

## Rules summary sheet Belubula Regulated River water source

<b>Water sharing plan</b>	Belubula Regulated River Water Source 2012
<b>Plan commencement</b>	4 October 2012
<b>Term of the plan</b>	10 years

**Important:** This factsheet summarises the key rules for licence holders contained in the *Water Sharing Plan for the Belubula Regulated River Water Source 2012*. It is intended as a guide only. Approvals and licences also contain conditions that holders must comply with. You can access this information from your 'Statement of Approval' or 'Statement of Conditions' or alternatively via <https://waterregister.watarnsw.com.au/water-register-frame>.

### Long-term average annual extraction limit (LTAAEL)

The LTAAEL is equal to the lesser of:

- the long-term average annual extraction from this water source that would occur with the water storages and water use development that existed in 2009/2010, the share components and basic rights existing at the commencement of the Plan and application of the water management rules as defined in the Plan. This is estimated at 7.37 GL/yr, and
- the long-term average annual extraction from this water source that would occur under the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council Cap baseline conditions. This is estimated at 7.38 GL/y.

### Accounting rules for regulated river (high security) and stock and domestic access licences

- Water will be credited to accounts at the start of the water year and any water remaining in an account at the end of the water year is forfeited (no carryover).
- In all but exceptional drought years, the allocation into an account will be:
  - 1 ML per unit of share component for a regulated river (high security) access licence; and
  - 100% of the access licence share component for a stock and domestic access licence.
- The account limit is equal to 100% or 1 ML per unit of the access licence share component.

### Accounting rules for regulated river (general security) access licences

- Water will be credited to accounts as a result of available water determinations (AWDs). Available water determinations may be made throughout the water year when water flows into the dam.
- A take limit is applied to all accounts at the start of each year and represents the maximum amount of water that can be used in that year (even if there is a greater volume in the account).

## Accounting rules for regulated river (general security) access licences

- The take limit will equal 1 ML per unit of share component unless total extractions from the water source exceed the long-term annual average extraction limit (LTAAEL). See rules under assessing growth in use.
- The accounts for regulated river (general security) access licences are split into two sub-accounts. Sub-account A contains water allocations that may be taken in the current water year. Sub-account B contains water allocations that can be held for extraction in future water years.
- At the start of the water year, sub-account A will be adjusted to ensure it holds no more than the take limit. If the volume in subaccount A is less than the take limit, then water allocations will be moved from sub-account B into A to a maximum volume equal to the take limit. Conversely, if at the beginning of the water year subaccount A holds more than the take limit, then water allocations will be moved into sub-account B until sub-account A equals the take limit.
- The maximum total account limit (sub-account A plus sub-account B) is 1.3 ML/unit share. Account water can be carried over until the total account limit is reached. If available water determinations result in the total account exceeding 1.3 ML/unit shares, all water above 1.3 ML/unit share will be forfeited.

## Accounting rules for supplementary water access licences

- Water will be credited to accounts at the start of the water year and any water remaining in an account at the end of the water year is forfeited (no carryover).
- The volume that may be taken over a water year is set by the available water determination (AWD) made at the start of each water year. The maximum AWD is 1 ML per unit share of access licence share component.
- The AWD will remain at 1 ML per unit of share component unless total extractions from the water source exceed the long-term annual average extraction limit (LTAAEL). See rules under assessing growth in use.

## Assessing growth in use

- A two stage process is used to assess if there has been growth in use in the water source.
- Initially, average annual extraction over the previous 10 years is compared with the modelled average annual extraction for the same period using the IQQM model under the plan conditions.
- If the actual average annual extraction is 10 percent greater than the modelled extraction for the same period, then a more intensive assessment is undertaken.
- The more intensive assessment compares the long-term average annual extraction under 'current development' (at the time of assessment) conditions with the LTAAEL.
- If the long-term average annual extraction under the 'current development' model run exceeds the LTAAEL by 3 percent or more then a growth in use response is triggered.
- A growth in use response will be applied equally to both regulated river (general security) and supplementary water access licences to reduce average extractions to the LTAAEL.
- For regulated river (general security) access licences, the take limit will be reduced to < 1 ML per unit share component at the start of the water year.

## Assessing growth in use

- For supplementary water access licences, the available water determination will be reduced at the start of the water year.
- When average extractions return to the LTAAEL the growth in use response applied to both regulated river (general security) and supplementary water access licences will cease.

## Rules for accessing uncontrolled flows for regulated river (general security) access licences

- Subject to announcement, general security access licence holders can take up to 0.5 ML/unit share from uncontrolled flows when the effective available water for regulated river (general security) access licences is:
  - $\leq 20\%$  and flows are  $\geq 13$  ML/day at the Helensholme gauge (412033); or
  - $>20\%$  and  $\leq 50\%$  and flows are  $\geq 20$  ML/day at the Helensholme gauge (412033).
- Effective available water is the sum of water available for take by all general security licences in that water year as a percentage of total general security entitlement. It includes water that has been carried over from the previous year and available for take plus any water credited to the A sub-accounts as a result of AWDs in that year.
- Any extraction from uncontrolled flows is debited against any future announced allocation increases in the current water year.
- Licence holders must notify State Water prior to and 7 days after the taking of uncontrolled flows.
- The volume of water taken from uncontrolled flows must not exceed the lesser of:
  - 0.5 ML/unit share
  - (take limit multiplied x the unit shares) – volume held in sub-account A.

## Rules for accessing uncontrolled flows for regulated river (high security) access licences

- Subject to announcement, regulated river (high security) access licence holders can access up to 0.5 ML/unit share from uncontrolled flows when the sum of available water determinations for that water year is:
  - $\leq 20\%$  and flows are  $\geq 13$  ML/day at the Helensholme gauge (412033); or
  - $\leq 50\%$  and flows are  $\geq 20$  ML/day at the Helensholme gauge (412033).
- Any extraction from uncontrolled flows is debited against any future announced allocation increases in the current water year.
- Licence holders must notify State Water prior to and 7 days after the taking of uncontrolled flows.
- Access to uncontrolled flows is not available to stock and domestic access licences.

## Access rules for supplementary water access licences

- Supplementary water access licences can access water when flows are  $\geq 20$  ML/day at the Helensholme gauge (412033).
- These access licences cannot extract ordered water from the Belubula Regulated River.

## Flow requirements

End of System	A minimum flow of 10 ML/day is to be maintained at the Helensholme gauge (412033).
Stock and Domestic	A minimum flow of 2 ML/day is to be released from Carcoar Dam to maintain supply for basic rights users (stock and domestic) downstream of the dam.

## Trading rules

INTO water source	Not permitted.
WITHIN water source	<p>Permanent trade is permitted within the water source for all high security, general security and supplementary water access licences, subject to assessment.</p> <p>Temporary trade is permitted except;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• from a general security account holding water that can be used in a future year (sub-account B) to an account holding water that can be used in the current water year (sub-account A); or,</li><li>• if the trade would result in the total account exceeding 1.3 ML/unit share.</li></ul> <p>No conversions to another category allowed.</p>

More information about the planning process for the *Water Sharing Plan for the Belubula Regulated River Water Source 2012* is available at the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's website: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

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