

## **NOGOA MACKENZIE WATER SUPPLY SCHEME – WATER SHARING RULES**

We understand the significant pressure low water allocations are having on our customers and the wider community and are committed to providing regular information for informed business planning.

Given the current level of Fairbairn Dam (14.2%), Sunwater has been considering various water sharing scenarios to maximise the benefit to the region for the 2019/2020 water year.

These scenarios, some of which considered the availability of carry-over water, were presented to customers for consideration and discussion at a meeting in Emerald yesterday (Wednesday 16 January 2019).

We understand that presenting these scenarios may have caused significant concern regarding the certainty of water sharing arrangements for the 2019/2020 water year. Feedback from the meeting has also highlighted the need for us to ensure timely engagement with our customers that provides sufficient lead time for informed business planning.

**To provide you with certainty for future business planning, we confirm that the water sharing rules for 2019/2020 will include the availability of carry-over water for all medium and high priority allocations.**

Customers should note that the carry-over rule considers the water level of Fairbairn Dam to determine a scheme cap – which, considering the current level would be 25,000 ML. Should the scheme carry-over volume exceed the cap, a pro-rata reduction will be applied across the scheme as per normal practice.

We are committed to keeping you informed throughout this difficult time and to ensuring that decisions are made on the most up-to-date information. To support this, from January 2019 we will read meters monthly and continue to provide regular updates regarding water use and projected future water availability.

We are hopeful that there will be inflows into the catchment over the summer period, and will continue to closely monitor conditions as the drought continues.

Please contact Sunwater Customer Service on 13 15 89 or your local Sunwater Manager if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss anything further.