

NEW SOUTH WALES – QUEENSLAND
BORDER RIVERS INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT 2008
SCHEDULE H – AUDITING AND REPORTING
PROTOCOL

1.0 Scope

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to establish arrangements for the exchange of data between the state agencies of New South Wales and Queensland under reporting and auditing arrangements provided for in Sections 49 – 51 and Schedule H of the New South Wales – Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008 (the IGA).

1.2 Background

Under Section 49 - Auditing and Reporting of the IGA, the states are required to share water and entitlement related information to develop or update hydrologic models for the Border Rivers and to undertake annual audits to compare measured take with modelled take for the climatic year. Where the audit determines that measured take exceeds the modelled take the state/s are required to investigate and initiate appropriate remedial action. The information to be shared is outlined in Schedule H of the IGA.

1.3 Definitions

- (a) IGA** means the New South Wales – Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008
- (b) Border Standing Committee** means a standing committee established under section 47 of the IGA with representatives from the State of New South Wales and Queensland

In all other cases, the definitions provided in the IGA apply to this document.

1.4 The Parties

The parties to this Protocol are the:

- Department of Environment and Resource Management (Queensland) as the resource manager for the Border Rivers in Queensland, and
- Office of Water (New South Wales) as the resource manager for the Border Rivers in New South Wales.

1.5 Relationship to *New South Wales – Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008*

This Protocol is intended to aid in the implementation of the auditing and reporting requirements as detailed in the *New South Wales – Queensland Border Rivers*

Intergovernmental Agreement 2008, particularly Schedule H of that Agreement and any appendices developed to further implement that Agreement.

2. Application of this Protocol

2.1 Supporting an agreed hydrologic model for the Border Rivers catchment

New South Wales and Queensland agree that the existing model needs to be maintained and supported to allow for:

- (a) any periodic review of the IGA;
- (b) consideration of any proposed changes to the IGA; and
- (c) supporting each state's CAP reporting obligations.

For these purposes, New South Wales and Queensland agree to share information required to develop or update existing hydrologic models for the Border Rivers catchment.

The states further agree to exchange information and collaborate to update the hydrologic model prior to September each year to allow timely reporting of Cap targets to the Murray Darling Basin Independent Audit Group.

Note 1: *It is anticipated that similar arrangements will apply to a regional groundwater model for the shared Border Rivers aquifer(s) when developed.*

2.2 Information Provision and Auditing

The state agencies agree to provide the following information:

- (a) The take of water from regulated flow on the Border Rivers on a quarterly basis
- (b) The take of water from unregulated flow on the Border Rivers on an event basis
- (c) The total take of water¹ from the Border Rivers Catchment on an annual basis
- (d) Periods of announced access to unregulated flows on an event basis
- (e) Preservation of tributary inflows for each period
- (f) Operation of the Boomi Regulator for each period
- (g) Operation of the Newinga Regulator for each period
- (h) The take of groundwater from the Border Rivers Groundwater Area on an annual basis
- (i) Intra-state temporary and permanent trading of the take of water from regulated and unregulated flows on the Border Rivers on an annual basis
- (j) Inter-state temporary and permanent trading of the take of water from regulated and unregulated flows on the Border Rivers on an annual basis

Note 2: *The above list includes the elements of data provided for in Schedule H plus adds additional elements as per the provisions of Schedule H.*

¹ The total take of water from the Border Rivers Catchment includes the take water from regulated flows and unregulated flows in watercourses and take of water from floodplain flows where possible

The state agencies agree to audit the following sharing arrangements on an annual basis to ensure compliance with the IGA

- (k) Sharing of inflow to Glenlyon Dam and weirs on the Border Rivers (s31)
- (l) Sharing of tributary inflow to the Border Rivers from unregulated flows (s31, 33, 34 and Schedule D)
- (m) Operation of Newinga Regulator and Boomi Diversion Structures (s31 and Schedule D)
- (n) Preservation of tributary inflow (s32)

Note 3: *With the exception of (i) and (j), the BRC currently reports the above data which is available to the states.*

Note 4: *Data under (i) and (j) above is collected and audited as part of the CAP reporting requirements of both states. Refer to the Water Audit Monitoring Report (WAMR) which can be found on the Murray Darling Basin Authority website.*

3.0 Reporting

Unless otherwise agreed by the Border Standing Committee, the states agree to adopt the BRC reporting process and the two states' CAP reporting process to satisfy the auditing requirements under the IGA.

The necessary data for reporting under the IGA is published under the current BRC and CAP reporting processes. Refer to the BRC Annual Statistics Reports and the CAP Water Audit Monitoring Report.

The only reporting requirement under this Protocol is for each state to report to the Border Standing Committee with regard to any non-compliance that has been identified.

4.0 Compliance

Where an audit shows non-compliance with the sharing arrangements in the IGA, the respective state is required to report on the matter to the Standing Committee. The report will include measures to be undertaken to ensure compliance with sharing arrangements in the future.

Endorsed by the Border Standing Committee 6 November 2012