

Nogoa Mackenzie Water Supply Scheme

Information bulletin and feedback form: High Priority Announced Allocations when Fairbairn Dam is at very low levels

26 May 2020

Summary

- High Priority customers have alerted Sunwater to a problem that may occur when Fairbairn Dam drops to very low levels (as was forecast to potentially happen before the welcome dam inflows occurred in recent months).
- Thankfully, this scenario is not facing us in July 2020. However, should there be lower than normal inflows to the dam in the coming months or years, there is a possibility that we may have to face this scenario again in future years.
- When dam levels are very low (e.g. around 4.4% at the start of a water year), the current water sharing rules effectively 'lock-up' most or all of the stored water to provide for carryover and future evaporation losses, resulting in a zero Announced Allocation for High Priority customers.
- To address this problem, Sunwater has developed options for changing the way that the High Priority Announced Allocation rules work when the dam is at very low levels.
- The options are listed below and examples of the outcomes of each for high priority water supplies are compared in Table 1. Note that these examples are for comparison only and do not relate to the projected water levels on 1 July 2020 which are much higher than these scenarios.
- The options include, for, example, calculating and making available high priority announced allocations over a three-month period.
- Sunwater is seeking feedback from High Priority water allocation customers about whether the High Priority Announced Allocation rules should be retained or changed.
- Contact Sunwater with your feedback about the proposed rule change by 17 June 2020 using the attached Feedback Form.
- The change can only take effect if and when approved by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

Side-by-side comparison of options

Table 1 presents a side-by-side comparison of the options which are:

Option A	No change i.e. current rules with Announced Allocation calculated and made available for the remaining water years (up to twelve months)
Option B	As per Option A but including an allowance for reduced access to stored water when Fairbairn Dam is very low
Option C	Three-month High Priority Announced Allocation rules (including allowance for reduced access to stored water when Fairbairn Dam is very low) and with carryover from the previous year
Option D	As per Option C but with no carryover from the previous water year.

Table 1 – Comparison of options (note that these are examples only and do not relate to the projected water levels on 1 July 2020)

High priority announcement timing	Example of very low level in Fairbairn Dam (m AHD)	Example of Fairbairn Dam % of full supply (%)	HP Announced Allocation at start of Quarter (%)				Total volume available to HP customers from Announced Allocations plus carryover (ML)			
			Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
1 st quarter	189.88	4.4%	0%	0%	25%	25%	22,000	22,000	33,532	11,532
2 nd quarter	188.90	3.0%	11%	0%	1%	25%	12,929	8068	16,861	11,532
3 rd quarter	186.92	1.4%	45%	30%	0%	11%	12,872	5927	8068	5133
4 th quarter	183.21*	0.2%	*Fairbairn Dam is less than dead storage level				*Fairbairn Dam is less than dead storage level			

*Note that Announced Allocations or any remaining carryover would not be able to be supplied from Fairbairn Dam when the dam approaches, or is below, its dead storage level

Have your say

Sunwater is actively seeking the views of High Priority allocation customers on whether the High Priority Announced Allocation rules should be retained or changed to reflect one of the outlined options when Fairbairn Dam is at very low levels.

If High Priority customers indicate a clear preference, Sunwater will submit an amended Operations Manual with the changed rules to DNRME for consideration. **Pending any approval, current rules apply.** The timing of any change would also be based on feedback.

To provide your feedback, please complete the form below and email to customersupport@sunwater.com.au prior to close of business on 17 June 2020. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Jason Smith, Operations Manager Nogo Mackenzie, by email at Jason.Smith@sunwater.com.au.

Feedback Form

1. I hold the following type(s) of water allocation within the Nogoia Mackenzie WSS:

- High Priority Medium Priority

2. My preference is for (*please tick one*):

- Option A No change i.e. current rules with Announced Allocation calculated and made available for the remaining water years (up to twelve months)
- Option B As per Option A but including an allowance for reduced access to stored water when Fairbairn Dam is very low
- Option C Three-month High Priority Announced Allocation rules (including allowance for reduced access to stored water when Fairbairn Dam is very low) and with carryover from the previous year
- Option D As per Option C but with no carryover from the previous water year
- Another option Please describe in box below:

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If you wish, please attach any additional information relevant to your answer.

3. If you chose anything other than Option A in Question 2, please indicate your preferred timing for when the change should be implemented

- Changes to be made as soon as practicable
- Changes to be made six months prior to Fairbairn Dam approaching very low levels

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Customer Number: _____