

Approval of amended Interim Resource Operations Licence, Cania Dam water release strategy and upcoming interim water allocation auction

Three Moon Creek Water Supply Scheme

30 June 2021

Summary

- The amended Interim Resource Operations Licence (IROL) was issued to Sunwater on 18 June 2021. This has resulted in changes to temporary transfers, trading zones and updated operational rules
- An update on the Cania Dam summer release strategy
- Plans to auction surrendered interim water allocations in August 2021

Amended Interim Resource Operations Licence (IROL)

In November 2020 and April this year, Sunwater wrote to you regarding proposed amendments to the IROL (fact sheet available [here](#)). These amendments have now been approved by the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW) and will be implemented as of 1 July 2021. The amended IROL is available on the Three Moon Creek scheme page [here](#).

The new IROL will enable:

- new temporary trading rules to provide water users with certainty when completing temporary transfers
- establishment of trading zones for the first time (based on existing section boundaries) to facilitate the new temporary trading rules
- new operational rules to allow more flexibility to manage water released from Cania Dam for groundwater recharge purposes.
- amendment to both the surface water and groundwater announced allocation (AA) rules to facilitate the new operational rules.
- in line with the new IROL (section 2.5), announced allocations for both surface water and groundwater will be 100% based on the level in Cania Dam being > 316.34 m AHD (18,500 ML or ~21%)

- clear specification of the groundwater monitoring bores used for determining announced allocations when levels in Cania Dam fall below 12.5% storage capacity (11,000 ML)
- the monthly publication of temporary trade information on the Sunwater website. To support the new temporary transfer rules, a new application form specific to the scheme has been created and is available on the Sunwater forms page [here](#). From 1 July, the general temporary transfer application form will no longer be accepted.

2021 – 22 Cania Dam water release strategy

Further to discussions at the Irrigation Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting in June 2021, Sunwater is planning a summer release of 7,500 ML from Cania Dam to commence on 1 October 2021.

As there is currently IAC nominations occurring, this decision will be reviewed on 1 September 2021 to assess if conditions have changed (based on dam and groundwater levels). A further decision will be made on winter releases later in the year to manage levels in Cania Dam to achieve the best outcome for announced allocations in the 2022–23 water year.

Sunwater advises all surface water customers to place water orders with as much notice as possible to ensure enough water is being released to service all customers for the duration of the release period. Water orders can be placed by contacting Geoffery Biden, Operator Maintainer on 0439 981 082. Customers should prepare to fill their own storages or other infrastructure to align with the above release strategy. This will ensure customer water needs are met for the coming water year.

Upcoming interim water allocation (IWA) auction

Sunwater has now converted the high priority allocation surrendered by the North Burnett Regional Council to medium priority IWA ready for auction. The medium priority parcels are scheduled to be auctioned in August. Separate communication will be sent with more information about the sale shortly.

More information

Should you wish to discuss this advice further, please contact customer support by phone on 13 15 89 or live chat via sunwater.com.au, Monday–Friday 8.30am–4.30pm.