

Interim Don and Dee Rivers and Alma Creek Water Management Area

Water sharing rules

WSS/2016/3449

Version 1.01

18/06/2018

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Version History

Version	Date	Comments
1.00	15/12/2016	New interim water sharing rules
1.01	18/06/2018	Updated departmental name. Minor amendments.

Approval

Position	Name	Date
Director, Operations Support (Water)	Ian Gordon	18/06/2018

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1 Overview

This document defines the water sharing rules for surface water within the Don and Dee Rivers and Alma Creek Water Management Area, as described in section 7A of the Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) 2011 (Fitzroy Plan) and as prescribed in Part 2, section 352 of the Fitzroy Basin Water Management Protocol 2014 (Amended September 2015).

Water sharing rules describe the management arrangements under which water within a water management area can be accessed.

2 Purpose

The rules detailed below establish a framework for water access, water trading and water use accounting.

Water sharing rules articulate the arrangements for access to water and water use accounting within the Don and Dee Rivers and Alma Creek Water Management Area.

Seasonal water assignment rules enable water users to temporarily trade water on a seasonal basis while maintaining overall level of extraction from the resource.

3 Description of the Water Management Area

3.1 Plan of the Water Management Area

The geographical boundaries of the Don and Dee Rivers and Alma Creek Water Management Area are identified by the map in Attachment 1.

Attachment 1 is indicative only of the Don and Dee Rivers and Alma Creek Water Management Area managed under the provisions of the Fitzroy Plan. The water management area boundaries are also represented in digital electronic form and held by the department and may be used to assess activities applicable to this document.

3.2 Water to which these rules apply

These water sharing rules only apply to watercourse water within the Don River, Dee River and Alma Creek and their tributaries within the Don and Dee Rivers and Alma Creek Water Management Area (refer to Attachment 1).

4 Water sharing rules

4.1 Announced entitlement

There are no announced entitlements for the Don and Dee Rivers and Alma Creek Water Management Area.

4.2 Annual entitlement

The annual entitlement is the total volume of water that may be accessed by an entitlement holder within the current water year, and in addition to the nominal entitlement, may include volumes of water made available to entitlement holders through products provided for within the rules, such as seasonal water assignment, carry over or forward draw. No annual entitlement volume is available for water licence holders within the Don and Dee Rivers and Alma Creek Water Management Area. However, entitlement holders are able to access the nominal entitlement of their water licence in accordance with their water licence conditions.

4.3 Carry over rules

Water licence holders within the Don and Dee Rivers and Alma Creek Water Management Area are not authorised to carry over unused nominal entitlement from the previous water year.

4.4 Forward draw rules

Water licence holders within the Don and Dee Rivers and Alma Creek Water Management Area are not authorised to forward draw from the following year's nominal entitlement.

5 Seasonal water assignment

Water licence holders within the Don and Dee Rivers and Alma Creek Water Management Area are not authorised to assign water under a seasonal water assignment.

6 Management and accounting

6.1 Stock or domestic allowance

The take of stock or domestic water is authorised under section 96 of the *Water Act 2000* (the Act). The take of stock or domestic water is separate from the nominal entitlement associated with the water licence.

Water authorised to be taken under a stock or domestic allowance is not subject to these water sharing rules.

Before taking stock and domestic allowance water through a metered entitlement where the entitlement does not stipulate a volume for stock and domestic allowance – the holder of the metered entitlement must notify the department using 'Stock or domestic allowance notification' form (W2F062).

The volume for the stock or domestic allowance is accounted for as the first volume taken in a water year. Water taken for stock and domestic purposes under section 96 of the Act cannot be traded.

6.2 Water accounting

For each water year, water use will be accounted for in the following order:

1. Stock or domestic allowance (if applicable)
2. Nominal entitlement

7 Installation, maintenance and validation of meters

Water entitlement holders are required to manage the purchase, installation, maintenance and validation of their own water meter(s). The water meter can be purchased and installed by the entitlement holder or by a private company of the holder's choice.

A water validation certificate is required to be completed by an authorised meter validator and submitted to the department by the water entitlement holder. This certificate validates the meter in accordance with the Queensland Interim water meter standard for non-urban metering. The lodgement of this completed certificate verifies that the holder has a metered entitlement with an approved meter installed.

Approved meters are required to be revalidated by a validator in accordance with schedule 11 in the Water Regulation 2016. The water entitlement holder must provide evidence of the revalidation to the department using the validation certificate once the repair/inspection is completed.

7.1 Meter readings

Entitlement holders are required to supply up to two readings to the department within a water year. These readings will be required after the eighth month (February) and at the end of each water year (June).

The entitlement holder is also required to provide meter readings—

- in the event of the sale of a property
- as requested by the department.

If a meter is non-operational, the licensee must complete a 'Water use assessment report' form (W2F095). This will account for water used during the time the meter was malfunctioning or being repaired.

Meter readings supplied by the entitlement holder are subject to auditing to ensure that the supplied meter reading is accurate.

8 Responsibilities

Licence holders within the Don and Dee Rivers and Alma Creek Water Management Area must:

- ensure that water is taken in accordance with the conditions of the licence and the water sharing rules
- install, maintain, arrange validation and read water meters, consistent with the requirements outlined in the Water Regulation 2016.

9 Contact

For enquiries relating to any aspect of water management within the Don and Dee Rivers and Alma Creek Water Management Area, please contact:

Position:	Senior Advisor, Regulatory Services, Water Services
Street address:	Lvl 1, 209 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton QLD 4700
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10 Definitions

Announced entitlement is the percentage of the nominal entitlement volume that a licence holder may take in a water year.

Annual entitlement is the volume of water able to be taken by a licence holder for that water year.

Carry over is the unused component of an announced entitlement volume that, if permitted, an entitlement holder may carry over from one water year to the next water year.

Forward draw is part of the licensee's nominal entitlement volume for the following water year, which the licensee may take during the current water year.

Metered entitlement is an authority under the *Water Act 2000* to take or interfere with water prescribed under the Water Regulation 2016 to be a metered entitlement.

Nominal entitlement is the volume of water authorised to be taken during a water year, as specified on the water licence. The volume of water that a licence holder may use during a water year may be varied by an announced entitlement.

Queensland Interim Water Meter Standard for Non-urban Metering is a guide to meter selection, site maintenance and validation requirements.

Seasonal water assignments are assignments where some or all of the water that may be taken under a water entitlement in a water year can be assigned to another person or place.

Validator a person who is accredited by Irrigation Australia Limited CAN 002 567 633 as a certified meter validator or a person appointed by the chief executive as an authorised meter validator under section 109 of the Water Regulation 2016.

Water year is the accounting period for taking water under a water licence. The period may be prescribed under the Water Regulation 2016 or stated on a licence. The water year for the Don and Dee Rivers and Alma Creek Water Management Area is the 12 month period from July 1 to 30 June

Attachment 1 – Don and Dee Rivers and Alma Creek Water Management Area

