

Draft Lower Fitzroy Water Supply Scheme Operations Manual

Lower Fitzroy Resource Operations Licence

12/09/2022

This publication has been compiled by Water Resources, Sunwater Limited.

© Sunwater Limited, 2022

Sunwater Limited supports and encourages the dissemination and exchange of its information. The copyright in this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence.

Under this licence you are free, without having to seek our permission, to use this publication in accordance with the licence terms.



You must keep intact the copyright notice and attribute Sunwater Limited as the source of the publication.

Note: Some content in this publication may have different licence terms as indicated.

For more information on this licence, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

The information contained herein is subject to change without notice. Sunwater Limited shall not be liable for technical or other errors or omissions contained herein. The reader/user accepts all risks and responsibility for losses, damages, costs and other consequences resulting directly or indirectly from using this information.

Statement of changes made to this manual

Version	Version date	Statement of changes	Approved by
V1-0	June 2018	Initial document created and approved by Department of Natural Resource, Mines and Energy	David Wiskar – Executive Director, Water Policy. Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy on 29 June 2018
V2-0	September 2022	Amendment to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3 – corrected referencing to Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) 2011 Section 4(4)(a)(i) – change “above EL -0.50m AHD” to “below EL 1.00m AHD” 	Draft for consultation

Table of Contents

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

Chapter 1. Preliminary

1. Short title

- (1) This operations manual may be cited as the Lower Fitzroy Water Supply Scheme Operations Manual.
- (2) Reference in this document to 'this manual' means the Lower Fitzroy 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 Lower Fitzroy Water Supply Scheme is defined in schedule 4A and 4B of the Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) 2011.

Chapter 2. Operating rules

4. Operating levels of storages

- (1) The minimum operating levels and nominal operating levels for the Eden Bann Weir and the Fitzroy Barrage are specified in table 1.
- (2) The licence holder for the Lower Fitzroy Water Supply Scheme may only release water from the Eden Bann Weir if the release is necessary to—
 - (a) supply water to a water allocation holder;
 - (b) maintain the Fitzroy Barrage 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 prescribed in attachment 2 of the resource operations licence.
- (3) The licence holder must make releases from Eden Bann Weir to maintain the Fitzroy Barrage at its nominal operating level unless below a level specified in subsection (4).
- (4) Despite subsections (2) and (3), the licence holder may only—
 - (a) release water from Eden Bann Weir when the water level in Eden Bann Weir is above EL 9.55m AHD, except—
 - (i) to supply water allocation holders located in zone Fitzroy A if the water level in the Fitzroy Barrage is below EL 1.00m AHD; or
 - (ii) to supply water allocation holders located in zone Fitzroy B; and
 - (b) release or supply water from Eden Bann Weir when the water level in Eden Bann Weir is above its minimum operating level, unless authorised by the chief executive.

Table 1: Operating levels of storages

Storage	Minimum operating level (m AHD)	Nominal operating level (m AHD)
Eden Bann Weir	EL 7.25	Not applicable
Fitzroy Barrage	EL -1.20	EL 3.38

5. Minimum levels in waterholes

For a waterhole within the extent of this water supply scheme—supplemented water must not be taken when the level in the waterhole is more than 0.5 metres below its cease to flow level, unless otherwise authorised by the chief executive.

Chapter 3. Water sharing rules

6. Definitions for Chapter 3

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.

7. 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.

8. 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 0.75m AHD; and
 - (b) cease a medium priority restriction period when the water level in the Fitzroy Barrage is above EL 0.85m 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 Table 2, the combined total of the high priority demand patterns for all high priority water allocations must not exceed the corresponding percentage limit listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Maximum percentage of total high priority water allocation that may be assigned to specified calendar period

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

9. 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

10. 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	The 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"> the watercourse’s mouth; or if the watercourse is not a main watercourse—the watercourse’s confluence with its main watercourse.
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	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.
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 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.