

Gold Coast

Water Management Protocol

December 2016

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Chapter 1 Preliminary

1 Short title

This water management protocol may be cited as the Gold Coast Water Management Protocol 2016¹.

2 Commencement of the water management protocol

This protocol commences on 6 December 2016.

3 Purpose of protocol

This protocol implements the Water Plan (Gold Coast) 2006.

4 Area to which this plan applies

This protocol applies to the plan area for the Water Plan (Gold Coast) 2006 as shown in attachment 1.

5 Water to which this protocol applies

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

6 Information about areas

- (1) The exact location of the boundaries of the plan area, subcatchment areas, zones and the water management area are held in digital electronic form by the department.
- (2) The information held in digital electronic form can be reduced or enlarged to show details of the boundaries²

7 to 10 Section numbers not used

¹ To allow for future amendments to this plan, some section numbers have been deliberately left blank. This will facilitate any plan amendments that may occur without the need for the whole plan 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 Record of volume of unallocated water

- (1) The chief executive must develop a register of the volume of unallocated water available.
- (2) This register must be updated after the granting of an entitlement.

12 Availability of unallocated water

Unallocated water held as strategic reserve and general reserve is reserved for future use.

13 to 20 Section numbers not used

Chapter 3 Water allocation dealing rules— supplemented water allocations

21 Scope of chapter 3—Act, s 158

This chapter provides the water allocation dealing rules for water allocations managed under a resource operations licence holder for the Nerang Water Supply Scheme.

Division 1 Permitted changes

22 Permitted subdivisions or amalgamations

- (1) Subdivision of a water allocation is permitted where—
 - (a) the sum of the nominal volumes of the new water allocations is equal to the nominal volume of the water allocation that is being subdivided; and
 - (b) the location and priority group of the new water allocations are the same as the location and priority group of the water allocation being subdivided.
- (2) Amalgamation of water allocations is permitted where—
 - (a) the nominal volume of the new water allocation is equal to the sum of the nominal volumes of the water allocations that are being amalgamated; and
 - (b) the location and priority group of water allocations that are being amalgamated are the same.

Division 2 Prohibited changes

23 Prohibited subdivisions or amalgamations

- (1) Subdivision of a water allocation is prohibited where—
 - (a) the sum of nominal volumes of the new water allocations is not equal to the nominal volume of the water allocation being subdivided;
 - (b) the location and priority group of the new water allocations are not the same as those of the water allocation being subdivided; or
 - (c) the nominal volume of a new water allocation is less than one megalitre.
- (2) Amalgamation of water allocations is prohibited where—
 - (a) the nominal volume of the new water allocation is not equal to the sum of the nominal volumes of the water allocations being amalgamated; or
 - (b) the location and priority group of the water allocations being amalgamated are not the same.

24 Other prohibited changes

The following changes to a water allocation are prohibited—

- (a) a change to the purpose or location of an allocation; and
- (b) a change to a priority group that is not specified in the Water Plan (Gold Coast) 2006.

Division 3 Other changes

25 Application for changes not specified as permitted or prohibited

An application for a change to a water allocation that is not specified as permitted or prohibited in this chapter may be made in accordance with part 5, division 3, subdivision 4 of the Water Regulation 2016.

26 to 30 Section numbers not used

Chapter 4 **Unsupplemented water allocations**

31 Application of chapter 4

This chapter contains general provisions, which apply to all water allocations to take unsupplemented water in the Lower Nerang Water Management Area.

Part 1 Water sharing rules

32 Taking water under a water allocation

The total volume of water taken under a water allocation in a water year must not exceed the annual volumetric limit for the water allocation.

33 Access rules for water allocations

The holder of a water allocation located in the Lower Nerang Water Management Area must not take water under an allocation unless—

- (a) water is taken at a rate not exceeding the maximum rate on the allocation;
- (b) water is taken from the location on the allocation; and
- (c) the allocation holder complies with any special conditions on the allocation.

Part 2 Water allocation dealing rules

Division 1 Permitted changes

34 Subdivisions and amalgamations

- (1) The subdivision of a water allocation into two or more water allocations is permitted where—
 - (a) the new water allocations have the same purpose and location; and
 - (b) the nominal volume, annual volumetric limit, any daily or monthly volumetric limit and maximum rates of take of each of the new water allocations is in the same proportion as the nominal volume, annual volumetric limit, any daily or monthly volumetric limit and maximum rate of take of the water allocation that is being subdivided; and
 - (c) the sum of the nominal volumes, annual volumetric limits, any daily or monthly volumetric limit, and maximum rates of take of the new water allocations equal the nominal volume, annual volumetric limit, any daily or monthly volumetric limit, and maximum rate of take of the water allocation that is being subdivided.
- (2) Two or more water allocations may be amalgamated into a single water allocation where—
 - (a) the water allocations have the same purpose and location; and
 - (b) the nominal volume, annual volumetric limit, any daily or monthly volumetric limit, and maximum rate of take of the new water allocation are equal to the

sum of the nominal volumes, annual volumetric limits, any daily or monthly volumetric limits, and maximum rates of take of the water allocations that are being amalgamated.

Division 2 Prohibited changes

35 Subdivisions and amalgamations

- (1) The subdivision of a water allocation into two or more water allocations is prohibited where—
 - (a) the new water allocations do not have the same purpose and location;
 - (b) the sum of the nominal volumes, annual volumetric limits, any daily or monthly volumetric limits, and maximum rates of take of the proposed water allocations are not equal to the nominal volume, annual volumetric limit, any daily or monthly volumetric limit, and maximum rate of take of the water allocation that is being subdivided; or
 - (c) the nominal volume of a new water allocation is less than one megalitre.
- (2) The amalgamation of two or more water allocations into a single water allocation is prohibited where—
 - (a) the existing water allocations being amalgamated do not have the same purpose and location; or
 - (b) the nominal volume, annual volumetric limit, any daily or monthly volumetric limit, and maximum rate of take of the proposed water allocation are not equal to the sum of the nominal volumes, annual volumetric limits, any daily or monthly volumetric limits, and maximum rates of take of the existing water allocations that are being amalgamated.

36 Other prohibited changes

The following changes are prohibited—

- (a) a change to the purpose or location of a water allocation; and
- (b) a change to the water allocation group of a water allocation.

Division 3 Other changes

37 Application for changes not specified as permitted or prohibited

An application for a change to a water allocation that is not specified as permitted or prohibited in this chapter may be made in accordance with part 5, division 3, subdivision 4 of the Water Regulation 2016.

Part 3 Seasonal water assignment rules

38 Seasonal water assignment rules

The chief executive may approve a seasonal assignment of an unsupplemented water allocation—

- (a) where the location of the seasonally assigned volume is not changed;

- (b) where the conditions under which water may be taken under seasonal assignment are the same as the conditions of the water allocation that is being seasonally assigned; and
- (c) if the volume of the seasonal assignment is—
 - (i) less than the annual volumetric limit of the water allocation—where the maximum rate of take for the seasonal water assignment is in proportion to the share of the annual volumetric limit of the water allocation that is being seasonally assigned; or
 - (ii) equal to the annual volumetric limit of the water allocation—where the maximum rate for the seasonal water assignment is equal to the maximum rate and any daily or monthly volumetric limit of the water allocation that is being seasonally assigned.

39 to 40 Section numbers not used

Chapter 5 Performance assessment

41 Water monitoring

- (1) The chief executive must measure or collect and keep publicly available, records of—
 - (a) water quantity;
 - (b) water taken;
 - (c) groundwater levels;
 - (d) nominal volume of water permanently traded and seasonally assigned;
 - (e) the number of permanent trades and seasonal assignments; and
 - (f) prices for water permanently traded.
- (2) The chief executive may use information collected to support water resource assessment and reporting.

42 Natural ecosystems monitoring

The chief executive must collect and keep publicly available information on—

- (a) ecological assets that are linked to the general ecological outcomes and specific ecological outcomes of the Water Plan (Gold Coast) 2006.
- (b) the critical water requirements of ecological assets, including the provision of these requirements under the Water Plan (Gold Coast) 2006.

43 Assessment and reporting

The chief executive must make ongoing assessments of whether the trends in the data measured, collected and recorded under sections 41 and 42 indicate that outcomes specified in the Water Plan (Gold Coast) 2006 are being achieved.

Attachment 1 Gold Coast Water Plan area

section 5

