

# Resource Operations Licence

## Water Act 2000



### Name of licence

Eton Water Supply Scheme Resource Operations Licence

### Holder

Sunwater Limited

### Water plan

The licence relates to the Water Plan (Pioneer Valley) 2002.

### Water infrastructure

The water infrastructure to which the licence relates is detailed in Attachment 1.

### Authority to take water or to interfere with the flow of water

The licence holder is authorised to:

- (a) interfere with the flow of water to the extent necessary to operate the water infrastructure to which the licence relates; and
- (b) take water from the Pioneer River using Mirani Pump Stations.

### Distribution of water allocations

The licence holder may use infrastructure of the Eton Water Supply Scheme to distribute water allocations for the Pioneer River Water Supply Scheme provided the water allocation security objective of water allocations associated with the Eton Water Supply Scheme is not affected.

### Conditions

#### 1. Requirement for operations manual

- 1.1. The licence holder must operate in accordance with an approved operations manual.
- 1.2. The approved operations manual must include—
  - 1.2.1. operating rules for water infrastructure;
  - 1.2.2. water sharing rules; and
  - 1.2.3. seasonal water assignment rules.

#### 2. Metering

- 2.1. The licence holder must meter the taking of water under those water allocations and seasonal water assignments to which the licence holder distributes water.

#### 3. Notification requirements

- 3.1. The licence holder must comply with the requirements as detailed in Attachment 2.

#### 4. Monitoring and reporting requirements

- 4.1. The licence holder must carry out and report on the monitoring and reporting requirements as set out in Attachment 3.
- 4.2. The licence holder must provide any monitoring data required under condition 4.1 to the chief executive within a stated time upon request.
- 4.3. The licence holder must ensure that the monitoring, including the measurement, collection, analysis and storage of data, is consistent with the Water Monitoring Data Collection Standards<sup>1</sup>.
- 4.4. The licence holder must ensure that the transfer of data and reporting are consistent with the Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standards<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Water Monitoring Data Collection Standards and the Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standards can be accessed online at [www.business.qld.gov.au](http://www.business.qld.gov.au)

## **5. Other conditions**

- 5.1.** The operating and supply arrangements, and the monitoring required under this licence, do not apply in situations where implementing the rules or meeting the requirements would be unsafe to a person or persons. In these circumstances, the licence holder must comply with the operational or emergency reporting requirements prescribed in Attachment 3.
- 5.2.** The licence holder may at any time submit an interim program or an amendment to an existing interim program to the chief executive in accordance with Attachment 4, if the holder proposes to operate in a way that does not meet the requirements of this licence.
- 5.3.** Where there is conflict between the requirements of this licence and an interim program, the interim program prevails for the time it is in place.
- 5.4.** The licence holder is required to collect and make publicly available through an industry accepted digital channel, updated at least monthly, details of each seasonal water assignment managed under this licence, including the sale price, the volume of water assigned and the location of where the water was assigned to and from.
- 5.5.** The licence holder must provide the chief executive information about seasonal water assignments as directed by the chief executive within the stated time upon request<sup>1</sup>.

This Resource Operations Licence is subject to the conditions attached.

### **Commencement of licence**

The licence took effect on 17 June 2005.

**Granted on 17 June 2005.**

**Amended under section 186 of the *Water Act 2000* on 10 January 2022.**

**Jarrold Cowley-Grimmond**  
**Executive Director, Divisional Support**

# Attachment 1      Infrastructure details for Eton Water Supply Scheme

**Table 1 – Kinchant Dam—Sandy Creek (North Branch) AMTD 9.4 km**

<b>Description of water infrastructure</b>	
Description	Dam, zoned earth and rock fill wall, rock faced on the upstream face
Full supply level	1 May to 30 November EL 57.51 m AHD 1 December to 30 April EL 57.21 m AHD
Saddle dam(s)	One
<b>Storage capacity</b>	
Full supply volume	1 May to 30 November 65 600 ML 1 December to 30 April 62 800 ML
Dead storage level	EL 41.81 m AHD (600ML)
Storage curves/tables	Drawing no: 42675
<b>Spillway arrangement</b>	
Description of works	Mass concrete with ogee crest and reinforced concrete training walls
Spillway level	EL 58.21 m AHD
Spillway width	60 m
Discharge characteristics	Drawing no: 160264
<b>River inlet/outlet works</b>	
Maximum discharge rate	1 730 ML/day (both outlets)

**Table 2 – Mirani pump stations—Pioneer River AMTD Station No. 1: 45.7 km, Station No. 2: 45.6 km, Station No. 3: 46.0 Km**

<b>Diversion rate</b>	
Maximum discharge rate	910 ML/day

# Attachment 2      Notification requirements

## 1      **Notification to distribution operations licence holder**

- (1)      The licence holder must notify the distribution operations licence holder for the Eton Channel Scheme within 2 business days after —
  - (a)      setting an initial announced allocation or resetting an announced allocation during the water year;
  - (b)      the licence holder receives an application for a seasonal water assignment that requires the consent of the licence holder and distribution operations licence holder;
- (2)      The licence holder must notify the distribution operations licence holder within 1 business day after becoming aware of any operational incident or emergency that may impact the distribution operations licence holder.

# Attachment 3 Licence holder monitoring and reporting

## Part 1 Monitoring requirements

### Division 1 Water quantity

#### 1 Stream flow and storage water level data

The licence holder must record continuous time series storage water level data for Kinchant Dam headwater.

#### 2 Water diversions

- (1) The licence holder must measure and record the daily total volumes of water delivered to—
  - (a) the Mirani diversion channel from Mirani Weir for water diverted under section 6 of the Eton Water Supply Scheme operation manual; and
  - (b) Kinchant Dam.
- (2) The methodology for determining the daily total volumes must be approved by the chief executive.

#### 3 Announced allocations

The licence holder must record details—

- (a) of announced allocation determinations for—
  - (i) high class A priority allocation; and
  - (ii) high class B priority allocation;
- (b) the date announced allocations are determined; and
- (c) the value of each parameter applied for calculating the announced allocation.

#### 4 Water taken by water users

The licence holder must on an annual basis record the total volume of water, including Eton Water Supply Scheme and Pioneer River Water Supply Scheme water taken by each water user as follows—

- (a) the total volume of water taken;
- (b) the total volume of water entitled to be taken at any time; and
- (c) the basis for determining the total volume of water entitled to be taken at any time.

#### 5 Seasonal water assignment of a water allocation

The licence holder upon consent to a seasonal water assignment must record details of seasonal water assignment arrangements, including—

- (a) the name of the assignee and the assignor;
- (b) the volume of the assignment;
- (c) the location—
  - (i) from which it was assigned;

- (ii) to which it was assigned;
- (d) the effective date of the seasonal water assignment; and
- (e) the sale price.

## **6 Restrictions**

The licence holder must record details of any restrictions on the supply of high class A water including—

- (a) the dates of restrictions;
- (b) the nature of restrictions;
- (c) the basis for determining restrictions including—
  - (i) the minimum allocation for high priority urban users; and
  - (ii) the critical levels for any high priority reserves.

## **Division 2 Impact of infrastructure operation on natural ecosystems**

### **7 Water quality**

The licence holder must monitor and record water quality data in relation to relevant storages listed in Attachment 1.

### **8 Bank condition**

The licence holder must inspect banks for evidence of collapse and/or erosion within the ponded areas and downstream of each storage listed in Attachment 1, following instances of—

- (a) rapid water level changes; or
- (b) large flows through storage, or
- (c) other occasions when collapse and/or erosion of banks may be likely.

### **9 Fish stranding**

The licence holder must record and assess reported instances of fish stranding in watercourses and ponded areas associated with the operation of the infrastructure listed in Attachment 1 to determine if any instance is associated with the operation of that infrastructure.

## **Division 3 Data transfer**

### **10 Data transfer to distribution operations licence holder**

Upon request by the distribution operations licence holder, the licence holder must transfer all data measured, collected and recorded—

- (a) that is reasonably required for the distribution operations licence holder to comply with the rules and requirements of Attachment 3 of the resource operations licence; and
- (b) within 15 business days of a request being made, or another timeframe if agreed to by the licence holder and distribution operations licence holder.

## Part 2 Reporting requirements

### 11 Reporting requirements

The licence holder must provide—

- (a) annual reports for the previous water year; and
- (b) operational or emergency reports.

### Division 1 Annual reporting

### 12 Annual report

- (1) The licence holder must submit an annual report to the chief executive after the end of each water year.
- (2) The annual report must include—
  - (a) water quantity monitoring results required under Attachment 3, section 13;
  - (b) details of the impact of storage operation on natural ecosystems as required under Attachment 3, section 14;
  - (c) a discussion on any issues that arose as a result of the implementation and application of the rules and requirements of this licence; and
  - (d) a summary of sale price disclosure information and other seasonal water assignment information as per Attachment 3, Part 1, Division 1(5).

### 13 Water quantity monitoring

The licence holder must include in the annual report—

- (a) a summary of announced allocation determinations, including—
  - (i) an evaluation of the announced allocation procedures and outcomes; and
  - (ii) the date and value for the initial announced allocation and for each change made to an announced allocation;
- (b) details of seasonal water assignments, including—
  - (i) the total number of seasonal water assignments for each zone; and
  - (ii) the total volume of water seasonally assigned for each zone;
- (c) for the water year, a summary of water taken by each supplemented water user, specified by zone, as follows—
  - (i) the total volume of water taken under entitlements;
  - (ii) the total volume of volume of water entitled to be taken under the announced allocation; and
  - (iii) the basis for determining the total volume of water entitled to be taken;
- (d) for the water year, the total annual volume of water taken by all supplemented water users, specified by zone, as follows—
  - (i) the total volume of supplemented water taken;
  - (ii) the total volume of supplemented water entitled to be taken; and
  - (iii) the basis for determining the total volume of supplemented water entitled to be taken;

- (e) all details of changes to storages and delivery infrastructure or the operation of storages and delivery infrastructure that may impact on compliance with rules and requirements of this licence;
- (f) details of any new monitoring devices used, such as equipment to measure stream flow.

## 14 Impact of infrastructure operation on natural ecosystems

The licence holder must include in their annual report—

- (a) a summary of the environmental considerations made by the licence holder in making operational and release decisions;
- (b) a summary of the environmental outcomes of the decision, including any adverse environmental impacts;
- (c) a summary of bank condition and fish stranding monitoring and assessment, including—
  - (i) results of investigations of bank slumping and/or erosion identified in the ponded areas and/or downstream of the storages;
  - (ii) results of any investigations of fish stranding downstream of the storages; and
  - (iii) changes to the operation of the storage to reduce instances of bank slumping and/or erosion or fish stranding; and
- (d) a discussion and assessment of the following water quality issues—
  - (i) thermal and chemical stratification in the storage;
  - (ii) the impact of the storage and its management on the quality of water released;
  - (iii) cyano-bacterial population changes in response to stratification in the storage; and
- (e) any proposed changes to the monitoring program as a result of evaluation of the data.

## Division 2 Operational or emergency reporting

### 15 Operational or emergency reporting<sup>2</sup>

- (1) The licence holder must notify the chief executive—
  - (a) within one business day of becoming aware of any of the following operational incidents—
    - (i) non-compliance by the licence holder with the conditions of this licence;
    - (ii) instances of fish stranding, cyanobacterial growth or bank slumping within the ponded areas or downstream of the water infrastructure to which this licence relates;
    - (iii) any flood flow releases into Sandy Creek under section 5 of the Eton Water Supply Scheme Operations Manual; and
    - (iv) a decision being made to introduce a reduced full supply level under section 399B of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*;
  - (b) of an emergency where, as a result of the emergency, the licence holder cannot comply with the conditions of the licence.

<sup>2</sup> This does not preclude requirements for dam safety under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*, *Water Act 2000* and any other applicable legislation.

- (2) The licence holder must provide to the chief executive upon request, and within the timeframe requested, a report which includes details of—
  - (a) the incident or emergency;
  - (b) the conditions under which the incident or emergency occurred;
  - (c) any responses or activities carried out as a result of the incident or emergency; and
  - (d) in relation to an emergency only, any requirements under this licence that the licence holder is either permanently or temporarily unable to comply with due to the emergency.
- (3) The licence holder must—
  - (a) notify the chief executive within one business day—
    - (i) upon setting an initial announced allocation or resetting an announced allocation during the water year;
    - (ii) with details of any arrangements for addressing circumstances where they are unable to supply water allocations; and
  - (b) provide the chief executive with relevant supporting information used in making any decision under subsection (a)(i) and (ii).
- (4) The licence holder must on approval of any seasonal assignment, transfer information to the chief executive, including—
  - (a) the name and location of assignees and assignors; and
  - (b) the zone or zones where water is being seasonally assigned to and from.

# Attachment 4 Interim programs

## 1 Submission of interim program

The licence holder may, at any time, submit an interim program to the chief executive for approval, including a timetable for returning to full compliance with the licence and interim arrangements.

## 2 Implementing and publishing interim program

Following approval of the program by the chief executive, the licence holder—

- (a) must implement and operate in accordance with the interim program;
- (b) make public details of the interim program on its internet site; and
- (c) notify the distribution operations licence holder of the interim program.

# Glossary

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 the watercourse's mouth; or—if the watercourse is not a main watercourse—the watercourse's confluence with its main watercourse.
Announced allocation	For a water allocation managed under a resource operations licence, means a number, expressed as a percentage, which is used to determine the maximum volume of water that may be taken in a water year under the authority of a water allocation.
Assignee	The person or entity to whom an interest or right to water is being transferred – for example, seasonally assigned.
Assignor	The person or entity who transfers an interest or right in water to an assignee – for example, a seasonal assignment.
Dead storage	For a dam or weir, the specified minimum volume of water within the ponded area of the storage that cannot be released or used from the storage under normal operating conditions.
Discharge	Discharge is the rate at which a volume of water passes a point in a stream or pipeline per unit of time. This could be measured in litres per second (L/s), cubic metres per second (m <sup>3</sup> /s) or in megalitres per day (ML/day).
Distribution operations licence holder	The holder of the distribution operations licence for the Eton Channel Scheme.
EL	Elevation level.
Fish stranding	When fish are stranded or left out of the water on the bed or banks of a watercourse, on infrastructure such as spillways and causeways or left isolated in small and/or shallow pools, from which they cannot return to deeper water. This also applies to other aquatic species such as platypus and turtles.
Flood flow	A flow in a river or stream that is at a much higher level than that which occurs at normal stream flows, usually associated with high rainfall events.
Full supply level	The specified maximum volume of water within the ponded area of a dam or weir, which corresponds to the full supply level.
Inlet	Infrastructure comprised of an entrance channel, intake structure, and gate or valve which allow for water to be taken from the ponded area of a dam or weir and discharged via an outlet into the watercourse downstream of the storage.
Licence holder	The holder of the resource operations licence for the Eton Water Supply Scheme
Location	For a water allocation, means the zone from which water under the water allocation can be taken.
Megalitre (ML)	One million litres.
Outlet	An arrangement on a dam or weir that allows stored water to be released downstream.
Ponded area	Area of inundation at full supply level of a storage.
Release	Water from a dam or weir that passes downstream from the dam or weir through the dam or weir outlet works.
Stream flow	The total daily flow in megalitres measured at a given point along a watercourse. This includes both natural stream flow and water released from an upstream storage, which contributes to flow at that point.
Water user	The holder of a valid water entitlement.
Water year	The period between 1 April and 31 March the following year.