

# **Fitzroy Basin**

## **Fitzroy Barrage Water Supply Scheme Operations Manual**

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# Contents

Chapter 1	Preliminary .....	1
1	Short title .....	1
2	Interpretation of words used in this manual .....	1
3	Water supply scheme.....	1
Chapter 2	Operating rules.....	2
4	Operating levels of storages .....	2
Chapter 3	Water sharing rules .....	3
5	Definitions for Chapter 3 .....	3
6	Taking water under a water allocation .....	3
7	Medium priority restriction period.....	3
8	Other restrictions .....	3
Chapter 4	Seasonal water assignment rules .....	4
9	Seasonal water assignment rules .....	4
<b>Attachment 1</b>	<b>Dictionary .....</b>	<b>5</b>

# Chapter 1 Preliminary

## 1 Short title

- (1) This operations manual may be cited as the Fitzroy Barrage Water Supply Scheme Operations Manual.
- (2) Reference in this document to ‘this manual’ means the Fitzroy Barrage Water Supply Scheme Operations Manual.

## 2 Interpretation of words used in this manual

The dictionary in attachment 1 defines particular words used in this manual.

## 3 Water supply scheme

The extent of the Fitzroy Barrage Water Supply Scheme is defined in schedule 2 of the Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) 2011.

## Chapter 2 Operating rules

### 4 Operating levels of storages

- (1) For the Fitzroy Barrage—
  - (a) The minimum operating level is EL -1.2 m AHD; and
  - (b) The nominal operating level is EL 3.38 m AHD.
- (2) The licence holder may only release water from the Fitzroy Barrage if the release is necessary to—
  - (a) comply with the environmental management rules and the seasonal base flow management strategy prescribed in attachment 2 of the resource operations licence; and
  - (b) pass flows above the Fitzroy Barrage's full supply level.
- (3) Despite subsection (2)(a), the licence holder may only supply water from the Fitzroy Barrage when the water level in the Fitzroy Barrage is above its minimum operating level, unless authorised by the chief executive.

# Chapter 3 Water sharing rules

## 5 Definitions for Chapter 3

In this section—

**high priority demand pattern** means—a demand pattern that is the maximum amount of water that may be supplied under a high priority water allocation for a specified calendar period negotiated with high priority water users, to be implemented when a medium priority restriction period commences; and

**specified calendar period** means—a specified date, week or month.

## 6 Taking water under a water allocation

The volume of water taken under a water allocation in a water year must not exceed the nominal volume.

## 7 Medium priority restriction period

(1) The licence holder must—

- (a) commence a medium priority restriction period during the water year when the water level in the Fitzroy Barrage is below EL 0.75 m AHD; and
- (b) cease a medium priority restriction period when the water level in the Fitzroy Barrage is above EL 0.85 m AHD.

(2) During a medium priority restriction period, the licence holder must—

- (a) cease supply of water to medium priority water allocations;
- (b) for each high priority water allocation—
  - (i) assign a high priority demand pattern; and
  - (ii) restrict supply of water to high priority water allocations based on the assigned high priority demand pattern; and
- (c) For the period stated in column 1 of table 1, the combined total of the high priority demand patterns for all high priority water allocations must not exceed the percentage limit in the adjacent column 2 in table 1.

**Table 1 – Maximum percentage of total high priority water allocation that may be assigned to specified calendar period**

Column 1 – Period	Column 2 – Percentage of total high priority allocation (%)
July to September	31
October to December	34
January to March	34
April to June	31

## 8 Other restrictions

The licence holder may implement further restrictions on the supply of high priority water during a medium priority restriction period in consultation with high priority water allocation holders.

# Chapter 4 Seasonal water assignment rules

## 9 Seasonal water assignment rules

- (1) The holder of a water allocation may enter into an arrangement for a seasonal water assignment in relation to the allocation under section 61 of the *Water Regulation 2016* only if—
  - (a) the holder of the resource operations licence consents to the arrangement; and
  - (b) during a medium priority restriction—
    - (i) for a seasonal water assignment from a medium priority water allocation—the supply of water must cease in accordance with section 8; and
    - (ii) for a seasonal water assignment from a high priority water allocation—
      - (A) a high priority demand pattern defined in section 8 must be assigned to the seasonal assignment from a high priority water allocation;
      - (B) the high priority demand pattern for the original high priority water allocation must be adjusted to account for the seasonal assignment; and
      - (C) the combined high priority demand pattern for the seasonal assignment and original high priority water allocation must not exceed the high priority demand pattern for the original high priority water allocation.
- (2) If the water allocation is being seasonally assigned from one scheme into another scheme, the scheme's licence holder that consents to the arrangement must notify the other scheme's licence holder of the consent having been given.
- (3) Water supplied under a seasonal water assignment may be used for any purpose.

# Attachment 1 Dictionary

Term	Definition
AHD	Australian Height Datum, which references a level or height to a standard base level.
AMTD	Adopted Middle Thread Distance, is the distance in kilometres, measured along the middle of the watercourse, that a specific point in the watercourse is from— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the watercourse's mouth; or</li> <li>if the watercourse is not a main watercourse—the watercourse's confluence with its main watercourse.</li> </ul>
Barrage	A barrier constructed across a watercourse to prevent the inflow of tidal water.
Cease to flow level	For a waterhole, the level at which water stops flowing from a waterhole over its downstream control.
EL	Elevation level.
Full supply level	The specified maximum volume of water within the ponded area of a dam, weir or barrage, which corresponds to the full supply level.
Megalitre (ML)	One million litres.
Minimum operating level	For a dam or weir, is the volume of water within the ponded area of a dam, weir or barrage below which water cannot be released or taken from the infrastructure under normal operating conditions.
Nominal volume	Nominal volume means the volume of water, in megalitres, that represents the share of the water available to be taken by holders of water allocations in a priority group or a water allocation group.
Ponded area	Area of inundation at full supply level of a storage.
Priority group	A grouping of water allocations for taking supplemented water from a water supply scheme with the same Water Allocation Security Objective (WASO).
Release	Water from a dam or weir that passes downstream from the dam or weir either through the dam or weir outlet works or over the dam spillway.
Water use	Refers to actual take of water.
Water user	The holder of a valid water entitlement.