



Queensland

Water Resource (Great Artesian Basin) Plan 2006

Explanatory Notes for SL 2006 No. 49

made under the
Water Act 2000

General outline

1 Short title

Water Resource (Great Artesian Basin) Plan 2006.

2 Authorising law

Chapter 2, part 3, division 2 of the *Water Act 2000*.

3 Policy objective of the legislation

The objectives of the Water Resource Plan (the *plan*) are to provide a framework for the allocation and sustainable management of the water resources of the Great Artesian Basin.

4 Reasons for the water resource plan

The *Water Act 2000* states the Minister may prepare a water resource plan for any part of Queensland to advance the sustainable management of water. Issues identified through community consultation have highlighted the need to prepare a water resource plan for the Great Artesian Basin.

5 Achieving the objectives

The water resource plan provides for the allocation and sustainable management of the water resources of the Great Artesian Basin by—

- defining the availability of water in the plan area;
- providing a framework for sustainably managing water and the taking of water;
- to identify priorities and mechanisms for dealing with future water requirements.

6 Administrative costs

Development of the proposed final plan is funded from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water allocation for the Water Resource Plan development program. Funding for the development of the Resource Operations Plan, which will implement the plan, has been allocated to the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water under the Water Reform Continuity of Supply funds allocation.

7 Fundamental legislative principles

The subordinate legislation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

8 Consultation

Government departments and agencies affected by the changes have been consulted in respect to the plan. In addition, conservation, agriculture, Indigenous, industry, and local government groups have been consulted in accordance with the Water Resource Planning process outlined in the *Water Act 2000*.

Outcomes of the community consultation will be outlined in a separate document ‘The Great Artesian Basin Water Resource Plan Consultation Report’.

9 Regulatory Impact Statement

A Regulatory Impact Statement is not required for the approval of a Water Resource Plan under the Act (see section 58).

Notes on provisions of the plan

Part 1 Preliminary

Short title

Clause 1 sets out the short title to the subordinate legislation (the *plan*).

Purposes of plan

Clause 2 states the purposes of the plan are to—

- define the availability of water in the plan area;
- provide a framework for sustainably managing water and the taking of water;
- to identify priorities and mechanisms for dealing with future water requirements.

Definition

Clause 3 specifies that certain terms are defined in the dictionary in schedule 6.

Part 2 Plan area and water to which plan applies

Clause 4 states that the plan applies to the area shown on the map in schedule 1. The plan area consists of the Queensland portion of the Great Artesian Basin (GAB).

Clause 5 states that the plan area is divided into management areas. There are 25 management areas each consisting of a geographical area. The boundaries of the management areas have been defined based on local factors including hydrological, geological, water demand, and recharge and discharge characteristics. The distribution of the management areas are shown on the map in schedule 2.

Clause 5 also states that each management area is divided into management units. Management units are the stratigraphic (vertical) sequence of aquifers divided into groups that respond, within practical management timeframes, as separate systems. The management units for each management area are detailed in schedule 4.

Clause 6 states that the exact location of management area boundaries is held in digital form by the department. The digital maps can be enlarged to show the precise boundary by cadastre.

Clause 7 states that the plan applies to water in, or from, management units that is artesian water, subartesian water connected to artesian water, and water in springs connected to artesian water and subartesian water connected to artesian water.

Part 3 Outcomes for sustainable management of water

Clause 8 states the general and ecological outcomes for the allocation and sustainable management of water within the plan area. The plan seeks to achieve a balance in these outcomes, which include—

- protecting the flow of water to springs and baseflow to watercourses that support significant cultural and environmental values;
- providing for the continued use of all water entitlements and other authorisations to take or interfere with water;
- reserving water in storage in the aquifer for future generations;
- ensuring a reliable supply of water from the plan area;
- making water available for new users.

The term *balance* does not necessarily imply that each outcome will be given equal weighting or that any specific weighting is attached to any particular outcomes. Instead, the weight given to each outcome will be dependent on the particular conditions and circumstances of a given management area.

Part 4 Strategies for achieving outcomes

Division 1 Preliminary

Part 4 outlines the strategies for achieving the outcomes mentioned in part 3.

Clause 9 states that the strategies form part of a broad framework for the management of natural resources and are designed to complement other activities for advancing the sustainable management of water including programs such as the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative.

In general, the strategies identify—

- the mechanisms for making decisions about the taking of water in the plan area; and
- general strategies about the limitations associated with taking water from the Mulgildie and Clarence Moreton management areas; and
- the protection of flow to springs; and
- the provision of unallocated water in the plan area through the general and State reserve; and
- the provisions that are required to be met in gaining access to water held in the general and State reserves.

Clause 10 forms the basis for decisions about the taking of water in a manner that is consistent with achieving the outcomes identified in part 3. It states that the chief executive must not make a decision about the allocation or management of water in the plan area that would increase the average volume of water that may be taken in the plan area. This includes a decision about an application for a water licence that was made, but not dealt with, before the plan commenced. This provision does not apply to decisions about the following—

- a water permit;
- a water licence for stock and domestic purposes as defined by the *Water Act 2000*. (Stock and domestic water licences remain non volumetric);
- to grant a water licence for ‘stock intensive’ purposes in order to replace a licence for stock purposes where it is being granted for

a cattle feedlot of not more than 49 standard cow units, provided the licence existed prior to 1 March 1998;

- a water licence for associated water under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*. (Petroleum or gas production tenure holders are authorised under that Act to take water that is associated with, and is a necessary part of, producing petroleum or gas. If, after the water is separate from the petroleum or gas, the tenure holder wishes to on-supply the associated water to a third party a water licence must be granted under the *Water Act 2000*);
- about reinstating or replacing a water licence as defined under part 6 of the *Water Act 2000*;
- to grant a water licences, in accordance with clause 15(3), in the Mulgildie or Clarence Moreton management areas;
- to grant a volumetric water licence to a local government for town water supply purposes mentioned in clause 27;
- to grant a water licence under clause 32;
- about unallocated water, made under division 4 (from the general or State reserves) of the plan;
- about water sharing rules;
- required to be made under the resource operations plan.

Division 2 General Strategies

Under the Act (s 20(6)) a person may take or interfere with subartesian water unless a water resource plan limits or alters the water that can be taken or interfered with.

Clause 11 states than in an area other than the Eastern Downs, Mulgildie and Clarence Moreton management areas a person may not take or interfere with subartesian water unless it is for domestic purposes or under a water entitlement. (This means that it must not be taken for stock purposes, as defined under the Act, without a water licence).

Clause 11 also states that in the Eastern Downs, Mulgildie or Clarence Moreton management areas a person may not take or interfere with water other than for stock or domestic purposes or under a water entitlement.

(This means that a water license is not required for taking water for stock purposes).

Clause 12 states that any water licences must be granted in accordance with the criteria for protection of flow to springs and baseflows to watercourses that will be set out in resource operations plan. The resource operations plan is the means by which the plan will be implemented.

Division 3 Mulgildie and Clarence Moreton management areas

Clause 13 authorises existing water bore owners, and miners dewatering mines, in the Mulgildie management area to continue taking subartesian water for groundwater dependent activities for two months after commencement of the plan. The terms existing water bore and groundwater dependent activity are defined in the schedule 6 dictionary.

For the authority under this clause to continue beyond the two-month period, these bore owners and miners must give the chief executive notice, in the approved form, of the following—

- their water bore details;
- details of the activity that is dependent on the subartesian water;
- details about the water that is taken from these bores for that activity.

The information provided under this notice will be used to licence this take of water under clause 15 of the plan.

Clause 14 authorises existing bore owners, and miners who are dewatering mines, who are located in those parts of the Clarence Moreton management area outside of the Gatton–Esk Road implementation area, to continue taking subartesian water. The intent of this provision is to allow subartesian water users to continue taking the water they had historically been taking before the commencement of the plan. There is no requirement for these individuals to notify the department of the water bore and they will not be granted a licence.

The amount of underground water being extracted from sandstone aquifers within the Gatton–Esk implementation area of the Clarence Moreton management area has increased dramatically in the past 20 years. Anecdotal evidence indicates that this has resulted in significant reductions

in underground water pressures and water levels. For this reason different management arrangements are being implemented in the Gatton–Esk Road implementation area compared to those in the rest of the Clarence Moreton management area.

Therefore clause 14 authorises existing water bore owners in the Gatton–Esk Road implementation area to continue to use their bores to take subartesian water for groundwater dependent activities for six months after commencement of the plan. For this authority to continue beyond the six month period, these bore owners must give the chief executive notice, in the approved form, of the following—

- their water bore details;
- details of the activity that is dependent on the subartesian water;
- details about the water that is taken from these bores for that activity.

The information provided under this notice will be used to licence this take of water under clause 15.

Clause 15 requires the chief executive to grant water licences to those subartesian water users that are authorised under sections 13 (Mulgildie management area) or 14 (Gatton–Esk road implementation area) to continue taking subartesian water. This applies to those water users who have notified the chief executive, in the approved form, about their bores, the volume of water taken from these bores, and the groundwater dependent activities for which this water is used, in the Mulgildie management area and Gatton–Esk Road implementation area.

Clause 15 allows the chief executive to grant water licences to subartesian water users in the Clarence Moreton management area (outside the Gatton–Esk implementation area) who have been authorised to continue taking subartesian water under clause 14.

Clause 15 allows the chief executive to grant water licences to subartesian water users in the Mulgildie management area who, either have not been authorised to take subartesian water under clause 13 or who are seeking to increase their take of subartesian water. To be granted a licence they must be able to demonstrate that they had a commitment to developing a groundwater dependent activity on or before 31st March 2005 in the Mulgildie management area, or before 18 August 2005 in the Gatton–Esk road implementation area. Commitment in relation to a groundwater dependant activity is defined in the schedule 6 dictionary.

Division 4 General and State reserves

Subdivision 1 Preliminary

Clause 16 states that unallocated water is held as a general or State reserve. The two reserves operate independently of each other and schedule 5 identifies the volumes of unallocated water available from the general reserve in each management area.

Clause 17 states that the resource operations plan will outline a process for the granting of water from the general and State reserves.

Clause 18 relates to the matters the chief executive must consider when dealing with and making decisions regarding unallocated water in the plan.

While not limiting the matters the chief executive may consider, clause 18 identifies the matters the chief executive must consider, which are—

- the need for, the efficiency of, present and proposed uses of water, including—
 - the extent to which water is being taken under current authorisations in the plan area; and
 - emerging requirements in the plan area for additional water and the likely timeframe in which the additional water will be required; and
 - alternative water sources including, for example recycled water and water savings from improvements in efficiency of water use; and
- the availability of an alternative water supply for the purpose for which the water is required; and
- the impact of the proposed taking of, or interfering with, the water may have on—
 - the flow of water to springs derived from artesian water; and
 - artesian water pressure; and
 - subartesian water levels; and
- the impact the proposed taking of, or interfering with, the water may have on existing water entitlements and other authorities to take or interfere with water.

These matters form the basis for decisions about taking or interfering with unallocated water from both the general and State reserve. The matters relate to the requirements that need to be met to firstly obtain, and secondly use, unallocated water identified in schedule 5. While schedule 5 indicates the volumes that are available in the general reserve to achieve the outcomes identified in part 3, the release and use of unallocated water will be subject to meeting the requirements identified in clause 18, and any additional matters the chief executive may consider. These matters will form the basis for the development of criteria for the release of unallocated water through the resource operations plan or under application for water licence in the case of the State reserve.

Clause 19 states that the chief executive when making a decision about granting unallocated water for a purpose mentioned in section 25 (1)—for a project of State or regional significance, or to a local government for town water supply—must consider whether water is available from the State reserve. If water is available from the State reserve the chief executive may require the entity wishing to be granted water for a purpose identified under 25(1) to lodge an application for water from the State reserve. These provisions allow the chief executive the ability to direct entities, with special eligibility to access water from the State reserve, to the State reserve. It will ensure that the general reserve can be managed so that persons, without special eligibility to the State reserve, will have reasonable opportunity to gain access to water from the general reserve.

Clause 20 states that the chief executive may require a person applying for water from the general or State reserve to investigate the likely impacts that the taking of water would have on artesian pressure or subartesian water levels, and to include such information with their application. It also states that the chief executive may impose conditions on a water licence from the general or State reserve requiring the holder to undertake monitoring, and to provide water to existing entitlement holders that may be impacted.

Subdivision 2 General reserve

Clause 21 states that subdivision 2 applies to the unallocated water that is held as a general reserve.

Clause 22 specifies the totals of the annual volumetric limit available from the general reserve that can be allocated as a water licence. The volumes are specific to a management area as detailed in schedule 5, column 1 and

the corresponding annual volumetric limit that applies to each particular management area is detailed in schedule 5, column 2 opposite.

Each management area is further subdivided, and characterised, into the specific management units detailed in schedule 5, column 3 opposite the management area. The annual volumetric limit of water that the chief executive may grant for each of the management units is detailed in schedule 5, column 4.

This clause indicates that in each management areas there is a ‘preferred’ management unit from which water can be granted under water licence. However, for practical reasons i.e. the occurrence of the management unit at a particular location is not found, the granted water cannot be sourced from the ‘preferred’ management unit, the chief executive is able to grant the water from a different management unit within the same management area provided the outcomes of the plan can still be achieved.

Clause 23 states that in the area of the GAB, which lies under the area covered by the *Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2000*, a water license for irrigation purpose can only be granted for up to 10 hectares of stock feed or up to 2 hectares of horticultural crops. This is to provide consistency with the purposes for which water from a watercourse can be used in the Cooper Creek Plan area.

Subdivision 3 State reserve

Clause 24 states that the subdivision applies to water held under the State reserve.

Clause 25 states that water from the State reserve can only be granted for projects of State or regional significance or to a local government for town water supplies. It also states that water granted for a project is only granted for the life of the project but then returns to the State on completion of the project. Projects of State and regional significance are defined in the dictionary in schedule 5.

Clause 26 states that volume of water held in the State reserve at the commencement of the plan is 10,000 megalitres.

Division 5 Resource operations plan

Clause 27 states that the details of licences, issued under clause 15, may be stated in the Resource Operations Plan.

Clause 28 applies to water taken for town water supply purposes at the commencement of the plan. This clause states that all local governments must have a volumetric water licence on the commencement of the plan.

For those local governments without a volume on their existing water licence, the chief executive must issue a water licence that states a volume. In calculating a volume for these entitlements, the chief executive must have regard to the number of lots within a town area, the part of the GAB area in which the town is located and other existing or alternative water supplies. This is a process of initialising existing water licences that do not currently state a volume on the water licence.

For those local governments with an existing volumetric water licence, if the existing volume is less than that which would be calculated through the chief executive's method as mentioned above, the licence will be re-issued with the greater of the two volumes. In calculating the volume the chief executive is not limited in matters that can be considered.

Clause 29 relates to the granting of water from the General reserve. As stated in the plan, the release process for this water will be outlined in the Resource Operations Plan and it will involve a competitive release process via auction or tender. In addition, the Resource Operations Plan will state that all water released for irrigation purposes will require the development of a land and water management plan.

Clause 30 states that the volume of water being made available through the State reserve may not be available in all management areas or management units. The Resource Operations Plan may state the management areas and/or management units where the State reserve is not available.

Clause 31 outlines that the Resource Operations Plan will provide criteria to ensure the protection of flow to springs and baseflow to watercourses. The criteria may include buffer distances for new bores to provide protection of flow to these areas. Specific criteria with regard to acceptable reduction in artesian pressure or reduction in water levels in subartesian areas may also be specified in the Resource Operations Plan.

Division 6 Miscellaneous

Clause 32 states that the chief executive must consult with other States before making a decision about granting or amending a water license where such a decision may have an adverse impact on artesian pressure or subartesian water levels at the State border.

Clause 33 states that the chief executive may grant a licence, under section 212 of the Act, to take or continuing taking, water if it could have been taken under an authority, under the current or repealed Act, provided the authority existed on the 19 February 2005 when the moratorium was introduced. For this clause an authority includes correspondence from the department recording the chief executive's intention to grant a water license.

Clause 34 states that water licenses that do not state a maximum volume may be amended to state a volumetric limit, and sets out the criteria that the chief executive must consider when deciding the volumetric limit. It also states that all licences must be amended to state a volumetric limit during the period the plan is in force. The criteria for determining the volumetric limit include—

- conditions on an existing water licence; and
- the efficiency of water use with regard to best industry practice; and
- the impact of the proposed taking of, or interfering with, the water may have on—
 - the flow of water to springs derived from artesian water; and
 - artesian water pressure; and
 - subartesian water levels; and
- the capacity of the aquifer to supply water in a particular management unit on a sustainable basis; and
- the impact the proposed taking of, or interfering with, the water may have on existing water entitlements and other authorities to take or interfere with water; and
- the availability of an alternative water supply that is suitable for the desired purpose.

The chief executive may also consider any other matter when deciding a volumetric limit for a license.

Clause 34 also states that licences for taking water for stock or domestic purposes only; or to prevent water entering a mine; or for associated water under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* do not need to be amended to state a volumetric limit.

Clause 35 states that in an area other than in the Eastern Downs, Mulgildie, and the Clarence Moreton management areas works for taking subartesian water for any purpose are assessable development requiring a development permit under the *Integrated Planning Act 1999* (IPA). Works (replacement bores) for replacing works which have a development permit under IPA, or that are taken to have a development permit under 1048A of the *Water Act 2000* are self assessable.

Clause 35 also states that in the Eastern Downs, Mulgildie, and the Clarence Moreton management areas works for taking subartesian water for a purpose, other than for stock and domestic use, are assessable development requiring a development permit under the *Integrated Planning Act 1999* (IPA). Works (replacement bores) for replacing works which have a development permit under IPA, or that are taken to have a development permit under 1048A of the *Water Act 2000* are self assessable.

Clause 36 states that measuring devices, such as meters, must be used to measure the use of water. The Water Regulation will set out when the measuring devices must be installed. Installation of meters will be in accordance with the State-wide Metering Water Extractions Policy.

Part 5 Monitoring and reporting requirements

Clause 37 states the monitoring requirements to assess the performance of the plan against the outcomes stated in part 3 as well as an assessment of the effectiveness of strategies stated in part 4 in achieving these outcomes. The monitoring requirements include monitoring of artesian water pressure and subartesian water levels together with monitoring of flow of water to and from springs. The monitoring will reflect the management units framework adopted in the plan.

The monitoring requirements will be achieved through two levels of monitoring programs—

- 1 Monitoring programs that will be administered by relevant State agencies; and

- 2 A monitoring program carried out by a water licence holder as part of their water licence conditions.

A monitoring strategy in line with these requirements will be stated in the resource operations plan.

Clause 38 states that an annual report must be prepared by the Minister under section 53 of the Act and specifies when the report is required. Section 54 of the Act outlines the matters that must be included in the annual report. The report will be used to assess the effectiveness of the plan in achieving the outcomes.

Clause 39 outlines that the Minister must, after the fifth annual report since the commencement of the resource operations plan, assess whether the outcomes that are to be achieved by the plan are being achieved. The assessment will take into account any new information, including the information collected through the monitoring program and measurement of water use. Based on this information, the Minister will make an assessment of whether the plan should be amended or replaced under section 55 of the Act.

Part 6 Implementing and amending this plan

Clause 40 states that the plan will be implemented through a resource operations plans that is to be prepared within 6 months of the commencement of the plan.

Clause 41 states that the plan may be amended under section 56 (4) of the Act in order to vary the volume of water that may be made available through either the general reserve or State reserve.

Clause 42 states that minor amendments to the boundaries of management areas may be made under section 57(b) of the Act.

Part 7 Amendments of Other Water Resource Plans

Part 7 outlines the consequential amendments that are required to be made to existing water resource plans to clarify the water that each plan applies

to. Under the *Water Act 2000* two water resource plans can have effect for the same part of Queensland at the same time only if one plan applies to artesian water, or subartesian water connected to artesian water, or water in springs connected to artesian water, and the other plan does not.

The amendments are necessary due to the definitions of spring and overland flow water in the *Water Act 2000*. Spring means ‘the land to which water rises naturally from below the ground and the land over which the water then flows’. It is not specific about the type of water in the spring (i.e. artesian or subartesian water). The definition of overland flow water includes ‘water that has risen to the surface naturally from underground’. These two definitions are problematic as they overlap to some extent.

The GAB Plan applies to water in or from management units that is artesian water, and subartesian water connected to artesian water, and water in springs connected to either artesian water or subartesian water connected to artesian water. It does not apply to overland flow water, or water in springs not connected to artesian water, or subartesian water connected to artesian water (i.e. springs not connected to GAB water).

Division 1 Amendment of Water Resource (Border Rivers) Plan 2003

Clause 43 states that this division amends the *Water Resource (Border Rivers) Plan 2003*

Clause 44 states that section 8 of that plan relating to ‘water to which plan applies’ be omitted and the following inserted—

This plan applies to the following water in the plan area—

- water in a water course or lake;
- water in springs not connected to—
 - artesian water; or
 - subartesian water connected to artesian water;
- overland flow water, other than water in springs connected to—
 - artesian water; or
 - subartesian water connected to artesian water.

Division 2 Amendment of Water Resource (Burnett Basin) Plan 2000

Clause 45 states that this division amends the *Water Resource (Burnett Basin) Plan*.

Clause 46 states that section 5 of that plan relating to ‘water to which plan applies’ be omitted and the following inserted—

This plan applies to the following water in the plan area—

- water in a water course or lake;
- water in springs not connected to—
 - artesian water; or
 - subartesian water connected to artesian water.

Division 3 Amendment of Water Resource (Condamine and Balonne) Plan 2004

Clause 47 states that this division amends the *Water Resource (Condamine and Balonne) Plan 2004*.

Clause 48 states that section 8 of that plan relating to ‘water to which plan applies’ be omitted and the following inserted—

This plan applies to the following water in the plan area—

- water in a water course or lake;
- water in springs not connected to—
 - artesian water; or
 - subartesian water connected to artesian water;
- overland flow water, other than water in springs connected to—
 - artesian water; or
 - subartesian water connected to artesian water.

Division 4 Amendment of Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2000

Clause 49 states that this division amends the *Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2000*.

The *Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2000* previously applied to water in the Great Artesian Basin recharge areas within the Cooper Creek catchment. The Cooper Creek Plan no longer applies to this water as it is now covered by the Great Artesian Basin Plan.

Clause 50 is an amendment to the definitions of the Cooper Creek Plan and states that ‘recharge area’ be omitted. This is required because the Cooper Creek Plan no longer applies to the Great Artesian Basin recharge areas.

Clause 51 states that section 5 of that plan relating to ‘water to which plan applies’ be omitted and the following inserted—

This plan applies to the following water in the plan area—

- water in a watercourse;
- subartesian water not connected to artesian water and hydraulically connected to a watercourse.

Clause 52 states that section 13 of the plan relating ‘restriction on purpose for which licence or permit may be issued’ be amended such that section 13(2) be omitted as that subsection relates to the Great Artesian Basin recharge areas which the Cooper Creek Plan no longer applies to.

Clause 53 states that section 16 of relating to ‘restriction on issuing licence or permit to take or use underground water’ be amended to omit ‘underground’ and insert ‘subartesian’. This is required because the definition of underground water in the *Water Act 2000* includes artesian and subartesian. The Cooper Creek Plan no longer applies to artesian water and subartesian water connected to artesian water.

Clause 54 states that section 18 relating to ‘criteria for deciding licence and permit applications and imposing conditions on licences and permits’ be amended such that subsection 18(1)(f) be amended to omit ‘underground’ and insert ‘subartesian’. This is required because the definition of underground water in the *Water Act 2000* includes artesian and subartesian. The Cooper Creek Plan no longer applies to Artesian water and subartesian water connected to artesian water.

Clause 55 states that schedule 1 relating to ‘Great Artesian Basin recharge areas’ be omitted as the Cooper Creek Plan no longer applies to the Great Artesian Basin recharge areas.

Division 5 Amendment of Water Resource (Fitzroy Basin) Plan 1999

Clause 56 states that this division amends the *Water Resource (Fitzroy Basin) Plan 1999*.

Clause 57 states that section 8 of that plan relating to ‘water to which plan applies’ be omitted and the following inserted—

This plan applies to the following water in the plan area—

- water in a water course or lake;
- water in springs not connected to—
 - artesian water; or
 - subartesian water connected to artesian water;
- overland flow water, other than water in springs connected to—
 - artesian water; or
 - subartesian water connected to artesian water.

Division 6 Amendment of Water Resource (Georgina and Diamantina) Plan 2004

Clause 58 states that this division amends the *Water Resource (Georgina and Diamantina) Plan 2004*.

Clause 59 states that section 6 of that plan relating to ‘water to which plan applies’ be omitted and the following inserted—

This plan applies to the following water in the plan area—

- surface water;
- overland flow water, other than water in springs connected to—
 - artesian water; or

- subartesian water connected to artesian water;
- hydraulically linked subartesian water not connected to artesian water;

surface water means the following—

- water in a water course or lake;
- water in springs not connected to—
 - artesian water; or
 - subartesian water connected to artesian water.

Division 7 Amendment of Water Resource (Moonie) Plan 2003

Clause 60 states that this division amends the *Water Resource (Moonie) Plan 2003*.

Clause 61 states that section 8 of that plan relating to water to which plan applies' be omitted and the following inserted—

This plan applies to the following water in the plan area—

- water in a water course or lake;
- water in springs not connected to—
 - artesian water; or
 - subartesian water connected to artesian water;
- overland flow water, other than water in springs connected to—
 - artesian water; or
 - subartesian water connected to artesian water.

Division 8 Amendment of Water Resource (Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine) Plan 2003

Clause 62 states that this division amends the *Water Resource (Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine) Plan 2003*.

Clause 63 states that section 8 of that plan relating to ‘water to which plan applies’ be omitted and the following inserted—

This plan applies to the following water in the plan area—

- water in a water course or lake;
- water in springs not connected to—
 - artesian water; or
 - subartesian water connected to artesian water;
- overland flow water, other than water in springs connected to—
 - artesian water; or
 - subartesian water connected to artesian water.

Schedules

Schedule 1 shows the total area of the Great Artesian Basin to which the plan applies.

Schedule 2 shows the area covered by each of the management areas and management area boundaries. The precise boundaries are held in electronic form by the department. Each management area has been recorded as an administrative plan (AP), and the AP number is provided for each management area.

Schedule 3 shows the area covered by the Gatton–Esk Road implementation area.

Schedule 4 details the management units within each management area, and also the aquifers that the management units area made of.

Schedule 5 states the volume of water available for future allocation in each management area and states the preferred allocation distribution across the management units.

Schedule 6 contains the dictionary of defined terms used in the plan.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Laid before the Legislative Assembly on . . .
- 2 The administering agency is the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water.