

Proposed amendment to water sharing rules for Callide Valley Water Supply Scheme Zone 8B

Summary

- Sunwater is proposing a change to the existing medium priority (MP) water sharing rules in the Callide Valley Water Supply Scheme (WSS) to increase MP announced allocations (AA) for Zone 8B.
- The change can only take effect once approved by the Department of Local Government Water and Volunteers (DLGWV).

Background

The Callide Valley WSS is managed by Sunwater under rules contained in the Callide Valley WSS [Resource Operations Licence](#) (ROL) and associated [Operations Manual](#).

Sunwater was made aware of customer concerns regarding the AA for Zone 8B for the last two water years being lower in comparison to the adjacent Zones 7, 8A and 10B. Following consultation with DLGWV, a review of the water sharing rules commenced.

Changes in detail

Drivers for the change

The AA is relative to the water level in the monitoring bore. As the level changes in the bore, it corresponds to a particular AA.

The groundwater levels in Zone 8B were assessed to have a similar trend as the adjacent zones, but there was a marked difference in the resulting AA.

The proposed change

Sunwater has reviewed the AA levels using the calculation tool developed in 1997, incorporating data from 1997 to 2025, and assessed these levels and their usage in relation to adjacent zones.

Under the proposed change, the new levels for the AA calculation consider the performance level of all zones to identify new bore level triggers for the Zone 8B monitoring bore.

The performance level for the Zone 8B monitoring bore was compared with the performance levels of monitoring bores in Zones 7, 8A and 10B. It was noted that groundwater levels have been reacting similarly, but the AA levels have not. All four zones appeared to have a similar performance. In addition, Zone 10B showed similarity in water depth below ground level.

The AA calculation tool was updated and bore levels for Zone 8B were adjusted to represent the relationship between Zone 10B levels and AA, which improved the AA for Zone 8B.

Understanding the Impact

The AA rules for the neighbouring zones will remain unchanged. Adjusting the AA formula for Zone 8B to be closer to that of Zones 7 and 10B may increase the take of water. This may lead to lower AAs in the future if groundwater levels reduce because of increased use. It is noted though that the temporary transfer market has been used to provide increased water take in Zone 8B so any changes in extraction would likely be minor.

Because the proposed changes are related more to how water is shared equitably between customers, it is not expected to impact the Groundwater Dependents Ecosystems. Further, Sunwater believes the proposed changes meet the overall objectives of the water plan by sharing the water resource equitably between customers and the environment.

DLGWV will make the ultimate decision based on its knowledge of the scheme and customer feedback received about this proposal.

Regulatory considerations

Under section 200 of the *Water Act 2000 (Qld)*, Sunwater can make an application to DLGWV to amend an Operations Manual. DLGWV can approve the change if the application:

- meets water plan outcomes and measures
- meets water plan water allocation security objectives and environmental flow objectives
- is developed in consultation with all affected persons.

Submitting feedback

The final feedback period will close at
11:59pm on Friday 24 October 2025.



To submit feedback regarding the changes proposed, please email Sunwater at:

CustomerEngagement@Sunwater.com.au.

For general enquiries, please contact customer support on **13 15 89, 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday to Friday**, or by emailing CustomerSupport@Sunwater.com.au

Announced allocation for water allocations belonging to the medium priority group

Announced allocation (%)	ZONE 3B	ZONE 3A	ZONE 5	ZONE 7	ZONE 8B	ZONE 8A	ZONE 10B
		Assessment site- E: 242847 N:7304097 Burnett Highway (RN 13030234)	Assessment site- E: 249632 N:7301930 Dawson Highway (RN 13030126)	Assessment site- E: 246932 N:7297130 Meissners Road (RN 13030259)	Assessment site- E: 250477 N:7295924 Van Itallies Road (RN 13030747)	Assessment site- E: 254746 N:7296907 Mullers Road (RN 13030079)	Assessment site- E: 251641 N:7292284 Hintons Lane (RN 13030699)
	Reference height - 159.32	Reference height - 160.44	Reference height - 173.52	Reference height - 173.86	Reference height - 181.82	Reference height - 190.45	Reference height - 186.32
	Groundwater level (EL - metres AHD)						
100	>145.52	>150.47	>161.62	>158.73	>174.22 >172.02	>184.88	>176.22
95	144.86	150.02	161.30	158.42	173.21 171.52	184.26	175.61
90	144.20	149.30	160.99	158.11	172.20 171.02	183.63	175.01
85	143.54	148.58	160.68	157.80	171.20 170.52	183.01	174.40
80	142.88	147.86	160.37	157.48	171.06 170.46	182.38	173.80
75	142.22	147.14	160.06	157.17	170.93 170.39	181.76	173.19
70	142.05	147.03	159.75	157.06	170.80 170.33	181.63	173.06
65	141.87	146.93	159.44	156.94	170.67 170.27	181.51	172.93
60	141.70	146.83	159.13	156.82	170.54 170.2	181.38	172.80
55	141.53	146.73	158.82	156.71	170.40 170.14	181.26	172.66
50	141.35	146.63	158.54	156.59	170.27 170.07	181.13	172.53
45	141.18	146.53	158.27	156.48	170.14 170.01	181.01	172.40
40	141.00	146.42	158.00	156.36	170.01 169.94	180.88	172.27
35	140.83	146.32	157.72	156.25	169.88	180.76	172.14
30	140.65	146.22	157.45	156.13	169.87	180.63	172.00
25	140.64	146.12	157.18	156.02	169.86	180.51	171.87
20	140.63	146.02	156.90	155.90	169.85	180.38	171.86
15	140.61	146.00	156.63	155.79	169.84	180.26	171.85
10	140.60	145.98	156.36	155.67	169.84	180.24	171.84
5	140.59	145.96	156.09	155.64	169.83	180.22	171.83
0	<140.57	<145.94	<156.02	<155.61	<169.82	<180.20	<171.82

>174.22 indicates current level >172.02 indicates proposed level

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For more information:



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