

Lower Burdekin Water

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Open Water Supply Application Assessment Policy

1. Policy Relative to Irrigator Pumping from Channels/lagoons

- 1.1. An application to utilise Lower Burdekin Water's Water Allocation Entitlement from within the authority area, will be considered when proven water supplies are of a poor quality, it becomes impracticable to procure or there is an inadequate quantity of water available (at LBW's sole discretion), to service a crop, within LBW's authority area.
- 1.2. Applicant's eligibility for open water supply is based on whether other water sources – quality and quantity of water from any other source (pumped groundwater from own farm or others, are there any lagoons, channels, drains, rivers, WAE etc that can supply water that are not defined as LBW infrastructure) are available for water supply.
- 1.3. While traditionally open water use has been seen by LBW as an effective and efficient mechanism to artificially recharge groundwater it creates supply capacity issues in peak demand periods. Uncontrolled issuing of further open water supply approvals will lead to further capacity issues and potentially trigger the need to roster supplies in peak periods or the investment in additional pumping capacity.
- 1.4. The primary considerations in approving an application will be whether:
 - (a) the ratepayer has access to a viable alternative water supply; and
 - (b) the open water supply can be provided without unnecessary impacts on other ratepayers.
 - (c) The ratepayer has access to a WAE through a SunWater licensed pump site
- 1.5. Other factors to be considered by LBW are:
 - (a) ability/capacity of LBW's infrastructure to supply the applicant with water
 - (b) the amount of water to be required based on a maximum pump capacity and diversion rate of 1.6 litres per second per hectare (1.6L/sec/ha)
 - (c) how others within the area/diversion will be affected by the applicants proposed pumping point, particularly whether there would be capacity during peak demand periods
 - (d) whether there should be a requirement to pump open water conjunctively with groundwater - a minimum of 25% may need to come from groundwater. If so a water flow meter shall be fitted to a groundwater pump located on the property to verify that the minimum groundwater use is being met by the applicant
 - (e) whether there is perceived enhancement of the aquifer management
 - (f) the volume of nominal open water entitlement to be provided to the applicant under the Water Supply Agreement
 - (g) whether additional Water Allocation Entitlement is required to service the new Water Supply Agreement.

2. Conditions

- 2.1. LBW must in approving considering an open water supply application apply conditions for the supply which may include the following:
 - (a) Condition 1 - nominating the area to be supplied
 - (b) Condition 2 – limiting the maximum volume of water that can be diverted (nominal entitlement volume)
 - (c) Condition 3 – limiting the size of pump that can be installed and the maximum diversion flow rate
 - (d) Condition 4 – limiting the location of the proposed pump installation
 - (e) Condition 5 – limiting the times when water can be diverted
 - (f) Condition 7 – imposing any other condition considered relevant or appropriate
 - (g) Condition 6 – whether the open water supply will be compliant with meter and pumping infrastructure installation standards and policies
- 2.2. The applicant will be provided a letter detailing the open water supply to be offered and the conditions forming the basis of the approval or alternatively advising the application has been refused.

- 2.3. Challenging of the decision will be in accordance the provisions of the Water Act which allows for an internal review to be undertaken where an internal review request is made within 30 days of the decision.
- 2.4. The applicant must not commence installation of any new the pump infrastructure until the application has been approved in writing by LBW.

3. Pump sizes and flow rate

- 3.1. The maximum allowable flow rate of water to be pumped ("Diversion Flow Rate") by the applicant from the pump is 1.6 litres per second per hectare of the area to be irrigated by open water.
- 3.2. LBW will allow a 10% tolerance in respect of the land area required for a particular pump size.
- 3.3. The ultimate upper maximum flow rate will be considered on a case by case basis
- 3.4. LBW will take into consideration, when considering the pump size applied for, whether the applicant's land has access to an alternative long term viable supply of groundwater. If in the opinion of LBW there is such a supply, LBW in its sole and absolute discretion, may:
 - (a) not approve the pump size applied for and reject the application;
 - (b) not approve the pump size applied for and instead approve a smaller pump size or combination of pump sizes.
- 3.5. if the applicant has been advised in writing by LBW that the application has ben approved, and the pump is not installed and operational within six (6) months of the date of LBW's letter advising of approval of this application:
 - (a) the Water Supply Agreement will be automatically cancelled and the applicant will be required to submit a new application;
 - (b) the applicant may give notice to LBW seeking a reasonable extension of time to install the pump, but such notice must be received by LBW prior to the end of the said six (6) month period.
- 3.6. LBW may, in its sole and absolute discretion, approve the applicant's request for additional pump sites and if so approved, the applicant is liable for the costs of and incidental to:
 - (a) the installation of approved lockout switching to ensure the maximum allowable flow rate is not at any time exceeded; and
 - (b) any additional metering required,and agrees that such costs may be additionally recovered by LBW from the applicant.