

Upper Condamine Water Supply Scheme Operations Manual

Upper Condamine Water Supply Scheme Resource Operations Licence

Approved 8 June 2026

This publication has been compiled by Water Resources, Sunwater Limited.

© Sunwater Limited, 2026

Sunwater Limited supports and encourages the dissemination and exchange of its information. The copyright in this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence.

Under this licence you are free, without having to seek our permission, to use this publication in accordance with the licence terms.



You must keep intact the copyright notice and attribute Sunwater Limited as the source of the publication.

Note: Some content in this publication may have different licence terms as indicated.

For more information on this licence, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

The information contained herein is subject to change without notice. Sunwater Limited shall not be liable for technical or other errors or omissions contained herein. The reader/user accepts all risks and responsibility for losses, damages, costs and other consequences resulting directly or indirectly from using this information.

Statement of changes made to this manual

Version	Version date	Statement of changes	Approved by
V1-0	February 2019	Initial document created and approved by Department of Natural Resource, Mines and Energy	David Wiskar – Executive Director, Water Policy. Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy on 22 February 2019
V2-0	Drafted March 2026	Amendment to: • Add volumes where elevation in AHD is stated. • Change section 6 title from “supply of water” to “Restriction of Access” and add second clause on restriction of supply for medium priority water allocations when announced allocation does not apply for the period. • Add (c) to clause 2 on announced allocation period for medium priority water allocations in section 9. • Update medium priority announced allocation formula in section 10 to allow for announcements to be made for less than 12 months and account for all water taken including during streamflow periods. • In Table 2, remove Reserve and TOA_{MP} definition, include definition for RV, and remove the wording “excluding any water taken from stream flow periods notified under section 12” from the definition of Diversion. • Remove requirement for reserve determination in section 11. • Add table for determining resource volumes in Attachment 3.	Susan Harch – Director, Water Planning and Science (MDB & GAB). Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers on 8 June 2026

Statement of changes made to this manual	2
Chapter 1 Preliminary	4
1. Short title	4
2. Interpretation of words used in this manual	4
3. Water supply scheme	4
Chapter 2 Operating rules	5
4. Minimum operating levels of storages	5
5. Use of waterholes	5
6. Restriction of access	5
7. Supply of water to zone UCS-03	5
Chapter 3 Water sharing rules	6
8. Definition for chapter 3	6
Part 1. Announced allocations	6
9. Announced allocations	6
10. Calculating announced allocations	6
11. Revised methodologies for announced allocation parameters	9
Part 2. Stream flow periods	9
12. Notification of a stream flow period	9
13. Stream flow period for medium priority water allocations	9
14. Water sharing rules for risk class A priority water allocations	10
15. Stream flow period for risk class A priority water allocations	10
Part 3 Taking water under a water allocation	10
16. Taking water under a water allocation	10
Chapter 4 Seasonal water assignment rules	11
17. Seasonal water assignment rules	11
Attachment 1 Dictionary	12
Attachment 2 Upper Condamine Water Supply Scheme map	13
Attachment 3 Resource volumes	14

Chapter 1 Preliminary

1. Short title

- (1) This operations manual may be cited as the Upper Condamine Water Supply Scheme Resource Operations Licence Operations Manual.
- (2) References in this document to 'this manual' means the Upper Condamine Water Supply Scheme Resource Operations Licence Operations Manual.

2. Interpretation of words used in this manual

- (1) The dictionary in Attachment 1 defines particular words used in this manual.
- (2) References to licence holder in this manual are taken to mean the resource operations licence holder.

3. Water supply scheme

The extent of the Upper Condamine Water Supply Scheme within the Condamine and Balonne plan area is shown on the map in Attachment 2.

Chapter 2 Operating rules

4. Minimum operating levels of storages

- (1) The minimum operating levels for storages associated with the Upper Condamine Water Supply Scheme are detailed in table 1.
- (2) The licence holder must not release or supply water from a storage if the water level in that storage is at or below its minimum operating level.

Table 1 – Operating levels of storages

Storage	Minimum operating level (m AHD)	Minimum operating volume (ML)
Leslie Dam	EL 448.44	220
Talgai Weir	EL 408.09	93
Yarramalong Weir	EL 378.72	28
Lemon Tree Weir	EL 365.94	85
Cecil Plains Weir	EL 347.67	49
Melrose Weir	EL 369.20	20
Wando Weir	EL 364.00	30
Nangwee Weir	EL 355.70	10

5. Use of waterholes

A waterhole may be drawn down to 0.5 metres below its natural cease-to-flow level to allow water to be taken under a water allocation if the water released by the licence holder will replace the water drawn down in the waterhole and is released prior to the time of waterhole draw down.

6. Restriction of access

- (1) When the storage level in Leslie Dam is less than or equal to EL 460.35 m AHD (15,000 ML), releases or diversions must not be made from Leslie Dam to supply—
 - a) medium priority water allocations; or
 - b) high class B priority water allocations.
- (2) When an announced allocation for medium priority water allocations is reviewed in accordance with section 9, and the announced allocation is not reset, releases or diversions must not be made from Leslie Dam to supply medium priority water allocations¹.

7. Supply of water to zone UCS-03

The licence holder may only divert water from Yarramalong Pump Station (AMTD 966.3 km) to zone UCS-03 up to the volume required to—

- a) supply water to medium and risk class A priority water allocation holders located on the Condamine River North Branch; and
- b) overcome normal watercourse transmission losses incurred in supplying water allocations mentioned in subsection (a).

¹ This subsection applies when an announced allocation has been made for a period less than 12 months in accordance with section 9(2)(c) and a further announcement is unable to be made that complies with sections 9(1)(d) and 10(2).

Chapter 3 Water sharing rules

8. Definition for chapter 3

In this chapter—

stream flow period, for a zone, means a period of time that starts and ends at such time that the licence holder notifies under section 12.

Part 1. Announced allocations

9. Announced allocations

- (1) The licence holder must—
 - a) determine an announced allocation for water allocations belonging to the high class A, high class B, medium and risk class B priority groups to take effect on the first day of each water year;
 - b) following the commencement of a water year—
 - (i) if the announced allocation percentage is less than 100 percent—recalculate the announced allocation to take effect no later than five business days following the first day of every month; and
 - (ii) reset the announced allocation—if a recalculation indicates that the announced allocation would—
 - (A) increase by five or more percentage points; or
 - (B) increase to 100 percent.
 - c) within five business days of setting or resetting the announced allocation, publish details of the announced allocation, including the parameters used in its determination; and
 - d) not reduce the announced allocation during the water year.
- (2) The announced allocation—
 - a) must be rounded to the nearest percent;
 - b) must not be greater than 100 percent; and
 - c) may be set for a period less than 12 months for medium priority water allocations.

10. Calculating announced allocations

- (1) The announced allocation for high class A and high class B priority water allocations must be—
 - a) when the announced allocation for medium priority water allocations (AA_{MP}) is greater than zero percent—100 percent; and
 - b) when the announced allocation for medium priority water allocations (AA_{MP}) is zero percent—
 - (i) determined using the following formula for high class A priority allocations—

$$AA_{HPA} = 100 \times \frac{(UV_{LD} - TOA_{HPA} + DIV_{HPA})}{HPA}$$

- (ii) determined using the following formula for high class B priority allocations—

$$AA_{HPB} = 100 \times \frac{(UV_{CPW} + DIV_{HPB})}{HPB}$$

- (2) The announced allocation for medium priority water allocations must be determined using the following formula² —

$$AA_{MP} = 100 \times \frac{(RV + DIV)}{(MPA + 34)}$$

- (3) The announced allocation for risk class B water allocations must be—

- a) when the announced allocation for medium priority water allocations is 100 percent and the storage level in Leslie Dam is greater than EL 470.63 m AHD (84,933 ML)—determined using the following formula—

$$AA_{RB} = 100 \times \left(\frac{5 \times VOL}{FSV} - 4 \right)$$

- b) otherwise—zero percent.

- (4) The parameters used in the formulae in this section are defined in table 2.

Table 2 – Announced allocation parameters

Parameter	Description
AA _{HPA}	The announced allocation for water allocations belonging to the high class A priority group (%).
AA _{HPB}	The announced allocation for water allocations belonging to the high class B priority group (%).
AA _{MP}	The announced allocation for water allocations belonging to the medium priority group (%).
AA _{RB}	The announced allocation for water allocations belonging to the risk class B priority group (%).
HPA	The sum of the nominal volumes for all water allocations belonging to the high class A priority group (ML).
HPB	The sum of the nominal volumes for all water allocations belonging to the high class B priority group (ML).
MPA	The sum of the nominal volumes for all water allocations belonging to the medium priority group (ML).
UV _{LD}	Usable volume in Leslie Dam—the volume of water available for determining the announced allocation percentages for water allocations, which must be calculated using the following equation— $UV_{LD} = (CV_{LD} - MOV_{LD} - SL_{LD})$ If $UV_{LD} < 0$ then $UV_{LD} = 0$ Where— CV_{LD} means the current volume of Leslie Dam. MOV_{LD} means the minimum operating volume of Leslie Dam as stated in the infrastructure details of the resource operations licence. SL_{LD} means the storage loss volume for Leslie Dam. This is the projected storage losses from Leslie Dam for the remainder of the water year. The storage loss volume is calculated by using the storage loss depth for Leslie Dam in table 3 for the current month and the current surface area (ha) of the storage.

² To remain consistent with the Water Plan (Condamine and Balonne) 2019 due to an amendment to this manual, WA 1767AP7585 (163 ML) was subdivided into 129 ML and 34 ML in October 2025, and the 34 ML entitlement was surrendered. The announced allocation formula incorporates the 34 ML to maintain the same total volume of MPA as prior to the amendment of this manual while reducing the consumptive volume by 34 ML.

Parameter	Description
UV_{CPW}	Usable volume in Cecil Plains Weir—the volume of water available for determining announced allocation percentages for water allocations, which must be calculated using the following equation— $UV_{CPW} = (CV_{CPW} - MOV_{CPW} - SL_{CPW})$ If $UV_{CPW} < 0$ then $UV_{CPW} = 0$ Where— CV_{CPW} means the current volume of Cecil Plains Weir. MOV_{CPW} means the minimum operating volume of Cecil Plains Weir SL_{CPW} means the estimated storage loss volume for Cecil Plains Weir. The estimated storage loss volume is the difference between the storage volume at the current water level of the weir and the estimated storage volume in the weir at the end of the water year assuming no diversions. The estimated storage volume at the end of the water year is based on the estimated storage level at the end of the water year using the approved storage curve for Cecil Plains Weir. The estimated storage level at the end of the water year is determined by subtracting the storage loss depth in table 3 from the current storage level of the weir.
RV	Resource volume—the volume of water within the scheme water account available for medium priority allocations using the table in Attachment 3. To determine the RV— Locate the closest CV_{LD} (value in the row above and below) for the month the calculation is made. Identify the corresponding RV values. Use linear interpolation to determine the RV corresponding to the CV_{LD}. To determine the number of months an announced allocation is expected to apply before Leslie Dam is expected to reach the MP cut-off— Use the row of the lower CV_{LD} value used in the interpolation. Follow the row across from the current month and count the number of months until the month prior to the month that the RV is 0 ML (or until the end of the water year is reached).
TOA_{HPA}	Transmission and operational allowance—an allowance for the transmission and operational losses required to deliver high priority water allocations downstream of Leslie Dam. TOA_{HPA} is determined in accordance with a methodology approved by the chief executive.
DIV_{HPA}	High class A priority diverted volume—the volume (ML) of water taken under high class A priority water allocations in a water year in the water supply scheme up to the time of the recalculation of the announced allocation.
DIV_{HPB}	High class B priority diverted volume—the volume (ML) of water taken under high class B priority water allocations in a water year in the water supply scheme up to the time of the recalculation of the announced allocation.
DIV	Diverted volume—the total volume of water taken (ML) under all water allocations in a water year in the water supply scheme up to the time of the recalculation of the announced allocation.
VOL	Volume (ML) stored in Leslie Dam at the start of the water year.
FSV	Full supply volume of Leslie Dam.

Table 3 – Storage loss

Month in which announced allocation is calculated	Storage loss until end of water year (mm)
July	1657
August	1581
September	1482
October	1352
November	1188

Month in which announced allocation is calculated	Storage loss until end of water year (mm)
December	1004
January	806
February	602
March	436
April	279
May	155
June	70

11. Revised methodologies for announced allocation parameters

Within 40 business days of a change in the total volume of water allocations belonging to the high class A priority group, the licence holder must submit to the chief executive for approval revised methodologies to determine the transmission and operational allowance (TOA_{HPA}) for high class A priority water allocations.

Part 2. Stream flow periods

12. Notification of a stream flow period

The licence holder must notify the water allocation holders to which a stream flow period applies of—

- the start and end of the stream flow period;
- the zones or parts of zones to which the period relates;
- the entitlements that the period relates to; and
- the conditions under which the water may be taken.

13. Stream flow period for medium priority water allocations

- The licence holder must start a stream flow period for medium priority water allocations whenever the requirement for the zone or part of a zone mentioned in table 4 is met at the stream flow location.
- For this section, the requirement for a stream flow period for a zone or part of a zone is a flow rate—
 - likely to be greater than 86 ML/day; and
 - less than 432 ML/day.
- Despite subsection (2)(a), the licence holder may start a stream flow period for medium priority water allocations located in zone UCS-02 if—
 - the announced allocation for medium priority water allocations is less than or equal to 20 percent; and
 - the storage level in Talgai Weir is equal to or greater than 50 percent of its full supply volume; and
 - the total daily rate of take from the zone is no greater than 10 ML/day; and
 - the total volume of water taken for the water year in the zone during stream flow periods is less than or equal to 300 ML.
- Subsection (2)(a) does not apply for a period of three months following the cessation of the flow over Cecil Plains Weir if the flow over Cecil Plains Weir has reached Loudoun gauging station on the Condamine River (GS 422333A) AMTD 834.0 km.
- The licence holder must end a stream flow period for a zone or part of a zone whenever the requirement for the zone or part of a zone is no longer being met.

Table 4 – Stream flow requirement locations

Zone or part of zone	Stream flow location
UCS-02	Talgai Weir on the Condamine River (GS 422355A) AMTD 1029.2 km
UCS-03	Yarramalong gauging station on the Condamine River (GS 422353A) AMTD 967.0 km
UCS-04—Talgai Weir to Yarramalong Weir	
UCS-04—Yarramalong Weir to Lemon Tree Weir	Lemon Tree Weir
UCS-04—Lemon Tree Weir to Cecil Plains Weir	Cecil Plains Weir

14. Water sharing rules for risk class A priority water allocations

- (1) The licence holder may supply water for risk class A priority water allocations in accordance with section 15 and from natural stream flows in the Condamine River North Branch.
- (2) The licence holder must consider the following matters when determining the water sharing rules applied for each stream flow period—
 - a) the volume of water available for distribution;
 - b) the location of water available for distribution; and
 - c) the previous distribution of available volumes.

15. Stream flow period for risk class A priority water allocations

For risk class A priority water allocations located in zone UCS-03, the licence holder—

- a) may start a stream flow period when—
 - (i) flow in the Condamine River at Yarramalong gauging station (GS 422353A) AMTD 967.0 km is greater than 864 ML/day; and
 - (ii) the daily diversion from the Condamine River into the Condamine River North Branch is in accordance with table 5.
- b) must end a stream flow period when requirements mentioned in subsection (a) are no longer met.

Table 5 – Allowable pumping rate to Condamine River North Branch for Risk Class A priority water

Passing flow in the Condamine River at Yarramalong Weir exceeds (ML/day)	Maximum rate of take to North Branch (ML/day)
864	86.4
1296	172.8
1728	259.2
2160	345.6

Part 3 Taking water under a water allocation

16. Taking water under a water allocation

- (1) The total volume of water taken under a water allocation in a water year must not exceed the nominal volume of the water allocation.
- (2) Where an announced allocation applies to water taken for a priority group, then the volume of water that may be taken under a water allocation in a water year, other than during stream flow periods notified under section 12 (where applicable), must not exceed the nominal volume of the water allocation multiplied by the announced allocation for the relevant priority group and divided by 100.
- (3) During a stream flow period for the zone or part of a zone to which a water allocation applies, water may be taken under the water allocation in addition to that which may be taken under subsection (2) but not exceeding the volume that may be taken under subsection (1)
- (4) Subsection (3) applies to medium priority water allocations.

Chapter 4 Seasonal water assignment rules

17. Seasonal water assignment rules

- (1) The licence holder may approve a seasonal water assignment of a volume of water if—
 - a) the volume made available under the assignment is less than or equal to the unused volume that may be taken under the authority of the water allocation being assigned; and
 - b) the location for the take of water under the assignment is the same as or upstream of the water allocation being assigned.
- (2) Despite subsection (1)(b), the licence holder may approve a seasonal assignment of a volume of water where the assignment is to a downstream location or between zones UCS-03 and UCS-04, if the volume made available is reduced—
 - a) for a high class A priority water allocation—by a volume determined in accordance with the methodology approved by the chief executive for determining the transmission and operational allowance required to deliver high class A priority water allocations; and
 - b) for a medium priority or risk class B priority water allocation—to provide for transmission losses by the percentage specified in table 6 corresponding to the location of the water allocation being assigned and the location of take under the assignment.

Table 6 – Transmission loss factors for seasonal assignment of medium and risk class B priority water allocations

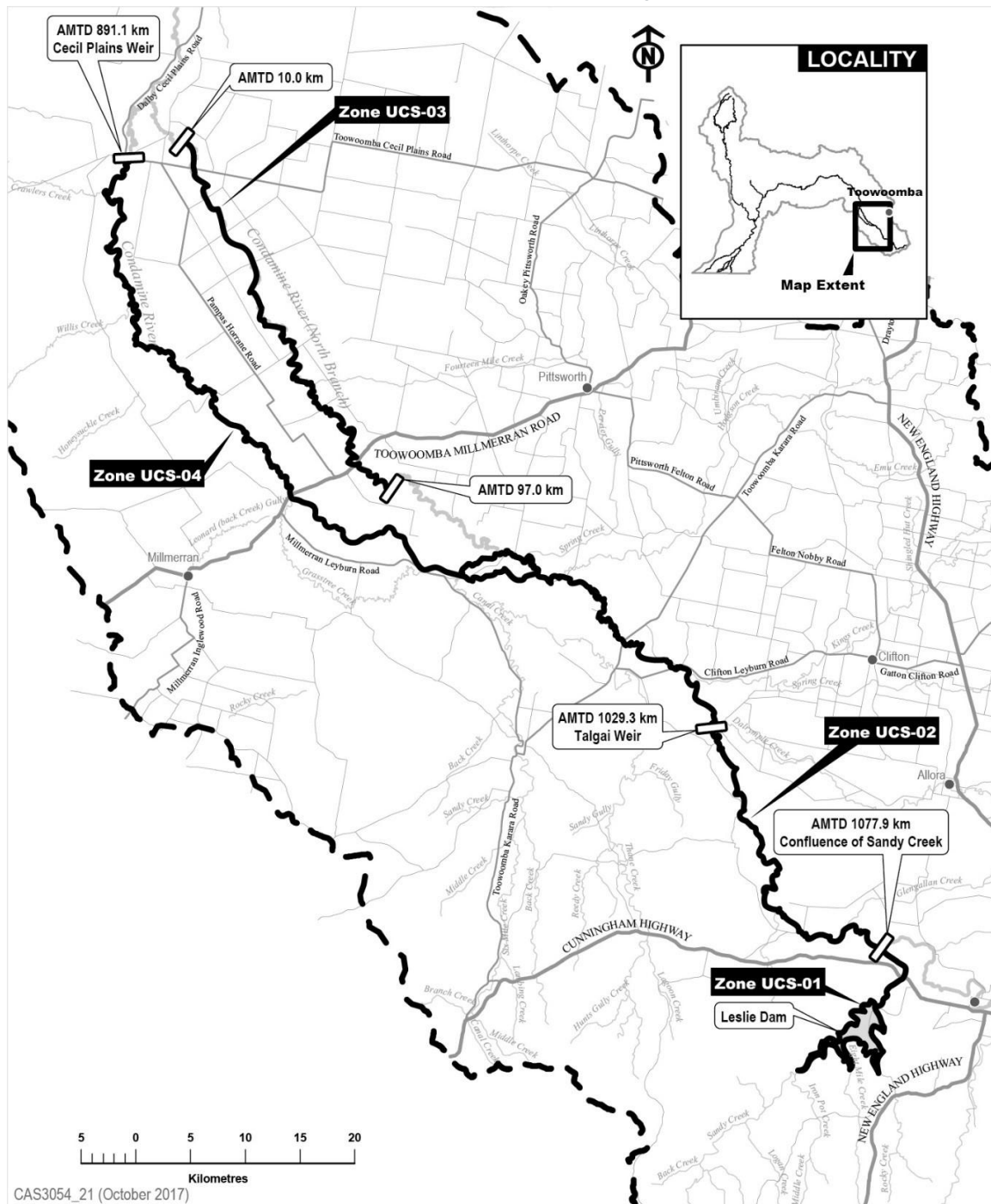
From zone	To zone			
	UCS-01	UCS-02	UCS-03	UCS-04
UCS-01	Nil	10%	30%	30%
UCS-02	Nil	Nil	20%	20%
UCS-03	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
UCS-04	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Attachment 1 Dictionary

Term	Definition
AHD	The Australian height datum, which references a level or height to a standard base level.
Assignee	The person or entity to whom an interest or right to water is being temporarily transferred by another entity (e.g. seasonally assigned).
Assignor	The person or entity that temporarily transfers an interest or right in water to an assignee (e.g. 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.
Full supply volume	This is the volume in storage that corresponds to the full supply level.
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.
Passing flow	Means the flow in a watercourse defined by either litres per second, cubic metres per second, or megalitres per day, past a specified location.
Publish	Means published on the resource operations licence holder's internet site for the applicable water supply scheme.
Stream flow	Includes flow of water resulting from tributary inflows and does not include release of supplemented water.
Water year	The water year is the 12-month period beginning 1 July and ending 30 June.

:

Attachment 2 Upper Condamine Water Supply Scheme map



Attachment 3 Resource volumes

Month	July		August		September		October		November		December		January		February		March		April		May		June	
Type	CV _{LD}	RV	CV _{LD}	RV	CV _{LD}	RV	CV _{LD}	RV	CV _{LD}	RV	CV _{LD}	RV	CV _{LD}	RV	CV _{LD}	RV	CV _{LD}	RV	CV _{LD}	RV	CV _{LD}	RV	CV _{LD}	RV
Volumes (ML)	15000	0																						
	15893	112	15000	0																				
	16869	223	15967	112	15000	0																		
	18663	893	17750	782	16769	670	15000	0																
	20656	1675	19724	1563	18716	1451	16845	782	15000	0														
	26391	6140	25439	6029	24401	5917	22442	5247	20516	4466	15000	0												
	32790	9936	31794	9825	30676	9713	28230	9043	25789	8262	19891	3796	15000	0										
	38181	12839	37124	12728	35928	12616	33176	11946	30474	11165	24331	6514	19011	2903	15000	0								
	44340	16635	43182	16523	41869	16412	38779	15742	35821	14960	29527	10495	23964	6699	19757	3796	15000	0						
	50381	19315	49087	19203	47610	19091	43990	18421	40579	17099	33946	13174	28139	9378	23641	6475	18709	2679	15000	0				
	54622	20878	53211	20766	51619	20654	47637	19984	43911	19203	37027	14737	31015	10941	26354	8038	21297	4243	17499	1563	15000	0		
	57866	21771	56424	21659	54756	21547	50455	20878	46205	20096	39174	15630	32998	11834	28252	8932	23117	5136	19262	2456	16720	893	15000	0
	62750	22329	61276	22217	59566	22106	55210	21436	50886	20654	43364	16189	36124	12393	30447	9490	24765	5694	20641	3014	18068	1451	16332	558
	106200	60310	106200	61462	106200	62846	106200	66244	106200	69474	106200	72698	106200	75813	106200	80004	106200	83153	106200	85908	106200	88127	106200	89759