

# **Condamine and Balonne Basin**

## **St George Channel Scheme Distribution Operations Licence Operations Manual**

**July 2018**

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# Chapter 1 Preliminary

## **1 Short title**

This operations manual may be cited as the St George Channel Scheme Distribution Operations Licence Operations Manual.

Reference in this document to 'this manual' means the St George Channel Scheme Distribution Operations Licence Operations Manual.

## **2 Interpretation of words used in this manual**

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

## **3 St George Channel Scheme**

The extent of the St George Channel scheme is outlined in attachment 2.

# Chapter 2 Operating rules

## 4 Operating levels of storages

- (1) The minimum operating levels for Moolabah Weir and Buckinbah Weir are specified in table 1.
- (2) The licence holder may only release supplemented water from a storage, if the release is necessary to—
  - (a) supply water for a water allocation;
  - (b) maintain a downstream storage at or above its minimum operating level;
  - (c) meet the minimum waterhole level requirements in section 5; and
  - (d) comply with the environmental management rules on the distribution operations licence.
- (3) Despite subsection (1), the licence holder may only release or supply supplemented water from a storage if the water level in that storage is above its minimum operating level, unless authorised by the chief executive.

**Table 1 Operating levels of storages**

Storage	Minimum operating level (m AHD)
Moolabah Weir	EL 197.67 m AHD
Buckinbah Weir	EL 194.93 m AHD

## 5 Use of waterholes

A waterhole may be drawn down to 0.5m below its natural cease-to-flow level to allow water to be taken under a water allocation if the water released by the licence holder will replace the water drawn down in the waterhole and is released prior to the time of waterhole draw down.

## 6 Change in rate of release

The licence holder must minimise the occurrence of adverse environmental impacts by ensuring that any change in rate of release of water occurs incrementally.

## 7 Water allocations distributed

The distribution operations licence holder may only take and distribute water for a water allocation if it is a supplemented or unsupplemented water allocation to which the distribution operations licence applies.

## 8 Use of watercourse for distribution

The licence holder must only use the Thuraggi Watercourse for the distribution of water allocations.

## 9 Access to supplemented water for distribution in Thuraggi Watercourse

- (1) The distribution operations licence holder may access water from EJ Beardmore Dam for distribution in Thuraggi Watercourse up to the volume required to—
  - (a) supply supplemented water allocations distributed under the distribution operations licence; and
  - (b) overcome normal watercourse transmission losses incurred in supplying supplemented water allocations distributed under the distribution operations licence.

## **10 Access to unsupplemented water for distribution in Thuraggi Watercourse**

- (1) The distribution operations licence holder may access water from EJ Beardmore Dam for distribution in Thuraggi Watercourse up to the volume required to—
  - (a) supply unsupplemented water allocations distributed under the distribution operations licence; and
  - (b) overcome normal watercourse transmission losses incurred in supplying unsupplemented water allocations distributed under the distribution operations licence as at 29 March 2010 or any future water allocations which consist wholly of water that was authorised to be taken under these water allocations.
- (2) Subsection (1)(b) does not apply to a water allocation which consists of water that was originally authorised to be taken under water allocation number 1488 as at 29 March 2010.

## **11 Priority of supply**

- (1) The supply of unsupplemented water by the distribution operations licence holder using the Thuraggi Watercourse must not impact on the delivery of supplemented water allocations.
- (2) The distribution operations licence holder must give equal priority of supply to all unsupplemented water allocations diverted from zone LBU-01 to zone LBU-09.

## Chapter 3 Other rules

### 12 Relocation of Water

- (1) Water taken under the authority of a water allocation in water management area zone LBU-01 may be relocated from EJ Beardmore Dam to the Thuraggi Watercourse provided—
  - (a) the chief executive has granted a permit under the Act to take the relocated water;
  - (b) the relocation occurs outside an announced period;
  - (c) only the ponded area of E J Beardmore Dam and the Thuraggi Watercourse are used to relocate the water; and
  - (d) the resource operations licence holder for the St George water supply scheme consents to the activity.
  
- (2) Water taken under the authority of a water allocation in water management area zone LBU-01 may be relocated from Jack Taylor Weir through the St George Pump Station provided—
  - (a) the chief executive has granted a permit under the Act to take the relocated water;
  - (b) the relocation occurs outside an announced period;
  - (c) only the ponded area of Jack Taylor Weir is use to relocate the water; and
  - (d) the resource operations licence holder for the St George water supply scheme consents to the activity.

## Chapter 4 Seasonal water assignment rules

### 13 Seasonal water assignment for water allocations managed under a resource operations licence

In accordance with section 61 of the Water Regulation 2016, the resource operations licence holder may only approve a seasonal water assignment of a supplemented water allocation to which a distribution operations licence applies, providing the water allocation holder has obtained the consent of the distribution operations licence holder.

### 14 Seasonal water assignment for water allocations not managed under a resource operations licence

In accordance with the Condamine and Balonne Water Management Protocol, the chief executive may only approve a seasonal assignment of an unsupplemented water allocation to which a distribution operations licence applies, providing the water allocation holder has obtained the consent of the distribution operations licence holder.

# Attachment 1 Dictionary

Term	Definition
Act	Water Act 2000
AHD	The Australian Height Datum, which references a level or height to a standard base level.
Announced period	A period of time during which water may be taken under a water entitlement as announced by the chief executive, adjusted for the location of the water entitlement relative to the location where the announcement is made.
EL	Elevation level.
Licence holder	Distributions operations licence holder for the St George Channel Scheme.
Minimum operating level	This is the level below which water cannot be used to supply customers, either because there is insufficient hydraulic gradient or because of poor water quality and for environmental reasons.
Minimum operating volume	This is the storage volume corresponding to the minimum operating level.
Outlet	Means an arrangement on a dam or weir that allows stored water to be released downstream.
Ponded area	Area of inundation at full supply level of a storage.
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.
Resource operations licence holder	The holder of the resource operations licence for the St George Water Supply Scheme
Supplemented water	Means water supplied under a resource operations licence or other authority to operate water infrastructure
Unsupplemented water	Means water that is not supplemented water
Waterhole	Means a part of a watercourse that contains water after the watercourse ceases to flow, other than a part of a watercourse that is within the storage area of a dam on the watercourse.
Water user	The holder of a valid water entitlement.



# Attachment 2 St George Channel Scheme

