

Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme

Customer Update – 25 March 2020

Approval of water-sharing rule amendment and release of Building Queensland assessment of long-term options for Paradise Dam

Earlier this year we wrote to you regarding a proposed amendment to water-sharing rules that would enable Sunwater to maximise allocations in the Burnett River sub-scheme for the next water year, commencing 1 July. The amendment has now been approved by the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy (DNRME).

How have the water-sharing rules changed?

- Sunwater's unsold Burnett water allocations (high and medium priority) have been removed from the announced allocation calculations. Other parameters such as transmission and operating loss and high priority reserve have also been altered to reflect the removal of the unsold water.
- These amendments will apply while work is carried out at Paradise Dam which will include the Essential Works and any subsequent works that may be required once the long-term future of the dam is determined.
- No changes have been made to the operation of Fred Haigh Dam.

What does the rule change mean for likely allocations next water year?

Over the last five years, medium priority allocations for the Burnett River sub-scheme have ranged between 71 and 91 per cent at the beginning of the water year. The amendment to water-sharing rules, along with current inflows, will secure allocations close to this range.

- Medium priority allocations for the next water year are now anticipated to be in the range of 68 to 74 per cent in the Burnett River sub-scheme.
- Medium priority allocations in the Kolan River sub-scheme are anticipated to remain at 100 per cent in the next water year.
- High priority allocations in both sub-schemes will remain at 100 per cent for the next water year.
- Other variables – including scheme carry-over, inflows, releases and evaporation – may impact on the amount of water available when calculating allocations for the next water year.
- Allocations for the 2020/21 water year will be confirmed in July.

During consultation on the proposed amendment to the water-sharing rules there was strong feedback – from small growers right through to the Irrigator Advisory Committee – that the preferred approach was to maximise allocations for existing customers and to not artificially influence the market by Sunwater holding back some water for sale. The approved amendment will not inhibit the temporary transfer of water from existing allocation holders.

Building Queensland assessment of long-term options for Paradise Dam

Building Queensland has released an assessment of long-term options for Paradise Dam. The report is available at www.buildingqueensland.qld.gov.au/paradise-dam

Our latest [community update](#) outlines the information to be collected as a matter of priority to allow government to determine the best long-term option for Paradise Dam. It also outlines Sunwater’s commitment to working with stakeholders to further identify and determine the viability of alternate water storage options to meet future water demand within the Burnett River sub-scheme.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or feedback regarding Paradise Dam please contact us on 3120 0270 or community@sunwater.com.au