

# Water accounting and zone cap update

## Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme

### Summary

- Over the last 24 months, the Bundaberg region has seen some of the lowest rainfall on record.
- Sunwater recognises the significant pressure drought conditions are having on the region and the importance of maximising water availability for irrigators and the wider community.
- Sunwater is working to identify matters which these conditions raise to ensure the ongoing safe and efficient operation of our water storages and transparent water accounting for customers.
- Following the Kolan sub-scheme zones AA and AB caps being reached, Sunwater conducted a review and identified a historical water entitlement arrangement predating the Water Act affecting the Kolan sub-scheme zone AA cap and temporary trading.
- As a result, additional water is now available in the Kolan sub-scheme, zone AA for temporary trading.
- Sunwater will be accepting applications for temporary transfers out of zone AA from **Tuesday, 19 October 2021**.
- In consultation with the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW), Sunwater has also amended the current water accounting approach effective 1 July 2021 to ensure water availability.

### Background

The current rules which govern operation of the Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme (BWSS) were introduced in 2014. These rules make allowances for two separate sub-schemes, Burnett River and Kolan River to run independently of each other however, both share a portion of water from Fred Haigh Dam which is referred to as the Bulk Capacity Share Accounts.

Customers can permanently or temporarily trade water across the whole scheme if transferred within one of the seven zone caps, four in the Kolan sub-scheme and three in the Burnett sub-scheme.

### Zone cap update

A review was recently conducted as a result of zone caps being reached across multiple zones within the BWSS scheme. This review identified a historical water entitlement arrangement for 4500 megalitres (ML) that had not been accounted for in the Kolan sub-scheme, zone AA. This

matter was then presented to DRDMW which has endorsed this volume of water being included in the relevant zone cap.

An update has been made to accommodate the 4500 ML that was not included in the Kolan sub-scheme zone AA storage capacity assessment. As a result, the zone cap, believed to have been reached in July 2021, now includes an additional 4500 ML.

Sunwater has contacted all customers who had their temporary transfer application rejected prior to the zone cap customer communication issued on 29 July 2021. Subsequently Sunwater has revised the zone cap and is pleased to advise there is **1874.24 ML** available to be transferred out of zone AA. In fairness to customers, Sunwater will reserve this available volume for one week from today and will commence accepting temporary transfer applications in order of receipt from **Tuesday, 19 October 2021**. Please note, temporary transfers for other zones within the scheme will continue to be assessed and processed during this period.

Current available volumes of water relative to each zone cap in the scheme is published on the Bundaberg scheme page under 'Current volumes available for temporary transfer per operational zone'.

Customers can submit temporary transfer applications via:

- manual application form available for download [here](#) which can be completed and emailed to [customersupport@sunwater.com.au](mailto:customersupport@sunwater.com.au)
- Sunwater Online, for assistance an online guide is available [here](#). Please note, both the buyer and seller will need to have access to Sunwater Online to successfully process the temporary transfer.

### **Update to water accounting methodology**

Following consultation with DRDMW, Sunwater has recalculated the Bulk Capacity Share Accounts and backdated this calculation to 1 July 2021. This change will incorporate water accounting processes which allow for amendments to the two Fred Haigh Dam Bulk Capacity Share Accounts as temporary transfers occur throughout the water year. This will ensure both announced allocation and temporary transfer water is accounted for across the two sub-schemes and provide assurance to the operations team and customers regarding water availability. This change will not impact the announced allocation for the 2021-22 water year.

The recalculation and amendments to the two accounts still align with the current rules outlined in the scheme operations manual. The Sunwater website has been updated to reflect this change on the Bundaberg scheme page under 'Announced Allocations'.

For more information, please contact customer support by phone on 13 15 89 or live chat via [sunwater.com.au](https://sunwater.com.au), Monday-Friday 8.30am-4.30pm.