

Resource Operations Licence

Water Act 2000



Name of licence

Maranoa River Water Supply Scheme Resource Operations Licence

Holder

Sunwater Limited

Water plan

The licence relates to the Water Plan (Condamine and Balonne) 2019.

Water infrastructure

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

Authority to interfere with the flow of water

The licence holder is authorised to interfere with the flow of water to the extent necessary to operate the water infrastructure to which the licence relates.

Authority to use watercourses to distribute water

The licence holder is authorised to use the watercourses listed in Table 1 for the distribution of supplemented water.

Table 1 – Watercourses to be used for distribution of supplemented water

Watercourse	Description
Maranoa River	The Maranoa River upstream of Neil Turner Weir (AMTD 222.2 km) to the upstream limit of the Maranoa River Water Supply Scheme (AMTD 229.2 km)

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. Change in rate of release from infrastructure

- 2.1. The licence holder must minimise the occurrence of adverse environmental impacts by ensuring that any change in the rate of release of water from a storage occurs incrementally.

3. Metering

- 3.1. The licence holder must meter the taking of water under all water allocations and seasonal water assignments managed under this licence.

4. Monitoring and reporting requirements

- 4.1. The licence holder must carry out and report on the monitoring requirements as set out in Attachment 2.
- 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 Standards¹.
- 4.4. The licence holder must ensure that the transfer of data and reporting are

¹ The Water Monitoring Data Collection Standards and the Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standards can be accessed online at www.business.qld.gov.au

consistent with the Water Monitoring Data Reporting Standards¹.

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 requirements for operational or emergency reporting prescribed in Attachment 2.
- 5.2.** 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.
- 5.3.** The licence holder must provide the chief executive information about seasonal water assignments as directed by the chief executive within the stated time upon request¹.

This Resource Operations Licence is subject to the conditions attached.

Commencement of licence

The licence took effect on 15 December 2008.

Granted on 12 December 2008.

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

Jarrod Cowley-Grimmond
Executive Director, Divisional Support

Attachment 1 Infrastructure details for Maranoa River Water Supply Scheme

Table 1 – Neil Turner Weir–Maranoa River at AMTD 222.2 km

Description of water infrastructure	
Description	Concrete cascade weir
Full supply level	EL 334.60 m AHD
Minimum operating level	EL 330.90 m AHD
Saddle dam(s)	Nil
Fabridam	Nil
Gates	Nil
Storage volume and surface area	
Full supply volume	1470 ML (based on a siltation survey in 1996. The initial design capacity was 1960 ML.)
Minimum operating volume	12 ML
Storage curves / tables	Drawing number: 110947, 110948
Spillway arrangement	
Description of works	Crest slab with four cascading deck slabs
Spillway level	EL 334.60 m AHD
Spillway width	136 m (approximately)
Discharge characteristics	To be advised
River inlet/outlet works and diversion works	
Description of works	Single 750 mm outlet pipe with a 600 mm sluice valve
Multi-level off-takes	Single-level off-take
Cease-to-flow levels	330.9 m AHD
Discharge characteristics	The estimated maximum discharge capacity of the outlet works at Neil Turner Weir is 230 ML/day. Drawing Number: 71361.
Fish transfer system	
Description of works	Nil

Attachment 2 Licence holder monitoring and reporting

Part 1 Monitoring requirements

Division 1 Water quantity

1 Releases from water storages

This section applies to Neil Turner Weir.

The licence holder must measure and record for the storage outlet —

- (a) the daily volume released;
- (b) the release rate, and for any change in the release rate—
 - (i) the date and time of the change; and
 - (ii) the new release rate;
- (c) the reason for each release.

2 Water taken by water users

The licence holder must measure and record for each water allocation as follows—

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

3 Seasonal water assignment of a water allocation

The licence holder 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 assignment; and
- (e) the sale price.

Division 2 Impact of infrastructure operation on natural ecosystems

4 Water quality

In accordance with condition 4.3, the licence holder must monitor and record water quality in relation to the relevant infrastructure listed in Attachment 1.

5 Bank condition

- (1) The licence holder must inspect banks for evidence of collapse and/or erosion within the ponded areas and downstream of the storage listed in Attachment 1, following instances of—
 - (a) rapid water level change; or
 - (b) large flows through the storage; or
 - (c) other occasions when collapse and/or erosion of banks may be likely.
- (2) For subsection (1), downstream of the relevant infrastructure means the distance of influence of storage operations.

6 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 in Attachment 1 to determine if any instance is associated with the operation of that infrastructure.

Part 2 Reporting requirements

7 Reporting requirements

The licence holder must provide—

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

Division 1 Annual reporting

8 Annual report

- (1) The licence holder must submit an annual report to the chief executive within three months after the end of each water year.
- (2) The annual report must include—
 - (a) water quantity as described in section 9;
 - (b) details of the impact of infrastructure operation on natural ecosystems as required under section 10;
 - (c) 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 2, Part 1, Division 1(3).

9 Water quantity reporting

- (1) The licence holder must include in the annual report—
 - (a) the total annual volume of water taken by all water users, specified by zone and for the scheme, including—
 - (i) the total volume of water taken;
 - (ii) the total volume of water entitled to be taken; and
 - (iii) the basis for determining the total volume entitled to be taken.

- (b) the total quarterly volume of water taken by each water user as follows—
 - (i) the volume of water taken for each zone;
 - (ii) the total volume entitled to be taken for each zone; and
 - (iii) the basis for determining the total volume of water entitled to be taken.
 - (c) releases from storage—all records referred to in section 1;
 - (d) details of seasonal water assignments, including—
 - (i) the total number of seasonal water assignments; and
 - (ii) the total volume of water seasonally assigned.
- (2) The annual report must also include—
- (a) all details of changes to the storage and delivery infrastructure or the operation of the storage and infrastructure that may impact on compliance with this licence;
 - (b) details of any new monitoring devices used such as equipment to measure stream flow; and
 - (c) a discussion on any other issues that arose as a result of the implementation and application of the resource operations licence.

10 Impact of infrastructure operation on natural ecosystems

The licence holder must include in the annual report—

- (a) a summary of 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 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;
- (d) a discussion and assessment of water quality issues; and
- (e) water quality—all records referred to in section 4.

Division 2 Operational or emergency reporting²

11 Operational or emergency reporting

- (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;

² 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.

- (ii) instances when a waterhole is drawn down 0.5 m below cease to flow level;
 - (iii) instances of fish stranding, cyanobacterial growth or bank slumping within ponded areas or downstream of the infrastructure to which this licence relates; 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.
- (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; and
 - (ii) with details of any arrangements for addressing circumstances where they are unable to supply water allocations;
 - (b) provide the chief executive with relevant supporting information used in making any decision under subsection (a)(i) and (ii).

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 a watercourse, from a specific point in the watercourse to the watercourse's mouth, the watercourse's junction with the main watercourse or the border between the State and New South Wales.
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.
Cease to flow level	For a waterhole, the level at which water stops flowing from a waterhole over its downstream control.
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.
Full supply volume	This is the volume of water in storage that corresponds to the full supply level.
Inlet	Infrastructure comprised of an entrance channel, intake structure and gate or valve, which allows for water to be taken from the ponded area of a dam, weir or barrage and discharged via an outlet into the watercourse downstream of the storage.
Licence holder	The holder of the resource operations licence for the Maranoa River Water Supply Scheme
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.
Minimum operating volume	This is the storage volume corresponding to the minimum operating level.
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.
Water user	The holder of a valid water entitlement.
Water year	The water year is the 12 month period beginning 1 July and ending 30 June.