

Land Management Code of Practice (LMCOP)

The Land Management Code of Practice (LMCOP) for Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu) came into effect in April 2024.

It aims to ensure that agricultural enterprises that use water from the weir for irrigation are appropriately managed. This helps protect the quality of water that is discharged to the Great Barrier Reef.

The LMCOP outlines standard land management practices for a range of crop types, which must be implemented as a condition of sale of water from Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu).

Irrigators must also provide notification of compliance to Sunwater each year.

Does this affect me?

The LMCOP applies to all buyers of water from Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu) who intend to use the water for irrigation of agriculture, including:

- grains and improved pasture
- sugarcane
- bananas
- horticulture e.g. fruit and tree crops such as macadamias, as well as vegetables.

This is regardless of whether there are other water sources on the property, or the proportion of the total water supply that comes from Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu). It applies to existing irrigators purchasing an additional allocation as well as new irrigators.

If an irrigator grows more than one type of irrigated crop e.g. if they are planted in rotation, they will have to comply with the management practices for each crop.

The LMCOP does not apply to existing unsupplemented allocations and water users in the Fitzroy River sub-catchment that are not buying additional water from Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu).

It also does not apply to farming operations that are not irrigated agriculture e.g. cattle grazing or feedlots, unless graziers are irrigating supplementary feed areas.

Irrigators who are appropriately accredited under a recognised program do not need to be separately accredited under the LMCOP.

The two programs that are currently recognised under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld) are:

- the Smartcane Best Management Practice program for commercial sugar cane operations
- the Freshcare Environmental Program for commercial banana cultivation in the reef regions.

Making sure you're compliant



Before you start using your water allocation on your property, you must hold a farm plan approved by Sunwater. To develop your farm plan, you should engage an agronomist or other suitably qualified person (SQP) to help you develop this plan.

Your farm plan must include a map at an appropriate scale, showing all the features relevant to managing your irrigation practices and the quality of any water discharged from irrigation areas.

You must update your farm plan whenever any of these aspects change.

If the plan of your farm at the time of the water purchase does not comply with the best practice standards outlined in the LMCOP, you will need to develop a best practice transition plan detailing a staged approach to reach compliance. This should be implemented in as short a timeframe as possible within the financial constraints of the business, but must not take longer than three years.

New farm ventures must immediately employ best practice as described in the LMCOP and produce an appropriate farm plan.

What happens then?

A Sunwater-appointed agronomist or SQP will review all farm plans and best practice transition plans to ensure they comply with the LMCOP. They will also conduct an on-farm compliance check during the initial review of the farm plan, and monitor progress of the best practice transition plan (where applicable).

Once a property has been deemed to be compliant, it will be accredited against the LMCOP and the independent on-farm audit will be replaced by annual notification by the landholder. This annual notification uses applicable checklist/s and provision of records to demonstrate ongoing compliance with the LMCOP.



About the LMCOP

The LMCOP addresses a Commonwealth Government approval condition associated with the construction of Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu). It was developed in consultation with Commonwealth and State agencies, and community and agricultural industry representatives including:

- › Fitzroy Basin Association
- › Advance Rockhampton
- › Queensland Farmers' Federation
- › AgForce
- › Growcom
- › Australian Macadamia Society.

It aligns with various Commonwealth regulations and advice, particularly the Reef 2050 Water Quality Risk Framework (<https://bit.ly/Reef2050>).

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/LandManagementCodeofPractice>, or contact Sunwater on

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