

Mary Basin

Water Management Protocol

April 2021



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Chapter 1 Preliminary

1 Short title

- (1) This water management protocol may be cited as the Mary Basin Water Management Protocol.
- (2) Reference in this document to 'this protocol' means the Mary Basin Water Management Protocol.

2 Commencement of the water management protocol

This protocol commenced on 6 December 2016.

3 Purpose of protocol

This protocol implements the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006.

4 Interpretation of words used in this protocol

Unless defined under the relevant provisions, the dictionary in attachment 1 defines particular words used in this protocol.

5 Area to which this protocol applies

This protocol applies to parts of the plan area defined in the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006.

6 Water to which this protocol applies

This protocol applies to the following water in the plan area—

- (a) water in a watercourse or lake; and
- (b) water in a spring not connected to water to which the Water Plan (Great Artesian Basin and Other Regional Aquifers) 2017 applies; and
- (c) subartesian water in the Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area.

7 Information about areas, schemes and zones

- (1) The location of plan area boundaries, water supply schemes and zones are 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.¹

8 Notification of changes to data collection and reporting standards

The chief executive must notify the resource operations licence holder at least 20 business days before any substantive changes are made to the—

- (a) water monitoring data collection standards; and
- (b) water monitoring data reporting standards.

¹ The boundaries held in digital electronic form may be inspected at any of the department's offices or on <https://qldglobe.information.qld.gov.au/>

Chapter 2 Unallocated water

9 Scope of chapter 2

This chapter states the process for making available and dealing with unallocated water mentioned in section 25 of the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006.

10 Record of volume of unallocated water

The chief executive may keep a register of the volume of the unallocated water available.

11 Process for granting unallocated water from the town water supply reserve

- (1) The chief executive may grant a water licence under section 116 of the *Water Act 2000* for all or part of the unallocated water held as town water supply reserve under section 34 of the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006 to an entity entitled to water from the reserve if the entity makes an application for the reserved water to be made available.
- (2) The chief executive may grant a water allocation under section 147 of the *Water Act 2000* for all or part of the unallocated water held as town water supply reserve under section 35 of the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006 to an entity entitled to water from the reserve if the entity makes an application for the reserved water be made available.
- (3) The application must—
 - (a) be made to the chief executive in writing;
 - (b) be accompanied by the prescribed fee;
 - (c) address the criteria specified in section 27(1)(a) to (d) of the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006;
 - (d) specify the maximum instantaneous rate at which water is proposed to be taken; and
 - (e) specify the maximum volumes of water proposed to be taken daily, monthly and annually.
- (4) The chief executive may give written notice to the applicant requiring the applicant to—
 - (a) give additional information about the submission within the time specified within the notice; and
 - (b) verify by statutory declaration, any information included in the application, or any additional information required under subsection (4)(a).
- (5) If the applicant fails to provide the information required by the chief executive within the time specified in the notice, the application lapses.
- (6) For deciding the application, the chief executive must consider—
 - (a) the application and any additional information given about the application;
 - (b) the matters prescribed under section 27 of the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006; and
 - (c) the public interest.
- (7) Subsection (6) does not limit the matters the chief executive may consider in deciding an application under this section.
- (8) If the chief executive is satisfied the application should be approved, or approved in part, the chief executive must grant the water entitlement with or without conditions.

Chapter 3 Water allocation dealing rules—supplemented water allocations

12 Scope of chapter 3

This chapter provides the water allocation dealing rules for all supplemented water allocations managed under a resource operations licence.

13 Definition for chapter 3

In this chapter—

location, for a water allocation, means the zone from which water under the water allocation can be taken.

Part 1 General Provisions

14 Application for changes not specified as permitted or prohibited

An application for a change to a water allocation that is not specified as permitted or prohibited in parts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 of this protocol may be made in accordance with section 72 of the Water Regulation 2016.

Part 2 Baroon Pocket Water Supply Scheme

Division 1 Subdivision or amalgamation of water allocations

15 Permitted subdivisions or amalgamations

(1) Subdivision of a water allocation is permitted where—

- (a) the sum of the nominal volumes of the new water allocations is equal to the nominal volume of the water allocation that is being subdivided; and
- (b) the locations and priority groups of the new water allocations are the same as that of the water allocation that is being subdivided.

(2) Amalgamation of water allocations is permitted where—

- (a) the nominal volume of the new water allocation is equal to the sum of the nominal volumes of the water allocations that are being amalgamated; and
- (b) the locations and priority groups of the water allocations that are being amalgamated are the same.

16 Prohibited subdivisions or amalgamations

(1) Subdivision of a water allocation is prohibited where—

- (a) the sum of the nominal volume of the new water allocations is not equal to the nominal volume of the water allocation that is being subdivided; and
- (b) the locations and priority groups of the new water allocations are not the same as that of the water allocation that is being subdivided.

- (2) Amalgamation of water allocations is prohibited where—
 - (a) the nominal volume of the new water allocation is not equal to the sum of the nominal volumes of the original water allocations that are being amalgamated; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the water allocations that are being amalgamated are not the same.

Division 2 Water allocation change rules

17 Prohibited changes

The following changes are prohibited—

- (a) a change that would result in the nominal volume of the new water allocation not being expressed as a whole number, unless an existing water allocation to be changed specifies a nominal volume that is not a whole number;
- (b) a change to a priority group that is not specified in the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006; and
- (c) a change to a location that is not within the Baroon Pocket Water Supply Scheme.

Part 3 Cedar Pocket Water Supply Scheme

Division 1 Subdivision or amalgamation of water allocations

18 Permitted subdivisions or amalgamations

- (1) Subdivision of a water allocation is permitted where—
 - (a) the sum of the nominal volumes of the new water allocations is equal to the nominal volume of the water allocation that is being subdivided; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the new water allocations are the same as that of the water allocation that is being subdivided.
- (2) Amalgamation of water allocations is permitted where—
 - (a) the nominal volume of the new water allocation is equal to the sum of the nominal volumes of the water allocations that are being amalgamated; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the water allocations that are being amalgamated are the same.

19 Prohibited subdivisions or amalgamations

- (1) Subdivision of a water allocation is prohibited where—
 - (a) the sum of the nominal volume of the new water allocations is not equal to the nominal volume of the water allocation that is being subdivided; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the new water allocations are not the same as that of the water allocation that is being subdivided.
- (2) Amalgamation of water allocations is prohibited where—
 - (a) the nominal volume of the new water allocation is not equal to the sum of the nominal volumes of the original water allocations that are being amalgamated; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the water allocations that are being amalgamated are not the same.

Division 2 Water allocation change rules

20 Prohibited changes

The following changes are prohibited—

- (a) a change that would result in the nominal volume of the new water allocation not being expressed as a whole number, unless an existing water allocation to be changed specifies a nominal volume that is not a whole number;
- (b) a change to a priority group that is not specified in the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006; and
- (c) a change to a location that is not within the Cedar Pocket Water Supply Scheme.

Part 4 Lower Mary River Water Supply Scheme

Division 1 Subdivision or amalgamation of water allocations

21 Permitted subdivisions or amalgamations

(1) Subdivision of a water allocation is permitted where—

- (a) the sum of the nominal volumes of the new water allocations is equal to the nominal volume of the water allocation that is being subdivided; and
- (b) the locations and priority groups of the new water allocations are the same as that of the water allocation that is being subdivided.

(2) Amalgamation of water allocations is permitted where—

- (a) the nominal volume of the new water allocation is equal to the sum of the nominal volumes of the water allocations that are being amalgamated; and
- (b) the locations and priority groups of the water allocations that are being amalgamated are the same.

22 Prohibited subdivisions or amalgamations

(1) Subdivision of a water allocation is prohibited where—

- (a) the sum of the nominal volume of the new water allocations is not equal to the nominal volume of the water allocation that is being subdivided; and
- (b) the locations and priority groups of the new water allocations are not the same as that of the water allocation that is being subdivided.

(2) Amalgamation of water allocations is prohibited where—

- (a) the nominal volume of the new water allocation is not equal to the sum of the nominal volumes of the original water allocations that are being amalgamated; and
- (b) the locations and priority groups of the water allocations that are being amalgamated are not the same.

Division 2 Water allocation change rules

23 Permitted changes

- (1) A change to the location for the taking of water under a water allocation is permitted provided—
 - (a) the location is being changed from—
 - (i) zone LMRS1 in the Lower Mary River Water Supply Scheme to zone TESTW in the Teddington Weir Water Supply Scheme; or
 - (ii) zone TESTW in the Teddington Weir Water Supply Scheme to zone LMRS1 in the Lower Mary River Water Supply Scheme; and
 - (b) the change would not result in a total nominal volume in a zone that—
 - (i) exceeds the maximum total nominal volume for a zone for a priority group; or
 - (ii) is less than the minimum total nominal volume for a zone for a priority group; and
 - (c) the purpose of the water allocation is not 'distribution loss'.
- (2) For this section, the maximum total nominal volume and minimum total nominal volume of high priority water allocations and medium priority water allocations for each zone are—
 - (a) for the zones in the Lower Mary River Water Supply Scheme—the volumes identified in Table 1; and
 - (b) for the zones in the Teddington Weir Water Supply Scheme—the volumes identified in Table 2.
- (3) For this section, the total nominal volume in a zone is the total nominal volume of all water allocations of the same priority group—
 - (a) for the zone; and
 - (b) for which relevant valid change certificates have been issued under section 159 of the *Water Act 2000*.

Table 1 – Permitted distributions—Lower Mary River Water Supply Scheme

Zone	High priority water allocations		Medium priority water allocations	
	Minimum total nominal volume (megalitres)	Maximum total nominal volume (megalitres)	Minimum total nominal volume (megalitres)	Maximum total nominal volume (megalitres)
LMRS1	449	1809	29 227	32 653

Table 2 – Permitted distributions—Teddington Weir Water Supply Scheme

Zone	High priority water allocations		Medium priority water allocations	
	Minimum total nominal volume (megalitres)	Maximum total nominal volume (megalitres)	Minimum total nominal volume (megalitres)	Maximum total nominal volume (megalitres)
TESTW	6819	8179	0	3426

24 Prohibited changes

The following changes are prohibited—

- (a) a change that would result in the nominal volume of the new water allocation not being expressed as a whole number, unless an existing water allocation to be changed specifies a nominal volume that is not a whole number;
- (b) a change to a priority group that is not specified in the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006;
- (c) a change to a location that is not within zone LMRS1 in the Lower Mary River Water Supply Scheme, unless the change is to zone TESTW in the Teddington Weir Water Supply Scheme; and
- (d) a change to a location for a water allocation with the purpose 'distribution loss'.

Part 5 Mary Valley Water Supply Scheme

Division 1 Subdivision or amalgamation of water allocations

25 Permitted subdivisions or amalgamations

- (1) Subdivision of a water allocation is permitted where—
 - (a) the sum of the nominal volumes of the new water allocations is equal to the nominal volume of the water allocation that is being subdivided; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the new water allocations are the same as that of the water allocation that is being subdivided.
- (2) Amalgamation of water allocations is permitted where—
 - (a) the nominal volume of the new water allocation is equal to the sum of the nominal volumes of the water allocations that are being amalgamated; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the water allocations that are being amalgamated are the same.

26 Prohibited subdivisions or amalgamations

- (1) Subdivision of a water allocation is prohibited where—
 - (a) the sum of the nominal volume of the new water allocations is not equal to the nominal volume of the water allocation that is being subdivided; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the new water allocations are not the same as that of the water allocation that is being subdivided.
- (2) Amalgamation of water allocations is prohibited where—
 - (a) the nominal volume of the new water allocation is not equal to the sum of the nominal volumes of the original water allocations that are being amalgamated; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the water allocations that are being amalgamated are not the same.

Division 2 Water allocation change rules

27 Permitted changes

- (1) A change to the location for the taking of water under a water allocation is permitted, provided the change would not result in a total nominal volume in a zone that—
 - (a) exceeds the maximum total nominal volume for a zone for a priority group; or
 - (b) is less than the minimum total nominal volume for a zone for a priority group.
- (2) For this section, the maximum total nominal volume and minimum total nominal volume of high priority water allocations and medium priority water allocations for each zone are identified in table 3.
- (3) For this section, the total nominal volume in a zone is the total nominal volume of all water allocations of the same priority group—
 - (a) for the zone; and
 - (b) for which relevant valid change certificates have been issued under section 159 of the *Water Act 2000*.

Table 3 – Permitted distributions—Mary Valley Water Supply Scheme

Zone	High priority water allocations		Medium priority water allocations	
	Minimum total nominal volume (megalitres)	Maximum total nominal volume (megalitres)	Minimum total nominal volume (megalitres)	Maximum total nominal volume (megalitres)
MVASA	0	0	7656	13 327
MVASB	9964	9964	421	13 305
MVASC	220	240	0	5 889
MVASD	0	20	0	0
MVASE	60	60	0	2 234

28 Prohibited changes

- (1) The following changes are prohibited—
 - (a) a change that would result in the nominal volume of the new water allocation not being expressed as a whole number, unless an existing water allocation to be changed specifies a nominal volume that is not a whole number;
 - (b) a change to a priority group that is not specified in the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006;
 - (c) a change to a location not within the Mary Valley Water Supply Scheme; and
 - (d) a change to the location for a water allocation with the purpose 'distribution loss'.
- (2) For this section, the total nominal volume in a zone or zone group is the total nominal volume of all water allocations for the zone or zone group.

Part 6 Teddington Weir Water Supply Scheme

Division 1 Subdivision or amalgamation of water allocations

29 Permitted subdivisions or amalgamations

- (1) Subdivision of a water allocation is permitted where—
 - (a) the sum of the nominal volumes of the new water allocations is equal to the nominal volume of the water allocation that is being subdivided; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the new water allocations are the same as that of the water allocation that is being subdivided.
- (2) Amalgamation of water allocations is permitted where—
 - (a) the nominal volume of the new water allocation is equal to the sum of the nominal volumes of the water allocations that are being amalgamated; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the water allocations that are being amalgamated are the same.

30 Prohibited subdivisions or amalgamations

- (1) Subdivision of a water allocation is prohibited where—
 - (a) the sum of the nominal volume of the new water allocations is not equal to the nominal volume of the water allocation that is being subdivided; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the new water allocations are not the same as that of the water allocation that is being subdivided.
- (2) Amalgamation of water allocations is prohibited where—
 - (a) the nominal volume of the new water allocation is not equal to the sum of the nominal volumes of the original water allocations that are being amalgamated; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the water allocations that are being amalgamated are not the same.

Division 2 Water allocation change rules

31 Permitted changes

- (1) A change to the location for the taking of water under a water allocation is permitted provided—
 - (a) the location is being changed from—
 - (i) zone LMRS1 in the Lower Mary River Water Supply Scheme to zone TESTW in the Teddington Weir Water Supply Scheme; or
 - (ii) zone TESTW in the Teddington Weir Water Supply Scheme to zone LMRS1 in the Lower Mary River Water Supply Scheme; and
 - (b) the change would not result in a total nominal volume in a zone that—
 - (i) exceeds the maximum total nominal volume for a zone for a priority group; or
 - (ii) is less than the minimum total nominal volume for a zone for a priority group; and
 - (c) the purpose of the water allocation is not 'distribution loss'.

- (2) For this section, the maximum total nominal volume and minimum total nominal volume of high priority water allocations and medium priority water allocations for each zone are—
- for the zones in the Lower Mary River Water Supply Scheme—the volumes identified in table 4 of this protocol; and
 - for the zones in the Teddington Weir Water Supply Scheme—the volumes identified in table 5 of this protocol.
- (3) For this section, the total nominal volume in a zone is the total nominal volume of all water allocations of the same priority group—
- for the zone; and
 - for which relevant valid change certificates have been issued under section 159 of the *Water Act 2000*.

Table 4 – Permitted distributions—Lower Mary River Water Supply Scheme

Zone	High priority water allocations		Medium priority water allocations	
	Minimum total nominal volume (megalitres)	Maximum total nominal volume (megalitres)	Minimum total nominal volume (megalitres)	Maximum total nominal volume (megalitres)
LMRS1	449	1809	29 227	32 653

Table 5 – Permitted distributions—Teddington Weir Water Supply Scheme

Zone	High priority water allocations		Medium priority water allocations	
	Minimum total nominal volume (megalitres)	Maximum total nominal volume (megalitres)	Minimum total nominal volume (megalitres)	Maximum total nominal volume (megalitres)
TESTW	6819	8179	0	3426

32 Prohibited changes

The following changes are prohibited—

- a change that would result in the nominal volume of the new water allocation not being expressed as a whole number, unless an existing water allocation to be changed specifies a nominal volume that is not a whole number;
- a change to a priority group that is not specified in the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006;
- a change to a location that is not within zone LMRS1 in the Lower Mary River Water Supply Scheme, unless the change is to zone TESTW in the Teddington Weir Water Supply Scheme; and
- a change to a location for a water allocation with the purpose 'distribution loss'.

Part 7 Wide Bay Water Supply Scheme

Division 1 Subdivision or amalgamation of water allocations

33 Permitted subdivisions or amalgamations

- (1) Subdivision of a water allocation is permitted where—
 - (a) the sum of the nominal volumes of the new water allocations is equal to the nominal volume of the water allocation that is being subdivided; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the new water allocations are the same as that of the water allocation that is being subdivided.
- (2) Amalgamation of water allocations is permitted where—
 - (a) the nominal volume of the new water allocation is equal to the sum of the nominal volumes of the water allocations that are being amalgamated; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of water the allocations that are being amalgamated are the same.

34 Prohibited subdivisions or amalgamations

- (1) Subdivision of a water allocation is prohibited where—
 - (a) the sum of the nominal volume of the new water allocations is not equal to the nominal volume of the water allocation that is being subdivided; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the new water allocations are not the same as that of the water allocation that is being subdivided.
- (2) Amalgamation of water allocations is prohibited where—
 - (a) the nominal volume of the new water allocation is not equal to the sum of the nominal volumes of the original water allocations that are being amalgamated; and
 - (b) the locations and priority groups of the water allocations that are being amalgamated are not the same.

Division 2 Water allocation change rules

35 Prohibited changes

The following changes are prohibited—

- (a) a change that would result in the nominal volume of the new water allocation not being expressed as a whole number, unless an existing water allocation to be changed specifies a nominal volume that is not a whole number;
- (b) a change to a priority group that is not specified in the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006; and
- (c) a change to a location that is not within the Wide Bay Water Supply Scheme.

Chapter 4 Monitoring

36 Water monitoring

- (1) The chief executive must measure and record—
 - (a) water quantity;
 - (b) water taken;
 - (c) groundwater levels;
 - (d) prices for water permanently traded;
 - (e) the number of permanent trades and seasonal assignments; and
 - (f) nominal volume of water permanently traded and seasonally assigned.
- (2) The chief executive may use information collected to support water resource assessment and reporting.

37 Natural ecosystems monitoring

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

- (a) ecological assets that are linked to the ecological outcomes of the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006; and
- (b) the critical water requirements of ecological assets, including the provision of these requirements under the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006.

38 Assessment

The chief executive must make ongoing assessments of whether the trends in the data measured, collected and recorded under sections 36 and 37 of this protocol indicate that outcomes specified in the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006 are being achieved.

Attachment 1 Dictionary

Term	Definition
Basin	A river basin, which is the total area from which water drains to a river system or a grouping of adjacent river systems.
High priority water allocation	A water allocation within a priority group for which the water allocation security objective (WASO) (performance indicator) is in the range specified in the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006.
Medium priority water allocation	A water allocation within a priority group for which the WASO (performance indicator) is in the range specified in the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006.
Performance indicator	A measure that can be calculated to assess the impact of water allocation and management decisions on water entitlements and aquatic ecosystems.
Valid change certificate	A certificate issued under section 159 of the <i>Water Act 2000</i> .



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