

Land and Water Management Plans – “Turf Production”

Before



The purpose of land and water management plans (LWMPs) in the Queensland Turf Industry is to ensure that irrigation water use does not cause land and water degradation, both on and off farms, and into local water ways.

Approved LWMPs apply for up to 10 years, and remain a condition of water use on the land, regardless of change of ownership. The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) periodically reviews their performance in consultation with the landholder.

Turf Queensland has an Industry Development Officer who can assist.

Why prepare a LWMP for Turf Grass Production?

Preparing a LWMP can be voluntary, or it can be a legislative requirement under the *Water Act 2000* or *Integrated Planning Act 1997 (IPA)*. The LWMP comprises of a property map with several overlays of up to six different maps detailing Farm layout, Farm drainage, Irrigation or cropping areas and soil types.

After



Voluntary LWMPs in Turf.

LWMP's can be used as part of normal business practice to:

- plan and review turf irrigation practices
- identify and manage the risks to land nutrient run off, water quality and erosion control that are associated with irrigation practices into local waterways
- enhance natural grasslands or riparian areas on land and above water ways and estuaries
- record and measure improvements in turf irrigation practices demonstrate management of the risks associated with the farming operation in order to restore local waterways to manageable levels.

Mandatory LWMPs in Turf.

Under the *Water Act*, it is a requirement to have a LWMP approved by DERM before water from an entitlement for irrigation be used to:

- obtain a new or additional water allocation or interim water allocation
- intention to use a seasonal assignment of water as the only source of water on the same land in any two out of three consecutive water years
- intention to use, on the same land, a seasonal assignment of water and water taken under an allocation, or an interim allocation, in any two of three consecutive water years, and water use will exceed the nominal allocation volume
- property land is identified in a water use plan as land where a LWMP is required (see LWMPs and water use plans below)
- moving some or all existing water allocation from one resource operations plan (ROP) zone to another
- in an area where a ROP specifies that a LWMP is required to obtain a water licence
- intention to construct works to capture tail water or contaminated run-off, which require a development permit (requirement of IPA) under a water resource plan (WRP). Unless there is already a requirement for a LWMP, a LWMP is not required if:
- a water licence is converted to a water allocation and ownership of both has continued

- the purchase a water allocation or interim water allocation with the associated land as an ongoing enterprise.

Contents of a Turf Producers LWMP

A LWMP must include the following:

- a property map (e.g. aerial photo base map)
- overlays showing relevant detailed information
- a written workbook (also in digital) outlining how the intention to meet relevant desired outcomes.

The workbook contains tables and figures including:

- Water availability
- Water requirements
- Water surplus / deficit
- Water quality data
- Capacity of irrigation system

Applicants are also encouraged to make early contact with Turf Queensland Inc. who can discuss options and provide applicants with the workbook and relevant materials to help with the completion of the LWMP.

Where to find the required information

To assist in the development of a LWMP, Turf Queensland Inc. may be able to source or supply:

- maps showing information on soils, landform, natural drainage, and remnant vegetation
- information on the suitability of agricultural land in specific regions
- an aerial photo or satellite image property map (fees apply)
- information on the latest water-use efficiency and irrigation methods via Turf Queensland Inc. IDO field assessments

TAP for LWMPs



Turf Queensland's TAP (Turf Accreditation Process) is equivalent to 50% of LWMP's. Contact Turf Queensland Inc. for advice on TAP. Turf Queensland Inc. with assistance from DERM, can also advise for existing property management plan or other plans and documents are suitable to use in

the TAP or LWMP.

Lodgement and assessment

Check with Turf Queensland Inc. to ensure that the LWMP is suitable before lodgement. All plans undergo a technical assessment that may involve an industry representative.

Changes to farming practices

It is recommended that LWMP's is regularly reviewed and kept up to date with the latest best management practices to improve productivity and manage risks to land and water. An approved amendment to LWMP's is not necessary for minor changes that won't affect outcomes. However, discussion is recommended on any proposed significant changes (such as irrigating more land or using a different or additional irrigation method) with Turf Queensland Inc., as LWMP's may have to be formally amended and approved by Turf Queensland Inc. or DERM. Turf Queensland Inc. may also be able to advise on how to get the best outcome from any change.

Farm map



Catch can test



Moisture monitoring probe site

