

Lower Fitzroy Water Supply Scheme Operations Manual

Lower Fitzroy Water Supply Scheme Resource Operations Licence

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Statement of changes made to this manual

| Version | Version date | Statement of changes | Approved by |
|---------|--------------|---|--|
| V1-0 | June 2018 | Initial document created and approved by Department of Natural Resource, Mines and Energy | David Wiskar – Executive Director, Water Policy. Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy on 29 June 2018 |
| V2-0 | October 2023 | <p>Amendment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3 – corrected referencing to Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) 2011 Section 4(2)(c) – new subsection to clarify releases from Eden Bann Weir Section 4(2)(f) – new subsection to clarify releases to meet the requirements under the Fitzroy Basin Water Management Protocol Section 4(4)(a)(i) – amendment from “above EL -0.50m AHD” to “below EL 1.00m AHD” to manage releases to supply zone Fitzroy A Section 4(5) – new subsection to clarify treatment of releases made from the Rookwood Weir Water Supply Scheme Section 10(2) – amended to clarify inter-scheme trading arrangements between the Lower Fitzroy and Fitzroy Barrage Water Supply Schemes Section 10(3) - new subsection to prohibit inter-scheme trading into zones Rookwood D or E with the Rookwood Weir Water Supply Scheme Attachment 1 – redefined minimum operating level | Kristy Meacle Director, Water Services, North Region. Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water on 17 October 2023 |

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Chapter 1. Preliminary

1. Short title

- (1) This operations manual may be cited as the Lower Fitzroy Water Supply Scheme Operations Manual.
- (2) Reference in this document to 'this manual' means the Lower Fitzroy Water Supply Scheme Operations Manual.

2. Interpretation of words used in this manual

The dictionary in attachment 1 defines particular words used in this manual.

3. Water supply scheme

The extent of the Lower Fitzroy Water Supply Scheme is defined in schedule 4A and 4B of the Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) 2011.

Chapter 2. Operating rules

4. Operating levels of storages

- (1) The minimum operating levels and nominal operating levels for the Eden Bann Weir and the Fitzroy Barrage are specified in table 1.
- (2) The licence holder for the Lower Fitzroy Water Supply Scheme may only release water from the Eden Bann Weir if the release is necessary to—
 - (a) supply water to a water allocation holder;
 - (b) maintain the Fitzroy Barrage at or above its minimum operating level;
 - (c) release water when Eden Bann Weir water level is EL > 14.4m AHD to maintain the Fitzroy Barrage up to EL 3.6m AHD;
 - (d) meet the minimum waterhole level requirements in section 5;
 - (e) comply with the environmental management rules prescribed in attachment 2 of the resource operations licence; and
 - (f) give effect to the water sharing rules within the Fitzroy Basin Water Management Protocol for unsupplemented water allocations within the Fitzroy Water Management Area.
- (3) The licence holder must make releases from Eden Bann Weir to maintain the Fitzroy Barrage at its nominal operating level unless below a level specified in subsection (4).
- (4) Despite subsections (2) and (3), the licence holder may only —
 - (a) release water from Eden Bann Weir when the water level in Eden Bann Weir is above EL 9.55m AHD, except—
 - (i) to supply water allocation holders located in zone Fitzroy A if the water level in the Fitzroy Barrage is below EL 1.00m AHD; or
 - (ii) to supply water allocation holders located in zone Fitzroy B; and
 - (b) release or supply water from Eden Bann Weir when the water level in Eden Bann Weir is above its minimum operating level, unless authorised by the chief executive.
- (5) The licence holder must pass through releases from the Rookwood Weir Water Supply Scheme to maintain operating levels in the Fitzroy Barrage Water Supply Scheme.

Table 1: Operating levels of storages

| Storage | Minimum operating level (m AHD) | Nominal operating level (m AHD) |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Eden Bann Weir | EL 7.25 | Not applicable |
| Fitzroy Barrage | EL -1.20 | EL 3.38 |

5. Minimum levels in waterholes

For a waterhole within the extent of this water supply scheme—supplemented water must not be taken when the level in the waterhole is more than 0.5 metres below its cease to flow level, unless otherwise authorised by the chief executive.

Chapter 3. Water sharing rules

6. Definitions for Chapter 3

high priority demand pattern means – a demand pattern that is the maximum amount of water that may be supplied under a high priority water allocation for a specified calendar period negotiated with high priority water users, to be implemented when a medium priority restriction period commences

specified calendar period means — a specified date, week or month.

7. Taking water under a water allocation

The volume of water taken under a water allocation in a water year must not exceed the nominal volume.

8. Medium priority restriction period

(1) The licence holder must —

- (a) commence a medium priority restriction period during the water year when the water level in the Fitzroy Barrage is below EL 0.75m AHD
- (b) cease a medium priority restriction period when the water level in the Fitzroy Barrage is above EL 0.85m AHD.

(2) During a medium priority restriction period, the licence holder must:

- (a) cease supply of water to medium priority water allocations
- (b) for each high priority water allocation:
 - (i) assign a high priority demand pattern
 - (ii) restrict supply of water to high priority water allocations based on the assigned high priority demand pattern; and
- (c) for the period stated in Table 2, the combined total of the high priority demand patterns for all high priority water allocations must not exceed the corresponding percentage limit listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Maximum percentage of total high priority water allocation that may be assigned to specified calendar period

| Period | Percentage of total high priority allocation (%) |
|---------------------|--|
| July to September | 31 |
| October to December | 34 |
| January to March | 34 |
| April to June | 31 |

9. Other Restrictions

The licence holder may implement further restrictions on the supply of high priority water during a medium priority restriction period in consultation with high priority water allocation holders.

Chapter 4. Seasonal water assignment rules

10. Seasonal water assignment rules

- (1) The holder of a water allocation may enter into an arrangement for a seasonal water assignment in relation to the allocation under section 61 of the *Water Regulation 2016* only if—
 - (a) the holder of the resource operations licence consents to the arrangement; and
 - (b) during a medium priority restriction—
 - (i) for a seasonal water assignment from a medium priority water allocation—the supply of water must cease in accordance with section 8; and
 - (ii) for a seasonal water assignment from a high priority water allocation—
 - (A) a high priority demand pattern defined in section 8 must be assigned to the seasonal assignment from a high priority water allocation;
 - (B) the high priority demand pattern for the original high priority water allocation must be adjusted to account for the seasonal assignment; and
 - (C) the combined high priority demand pattern for the seasonal assignment and original high priority water allocation must not exceed the high priority demand pattern for the original high priority water allocation.
- (2) If the water allocation is being seasonally assigned from one scheme into another scheme, both scheme's licence holders must consent to the arrangement.
- (3) Seasonal water assignments from the Lower Fitzroy Water Supply Scheme cannot be seasonally assigned into zone Rookwood D or zone Rookwood E.
- (4) Water supplied under a seasonal water assignment may be used for any purpose.

Attachment 1. Dictionary

| 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— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the watercourse’s mouth; or if the watercourse is not a main watercourse—the watercourse’s confluence with its main watercourse. |
| Barrage | A barrier constructed across a watercourse to prevent the inflow of tidal water. |
| Cease to flow level | For a waterhole, the level at which water stops flowing from a waterhole over its downstream control. |
| EL | Elevation level. |
| Full supply level | The specified maximum volume of water within the ponded area of a dam, weir or barrage, which corresponds to the full supply level. |
| Megalitre (ML) | One million litres. |
| Minimum operating level | This is the level below which water cannot be used to supply customers, either because there is insufficient hydraulic gradient or because of poor water quality and for environmental reasons. |
| Nominal volume | Nominal volume means the volume of water, in megalitres, that represents the share of the water available to be taken by holders of water allocations in a priority group or a water allocation group. |
| Ponded area | Area of inundation at full supply level of storage. |
| Priority group | A grouping of water allocations for taking supplemented water from a water supply scheme with the same Water Allocation Security Objective (WASO). |
| Release | Water from a dam or weir that passes downstream from the dam or weir either through the dam or weir outlet works or over the dam spillway. |
| Water use | Refers to actual take of water. |
| Water user | The holder of a valid water entitlement. |