

# Summary of proposed amendments to the Fitzroy Water Management Protocol

Construction of Rookwood Weir is underway in the Fitzroy River near the town of Gogango and due for completion in 2023, weather permitting.

Consultation on proposed operational rules for the Rookwood Weir Water Supply Scheme (the WSS) is currently being undertaken by Sunwater and the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW).

Amendments to the Fitzroy Basin Water Management Protocol (the WMP) is required to support the operation of the WSS.

The proposed amendments will:

- include new water allocation dealing rules and zones within the WSS
- amend the announced period rules for existing unsupplemented water allocations located in the Fitzroy River.

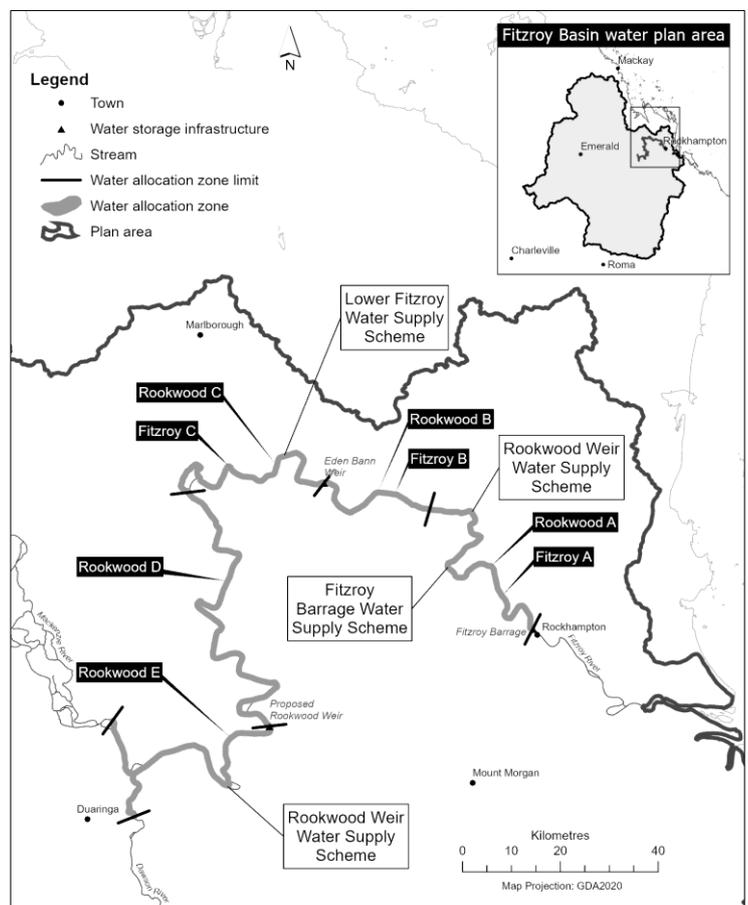
The proposed amendments will not change existing supplemented and unsupplemented water allocation holders' entitlements to take water from the Fitzroy River.

## Background

The WMP implements the Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) 2011 (the water plan) and includes rules for managing:

- volumes of unallocated water reserved for various purposes or stated locations
- water allocation dealings and trading
- announced periods for taking unsupplemented water
- seasonal water assignment (temporary trade) rules for unsupplemented water.

The water plan was amended in June 2021 to include five trading zones within the WSS, as shown in the map.



## Proposed amendments

### WSS water allocation dealing rules

Chapter 3 of the WMP sets out water allocation dealing rules for supplemented water allocations. Water allocation dealing rules for new supplemented allocations within the WSS will include:

- subdivisions and amalgamations
- change in purpose to 'Any' or 'Agriculture'
- change in priority group to 'High Priority' or 'Medium Priority'
- change in location or zone.

### Permanent trading of WSS water allocations (change in location)

Trading water allocations within the WSS will be possible, subject to rules setting:

- minimum volumes which must remain in a zone when trading out
- maximum volumes which must not be exceeded when trading in.

Volumes within zones are designed to protect other water users and ensure operations of the WSS can be managed within existing water schemes. Allowing water allocations to be traded within these rules provides for increased flexibility for water users in the WSS.

### Distribution Loss within the WSS (change in zone)

Water allocations managed within the WSS will be subject to a loss factor based on the zone where they are located or traded into or out of.

- Water allocations located in the Rookwood Weir ponded area (Zone E) will be able to access the full nominal volume.
- All water allocations located downstream of Rookwood Weir (Zones A, B, C and D) will have the nominal volume on the allocations reduced by 10 per cent to account for delivery losses within the Lower Fitzroy.
- Water allocations traded from zones A, B, C or D to Zone E will be able to access the full nominal volume provided that the dealing is within the minimum and maximum volumes for respective zones.

### Announced periods for unsupplemented water allocations

Chapter 9 of the WMP sets out water sharing rules for unsupplemented water allocations in the Fitzroy River. It is necessary to amend these rules because Rookwood Weir will alter flow events for existing entitlement holders downstream of the weir. These amendments will ensure all existing unsupplemented Fitzroy River water allocations will be maintained.

For unsupplemented water allocations classified as 5A, the announced period is currently based on flows monitored at 'The Gap' Gauging Station (located upstream of Eden Bann Weir). The proposed amendment will move the location from 'The Gap' to the station monitoring inflows into Rookwood Weir and remove the requirement for Eden Bann Weir to be spilling. Inflows **must** be passed through Rookwood Weir to ensure these downstream water allocations are not impacted.

For unsupplemented water allocations classified as 6C, holders of these allocations can currently take water based on flows monitored at Riverslea Gauging Station. The proposed amendment will remove the requirement to monitor flows at any location and make the taking of water under these water allocations permitted at any time.

For unsupplemented water allocations classified as 7D, holders of these allocations can currently take water based on flows monitored at Riverslea Gauging Station. The proposed amendment will move the location from Riverslea to the station monitoring inflows into Rookwood Weir. Inflows **may** be passed through Rookwood Weir to ensure these downstream water allocations are not impacted.

Sunwater will publish the inflows into Rookwood Weir daily on its website with unsupplemented water allocation holders advised where this information can be accessed closer to the final construction of the weir. This will enable holders of unsupplemented water allocations classified as 6C and 7D to identify flow conditions when water can be taken under their allocations.

## Have your say

Full details of the proposed amendments to the Fitzroy Basin Water Management Protocol can be viewed online by visiting [rdmw.qld.gov.au](http://rdmw.qld.gov.au) and searching 'Rookwood Weir'.

You are invited to attend any of the following local information sessions being run by Sunwater and the department. These sessions are an opportunity for you to discuss the proposed operating rules, raise concerns and provide feedback.

Location	Date	Times
<b>Duaranga – Rural Fire Brigade, 5 Edward Street</b>	20 September 2022	9am-12pm
<b>Gogango – Gogango Town Hall, 12 Willis Street</b>	20 September 2022	1pm-4pm
<b>Alton Downs Hall – 1569 Ridgeland Road (Cnr Nicholson Road)</b>	21 September 2022	9am-12pm
<b>Rockhampton – Level 2, 220 Quay Street</b>	21 September 2022	1pm-4pm

To provide your feedback directly, please contact [Rookwood.weir@sunwater.com.au](mailto:Rookwood.weir@sunwater.com.au)

Consultation closes 10 October 2022.

## Next steps

Amendments to the Fitzroy Basin Water Management Protocol must:

- be consistent with the outcomes and measures of the Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) 2011
- achieve the water allocation security and environmental flow objectives
- be developed with adequate consultation with affected persons.

Once finalised and approved by the department, a statement of changes to the water management protocol will be published with the amended Fitzroy Basin Water Management Protocol.