

Draft Moreton water plan (targeted amendment) Central Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme

A key objective of the Queensland water planning framework is to find a sustainable balance between protecting existing water users, protecting the environment, and providing avenues for increased productivity through flexible resource management.

A draft targeted amendment to the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007 has been released to set sustainable extraction levels and flexible management arrangements for water within the Central Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme. Volumetric water allocations provide security and certainty of entitlement to water users and defines the resource as a valuable asset that can be leased, sold or mortgaged separate to land. This process has been successfully implemented across Queensland.

Setting a sustainable and volumetric platform of water allocations is essential before any new water supplies are able to be imported into the Valley to support further economic development and jobs for the region. The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy is preparing a strategic business case in close partnership with Building Queensland and local stakeholders that will outline any viable options for additional water into the Lockyer and Somerset region. A draft strategic business case is proposed for release in 2019.

The draft targeted amendment brings the water management framework for the Central Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme into the same reportable standard as the rest of Queensland's water supply schemes.

Water plans apply initially for 10 years after approval. After 5 years of implementation, the department undertakes assessment of a plan's effectiveness. If necessary a water plan can be replaced, amended, or extended for up to another 10 years.

The draft documents

The department has released a draft water plan, a draft water entitlement notice, and a draft water management protocol for consultation and public comment. In addition Seqwater, the scheme owner and operator, has prepared a draft operations manual.

The table on the next page summarises the intent of each planning document and who is responsible for preparing the draft document. More detail about these documents and how they were prepared is provided in the Statement of Intent.

How to make a submission

Anyone can make a submission about the draft targeted amendment documents. You are invited to tell us which proposals you support and those you don't, and the reasons why. This ensures we can take into account all views in finalising the targeted amendment.

The volume of water that entitlement holders will be allocated will be established in very close consultation with individuals and has been based on all available historical usage records. If growers have additional information to show that they have been using more water, then we encourage them to make a submission about their metered water use data.

Further information

To view copies of the draft plan documents and further information regarding the draft Moreton water plan targeted amendment, please refer to the catchment webpage at

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/water/catchments-planning/water-plan-areas/moreton>

Planning instrument document	Intent and key aims of document	Responsible delegate
Draft Moreton water plan targeted amendment (the draft water plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a process to convert all supplemented surface water and underground water entitlements, and water supply agreements managed as part of the Central Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme (the scheme) to tradeable, volumetric water allocations. Defines water allocation security objectives and performance indicators for both underground water and surface water in the scheme, which reflect the operation of the scheme and ensure allocation holders are protected when changes are considered to the scheme's management arrangements. Specifies trading zones. 	Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
Draft water management protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water allocation dealing rules, and permanent water trading rules. Any volumes of unallocated water reserved for particular purposes or stated location. 	Chief executive for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
Draft water entitlement notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines in detail those water entitlements in the scheme that are converted, granted or amended through the draft plan amendment. 	Chief executive for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
Draft resource operations licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roles and responsibilities of scheme operator to achieve the outcomes of the water plan. Details of the infrastructure used to operate the scheme. Watercourses authorised to be used for the distribution of water. Environmental management rules. Monitoring and reporting requirements. 	Chief executive for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
Draft water supply scheme operations manuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational rules for the scheme. Equitable water management arrangements in the form of water sharing rules (i.e. announced allocation rules). Seasonal water assignment rules for temporary water trading options. Morton Vale pipeline operations and management. 	Seqwater