

BORDER RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT AREA
Department of Environment and Resource Management
Guideline Sheet: August 2011

**TEMPORARY TRADING IN THE BORDER RIVERS WATER MANAGEMENT
AREA WITHIN QUEENSLAND**

SEASONAL WATER ASSIGNMENT (QUEENSLAND)

Description

This guideline deals only with the temporary trade of unsupplemented water in the Border Rivers Water Management Area (BRWMA) within Queensland.

A temporary trade of unsupplemented water is where the rights to access future unregulated flows may be assigned to another party for the remainder of the water year.

The purchaser (transferee) must obtain a seasonal water assignment notice from the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) which specifies a rate of take, maximum volume of water that may be taken and the works for taking water at the location of destination.

Temporary trades of water entitlements are prohibited:

- on the Dumaresq River upstream of the Pike Creek junction; and
- on the Barwon River downstream of Mungindi.

General

DERM manages water in the BRWMA on behalf of the State of Queensland in accordance with the *Border Rivers Resource Operations Plan 2008* (ROP).

The provision for the seasonal water assignment of an unsupplemented water allocation within Queensland (Qld) is provided for under Chapter 7, Part 3 of the ROP. The seasonal water assignment notice is managed under the rules and management arrangements specified in the ROP.

Approvals

The water allocation holder must obtain approval for the seasonal water assignment of a water allocation from DERM prior to the water being taken at the new location.

The application process:

1. The water allocation holder submits an application form for a seasonal water assignment with the prescribed fee to DERM (including details of works and meter readings of works at current location and at destination).
2. DERM will process the seasonal water assignment application in accordance with the ROP rules. If the application is approved, a seasonal water assignment notice is issued. The customer service standard for processing an application for a seasonal assignment notice is 5 business days.
3. Sunwater on DERM's behalf will distribute announcements, manage access to the flow and collect meter readings from the seasonal water assignment holder.

Rules and Features:

An application for a seasonal water assignment notice will not be approved unless the applicant has authorised works installed and an approved water

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meter is fitted to measure the volume of water taken.

The maximum volume of water that may be taken under a seasonal water assignment notice is the volume stated on the notice.

The holder of the seasonal water assignment notice is not authorised to take water unless an announcement has been made by DERM for the taking of water under that seasonal water assignment notice.

ROP rules – same location (zone)

The water allocation being seasonally assigned must not have a conjunctive storage condition*.

The flow condition under which water may be taken under seasonal water assignment is to be the same as the flow condition for the water allocation being seasonally assigned.

The maximum volume that may be taken under the seasonal water assignment is to be no greater than the unused volume that may be taken under the authority of the water allocation.

The maximum rate of take will be in proportion to the share of the unused volume being seasonally assigned and is stated in megalitres per day.

Where the water allocation to which the seasonal water assignment relates is distributed by a distribution operations licence holder or the seasonal water assignment would require distribution by the holder of a distribution operations licence—the holder of the distribution operations licence must consent to the arrangement.

ROP rules – different location (zone)

All of the rules above for 'same location' apply.

Where seasonal water assignment is to a downstream location—

- water is only made available where there is an announced period for the water allocation being seasonally assigned; and
- the volume made available during an announced period is—
 - (A) determined as if the location for the take of water under the seasonal water assignment is the location of the water allocation from which the seasonal water assignment is made; and
 - (B) reduced by a percentage dependent on antecedent conditions to provide for transmission losses.

Where the seasonal water assignment is to an upstream location—

- Water is only made available where an announced period applies to both—
 - (A) the location stated on the water allocation being seasonally assigned; and
 - (B) the location from which the seasonal water assignment is authorised to be taken.
- the volume made available during an announced period—
 - (A) is determined based on the location of the water allocation being seasonally assigned; and
 - (B) does not reduce the availability of water for water allocations in the location from which the seasonal water assignment is authorised to be taken.

Water Charges:

BRWMA customers are invoiced on a quarterly basis. The invoice will be based on the volume of water measured at the customers point of diversion and at a rate set out in Schedule 14 of the Water Regulation 2002 for the BRWMA (\$3.80 in the 2011/2012 water year).

*a temporary exemption to this rule is in place until the end of the 2011-2012 water year.