DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND



Unallocated Water – Burdekin Basin Water Plan Area – Subcatchment E – Belyando Suttor

Consultation Sessions Sep/Oct 2026

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country.

We recognise the ongoing spiritual and cultural connection Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples have with land, water, se and sky.

We pay our deep respects to their Elders past and present, support future leaders, and acknowledge First Nations Peoples' right to self-determination.

'Connections Across Country' artwork by David Williams of Gilimbaa.



Housekeeping

- Introductions
- Please remain muted unless speaking
- If you have questions/comments, please use either the “hand up” function or put your questions in the chat
- Please treat all attendees with courtesy and respect
- Presentation and further information will be circulated post-session
- Sessions are not recorded

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Agenda

- Unallocated water release process
  - Expression of interest process
  - Timeframes
  - Water products
- Preparing for a water release
  - Watercourse determinations
  - Additional approvals
- Questions and feedback



Unallocated water release process

How did we get here?



Aug – Oct 2025

Targeted expression* of interest process was conducted from August to October 2025.

*EOIs can still be submitted.

Throughout 2026

Review EOI data and determine where demand exists.

September - October 2026

Virtual sessions conducted in September. Potential for face-to-face engagement.

December 2026

The previous steps help inform how water is made available.

Expression of interest summary

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- Targeted EOI process from June – October 2025
- 40 EOI's received across entire Burdekin Basin
- Strong demand for new water in subcatchment E
- Primary uses to support irrigation, agriculture and stock intensive
- Cumulative known demand over **400,000 megalitres**

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Seeking stakeholder feedback

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- Process timeframes – application timeframes
- Water products – changes will delay release timing
- $ Payment options – up front or part up front – remainder in 3 years

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Process timeframes – we want your feedback!

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December 2026: water released via Terms of Sale

December 2026 to mid-January 2027: Terms of Sale perusal period

Mid-January 2027: applications open

May 2027: applications close

May to September 2027: assessment of applications

October 2027: water licence offers made

November 2027 to January 2028: water licences granted



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Payment options – we want your feedback!

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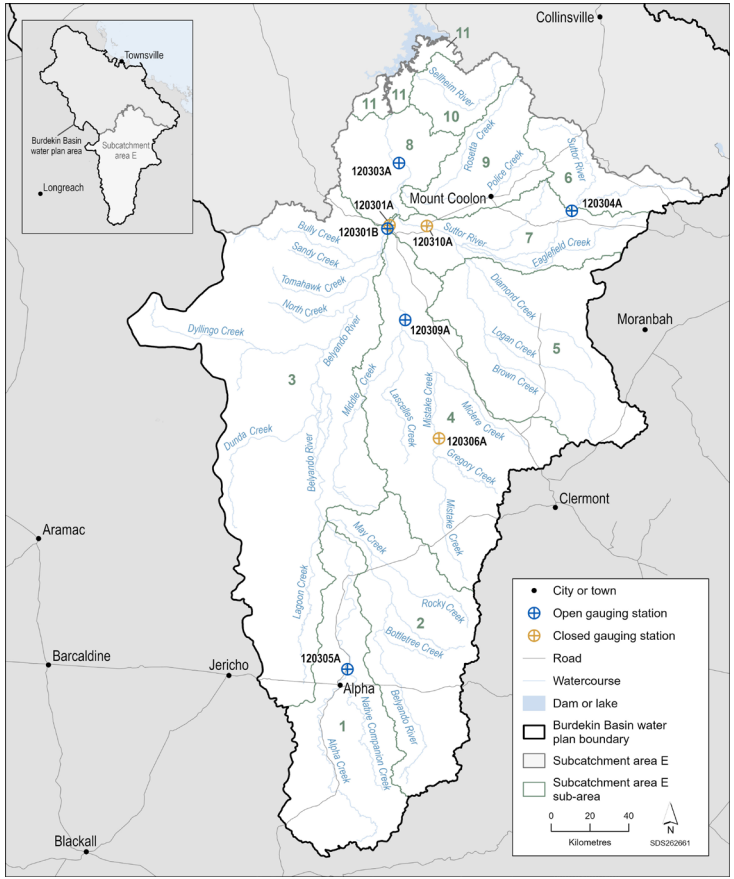
Two options:

- **Option 1:** Pay the full purchase price up front if you have works to take water currently installed.

- **Option 2:** Pay a non-refundable 25% deposit and the remaining balance when works to take water are installed – within three years.
  - 30 business days to pay 25% deposit.

Water products – we want your feedback!

- 130,000 megalitres of general reserve available.
- Catchment split into 11 distinct sub-areas to best reflect known demand.
- Watercourse water and overland flow available.
- Different products to suit a variety of water users (small scale to large scale) and water access opportunities.



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Water products – we want your feedback!

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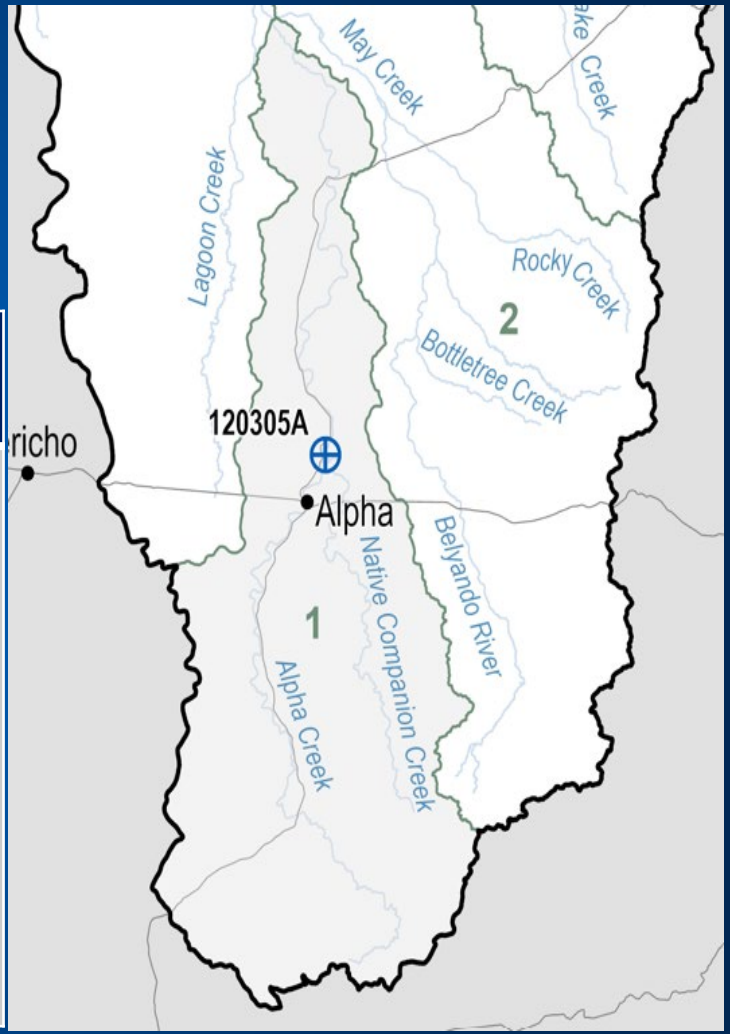
Water product	Product description	Water product attributes	Water product suitability
Watercourse water – low flow	Watercourse water available through water harvesting.	• Low flow threshold (passing flow condition) before water can be taken. • More days of opportunity to take water • Doesn't require off-stream storage – can directly pump from watercourse to field. **Considerations:** • Low annual and daily volumes – annual volumes up to 500ML • Restricted to certain areas - protection of existing water users.	Would suit direct application of water supporting fodder production or to compliment dryland cropping enterprise.
Watercourse water – medium flow	Watercourse water available through water harvesting.	• Medium flow threshold (passing flow condition) • Lower days of opportunity than low flow product • Require off-stream water storages – water could be pumped or via passive take via channel from watercourse. **Considerations:** • High total annual and daily volumes available – available volumes to complement expression of interest • Days of opportunity will consider watercourse characteristics and location within the catchment – when water is available • May not be available across all areas – some areas may only have high flow watercourse water – due in part to protecting existing water users.	Would suit new or expanding enterprises seeking to develop a small, medium or large irrigation development.
Watercourse water – high flow	Watercourse water available through water harvesting.	• High flow threshold (passing flow condition). • Lower days of opportunity than medium flow product • Require off-stream water storages – water could be pumped or via passive take via channel from watercourse. **Considerations:** • High total annual and highest daily volumes available – available volumes to complement expressions of interest • Days of opportunity generally less than medium water product • May not be available across all areas – some areas may have better reliability in obtaining overland flow water – due in part to watercourse profiles. • More relevant to catchment areas with significant watercourses	Would suit new or expanding enterprises seeking to develop a small, medium or large irrigation development.
Overland flow water	Overland flow and over-bank flow from watercourses.	• Storage size will be dependent on upstream/contributing catchment. • Suit development opportunities where large volumes of overland flow occur as overbank flow from watercourses. • Large storages with passive intake – rather than pumping water **Considerations:** • Provide storage size and catchment area relationships that can assist with determining dam volumes • Available across all catchment areas • Larger volumes can be taken when significant flows are occurring.	Would suit new or expanding enterprises seeking to develop a small, medium or large irrigation development.

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Sub-area 1

Native Companion Creek and tributaries upstream of junction with Belyando River

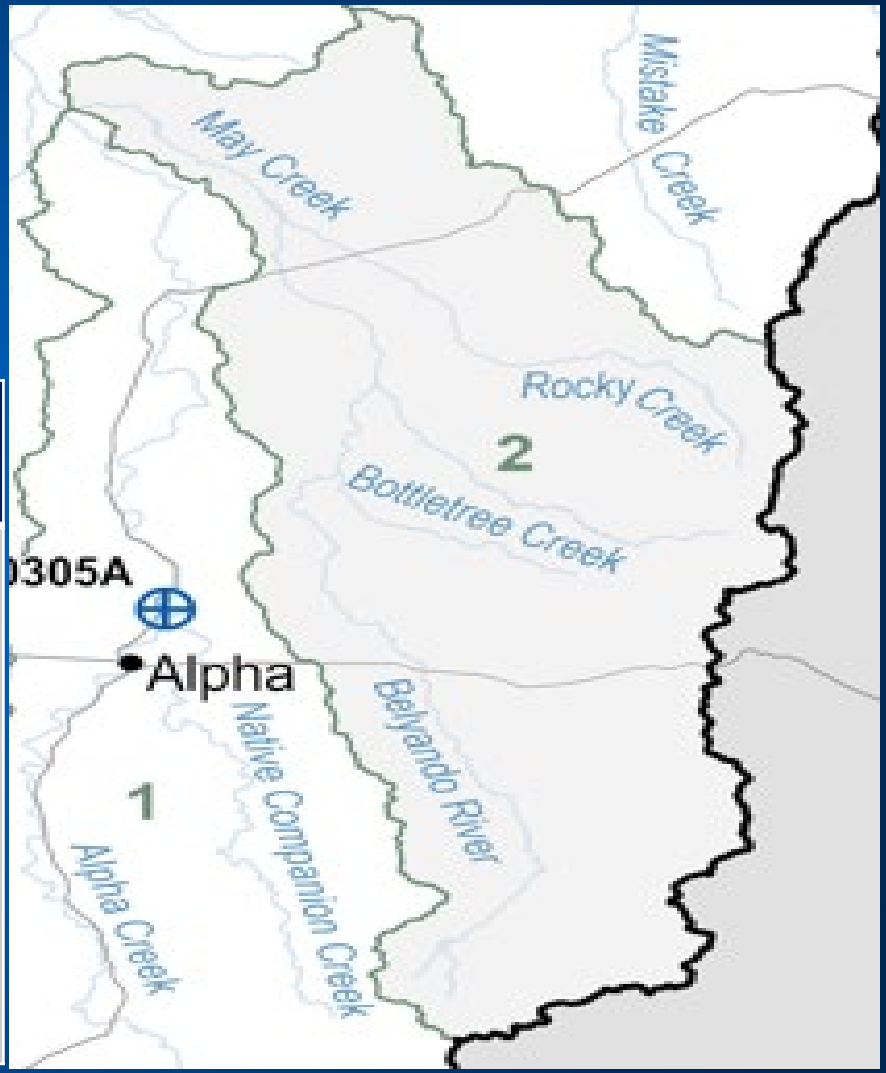
Low-flow Watercourse Product		High-flow Watercourse Product	Overland flow	Total average annual volume (AAV) available
Total volume available: 2,000ML Maximum volume per parcel: 500ML Maximum rate of take: 1/10th of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition: 1m³/s	Cumulative total of Watercourse Product 1 between Sub-areas 1,2 and 3: 5,000ML	Maximum volume per parcel: 4,000ML Maximum rate of take: 1/10th of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition: 17.5m³/s	An equivalent nominal entitlement volume for maximum storage size above 1,000ML	Cumulative total of watercourse and overland flow products for sub-areas 1, 2 and 3: 25,000ML AAV



Sub-Area 2

Belyando River and tributaries upstream of junction with native Companion Creek

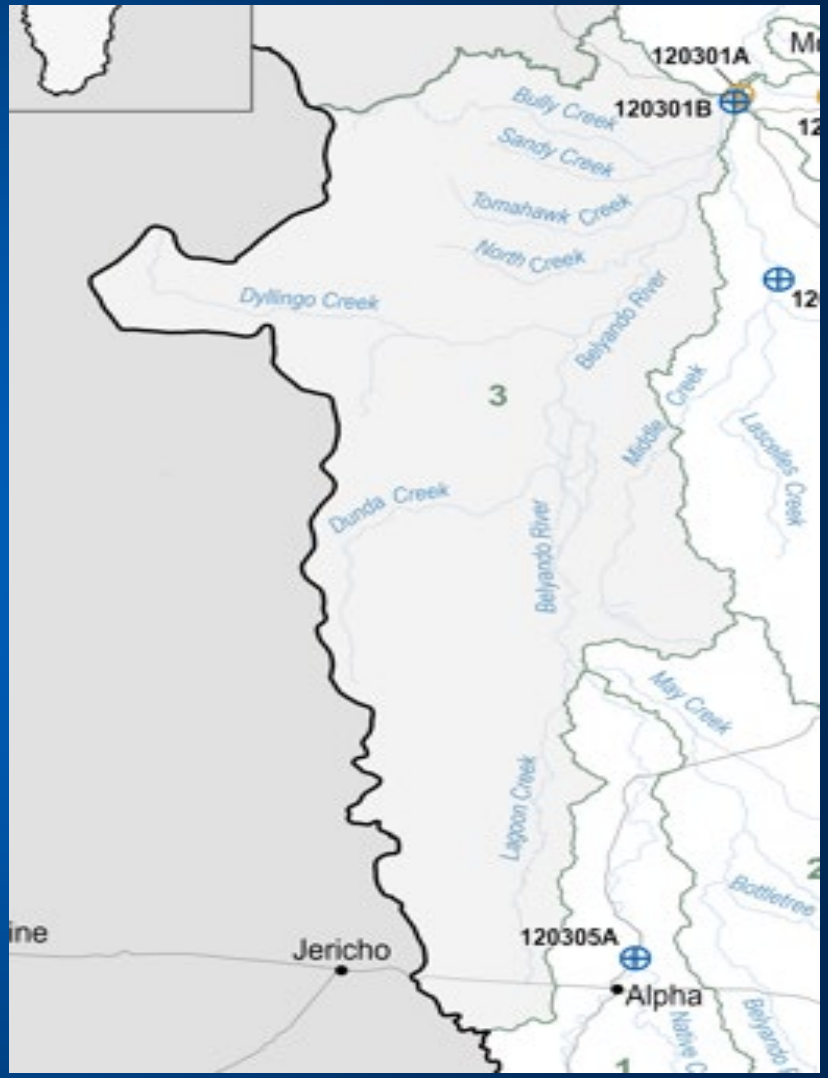
Low-flow Watercourse Product		Medium-flow Watercourse Product	Overland Flow	Total average annual volume (AAV) available
Total volume available: 1,000ML Maximum volume per parcel: 500ML Maximum rate of take: 1/10th of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition: 1m^3/s	Cumulative total of Watercourse Product 1 between Sub-areas 1, 2 and 3: 5,000ML	Maximum volume per parcel: 4,000ML Maximum rate of take: 1/20th of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition: 7.5m^3/s	An equivalent nominal entitlement volume for maximum storage size above 1,000ML	Cumulative total of watercourse and overland flow products for sub-areas 1, 2 and 3: 25,000ML AAV



Sub-Area 3

Belyando River and tributaries downstream of junction with Native Companion Creek and downstream of junction and Mistake Creek and upstream of junction with Suttor River

Low-flow Watercourse Product		Medium-flow Watercourse Product	Overland flow	Total average annual volume (AAV) available
Total volume available: 1,000ML Maximum volume per parcel: 500ML Maximum rate of take 1/10th of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition 1m³/s	Cumulative total of Watercourse Product 1 between Sub-areas 1, 2 and 3: 5,000ML	Maximum volume per parcel: 5,000ML Maximum rate of take 1/20th of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition: 11.5m³/s upstream of Mistake Creek, **or** 36.0m³/s downstream of Mistake Creek	An equivalent nominal entitlement volume for maximum storage size above 1,000ML	Cumulative total of watercourse and overland flow products for sub-areas 1, 2 and 3: 25,000ML AAV



Sub-Area 4

Mistake Creek and tributaries upstream of junction with Belyando River

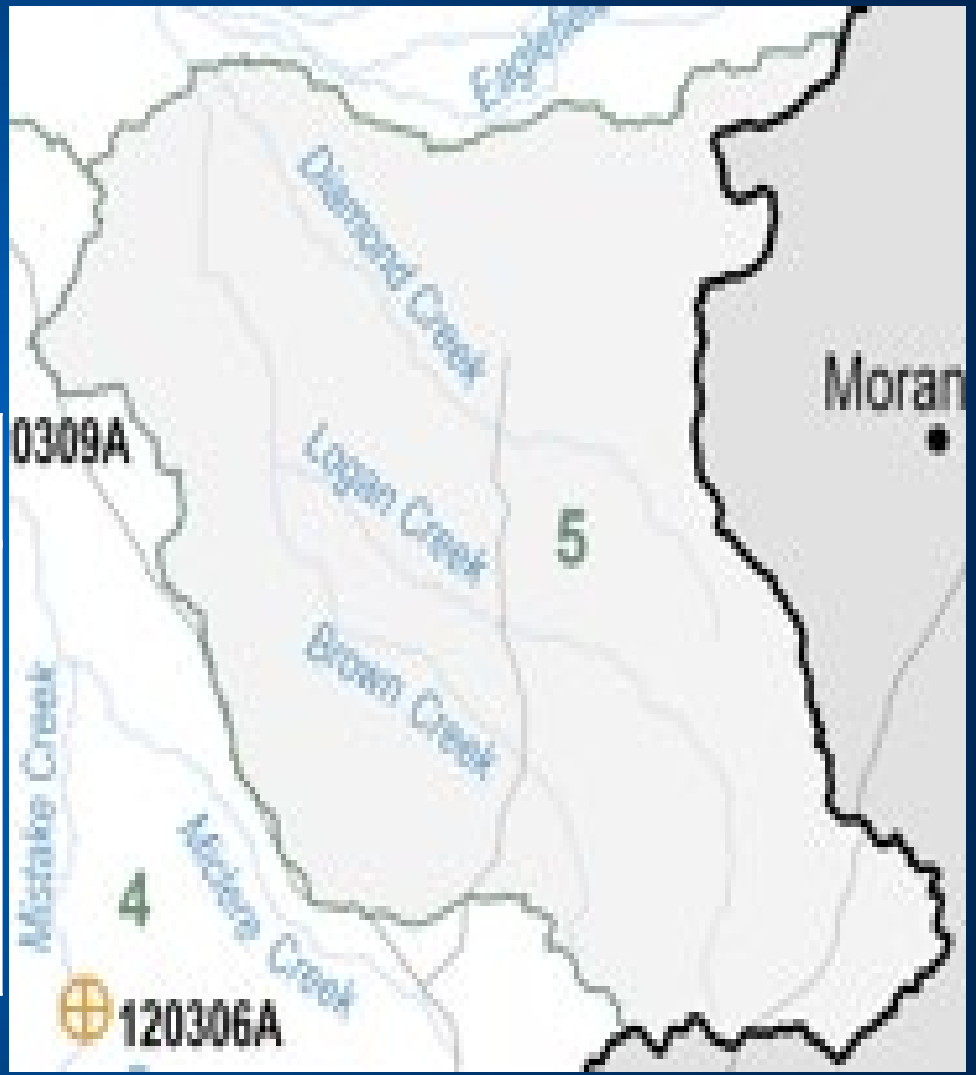
Low-flow Watercourse Product	High-flow Watercourse Product	Overland flow	Total average annual volume (AAV) available
Total volume available: 500ML Maximum volume per parcel: 500ML Maximum rate of take: 1/25th of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition: 1m³/s	Maximum volume per parcel: 7,500ML Maximum rate of take: 1/10th of nominal Minimum passing streamflow condition: 46.0m³/s upstream of Mistake Creek at Charlton (closed GS120306A) **or** 67.0m³/s downstream of Mistake Creek at Charlton (closed GSA120305A)	An equivalent nominal entitlement volume for maximum storage size above 1,000ML	Cumulative total of watercourse and overland flow products for sub-area 4: 10,000ML AAV



Sub-Area 5

Logan Creek and tributaries upstream of junction with Suttor River and Diamond Creek and tributaries upstream of junction with Suttor River

Low-flow Watercourse Product	Medium-flow Watercourse Product	Overland flow	Total average annual volume (AAV) available
Total volume available: 1,100ML Maximum volume per parcel: 500ML Maximum rate of take: 1/30th of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition: 1m³/s	Maximum rate of take 1/20th of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition 17.0m³/s	An equivalent nominal entitlement volume for maximum storage size above 1,000ML	Cumulative total of watercourse and overland flow products for sub-area 5: 30,000ML AAV



Sub-Area 6

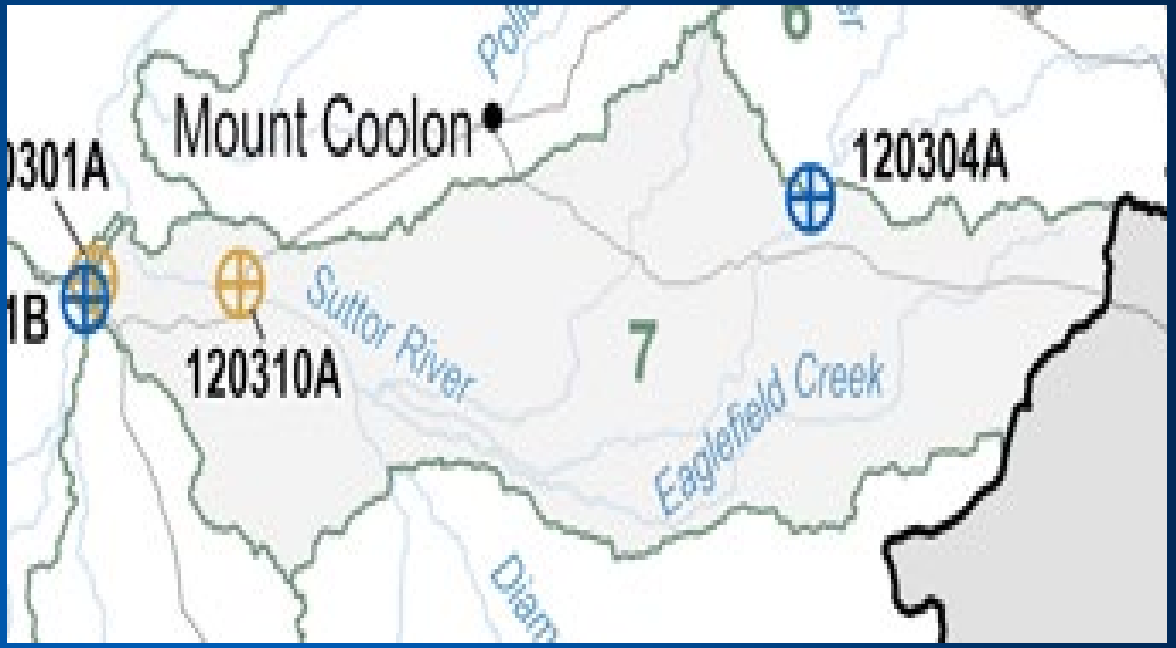
Suttor River and tributaries of Suttor River at Eaglefield



Low-flow watercourse Product		Overland flow	Total average annual volume (AAV) available
Total volume: 500ML Maximum volume per parcel: 500ML Maximum rate of take: 1/30th of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition: 1m³/s	Cumulative total of Watercourse Product 1 between Sub-areas 6, 7 and 8: 1,200ML	An equivalent nominal entitlement volume for maximum storage size above 1,000ML	Cumulative total of watercourse and overland flow products for sub-areas or sub-areas 5 & 6: 40,000ML AAV

Sub-Area 7

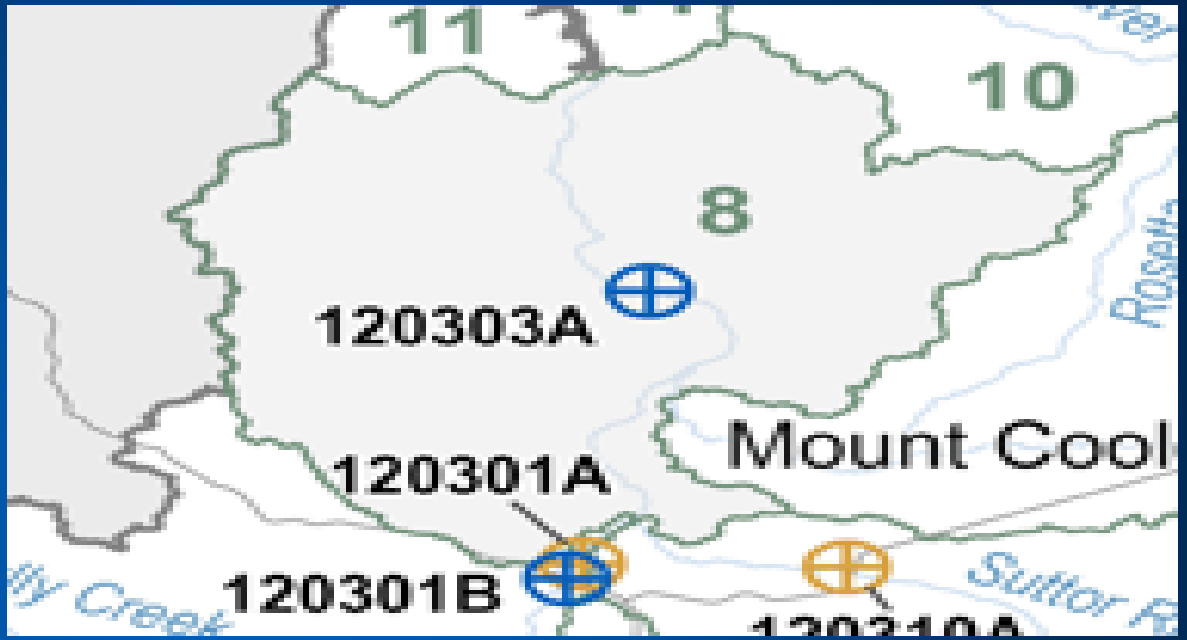
Suttor River and tributaries downstream of Suttor River at Eaglefield and downstream of junction with Diamond creek; and downstream of junction with Logan Creek; and upstream of junction with Belyando River



Low-flow Watercourse Product		Medium-flow Watercourse Product	Overland flow	Total average annual volume (AAV) available
Total volume available: 1,200ML Maximum volume per parcel: 500ML Maximum rate of take: 1/30th of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition: 1m^3/s	Cumulative total of Watercourse Product 1 between Sub-areas 6, 7 and 8: 1,200ML	Maximum rate of take: 1/20 of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition: 24 m^3/s upstream of Logan Ck or 42.5m^3/s downstream of Logan Ck	An equivalent nominal entitlement volume for maximum storage size above 1,000ML	Cumulative total of watercourse and overland flow products for sub-areas for sub-areas 5 and 6: 40,000ML AAV

Sub-Area 8

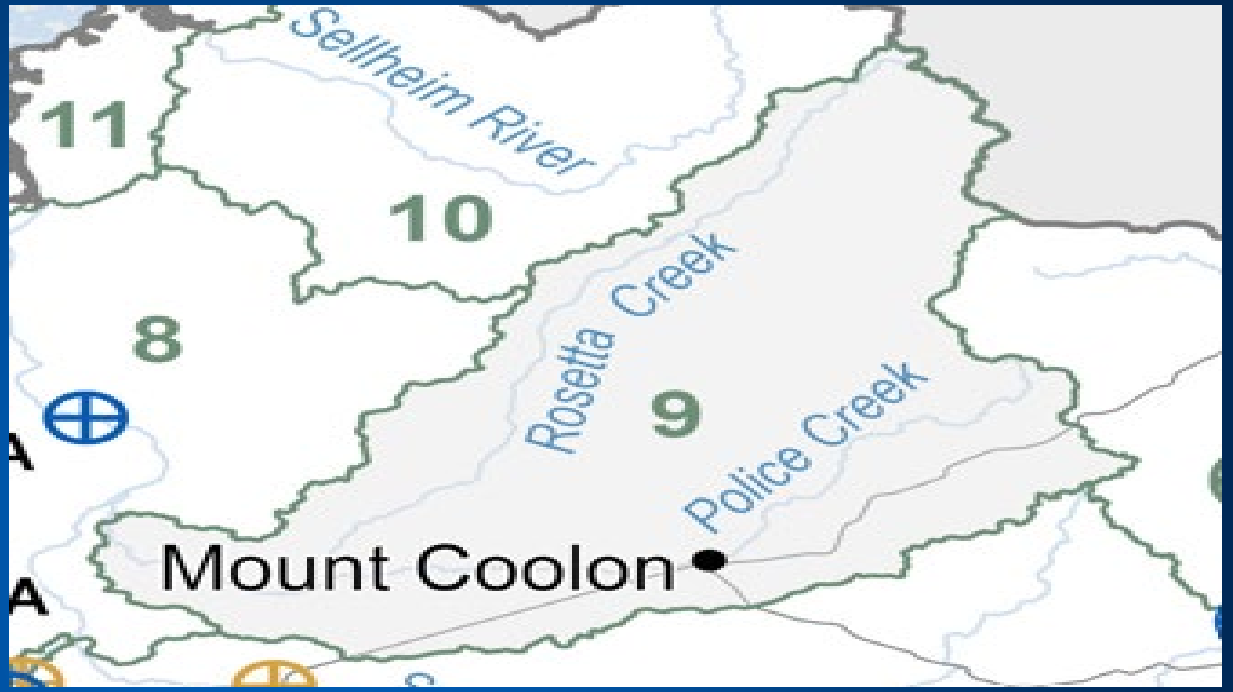
Suttor River and tributaries downstream of junction with Belyando River and downstream of Rosetta Creek junctions with Suttor River and upstream of Burdekin Haughton Zone E



Low-flow Watercourse Product		Medium-flow Watercourse Product	Overland flow	Total average annual volume (AAV) available
Total volume available: 2,000ML Maximum volume per parcel: 500ML Maximum rate of take: 1/30th of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition: 1m³/s	Cumulative total of Watercourse Product 1 between Sub-areas 8, 9, 10 & 11: 4,000ML	Maximum rate of take: 1/20th of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition: 87.0m³/s	An equivalent nominal entitlement volume for maximum storage size above 1,000ML	Cumulative total of Watercourse Products 1, 2 & 3, and Overland Flow within Sub-areas 8, 9, 10 & 11: 45,000ML AAV

Sub-Area 9

Rosetta and Police Creeks upstream of Rosetta Creek junctions with Suttor River



Low-flow Watercourse Product		Medium-flow Watercourse Product	Overland Flow	Total average annual volume (AAV) available
Total volume available: 1,000ML Maximum volume per parcel: 500ML Minimum passing streamflow: 1m³/s	Cumulative total of Watercourse Product 1 between Sub-areas 8, 9, 10 & 11: 4,000ML	Maximum volume per parcel: 5,000ML Maximum rate of take: 1/20th of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition: 5.0m³/s	An equivalent nominal entitlement volume for maximum storage size above 1,000ML	Cumulative total of Watercourse and Overland Flow Products within Sub-areas 8, 9, 10 & 11: 45,000ML AAV

Sub-Area 10

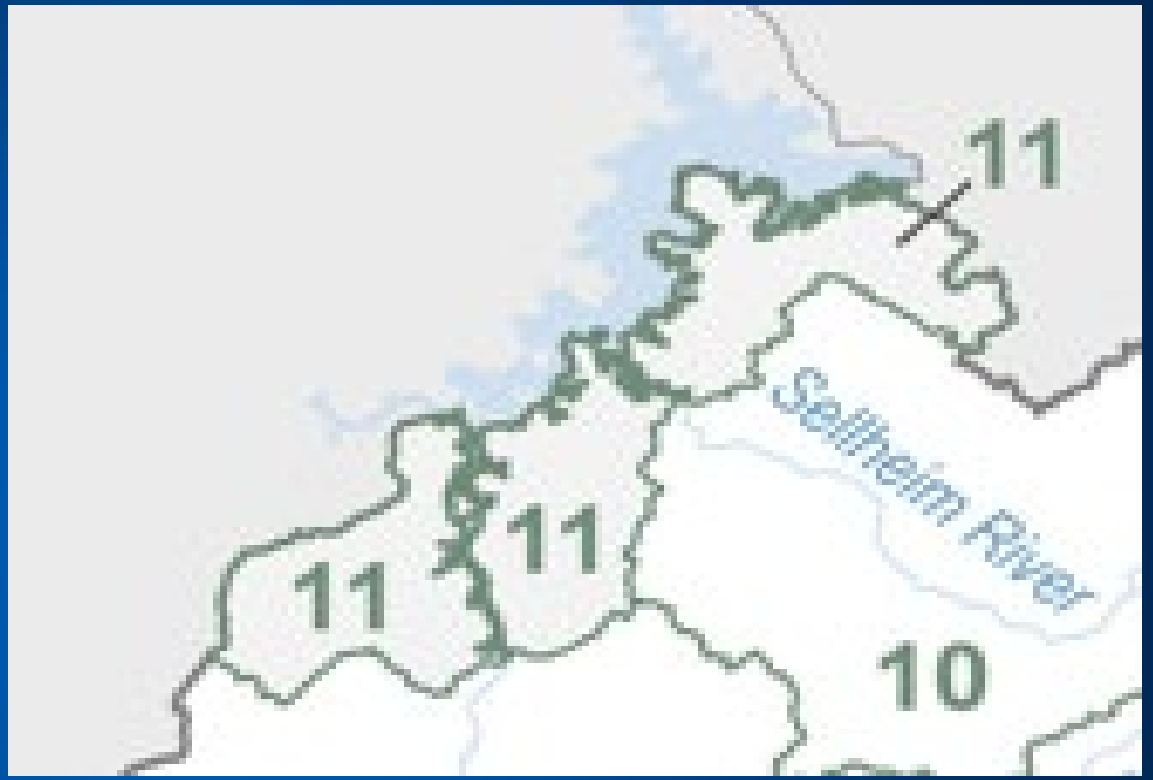
Sellheim River and tributaries upstream of Brudekin Haughton Zone E



Low-flow Watercourse Product		Medium-flow Watercourse Product	Overland flow	Total average annual volume (AAV) available
Total volume: 1,000ML Maximum volume per parcel: 500ML Minimum passing streamflow: 1m^3/s	Cumulative total of Watercourse Product 1 between Sub-areas 8, 9, 10 and 11: 4,000ML	Maximum volume per parcel: 5,000ML Maximum rate of take: 1/20th of nominal entitlement Minimum passing streamflow condition: 4.0m^3/ s	An equivalent nominal entitlement volume for maximum storage size above 1,000ML	Cumulative total of Watercourse and Overland Flow Products within Sub-areas 8, 9, 10 and 11: 45,000ML AAV

Sub-Area 11

Watercourses and tributaries downstream of Sutton River at intersection with Burdekin Haughton Zone E; downstream of Sellheim River at intersection of Burdekin Haughton Zone E; and upstream of Burdekin Haughton Zone E; and within subcatchment E



Low-flow Watercourse Product		Total average annual volume (AAV) available
Total volume: 500ML Maximum volume per parcel: 250ML Minimum passing streamflow: 1m^3/s	Cumulative total of Watercourse Product 1 between Sub-areas 8, 9, 10 and 11: 4,000ML	Cumulative total of watercourse and overland flow products for sub-areas 8, 9, 10 and 11: 45,000ML AAV

Key takeaways

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- Release unallocated water by late-December 2026
- Applications open on Mid-January 2027 – close May 2027
- Watercourse water (w/flow conditions) and overland flow water
- Payment options available

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Questions and Discussion

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Preparing for a Water Release

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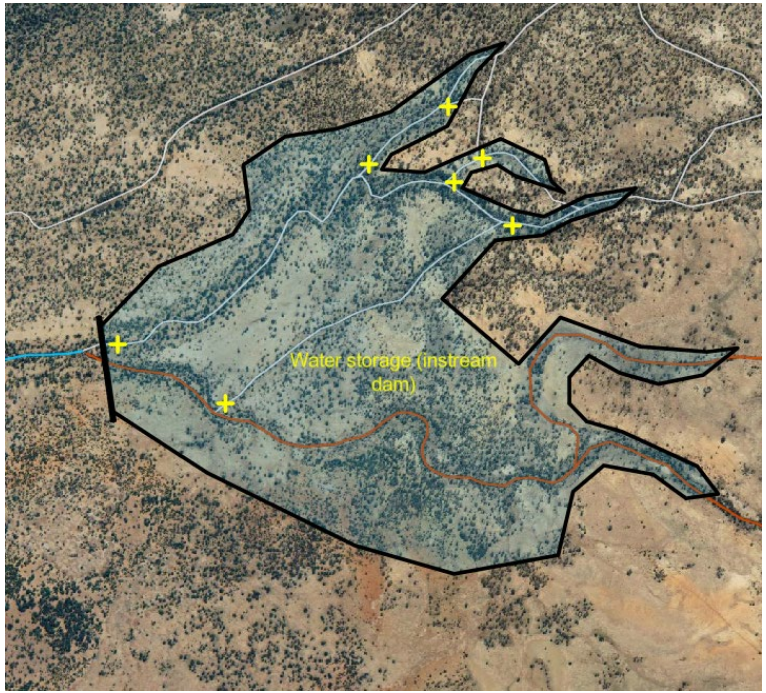
Water Features – QLD Globe



- Watercourse Identification Map on Queensland Globe
- Lakes, springs and watercourses – Blue lines
- Drainage features - (overland flow) – Orange/Red lines
- Undefined features - Grey/white lines

Watercourse Identification Request

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- **Property Details:** Address or lot/plan
- **Proposed Locations:** GPS coordinates or mark on a map
- **Photos of Water Features:**
  - Bed and banks of the watercourse
  - Vegetation within or along the banks
  - Any visible water flow or waterholes
- **Water Flow Details:**
  - Duration of water flows.
  - Persistence of waterholes after the wet season.
  - Observed spring discharge (if applicable).

*** Important:**

- WCID's take time—submit your request as soon as possible!

Other approvals for project

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State Assessment Referral Agency (SARA)

- Free pre-lodgement advice for projects/developments
- Coordinates all the State advice you will need for any legislative triggers (such as vegetation management or fisheries)
  - North Queensland Regional SARA office in Townsville can be contacted via nqsara@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au or ph 4758 3423
  - Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday (MIW) SARA office in Mackay can be contacted via miwsara@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au or ph 4898 6888

Local Government Planning and Development Approvals

- Please consult with your local Council on local planning matters

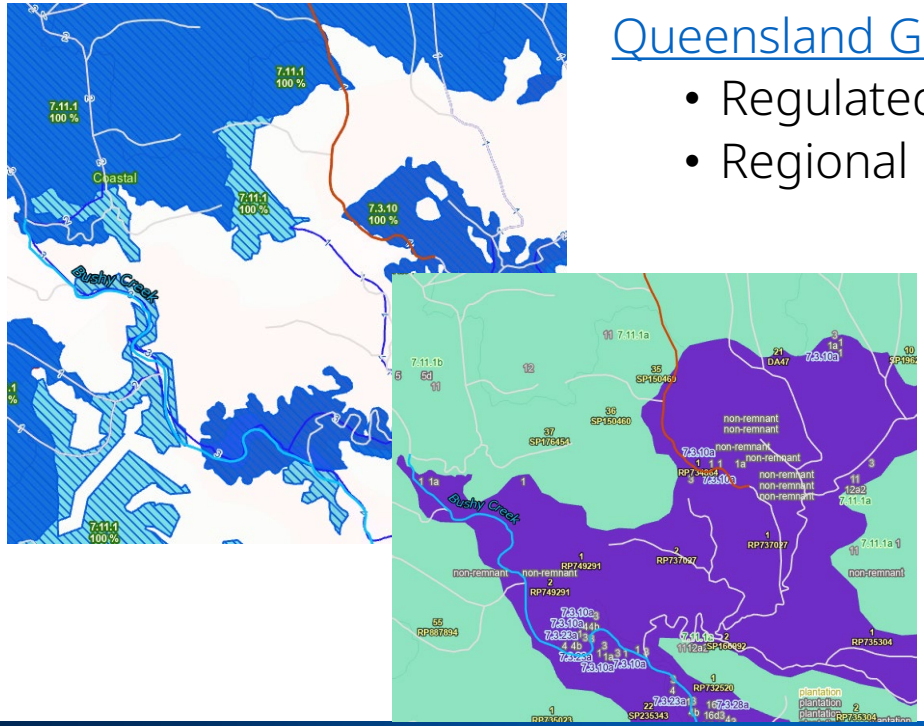
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Commonwealth)

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)

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Land Suitability - Vegetation

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Queensland Globe can be used to investigate:

- Regulated Vegetation Maps
- Regional Ecosystem Maps

However, if no existing authority – strongly recommended to:

Land Management

Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development.

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Overland flow storages and waterway barriers

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If proposing to construct a dam to take overland flow water

We *strongly* encourage you to consider the requirements for waterway barrier works

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Key takeaways

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- Consider which water product best suits your project and location
- Request watercourse determination/s for location of take
- Seek advice on additional approvals
- Consider suitability of land for intended purpose
- Consider current unallocated water releases

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Where to from here

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- Start preparing now
- Follow-up information to be shared after all sessions via email
- Provide feedback by 30 October 2026
- Post feedback
  - Consider feedback and finalise release documents
  - Decision to release – notify via email and online
  - Continue to provide updates (online or email) and support as requested

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Feedback



Follow-up information &
specific elements for feedback
to be shared after all sessions

HOW:

Reply to email sent

Email **uaw.north@dlgwv.qld.gov.au**

Requested by **30 October 2026**

Questions and Discussion?

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Contact Us

Water Management Team: 1800 822 100

General water enquiries: waterservicesnorth@dlgw.qld.gov.au
Unallocated water enquiries: UAW.North@dlgw.qld.gov.au

Free prelodgement advice request to:
North Queensland Regional SARA Office in Townsville nqsara@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au
Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday Regional SARA Office in Mackay miwsara@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au

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Thank you

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