

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1273

asked on 8 November 2022

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**MR B HEAD** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER (HON G BUTCHER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to water allocations in the Burnett Basin—

Will the Minister (a) confirm the number of total allocations within each Water Supply Scheme, (b) advise the number of allocations that have been transferred from a hectare/pumping diameter licence across to a volumetric, metered licence, (reported separately by year from 2015 to present) and (c) advise how many allocations have received more than the minimum of 6 megalitres per hectare upon licencing transfer?

ANSWER:

I note that the Member has written to me on this topic, and on 30 September 2022 I wrote to him responding to the issues raised, and offering to organise a briefing for him on this issue. While that offer has not been taken up, it remains open.

Within the Water Plan (Burnett Basin) Plan 2014 (the Water Plan) area, there are five supplemented water supply schemes operated by Sunwater, comprising of:

- Barker Barambah Water Supply Scheme (261 water allocations);
- Boyne River and Tarong Water Supply Scheme (213 water allocations);
- Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme (3,691 water allocations);
- Three Moon Creek Water Supply Scheme (no allocations, only water licenses);
- Upper Burnett Water Supply Scheme (615 water allocations).

Where existing licences did not contain an annual volumetric limit, the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water was required to convert the licence to be consistent with the Water Plan requirements.

Based on catchment conditions, the Water Plan specified a sustainable conversion of 6ML/ha. This may be increased where the licensee can demonstrate a greater historic requirement or the capacity to take additional water.

Within the Water Plan area, the number of water licence amendments from hectare to volumetric limit (nominal volume) by year since 2015, are:

Year	Total
2014–15	4
2015–16	21
2016–17	43

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
2017–18	33
2018–19	59
2019–20	34
2020–21	19
2021–22	5
2022–23	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>228</b>

Over that period, in the water plan area, ten allocations were converted to volumetric limits at more than 6 megalitres per hectare.