INFORMATION SHEET

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Unlocking water in the Mary Basin water plan area

We have analysed the Mary Basin water plan and found ways to **unlock more than 2,000ML** of water to help local industries grow.

We assessed the following types of information:

- Water demand gathered from:
  - unallocated water expressions of interest (EOI)
  - direct feedback from water users and stakeholders.
- Water use.
- Existing water entitlements.

We found ways improve access to water without the need to review the water plan before it's expiry date.

Recommendations

We recommend the following key actions to unlock more water in the Mary Basin water plan area.

1. Make water available from unallocated water reserves to meet agricultural demand.
2. Monitor water trading to identify improvement needs.
3. Provide better access to water for First Nations communities.
4. Consider ways to meet future water demands when the water plan is due for review, such as:
   - converting water licences to allocations for more trading opportunities
   - reviewing unallocated water reserves.

Next steps

January 2026
Engage with those interested to define water licences

→

March 2026
Make a formal decision to release unallocated water

→

Mid 2026
Application and assessment process for new water licences

Late 2026
Issue new water licences

←

2026 onwards
Monitor water trading

←

2030
Reassess demands and prepare for water plan review

Further information

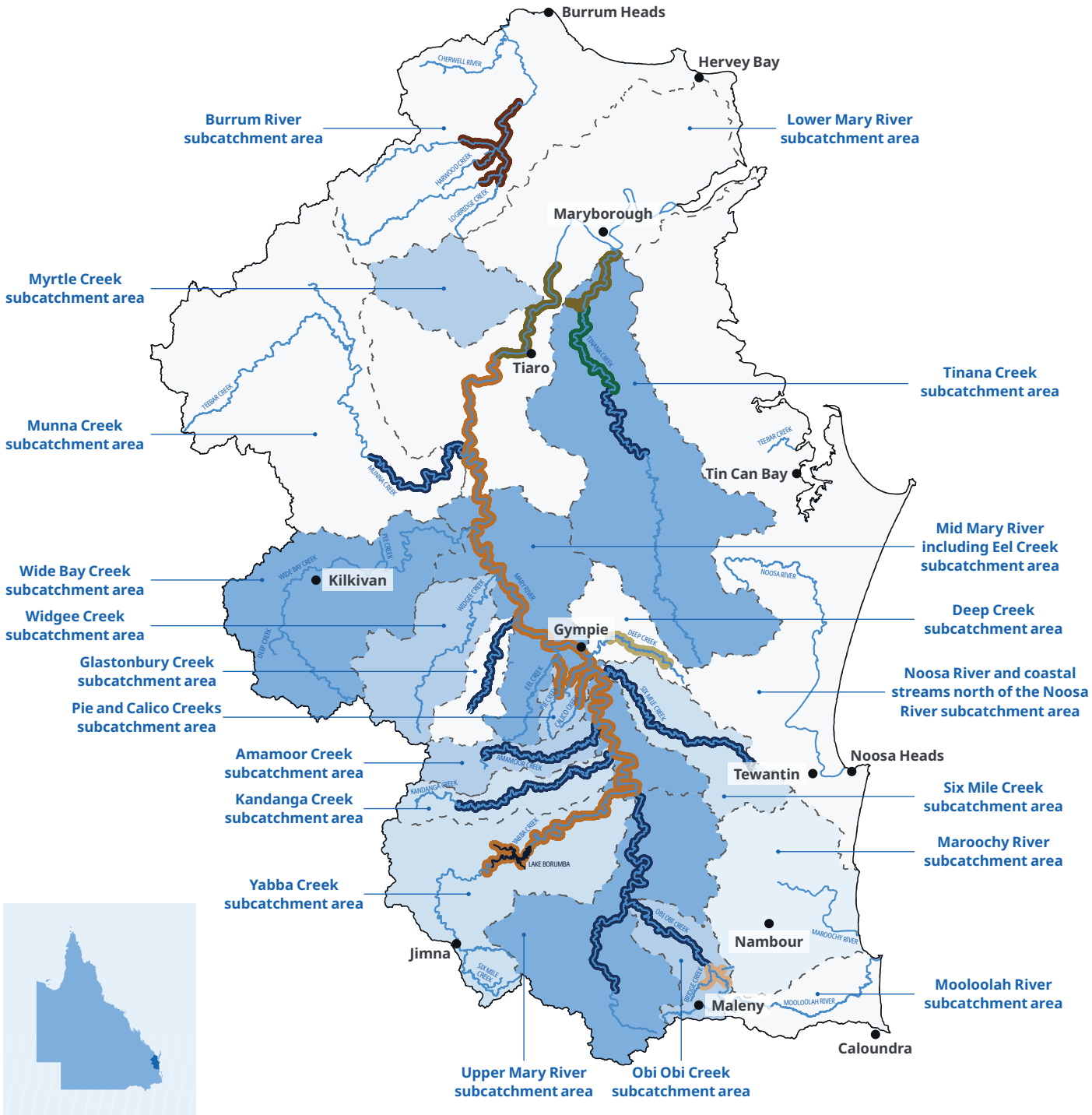
Visit www.dlgwv.qld.gov.au/water/unlocking-water-project or scan the QR code to the right

Email waterhub@dlgwv.qld.gov.au

Call **1800 822 100**

MARY BASIN WATER PLAN AREA

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Current water plan unallocated water (UAW) reserves available for surface water*	General: 2,360ML Strategic: 70,485ML Indigenous: 7,040ML

* UAW volumes are total annual volume for water entitlements. This is how much water has been assessed to be available as a long term annual average.

^ Significant watercourse reach (SWR) locations are defined in the Mary Basin water plan. The water management protocol describes how each SWR is considered for granting new water licences from UAW in those locations.

Key

- Water plan area
- Subcatchment boundaries
- Watercourse
- City or town
- Significant watercourse reach^

Total demand volume (ML)

- 1,000–1,500
- 500–1,000
- 200–500
- 50–200
- 10–50
- 0–10

Water Supply Schemes

- Wide Bay
- Lower Mary River
- Teddington Weir
- Mary Valley
- Cedar Pocket
- Baroon Pocket