

# Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme

## Information bulletin and feedback form: Proposed amendment to water sharing rules for allocation holders

### Summary

- The continuing drought in South East Queensland has resulted in the water level in Moogerah Dam now being below 30%. As a result, Seqwater has published an announced allocation on 1 July 2020 of 19% for medium priority allocation holders for the 2020-21 water year. This announced allocation is based on the current rules contained within the scheme Operations Manual.
- Irrigators from the Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme (WVWSS) have expressed their concerns to Seqwater regarding the low water availability for the current 2020-21 water year.
- Seqwater has also been assessing options for ensuring continuity of drinking water supply to the communities supplied by the Boonah-Kalbar Water Treatment Plant during periods of critically low water availability.
- To address these concerns, Seqwater is proposing an amendment to the Operations Manual for the Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme. This amendment would improve the reliability of town water supply, while also providing irrigators with additional water for the current 2020-21 water year.
- Seqwater is seeking feedback from allocation holders as to whether they agree with the proposed amendments, or if they have any concerns that they wish to have addressed. Feedback should be provided to Seqwater by 22 July 2020, using one of the methods proposed in the feedback form below.
- The proposed amendments will only take effect once approved by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME). Until this occurs, the current rules will continue to apply.

### Detail

#### Proposed amendments

Seqwater is proposing amendments to the Operations Manual for the WVWSS, to mitigate the impact of drought on the regional community and Seqwater customers. These amendments are;

- An amendment to the water sharing rules, changing the methodology used to determine the volume of water set aside for high priority allocations beyond the current year (known as the reserve volume). Less water would be set aside in reserve at the beginning of the water year, returning this water to the scheme for use.
- An amendment to the operating rules, restricting the supply of water to all medium priority allocations and high priority allocations associated with Swanbank Power Station when the level in Moogerah Dam falls below 139.04 mAHD (approximately 6,000 ML or 7% capacity).
- The proposed amendments will be published on Seqwater's website at: <https://www.seqwater.com.au/warrill-valley-scheme>

Seqwater also investigated the option of a shortened water year, in the instance that the announced allocation was less than 25%. However, the resulting improvement to the medium priority announced allocation from the other amendments has meant that a shortened water year is not necessary at this time.

### **Implication of proposed amendments for the current 2020-21 water year**

For the current water year, the proposed amendments will result in an increase to the announced allocation for medium priority allocation holders. The new announced allocation for the 2020-21 water year is expected to be between 30% - 35%. This is only a forecast and will depend on the volume of Moogerah Dam at the time of the new announcement calculation.

Please remember, the announced allocation is never a guarantee of available water, and that ongoing drought conditions may result in some water not being able to be delivered. For this reason, it is recommended customers use their allocated water earlier in the water year.

### **Implications of proposed amendments on medium and high priority water availability**

Seqwater has modelled the proposed amendments to the operating and water sharing rules to determine the longer-term impact to allocation holders and the environment. This modelling ensures that the amendments are consistent with the Moreton Water Plan in ensuring sustainability of the water resource and equitable sharing between users.

The modelling undertaken by Seqwater shows that the proposed amendments are consistent with the Morton Water Plan, in that all target objectives for environmental sustainability and water reliability are met. The water reliability for medium priority and high priority allocations, other than those associated with Swanbank Power Station, increase under the proposed amendments. In the case of high priority allocations for Swanbank Power Station, the proposed amendments result in decrease in the long-term water reliability and available volume. This decrease is mitigated by the power station having access to two other independent sources of water supply.

# Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme

## Have your say

Seqwater is seeking the feedback of customers in the Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme regarding the proposed amendments to the water sharing rules as described in the attached information bulletin.

Please note that the proposed amendments are subject to review and approval by DNRME. Until the amendments have been approved, the existing water sharing rules will remain in place.

Feedback must be provided to Seqwater by 22 July 2020. There are several ways to do this, as follows:

1. You can complete a physical copy of this feedback form and return via the post to Seqwater. Please send to Seqwater, Reply Paid, PO Box 328, IPSWICH QLD 4305.
2. You can complete a physical copy of this feedback form and email to [irrigators@seqwater.com.au](mailto:irrigators@seqwater.com.au). The completed form can be sent as either a document, or as an image (i.e. a photo of the completed form).
3. You can email Seqwater with your response (no form required) by simply replying to this email.

If you have any questions, or require further information, please contact John West, Principal Water Resource Advisor, by email at [John.West@seqwater.com.au](mailto:John.West@seqwater.com.au)

## Feedback form

I hold the following types of water allocation within the Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme –

☐ medium priority allocation holder

☐ high priority allocation holder

Regarding the amendments that Seqwater is proposing (please tick one of the following responses) –

☐ I agree with the proposed amendments to the Operations Manual; or,

☐ I have concerns with the proposed amendments to the Operations Manual.

Please provide any comments (optional), including any concerns you may have that you wish addressed:

Signature:

Date:

Name:

Customer number: