business days after the commencement of this plan, the chief executive must amend each water licence in accordance with Attachment 4, Table 2, columns 1 to 7 of this plan.

### 23 Amending water licences with the purpose of stock and/or domestic use

- (1) This section sets out the process for amending existing water licences with the purpose of stock and/or domestic supply in accordance with section 217 of the *Water Act 2000*.
- (2) Within 120 business days after the commencement of this plan, the chief executive must amend each water licence in accordance with Attachment 4, Table 4, columns 1 to 3 of this plan.

# Chapter 4 Dealing with water licence applications

## Part 1 General provisions

### 24 Water licence applications to which this chapter applies

- (1) This chapter applies to an application for a water licence made under section 206 of the *Water Act 2000* if granting the application would have one or more of the following effects on water to which this plan applies—
  - (a) increase the nominal entitlement for taking water;
  - (b) increase the daily volumetric limit for taking water;
  - (c) increase the maximum rate at which water may be taken;
  - (d) transfer (relocate) of a water licence to other land;
  - (e) change a condition, including a flow condition under which the water may be taken; or
  - (f) amend a purpose of a water licence.
- (2) This chapter applies even if the application was made before the commencement of this plan.
- (3) This chapter does not apply to—
  - (a) an application made under sections 221<sup>5</sup>, 224<sup>6</sup>, 225<sup>7</sup>, or 229<sup>8</sup> of the *Water Act 2000*;
  - (b) an application made in accordance with Chapter 2 of this plan;
  - (c) an application made to interfere with water by artificially improving or changing the course of a watercourse or lake or spring; or
  - (d) an application made to interfere with, or increase the interference with, water in a watercourse, lake or spring by impounding the flow of water in accordance with the provisions stated in Part 5 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011.

### 25 Applications to be refused

The chief executive must refuse an application to which this chapter applies unless this chapter explicitly provides for accepting or dealing with the application.

### 26 Application to increase the maximum rate at which water may be taken

- (1) This section applies to an application to amend an existing water licence to increase the maximum rate at which water may be taken.
- (2) The chief executive may grant the application if—
  - (a) there is an existing development permit associated with the water licence; and
  - (b) the maximum rate specified on the existing water licence is less than—
    - (i) where an existing development permit associated with the water licence states a pump size mentioned in schedule 8 column 1 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011—
      - (A) for an axial flow pump—the rate stated in schedule 8, column 4 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011, or

<sup>5</sup> Reinstating an expired water licence

<sup>6</sup> Amalgamating a water licence

<sup>7</sup> Subdividing a water licence

<sup>8</sup> Effect of disposal of part of land to which a water licence to take water attaches

- (B) for another pump type—the rate stated in schedule 8, column 2 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011; or
- (ii) where the existing development permit associated with the water licence states a pump size other than a pump size mentioned in schedule 8, column 1 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011—
  - (A) for an axial flow pump—the rate decided by the chief executive having regard to the rates stated for similar pump sizes in schedule 8, column 4 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011, or
  - (B) for another pump type—the rate stated in schedule 8, column 2 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011.
- (c) where schedule 8 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011 does not apply—the works authorised by an existing development permit associated with the water licence have the capacity to take water at a rate greater than the maximum rate specified on the existing water licence.

## 27 Application to increase the daily volumetric limit

- (1) This section applies to an application to amend an existing water licence to increase the daily volumetric limit.
- (2) The chief executive may grant the application if—
  - (a) there is an existing development permit associated with water licence; and
  - (b) the daily volumetric limit specified on the existing water licence is less than—
    - (i) where an existing development permit associated with the water licence states a pump size mentioned in schedule 8, column 1 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011—
      - (A) for an axial flow pump—the daily volumetric limit stated in schedule 8, column 5 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011; or
      - (B) for another pump type—the daily volumetric limit stated in schedule 8, column 3 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011; or
    - (ii) where an existing development permit associated with the water licence states a pump size other than a pump size mentioned in schedule 8, column 1 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011—
      - (A) for an axial flow pump—the daily volumetric limit decided by the chief executive having regard to the limits stated for similar pump sizes in schedule 8, column 5 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011; or
      - (B) for another pump type—the daily volumetric limit decided by the chief executive having regard to the limits stated for similar pump sizes in schedule 8, column 3 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011.
  - (c) where schedule 8 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011 does not apply—the works authorised by an existing development permit associated with the water licence have the capacity to take water at a rate greater than the daily volumetric limit specified on the existing water licence.

**28 Application to amend the purpose of a water licence**

- (1) This section applies to an application to amend an existing water licence to add or change a purpose<sup>9</sup>.
- (2) The chief executive may grant the application only if the existing licence specifies—
  - (a) a maximum rate, a daily volumetric limit and a nominal entitlement; or
  - (b) for a water licence taking overland flow, at least one of the terms listed in section 17(1)(b) of this plan.

**29 Application to change a condition**

- (1) This section applies to an application to amend an existing water licence to change a condition.
- (2) An application is not to be granted if the proposed change is inconsistent with sections 18 and 19 of this plan<sup>10</sup>.
- (3) The chief executive may grant the application only if the proposed change would not result in an increase in the average annual volume of water allowed to be taken in the plan area.

## Part 2 **Transfer (relocation) of water licences to other land**

**30 Scope of Part 2**

This part applies to an application to transfer all or part of a water licence as provided for under section 223 of the *Water Act 2000* and Division 3A of the *Water Regulation 2002*.

**31 Dealing with an application to transfer a water licence**

The chief executive may only deal with the application if the application is to transfer all or part of the nominal entitlement of an original water licence that is—

- (a) located in the Longreach Waterhole Relocation Zone; or
- (b) located in the Cooper Zone and with a purpose of irrigation.

**32 Water licence transfer rules**

- (1) All or part of an original licence may be transferred where—
  - (a) the transfer would result in—
    - (i) for a licence mentioned in section 31(a) —
      - (A) no change to any flow condition under which water may be taken for the original licence;
      - (B) a change to a location that remains within the Longreach Waterhole Relocation Zone;
    - (ii) for a licence mentioned in section 31(b) —
      - (A) no reduction to the modelled average annual and median annual flows at node 3 for the simulation period relative to such modelled flows resulting from full use of the original water licence;

<sup>9</sup> An application is not to be granted if the proposed change is prohibited under section 27 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011.

<sup>10</sup> An application is not to be granted if the proposed change is inconsistent with sections 24, 31, and 32 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011.

- (B) no increase in modelled total number of days of no flow and low flow at node 3 for the simulation period resulting from full use of the original water licence;
  - (C) the additional nominal entitlement not exceeding that specified for a zone in Table 1;
- (b) for a licence mentioned in section 31(b), the applicant provides the chief executive with information demonstrating that the proposed transfer, with necessary flow conditions, is consistent with the requirements of subsections (1)(a)(ii)(A) and (1)(a)(ii)(B); and
  - (c) the original licence and any new licence are both metered entitlements.
- (2) Where part of an original licence is to be transferred—
- (a) the daily volumetric limit for the new licence must be determined based on the proportion of the nominal entitlement proposed to be transferred;
  - (b) for the remaining part of the original water licence that is not transferred—the original licence must be amended to reflect the change in proportion of the daily volumetric limit and nominal entitlement as a result of the creation of the new licence.
- (3) For this section—
- (a) Full use of a water licence means taking up to the nominal entitlement for the licence in accordance with terms and conditions of the licence.
  - (b) No flow means a modelled flow of zero megalitres per day;
  - (c) Low flow means a modelled flow of less than 100 megalitres per day.

### 33 Conditions for a water licence transfer

- (1) If the chief executive approves an application to which this part applies, the chief executive must—
- (a) for an original licence which specifies a 'no store' condition—amend the 'no store' condition on the original water licence if this becomes inconsistent with the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011 as a result of a transfer;
  - (b) for any new licence with a purpose of 'irrigation' as a result of a transfer—include a 'no store' condition on the new licence, in accordance with section 32 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011;
  - (c) for the transfer of all or part of an original licence mentioned in section 31(b), impose flow conditions on the new licences to—
    - (i) ensure the use of the new licence will be consistent with the requirements of subsections 32(1)(a)(ii)(A) and 32(1)(a)(ii)(B);
    - (ii) prevent the taking of low flows and prevent impacts on existing entitlements<sup>11</sup>.

**Table 1 Additional nominal entitlement for a relocation zone**

Zone	Additional nominal entitlement (ML)
Thomson (including Longreach Waterhole)	4500
Lower Barcoo	1500
Upper Barcoo	1000
Alice	1000
Torrens Tower Hill	2000

<sup>11</sup> Consistent with outcomes stated in sections 12 and 13 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011.

## Part 3 Seasonal water assignment under water licence

### 34 Scope of Part 3

This part provides for the seasonal water assignment of water licences that authorise taking of water within the Longreach Waterhole relocation zone (see Attachment 3).

### 35 Seasonal water assignment rules

- (1) The licensee of a water licence mentioned in section 34 of this plan may apply for a seasonal water assignment only where the water licence—
  - (a) states the elements of a water licence to take unsupplemented surface water as required under section 23 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011; and
  - (b) is a metered entitlement in accordance with the Water Regulation 2002.
- (2) The chief executive may approve a seasonal water assignment of all or part of the water that may be taken under a water licence only where—
  - (a) the seasonal water assignment will be for taking water from a location within the Longreach Waterhole relocation zone;
  - (b) the volume of the seasonal water assignment is no greater than the unused portion of nominal entitlement that may be taken under the authority of the water licence;
  - (c) the daily volumetric limit for the seasonal water assignment is in proportion to the share of the unused nominal entitlement being seasonally assigned;
  - (d) the daily volumetric limit for the water licence being seasonally assigned is reduced in proportion to the share of the unused nominal entitlement not being seasonally assigned;
  - (e) for water licences that are subject to a flow condition, the flow condition under which water may be taken under seasonal water assignment is the same as the flow condition for the water licence being seasonally assigned.
- (3) The chief executive must apply conditions to the seasonal water assignment consistent with section 33 of this plan.
- (4) The chief executive may apply additional conditions to the seasonal water assignment having regard to the conditions on the original water licence.

## Part 4 Granting water licences for taking overland flow

### 36 Scope of Part 4

For granting a water licence under section 212 of the *Water Act 2000*, this part states—

- (a) the process for granting or amending a water licence to replace the authority under section 37(3) of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011;
- (b) matters the chief executive must consider;
- (c) conditions the chief executive must include on the licence; and
- (d) requirements for certified reports for an overland flow storage.

### 37 Granting or amending a water licence in accordance with s. 38 of the water resource plan

- (1) The chief executive may at any time—

- (a) grant a water licence to replace an existing authorisation for taking overland flow water; or
  - (b) amend a licence granted under subsection 1(a).
- (2) Before granting or amending a water licence under subsection 1, the chief executive must issue a notice to the owner of the land—
- (a) requesting that the owner of the land clearly identify the existing works that take overland flow water;
  - (b) requesting additional information including, but not limited to, the pattern of water use from the works based on the water requirements and purpose for which the water is used; and
  - (c) stating that the chief executive intends to grant or amend a water licence for taking overland flow water using the works.
- (3) A notice under subsection (2) may also require the owner of the land to provide, in accordance with section 38 of this plan, a certified report about the take of overland flow water using the works.
- (4) In making a decision about granting or amending a licence under subsection 1, the chief executive must consider—
- (a) any relevant information available to the chief executive about the works;
  - (b) any certified report about the works; and
  - (c) any other matters the chief executive considers relevant.

### **38 Certified reports for overland flow works**

- (1) For the purpose of this part, a certified report is a report prepared in accordance with the standards and requirements set out in a notice provided by the chief executive.
- (2) The purpose of the certified report is to provide the chief executive with an accurate representation of—
  - (a) the infrastructure to which the report relates;
  - (b) the operation of the infrastructure; and
  - (c) the ability of the infrastructure to take overland flow water.

### **39 Contents and conditions for a water licence to take overland flow water**

A water licence granted for the take of overland flow water must comply with section 17 of this plan.

### **40 Not used<sup>12</sup>**

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<sup>12</sup> Refer to footnote for section 1.

## Chapter 5 Monitoring and reporting

### 41 Water monitoring

- (1) The chief executive must measure or collect, and keep publicly available records of—
  - (a) water quantity; and
  - (b) water taken.
- (2) The chief executive may collect and keep publicly available information on—
  - (a) future consumptive demands for water; and
  - (b) water use efficiency.
- (3) The chief executive may use information collected to support water resource assessment and reporting.

### 42 Natural ecosystems monitoring

The chief executive may collect and keep publicly available information on—

- (1) ecological assets that are linked to the ecological outcomes of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011; and
- (2) the critical water requirements of ecological assets in the plan area, including the provision of these requirements under the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011.

### 43 Assessment

- (1) The chief executive must assess the data measured, collected and recorded under sections 41 and 42 of this plan against the outcomes specified in the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011.
- (2) The chief executive's assessment may be used in assisting the Minister to prepare a report under section 43 of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011.
- (3) The chief executive may also use data measured, collected and recorded under other monitoring programs<sup>13</sup> within the plan area to meet the requirements of this chapter.

### 44 Not used<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> For example, the Lake Eyre Basin Rivers Assessment, Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement 2000

<sup>14</sup> Refer to footnote for section 1.

## Chapter 6 Amendments to the resource operations plan

### Part 1 General

#### 45 Scope of Chapter 6

This chapter states the types of amendments that may be made to this plan under the *Water Act 2000* that—

- (a) do not require public notification—Part 2; and
- (b) do require public notification—Part 3.

#### 46 Commencement of amendments under Part 2 and Part 3

An amendment to this plan commences—

- (a) where a date is specified in the Queensland Government Gazette—on the date specified; or
- (b) where no date is specified in the Queensland Government Gazette—on the date the Gazette is first published.

### Part 2 Amendments not requiring public notification

#### 47 Application of Part 2

This part describes those amendments that may be made to this plan under section 106(b) of the *Water Act 2000*.

#### 48 Amendment necessary to implement an amendment to the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011

An amendment that is necessary to implement an amendment to the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011 made under section 57(b) of the *Water Act 2000* may be made to this plan.

#### 49 Amendment to monitoring requirements

An amendment that provides for improved or more efficient monitoring for assessing the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011 outcomes may be made to this plan.

#### 50 Not used<sup>15</sup>

### Part 3 Amendments requiring public notification

#### 51 Amendments under the *Water Act 2000*

- (1) The chief executive may amend this plan under section 105(5) of the *Water Act 2000* to include additional requirements for water management.

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<sup>15</sup> Refer to footnote for section 1.

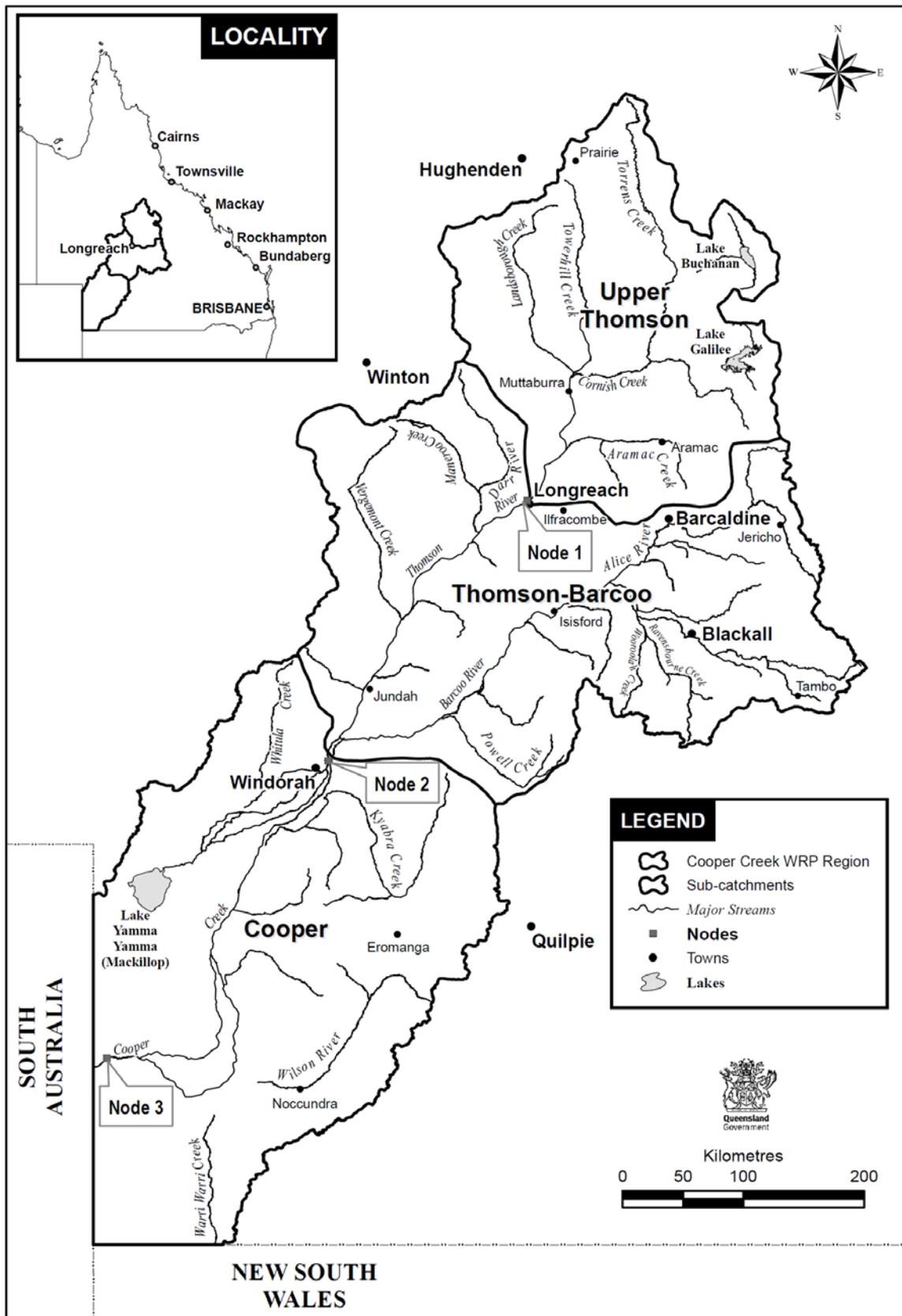
- (2) Examples of amendments that may occur under section 105(5) of the *Water Act 2000* may include, but are not limited to—
  - (a) The addition of any new relocation zones;
  - (b) Changes to the extent of an existing relocation zone; or
  - (c) Changes to transfer rules.

52 Not used

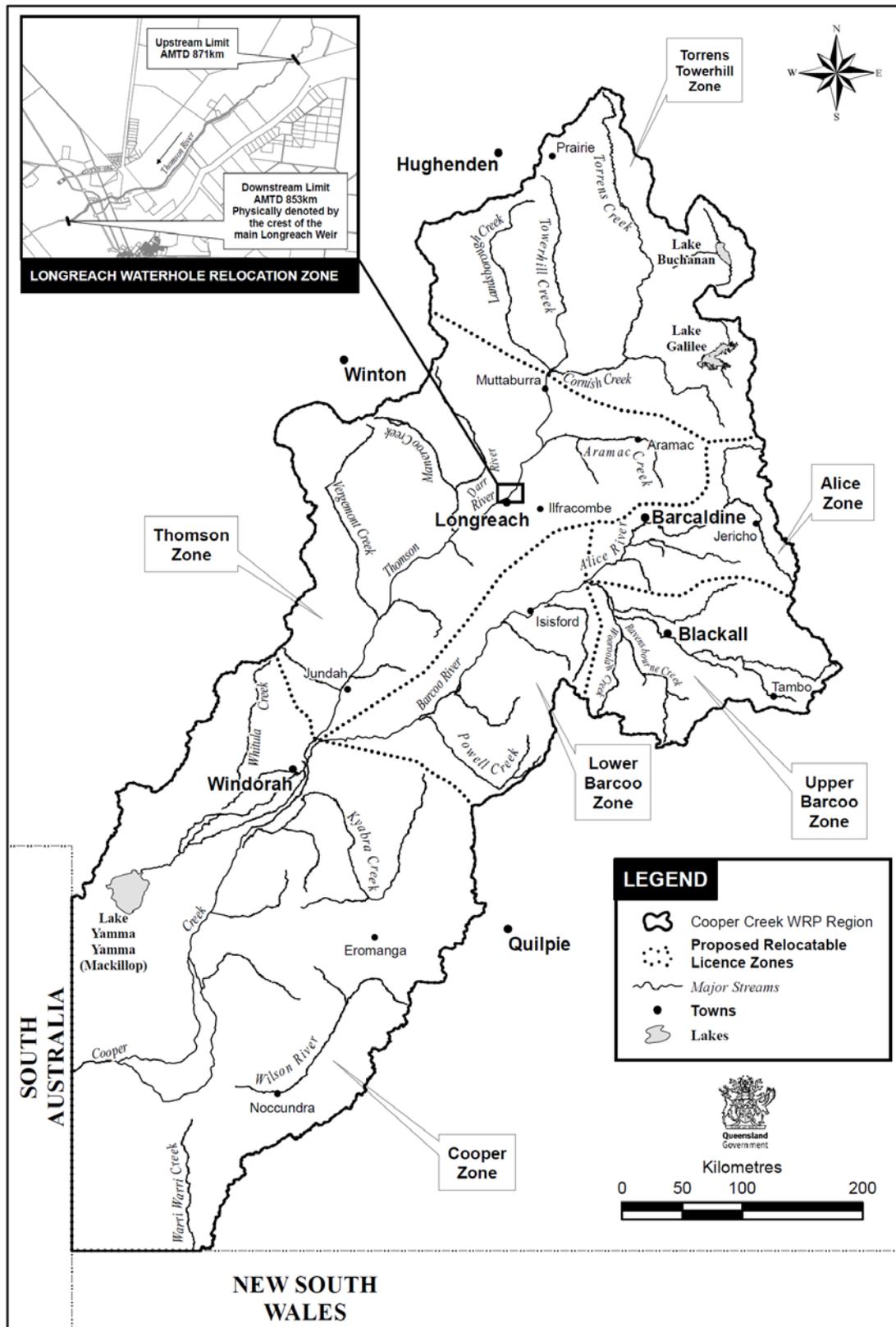
## Attachment 1 Dictionary

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Additional nominal entitlement volume	The volume available in a zone at the time this plan commences as detailed in Chapter 4 Part 2 Table 1
l/sec	Litres per second
Maximum stored volume	The maximum volume of water able to be stored in overland flow works
Mean annual volume	The volume of water able to be taken expressed as a long term average over a period of climatic record
Megalitre (ML)	A megalitre means 1 million litres (see Schedule 4 of the <i>Water Act 2000</i> )
ML/day	Megalitres per day
Relocation zone	An area specified in the resource operations plan which defines the extent to which relocation rules apply
Water year	The period from 1 July to 30 June

# Attachment 2 Map of plan area



# Attachment 3 Map of relocation zones



## Attachment 4 Granting and amending water authorisations

**Table 1 Water licences to replace authorities (s. 20 WRP)**

Column 1	Column 2
Continued authority	Water licence
The authority held by Australian Agricultural College Corporation, dated 15 December 1969 to take water from the Thomson River (Permit 4/75)	<p>Licensee: Australian Agricultural College Corporation</p> <p>Period: 10 years</p> <p>Water: Thomson River</p> <p>Location: Lot 1 on Plan PER207962</p> <p>Supply: Lot 153 on Plan SP177544</p> <p>Maximum Rate: 78 l/sec</p> <p>Daily Volumetric Limit: 5.6 ML/day</p> <p>Nominal Entitlement: 160 megalitres</p> <p>Purpose: Irrigation</p> <p>Conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The storage of water taken under this water licence for the purpose of irrigation is prohibited.</li> <li>2. Notwithstanding condition 1, a balancing storage to store water taken under this licence is permitted, only to the extent that the total volume of water stored at any one time in association with the purpose of irrigation, does not exceed 30 megalitres.</li> </ol>
The authorities held by Australian Agricultural College Corporation, dated 6 January 1982, to take water from the Thomson River (Permit 4/183)	<p>Licensee: Australian Agricultural College Corporation</p> <p>Period: 10 years</p> <p>Water: Thomson River</p> <p>Location: Lot 1 on Plan PER207962</p> <p>Supply: Lot 153 on Plan SP177544</p> <p>Maximum Rate: 78 l/sec</p> <p>Daily Volumetric Limit: 5.6 ML/day</p> <p>Nominal Entitlement: 160 megalitres</p> <p>Purpose: Irrigation</p> <p>Conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pumping under the authority of this licence is prohibited whenever the water level in weir falls below 0.3 metres from weir crest level of the main Longreach weir.</li> <li>2. The storage of water taken under this water licence for the purpose of irrigation is prohibited.</li> <li>3. Notwithstanding condition 1, a balancing storage to store water taken under this licence is permitted, only to the extent that the total volume of water stored at any one time in association with the purpose of irrigation, does not exceed 30 megalitres.</li> </ol>
Existing Interference by Longreach Regional Council constructed 1960s known as the main Longreach weirs	<p>Licensee: Longreach Regional Council</p> <p>Period: 20 years</p> <p>Water: Thomson River</p> <p>Location: Lot 4 on Plan SP177544</p> <p>Volume Capacity: 3300 megalitres</p> <p>Purpose: Conserve water (town water supply)</p>
Existing Interference by Longreach Regional Council constructed 1930s known as the Isisford Weir	<p>Licensee: Longreach Regional Council</p> <p>Period: 20 years</p> <p>Water: Barcoo River</p> <p>Location: Lot 27 on Plan MTL91</p> <p>Volume Capacity: 190 megalitres</p> <p>Purpose: Conserve water (town water supply)</p>
Existing interference constructed circa	Licensee: Department of Natural Resources and Mines

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<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>
<b>Continued authority</b>	<b>Water licence</b>
1950s, known as Lloyd Jones Weir.	Period: 20 years Water: Alice River Location: Lot 8 on Plan YN103 Volume capacity: 420 megalitres Purpose: Conserve water

**Table 2 Amending water licences**

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7
Licence number	Licensee	Purpose	Maximum extraction rate (L/sec)	Daily volumetric limit (ML/day)	Nominal entitlement (ML)	Additional water licence conditions
15455J	A J E SMITH	Irrigation	31	2.2	48	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
13596J	AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE CORPORATION	Irrigation	31	2.2	128	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
14115WJ	AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE CORPORATION	Irrigation	78	5.6	224	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
43703J	AUSTRALIAN STOCKMAN'S HALL OF FAME AND OUTBACK HERITAGE CENTRE	Waterharvesting	660	47.5	533	
43611J	PARAWAY PASTORAL CO. LTD	Irrigation	2	0.17	32	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
43613J	PARAWAY PASTORAL CO. LTD	Irrigation	36	3.11	160	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
43862J	BARCOO SHIRE COUNCIL (Jundah)	Town water supply	101	7.3	150	
43867J	BARCOO SHIRE COUNCIL (Stonehenge)	Town water supply	217	15.6	100	
401027	BARCOO SHIRE COUNCIL (Windorah)	Town water supply	6	0.52	150	
43868J	BARCOO SHIRE COUNCIL (Windorah)	Town water supply	101	7.3	141	
43755J	BODY CORPORATE FOR THE SANDALWOODS COMMUNITY TITLES SCHEME 23452	Domestic supply, stock, industrial	2	0.17	44	
43710J	C A GOUGH and E A GOUGH	Irrigation <sup>1</sup>	31	2.2	64	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
405368	C J E COLE and C M COLE	Domestic supply, stock, irrigation	78	5.6	34.5 <sup>2</sup>	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
409192	CENTRAL WEST ABORIGINAL CORPORATION	Domestic supply, irrigation	14	1.0	34.5 <sup>2</sup>	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
13351WJ	CONSOLIDATED PASTORAL COMPANY PTY LIMITED	Waterharvesting	360	25.9	100	

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7
Licence number	Licensee	Purpose	Maximum extraction rate (L/sec)	Daily volumetric limit (ML/day)	Nominal entitlement (ML)	Additional water licence conditions
190174	D A & C L WALKER	Domestic supply, stock, irrigation	9	0.77	131.5 <sup>2</sup>	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 47 ML
43718J	D J SMITH	Irrigation	300	21.6	1000	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
43719J	D J SMITH	Irrigation	1667	120	4000	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
43923J	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY	Irrigation <sup>1</sup>	6.5	0.56	70.4	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
174862	DOCE PTY LTD	Construction, domestic supply	4	0.35	10	
174864	DOCE PTY LTD	Construction, domestic supply	4	0.35	10	
174866	DOCE PTY LTD	Construction, domestic supply	4	0.35	10	
405804	F P M EVANS; D E EVANS and B E EVANS	Irrigation	360	25.9	160	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
190555	FLINDERS SHIRE COUNCIL (Torrens Creek)	Town water supply	2	0.17	10	
43761J	G J SCHULTZ and M G SCHULTZ	Irrigation	168	12.1	160	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
43712J	D E & M M CROSS	Irrigation	300	21.6	1000	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
43713J	D E & M M CROSS	Irrigation	1200	86.4	4000	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
43632J	H M ALBRAND; M W ALBRAND and W W ALBRAND	Irrigation	8.5	0.73	16	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 16 ML
25069J	A J WEBBER	Irrigation	78	5.6	96	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
43656J	J S NAYLOR	Irrigation	54	3.9	39	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
43693J	M R LOCKREY and F M LOCKREY	Irrigation	2	0.17	2	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 2 ML
404314	LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL (Ilfracombe)	Town water supply	1667	120	770	

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7
Licence number	Licensee	Purpose	Maximum extraction rate (L/sec)	Daily volumetric limit (ML/day)	Nominal entitlement (ML)	Additional water licence conditions
604057	LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL (Isisford)	Town water supply	10	0.64	100	
604058	LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL (Longreach)	Town water supply	300	12.5	2200	
43806J	D C & A C J LEEK	Domestic supply, sock, irrigation	101	7.3	510.5 <sup>2</sup>	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
057815F	R A JAMES	Irrigation	31	2.2	160	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
17473J	R J FLANAGAN; G R KNICKEL and L D MILNES	Irrigation	31	2.2	48	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
69258J	R J GIFFORD	Irrigation <sup>1</sup>	78	5.6	384	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
10968F	R M WELLS and D L WELLS	Irrigation	78	5.6	256	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML
43738J	S C MOLONEY and L E MOLONEY	Irrigation	14	1.0	48	See Table 3, balancing storage limit : 30 ML

### Notes for Table 2

1. The purposes of Domestic Supply and Stock are removed as a water licence is not required for these purposes as the owner of land adjoining a watercourse is authorised under section 20(3) of the *Water Act 2000* to take water for Domestic Supply and Stock.
2. The nominal entitlement includes a component for stock and domestic use.

**Table 3 Detailed additional licence conditions (referenced in Table 2)**

Detailed additional licence conditions
1. The storage of water taken under this water licence for the purpose of irrigation is prohibited.
2. Notwithstanding condition 1, a balancing storage to store water taken under this licence is permitted, only to the extent that the total volume stored at any one time in association with the purpose of irrigation, does not exceed 30 megalitres.

**Table 4 Stock and domestic water licences (non-riparian)**

<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>	<b>Column 3</b>
<b>Licence Number</b>	<b>Licensee</b>	<b>Nominal entitlement (ML)</b>
39374J	I A LYNCH	10.5
30513J	B M PEARCE	8.3
41592J	GC & CA CONNOLLY	10.0
16841J	E E ROBERTSON and R ROBERTSON	10.0
43717J	R D MCPHERSON	20.0
43769J	P F HOOPER and W J HOOPER	8.3
43816J	M HOOPER; P F HOOPER and W J HOOPER	20.0
406986	C J FORREST and A B FORREST	16.5
43714J	R M BISCHHEL and P J CHAPMAN	2.7
43967J	I A GROFSKI	3.7
43852J	SG & RA PETHER and JM MORROW	16.0
43865J	B E HALL and J N HALL	25.0
43872J	GP CATTLE PTY LTD	20.0
43970J	S R CRIBB	26.5
43977J	G J SPINKS and S N SPINKS	2.5
175917	W W K PROW	2.5
187443	BODY CORPORATE FOR COOLIBAH COMMUNITY TITLES SCHEME CMS NO. 28706	12.0
187444	BODY CORPORATE FOR ACACIAS ESTATE COMMUNITY TITLES SCHEME 30332	18.0
607119	J A CHAMPION	14.0
401486	K P HOOLIHAN and L N KROSCHE	2.0
403358	W J FERGUSON	2.0
404746	A E MILSON and M A MILSON	12.5
43621J	J H C TAYLOR	20.0
606066	AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE CORPORATION	11.0

## Attachment 5 Links between this plan and the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011

**Table 1 How the Cooper Creek Resource Operations Plan is related to the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011 outcomes**

General outcomes of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011 (section 11)	Resource operations plan rules
<b>Each of the following is a general outcome for water in the plan area</b>	
11(a) to manage water in a way consistent with relevant national and international obligations and agreements, particularly the Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provides for the implementation of operational and management rules associated with protected waterholes and protected watercourses</li> <li>▪ states a limitation on the total water available for allocation</li> </ul>
11(b) to manage hydraulically-linked subartesian water and surface water as a single resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provides for unallocated water reserves for all linked water sources</li> </ul>
11(c) to manage water in a way that minimises impact on the duration, magnitude, frequency and seasonality of natural flow regimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provides for the implementation of operational and management rules associated with protected waterholes and protected watercourses</li> <li>▪ provides for managing all linked water sources (watercourse water, hydraulically-linked groundwater and overland flow water)</li> </ul>
11(d) to support water-related cultural values in the plan area, including the values of the traditional owners of the plan area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provides for the implementation of operational and management rules associated with protected waterholes and protected watercourses</li> <li>▪ provides a process for Indigenous groups to access water for cultural and traditional uses, as well economic and social aspirations</li> </ul>
11(e) to account for the modelled impacts of climate change on water availability, including the effects of increased duration of low flow periods and no flow periods, and the effect of increased evaporation rates from waterholes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provides for the implementation of operational and management rules associated with protected waterholes and protected watercourses</li> <li>▪ provides for managing all linked water sources (watercourse water, hydraulically-linked groundwater and overland flow water)</li> <li>▪ states a limitation on the total water available for allocation</li> </ul>
Ecological outcomes of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011 (section 12)	Resource operations plan rules
<b>Each of the following is an ecological outcome for water in the plan area</b>	
(a) to the extent possible, to maintain the ecological integrity and natural function of in-stream, riparian, wetland and floodplain ecosystems by minimising changes to natural flow regimes, both in the plan area and downstream of the plan area in the South Australian part of the Cooper Creek catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provides for the purchase of water for environmental purposes</li> <li>▪ provides for the implementation of operational and management rules associated with protected waterholes and protected watercourses</li> </ul>
(b) to maintain lateral and longitudinal connectivity between waterholes by minimising the impacts on flow patterns resulting from new authorisations granted for the plan area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provides criteria to be considered before granting unallocated water</li> </ul>
(c) to maintain the variability and seasonality of water flow patterns, including the frequency and duration of high flows, no flows and low flows, by minimising the impacts of water extractions due to new authorisations granted for the plan area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provides for the amendment of existing water licences to clarify conditions and maximum take</li> </ul>
(d) to minimise the impact on pool and waterhole habitats of drawdown due to water extractions allowed under new authorisations granted for the plan area	

Social and economic outcomes of the of the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011 (section 13)	Resource operations plan rules
<b>Each of the following is a social and economic outcome for water in the plan area</b>	
(a) to make water available to sustain current levels of, and to support growth in, economic activity in the plan area;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provides a process for accessing the unallocated water reserves</li> <li>▪ provides for transfer of water licences in the Longreach Waterhole relocation zone</li> <li>▪ provides for transfer of inactive irrigation licences in the Cooper Zone to upstream zones</li> </ul>
(b) to make water available for urban and industrial uses in the plan area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provides a process for accessing the unallocated water reserves:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general reserve</li> <li>• town and community water reserve</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
(c) to provide for the continued use of all existing surface water entitlements and other authorisations in the plan area, including water for stock or domestic purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provides for converting authorisations to volumetric entitlements</li> <li>▪ provides for granting and amending licences to take overland flow</li> </ul>
(d) to protect existing entitlements from the effects of new authorisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provides a process for accessing unallocated water subject to criteria</li> <li>▪ provides for the implementation of the state metering policy</li> <li>▪ specifies monitoring and reporting provisions</li> </ul>
(e) to make water available for projects of state or regional significance in the plan area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provides a process for accessing the unallocated water from the strategic reserve</li> </ul>