

Boyne River Basin

Water Management Protocol

December 2016

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Chapter 1 Preliminary

1 Short title

This water management protocol may be cited as the Boyne River Basin Water Management Protocol 2016¹.

2 Commencement of the water management protocol

This protocol commenced on 6 December 2016.

3 Purpose of protocol

This protocol implements parts of the Water Plan (Boyne River Basin) 2013.

4 Area to which this protocol applies

This protocol applies to the plan area for the Water Plan (Boyne River Basin) 2013 as shown in attachment 1.

5 Water to which this protocol applies

This protocol applies to the management of water in a watercourse, lake or spring in the plan area.

6 Information about areas, schemes and zones

- (1) The location of the boundaries of the plan area, subcatchment areas, water supply scheme 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 boundaries².

7 to 10 Section numbers not used

¹ To allow for future amendments to this protocol, some section numbers have been deliberately left blank. This will facilitate any protocol amendments that may occur without the need for the whole protocol to be renumbered.

² The boundaries held in digital electronic form may be inspected at any of the department's offices.

Chapter 2 Unallocated water

11 Scope of chapter 2

This chapter states the process for making available and dealing with unallocated mentioned in chapter 5, part 2 of the Water Plan (Boyne River Basin) 2013.

12 Record of volume of unallocated water

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

Part 1 Granting from strategic water infrastructure reserve

13 Process for granting water allocations from the strategic water infrastructure reserve

- (1) The chief executive may accept a submission from the resource operations licence holder for the Awoonga Water Supply Scheme for making unallocated water available from the strategic water infrastructure reserve for up to 19 000 ML.
- (2) The submission must be supported by—
 - (a) sufficient information to enable the chief executive to assess the submission against the outcomes and objectives of the Water Plan (Boyne River Basin) 2013; and
 - (b) an application for an amendment to the resource operations licence.
- (3) An application for section (2)(b) must include—
 - (a) details of the proposed water infrastructure;
 - (b) proposed environmental management rules; and
 - (c) a condition requiring the preparation of an operations manual that stating the infrastructure operating rules and the water sharing rules for the water allocation being granted.
- (4) The chief executive may require the submitter to give additional information.
- (5) If the submitter fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with the requirement for additional information within the reasonable time stated in the requirement, the submission lapses.
- (6) The chief executive may grant a supplemented water allocation following the amendment of the resource operations licence.

Part 2 Granting from strategic or general reserve

14 Application of part 2

This part applies to unallocated water held as—

- (a) strategic reserve; and
- (b) general reserve.

15 Criteria associated with a process for granting unallocated water

- (1) In preparing and implementing a process for releasing unallocated water through a process stated in the Water Regulation 2016, the chief executive must consider the following criteria—
- (a) the purpose for which the water is required;
 - (b) the efficiency of existing and proposed water use practices;
 - (c) the extent to which water is being taken and under existing authorisations in the plan area;
 - (d) the availability of an alternative water supply for the purpose for which the water is required; and
 - (e) the impact the proposed taking of, or interfering with, the water may have on existing water users and the operations of resource operations licence holder in the plan area.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not limit the matters the chief executive may consider.

16 Water licences for taking water granted from the strategic reserve

In granting a water licences from the strategic reserve for a coordinated project or a project of regional significance, the chief executive must impose a condition on the licence that on conclusion of the project the volume of water returns to the strategic reserve.

17 to 20 Section numbers not used

Chapter 3 Water allocation dealing rules— supplemented allocations

21 Scope of chapter 4

This chapter provides for water allocation dealings for water allocations managed under a resource operations licence within the Awoonga Water Supply Scheme.

22 Permitted and prohibited changes to a water allocation—Act, s 159

There are no permitted or prohibited changes for water allocations under this chapter.

23 to 30 Section numbers not used

Chapter 4 Seasonal water assignment for particular water licences

31 Scope of chapter 4

This chapter provides for seasonal water assignment of water licences in the Boyne River Basin.

32 Seasonal water assignment rules—Act, s 127

- (1) The holder of a water licence located within the subcatchment area 'A' water management area may apply under for a seasonal water assignment.
- (2) Seasonal water assignments are permitted only if—
 - (a) the water licence is a metered entitlement in accordance with the Water Regulation 2016;
 - (b) the water level at Pike's Crossing is greater than 0.75 m AHD; and
 - (c) the water level in Awoonga Dam is greater than 30 m AHD.
- (3) The amount of water that may be seasonally assigned under a water licence in a water year may not exceed the unused portion of water for that water licence.
- (4) A water licence not mentioned in subsection (1) may not be seasonally assigned.

33 to 40 Section numbers not used

Chapter 5 Water Permits

41 Granting a water permit to Gladstone Area Water Board

- (1) This section applies to an application for a water permit to take water from the Awoonga Water Supply Scheme made by Gladstone Area Water Board under section 237 of the *Water Act 2000* which is associated with a water licence held by Gladstone Area Water Board to take water in the Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) 2011 area.
- (2) The application may be granted only if the chief executive is satisfied that—
 - (a) the applicant holds a water entitlement to take water from the Fitzroy River that has been granted under the provisions of the resource operations plan for the Fitzroy Basin; and
 - (b) the granting is consistent with—
 - (i) the environmental flow objectives for the Water Plan (Boyne River Basin) 2013; and
 - (ii) the water allocation security objectives for the Water Plan (Boyne River Basin) 2013
- (3) A water permit may be granted if the permit—
 - (a) is for a period that ends no more than two water years after water is authorised to be taken under the entitlement mentioned in subsection (1); and
 - (b) is for a volume not greater than the volume allowed to be taken under the entitlement mentioned in subsection (1); and
 - (c) ceases to have effect once the entitlement mentioned in subsection (1) is converted to or replaced in accordance with the process outlined in the water management protocol for the Fitzroy Basin.

42 to 50 Section numbers not used

Chapter 6 Monitoring and reporting

51 Water monitoring

- (1) The chief executive must measure or collect and keep publicly available, records of—
 - (a) water quantity;
 - (b) water taken; and
 - (c) the number and volume of water licences seasonally assigned.
- (2) The chief executive must collect information on—
 - (a) future consumptive demands for water; and
 - (b) the construction of new bores.
- (3) The chief executive may use information collected to support water resource assessment and reporting.

52 Natural ecosystems monitoring

The chief executive must collect information on—

- (a) ecological assets that are linked to the ecological outcomes of the Water Plan (Boyne River Basin) 2013; and
- (b) the critical water requirements of ecological assets in the plan area, including the provision of these requirements under the Water Plan (Boyne River Basin) 2013.

53 Assessment and reporting

The chief executive must make ongoing assessments of whether the trends in the data measured, collected and recorded under sections 51 and 52 indicate that outcomes specified in the Water Plan (Boyne River Basin) 2013 are being achieved.

Attachment 1 Boyne River Basin Water Plan area

section 5

