

End of water year 2023-24 newsletter Burdekin Haughton Water Supply Scheme

May 2024

Scheme overview for 2023-24

The below table shows scheme water usage and remaining balance as at 1 April 2024, when the last quarterly meter reads were completed.

Scheme	Usage from 1 July 2023	Estimated remaining balance
Burdekin Haughton	355,661 ML	792,643 ML

End of water year information

For a smooth end of water year process, please ensure any water overuse for 2023-24 is rectified, and all outstanding accounts are paid in full.

To ensure Sunwater customers can effectively manage their water and business, this newsletter outlines key information and submission dates regarding meter reads, carryover and temporary transfers.

Customers who exceed their water allocation are encouraged to consider temporary transfers to address the overuse.

Carryover of unused available water

Carryover from the 2023-24 water year will be made available to channel, river and pipeline allocation holders for the 2024-2025 water year subject to guidelines and conditions. Please note if Burdekin Falls Dam is spilling on 1 July 2024 then carryover will not be available.

All metered channel, river and pipeline irrigation customers in the Burdekin Haughton Water Supply Scheme with remaining allocation water at the end of the water year will automatically be assessed for carryover.

The carryover guidelines and conditions can be viewed on the second page of the scheme's carryover application form at

www.sunwater.com.au/customer/forms

Predictions for 2024-25



Announced allocations

High Priority – 100%

Medium Priority – 72-79%

This is a prediction only. 2024-25 announced allocation notifications will be sent in the first two weeks of July 2024

Key submission dates for end of water year 2023-24



24 June 2024

Temporary transfer application forms



3 July 2024

Voluntary meter reads (for customers wishing to take water up to 30 June 2024)

Weed control trial

Sunwater has been trialling Flumioxazin as an alternative to the traditional chemical used for aquatic weed control (Acrolein or Magnicide H). Flumioxazin is readily available, significantly cheaper, and safer to handle. The trial has shown promising results, and is continuing so we understand the chemical's effectiveness on ribbon weed, which is prominent in the Burdekin. The trial's focus is now on mixture rates, application methods, and Flumioxazin's impact on crops after the channels have been treated.

Irrigation prices 2021-22 to 2024-25

Irrigators supplied with water from Sunwater-owned schemes will automatically receive the 15 per cent. The total price listed on invoices issued by Sunwater will reflect the discounted price. The fees and charges schedules, on the Sunwater website reflect irrigation tariffs including the 15 per cent discount.

Irrigation prices 2025-26 to 2028-29

Irrigation prices that will apply from 1 July 2025 will be advised in early 2025 following the irrigation pricing review process initiated in March 2023. Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) is reviewing costs and tariffs set out in Sunwater's Irrigation Pricing Proposal 2025-26 to 2028-29, submitted in November 2023. The QCA is required to recommend prices for the Queensland Government's consideration in its Final Report, due in February 2025.

The QCA spent the first half of 2024 reviewing Sunwater's proposal and seeking customer feedback to inform the QCA's Draft Report expected in July 2024. Both Sunwater and customers will have the opportunity to make formal submissions on the Draft Report in the second half of this calendar year.

Meter installations

Sunwater has been trialling back-to-base metering technology in the Macintyre Brook Water Supply Scheme over the past 18 months. Results have shown telemetered readings can be provided in areas with limited network service.

Telemetry will reduce the need for manual data collection from the physical meter site. The benefits of back-to-base metering and remote operations include:

- improved lead and water order times (due to remote visibility of water levels)
- reduced releases (due to remote visibility of orders and pumping in real time)
- increase in operator availability
- improved order vs pumping ratio.

16 meters that provide back-to-base capability were installed in this scheme during the year.

Burdekin Falls Dam Raising and Improvement Project

Sunwater is continuing to investigate a proposal to raise and improve Burdekin Falls Dam to meet safety requirements and future water demand. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is underway for a two-metre raising of the dam.

The current stage of the project includes progressing design, collecting detailed geotechnical information, procurement planning, and EIS consultation with stakeholders and the community. The Queensland Coordinator-General will release a draft EIS for public review once

satisfied Sunwater has met the Terms of Reference.

For more information call 1800 325 145, visit sunwater.com.au/projects or email burdekin.projects@sunwater.com.au

Clare Weir refurbishment

Twenty-five hydraulic cylinders on Clare Weir were refurbished during the annual shutdown, significantly improving gate reliability.

Lower Burdekin Rising Groundwater Project

The Lower Burdekin Rising Groundwater Project aims to deliver targeted off-farm actions to mitigate rising groundwater in the Mulgrave and Haughton sub-areas.

Sunwater has been investigating seepage mitigation options with stakeholders to assist with identifying sustainable solutions, including:

- upgrading a section of open channel to reduce water seepage
- borefield extraction sites to remove and redirect water from the aquifer and an accompanying Code of Practice
- improving efficiencies of the Gladys Lagoon water distribution system.

For more information:

- visit sunwater.com.au/projects
- email groundwaterproject@sunwater.com.au

Commercial and industrial customers

To assist with preparing for end of water year, commercial and industrial customers should contact their relationship manager to discuss any special arrangements currently in place. The Commercial team can be contacted directly by:

- emailing commercial@sunwater.com.au
- phoning 13 15 89 and asking for your relationship manager.

Are your contact details up to date?

To avoid missing critical communications and streamline managing your Sunwater business, customers are encouraged to keep their contact details and authorised account contacts up to date by:

- logging into your Sunwater Online account online.sunwater.com.au/Login
- chatting with an advisor via the [Sunwater website](#) live chat or phoning 13 15 89.

Phone: 13 15 89

Email: customersupport@sunwater.com.au

Live chat: sunwater.com.au (Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm)

Post: PO Box 15536 City East QLD 4002

Fax: (07) 3036 6482

Delivering water for prosperity