

Purchasing interim water allocations (IWA)

Three Moon Creek Water Supply Scheme

July 2021

Background

One of the reforms introduced by the *Water Act 2000* is a framework that provides for the separation of water entitlements from land. This framework is being progressively rolled out by the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW) across all regulated water supply schemes owned by Sunwater and supported by each individual scheme's Resource Operation Licence (ROL). Once a ROL has been implemented, water entitlements are converted into tradable allocations that have a title separate from land and can be bought and sold independently of land.

As the Three Moon Creek Water Supply Scheme (WSS) does not yet have a ROL, Sunwater operates the scheme under an Interim Resource Operations Licence (IROL) and water users are issued with interim water allocations (IWA).

IWAs differ from water allocations held under a ROL as they are still attached to land. However, temporary trading (seasonal water assignments) may occur between water users within the scheme, subject to certain restrictions stated in the IROL. One of these restrictions is that the new water user must also be a landholder within the boundaries of the water supply scheme.

Amendments to the IROL

The [Three Moon Creek WSS IROL](#) was amended on 18 June 2021 and included updates to Three Moon Creek's trading zones which are outlined in the table below. A detailed summary of changes to the IROL is available [here](#).

Water source	Zone	AMTD	Location
Groundwater	RA	12.6 – 48.5	Below Abercorn Gauging Station to Hughes Street, Mulgildie. Includes Avis Weir.
Groundwater	RB	48.5 – 64	Hughes Street, Mulgildie to Burke Street/Rifle Range Road, Monto. Includes Bazley Weir.
Groundwater	RC	64 – 69.1 Monal Creek 0 – 5.4	Burke Street/Rifle Range Road, Monto to Powers Road. Includes Monto Weir, Youlambie Diversion and supplemented section of Monal Creek.
Groundwater	RD	69.1 – 96.2	Powers Road to confluence of Cedar Creek and Three Moon Creek. Includes Youlambie Weir.

Water source	Zone	AMTD	Location
Surface water	RE	12.6 – 130.6	Below Abercorn Gauging Station to Cania Dam full supply ponded area.

1. Adopted Middle Thread Distance (AMTD)

Maps of each of the above zones are available [here](#) (refer to pages 17 to 23). If customers are unsure which zone their property is located in, please contact customer support.

Considerations when purchasing an IWA

Customers should consider the following prior to purchasing an IWA:

- for groundwater IWAs (zones RA, RB, RC and RD), confirm a parcel of land is owned in the same zone as the IWA for sale.
 - For surface water IWAs (Zone RE), anyone can bid on these water parcels provided they own land within the Three Moon Creek WSS and noting that access to Three Moon Creek is the purchaser's responsibility (either the property has riparian access or through an easement).
- Summer and winter releases are made from Cania Dam to support seasonal irrigation of crops and for groundwater recharge purposes. Customers are able to take water during the planned release times only, as communicated by Sunwater in consultation with the Irrigator Advisory Committee (IAC).
- Customers with infrastructure (an offtake/meter) adjoining Youlambie, Monto, Bazely, Avis and Mulgildie weirs will have access to their allocation when these storages hold water.
- Customers who do not have access to the above storages may only access their allocation when releases are made or as a result of local rainfall (inflows).
- To purchase a groundwater IWAs, customers will require a bore located within a groundwater zone (RA, RB, RC and RD). New bores will require approval from DRDMW. For information regarding the installation of new bores, contact DRDMW directly on 13 74 68.

Sale of interim water allocations

Existing customers within the scheme will be informed when allocations are available for sale, with parcels published on the Sunwater website [here](#). Sunwater uses Ruralco's online trading platform, [Water Exchange](#) for all temporary and permanent water trading activity. The platform is available for public use and we encourage all customers to consider using this platform for your own trading activities. Sunwater has mechanisms in place to ensure that water trading activities are conducted in an equitable and transparent manner and provide clarity to market participants. Details of these mechanisms are outlined in our [Water Trading Code of Conduct](#).

More information

For more information, or general Sunwater enquiries, please contact customer support by phone on 13 15 89 or live chat via sunwater.com.au, Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm.