

# Flinders unallocated water release

## Frequently asked questions

### Watercourse determination

#### Do all tenderers need to request a watercourse determination?

No, however all tenderers must provide evidence that the location/s for each water take or interference for their water product is either water in a watercourse or overland flow water.

For a **known watercourse or drainage feature**, you can get the required evidence by printing a map from Queensland Globe with the watercourse identification map layer turned on. The map must show the location and the determination outcome (e.g. the map will display a blue or red line at the location).

If you intend to take water or construct an interference (weir or a dam), from a feature that is recorded as unmapped (or has not been mapped) on the watercourse identification map you will need to request a watercourse determination from the Department by emailing [UAW.Flinders@rdmw.qld.gov.au](mailto:UAW.Flinders@rdmw.qld.gov.au).

#### Why do I need to request a watercourse determination?

A watercourse determination is important for two reasons:

- it will allow tenderers to correctly model their water product in terms of watercourse water and/or overland flow water
- it will inform the contents and conditions for a water licence, should you be successful and are offered a call option.

#### When do I need to submit a request for a watercourse determination?

Tenderers must request a watercourse determination by emailing the Department at [UAW.Flinders@rdmw.qld.gov.au](mailto:UAW.Flinders@rdmw.qld.gov.au), no later than 16 May 2022. Requests received after this date are unlikely to be processed in time for a tenderer to prepare their application.

### Eligibility

#### I don't own land in the Flinders River catchment. Can I still apply for water?

Yes. You don't need to be an owner of land within the Flinders River catchment to participate in Stage 1 of this release process. You will however need to provide evidence in your preliminary tender application that you intend to become eligible to hold a water licence prior to the grant of a water licence. Evidence could include an agreement with an existing land holder which demonstrates your intention to purchase land in the catchment.

For example, if your tender is successful, you will be offered a call option deed. The deed will include a suite of conditions which you will need to address prior to the grant of a water licence, including demonstrating you are eligible to hold a water licence.

Further information about the evidence requirements is provided in section 2.2 of the Terms of Sale.

#### Why do I need a bid price?

The bid price is an important element in assessing tenders for this unallocated water.

This unallocated water is being released by a competitive tender process and under these Terms of Sale, a bid price is a requirement for a conforming tender. The bid price you tender should be the price you are willing to pay per megalitre (for the volume you are tendering for) in Australian Dollars.

If your tender does not include a bid price the tender will be non-conforming and will not be assessed. If your bid price is below the reserve price, your tender will be disqualified and will not be assessed.

The Department will invite the eligible and conforming tenderers from Stage 1 to progress to Stage 2 by submitting the information required for their competitive assessment.

Conforming tenders under this Stage will be ranked from highest to lowest bid price.

The Department will assess one Tender Application Competitive Assessment: Part B at a time in order of bid price starting with the highest ranked bid price.

Further information about bid price is provided in section 2.5 of the Terms of Sale.

### **Will I have an opportunity to revise my bid price?**

Under Stage 2, the department will assess one application at a time using the assessment order ranking, established by bid price.

If your bid is equally ranked with another tender, the department will contact you to request a revised bid price to determine priority of assessment order between the equally ranked tenderers.

A revised bid price from the tenderer is required (by return email) within 5 business days of the request date.

## **Modelling**

### **Where can I obtain a copy of the hydrologic model?**

The hydrologic model for the Flinders River catchment area is available from the [Department of Environment and Science \(DES\)](#). When DES issues you a copy of the hydrologic model, DES will also provide you with a copy of the model report template.

Water modelling is an important and complex element of your tender, and we recommend that you engage a suitably qualified person proficient in the use of the relevant catchment modelling software to help.

### **How much water can I bid for?**

Up to 110 000 ML for a water project. The tender must demonstrate an intention to take water and the taking of water would be sustainable in accordance with limits under the water plan.

Water is available as annual volumetric limit meaning all project demands must be met from the available volume. Project demands include losses from any proposed instream or off stream water storages.

### **How much water does my project need?**

The volume of water you will require must be determined as part of the water product development for your tender. The volume applied for should include the amount of water required to be taken into storage to supply the intended use of water along with operational losses incurred during storage and delivery.

### **Will I be required to do any additional modelling?**

There are multiple scenarios which may require you to remodel your water product.

1. You may need to rescope and remodel your proposed water product while preparing an application for Stage 1 if you identify an adverse impact. You may wish to remodel your water product to a point where it no longer results in an adverse impact. Alternatively, you could propose a permanent mitigation strategy, and use modelling to demonstrate the strategy could be achievable. If you are invited to Stage 2, you will be required to implement your proposed permanent mitigation before a call option is offered.
2. A water dealing (e.g. a water trade) has occurred in the catchment. This could occur at any stage throughout the process and consequently will require tenderers to re-model their water product. If a water dealing does occur, DES will notify you, and will make available a revised catchment model so that you can complete the additional modelling requirements.
3. You may be invited as the next highest bidder to revise your water product as part of a secondary release of water.

## Permanent Mitigation Strategy

### What is an adverse impact to an environmental flow objective?

When modelling your water product, a failure to meet one or more environmental flow objectives is considered an adverse impact.

### What is an adverse impact to an existing water entitlement holder?

An adverse impact on an existing water entitlement holder is a reduction in the annual volume probability (AVP) of an existing water licence by more than 0.1%.

The AVP is calculated by dividing the mean annual diversion for a water licence, by the annual volumetric limit (also referred to as nominal entitlement) and is represented as a percentage. Note rounding up to the nearest tenth of a percent is permitted.

### My modelled water product shows that I do not meet the environmental flow objectives and that my proposed water take adversely impacts other water uses ability to access water. Can I still compete in this release process?

Yes. You can apply however you will need to develop a permanent mitigation strategy as part of your preliminary tender application.

You may also be required to develop a permanent mitigation strategy during Stage 2 if you are invited as the next highest bidder as part of a secondary release of water.

When developing a permanent mitigation strategy, you must ensure the process can be implemented under the Gulf Water Plan (e.g. water trading).

To ensure the outcome is a water plan compliant water licence, you must be able to implement your permanent mitigation strategy in Stage 2 when required by the Department or the tender will be rejected.

Further information about the requirements of a permanent mitigation strategy is provided in section 2.4 of the Terms of Sale.

## Further information

### Q. Who do I contact if I need more information?

A. Please ensure all enquiries are directed to [UAW.Flinders@rdmw.qld.gov.au](mailto:UAW.Flinders@rdmw.qld.gov.au). This mailbox is monitored during business hours, and your enquiry will be actioned as soon as possible.