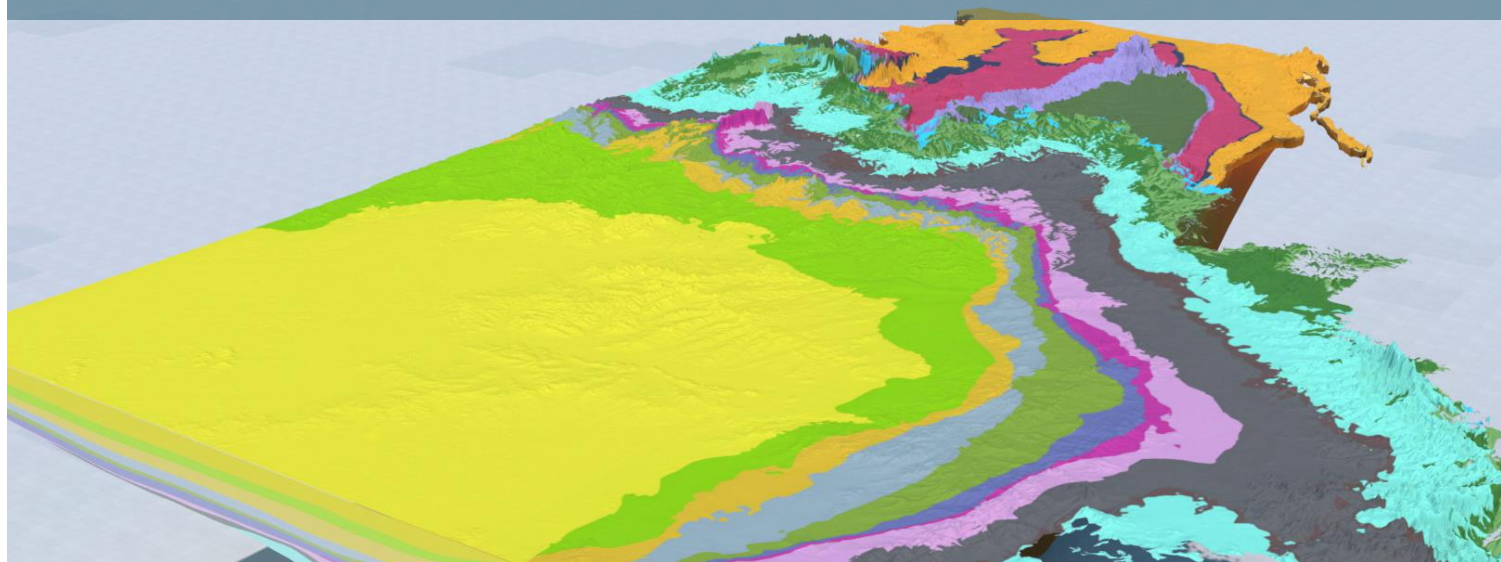




**Queensland
Government**

Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment

Department of Local Government,
Water and Volunteers



Addendum report 2025 for the Surat Underground Water Impact Report 2021

April 2025

Original version, authorised release in April 2025 by Sanjeev Pandey, Executive Director, Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment.

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1 Introduction

1.1 What is this amendment?

This amendment to the Underground Water Impact Report (UWIR) 2021 for the Surat Cumulative Management Area (CMA) is provided in response to a request, through a notice issued on 1 April 2025 under section 392 of the *Water Act 2000* (the Act) by the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI). The amendment is to facilitate proactive 'make good' arrangements for water bores that may be impacted in 2025 as a consequence to a 12-month extension to the next UWIR submission.

1.2 Background

The UWIR for the Surat CMA is prepared by the Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment (OGIA), typically every three years, on cumulative assessment and management of groundwater impacts from the extraction of associated water by petroleum and gas (P&G) and coal mining development.

The UWIR 2021 was finalised and approved in March 2022 and took effect on 1 May 2022. The fourth UWIR since the establishment of the Surat CMA, it was finalised following the release of a consultation draft in October 2021.

In December 2024, DETSI extended the timeframe for the next iteration of the UWIR to December 2025. This is to allow for additional data, information and research to be accommodated in the next UWIR, particularly relating to groundwater connectivity in the Condamine Alluvium and Precipice Sandstone.

Extension of the UWIR timeframe by 12 months implies that there will be no immediately affected area (IAA) bores identified from the end of the current UWIR cycle (the end of 2024) until the next UWIR (towards the end of 2025) – i.e. beyond the statutory threshold applicable to the UWIR 2021. On 16 January 2025, OGIA submitted the annual review 2024 for the UWIR 2021, which specifically identified 14 additional water bores that could potentially be impacted in the year 2025. DETSI subsequently determined that this constitutes a material change to the current UWIR and requires an amendment, in order that bore assessment and 'make good' arrangements commence for those 14 bores without further delay. In this addendum, for ease of referencing, these bores are referred to as '**IAA 2025 bores**'.

2 IAA 2025 bores

2.1 Overview of predicted impacts in the UWIR 2021

The UWIR 2021 determined the IAA for each aquifer based on model predictions. For consolidated aquifers, such as sandstone, the Act provides that the IAA of an aquifer is the area where groundwater pressure is predicted to decline by more than five metres within three years as a result of extraction of associated water by the resources industry. Water supply bores accessing water in the affected area of an aquifer become IAA bores and various actions and 'make good' arrangements are then triggered, as described in section 8.4 of the UWIR 2021.

The UWIR 2021 also determined the long-term affected area (LAA) for each aquifer. For consolidated aquifers, this is the area where groundwater pressure is predicted to decline by more than five metres

at any time in the future as a result of associated water extraction by the resources industry. A total of 702 existing bores were predicted to be impacted in the long term – including the IAA bores.

The UWIR 2021 identified 108 water supply bores as IAA bores, adding to the 233 IAA bores that were identified in the previous UWIRs, for a total of 341. For the UWIR 2021, the rolling IAA period – generally three years – was originally set as the end of 2024.

2.2 Updates to predictions in the annual review 2024

For the purpose of the annual review 2024, the model and the predictive set-up – used to simulate the impacts from the current resource industry development profile – is the same as that of the UWIR 2021. The simulations were then used to assess the implications of the revised predicted impacts resulting from the current development profile for the 2025 period.

2.3 Determination and verification of IAA 2025 bores

Using the same methods as in the UWIR 2021, updated predictions identified 14 water bores as potentially being impacted by the end of 2025. OGIA undertook verification of these bores, including phone calls to landholders and site visits where required. The primary purpose of the site visits, in cases where landholders could be contacted and were willing to participate, was to confirm the existence of each bore and clarify location details. Although weather conditions limited access to water bores in some instances, discussions with landholders provided insightful contextual information.

As a result of the discussions with bore owners and site visits, the status and locations of all but one water bore (RN 61085) could be verified.

Table 1 lists the 13 verified water bores that would exceed the IAA trigger threshold during 2025 – i.e. 'IAA 2025 bores'. These are provided as an addendum to Table G-1 in the UWIR 2021. For completeness, Table 1 also includes RN 31122, which was referenced in the annual review 2024 – noting that this bore has already had a bore assessment carried out. Figure 1 shows their locations.

3 Assignment of 'make good' obligations for IAA 2025 bores

Table 1 assigns a responsible tenure holder (RTH) relating to undertaking 'make good' obligations for each of the water bores identified, based on rules of assignments stipulated in Chapter 13 of the UWIR 2021. The obligations will take effect on the day noted as the effective date in the relevant decision notice that is expected to be issued by DETSI.

Tenure holders will have 60 business days after the amendment takes effect to undertake bore assessment of the identified water bores in Table 1.

Table 1: IAA 2025 bores – newly identified IAA bores in UWIR addendum 2025

RN	Latitude	Longitude	Intersected formations	Maximum IAA impacted formation	Purpose	RTH
15619	-26.18	148.76	LJCM	LJCM	S&D	Senex
16252	-26.19	148.72	UJCM, LJCM, TCM	LJCM	S&D	Senex

RN	Latitude	Longitude	Intersected formations	Maximum IAA impacted formation	Purpose	RTH
18281	-26.23	148.77	LJCM	LJCM	S&D	Senex
24492	-26.89	150.69	UJCM, LJCM, TCM	LJCM	S&D	Arrow
26479	-26.18	148.75	UJCM, LJCM, TCM	LJCM	S&D	Senex
31122	-27.08	151.09	LJCM	LJCM	S&D	Arrow
58019	-26.18	148.74	UJCM, LJCM	LJCM	S&D	Senex
123425	-26.2	148.78	LJCM	LJCM	S&D	Senex
147388	-27.2	151.29	LJCM	LJCM	S&D	Arrow
172011	-27.19	151.3	LJCM	LJCM	S&D	Arrow
192246	-27.31	151.15	LSBK	LSBK	S&D	Arrow
192357	-27.002	150.67	USBK, LSBK	LSBK	S&D	Origin
192527	-26.71	150.66	LJCM	LJCM	S&D	Arrow
172775	-27.19	151.29	CA, TCM	TCM	S&D	Arrow

Notes:

CA = Condamine Alluvium. LJCM = Lower Juandah Coal Measures. LSBK = Lower Springbok Sandstone. S&D = stock and domestic. TCM = Taroom Coal Measures. UJCM = Upper Juandah Coal Measures. USBK = Upper Springbok Sandstone.

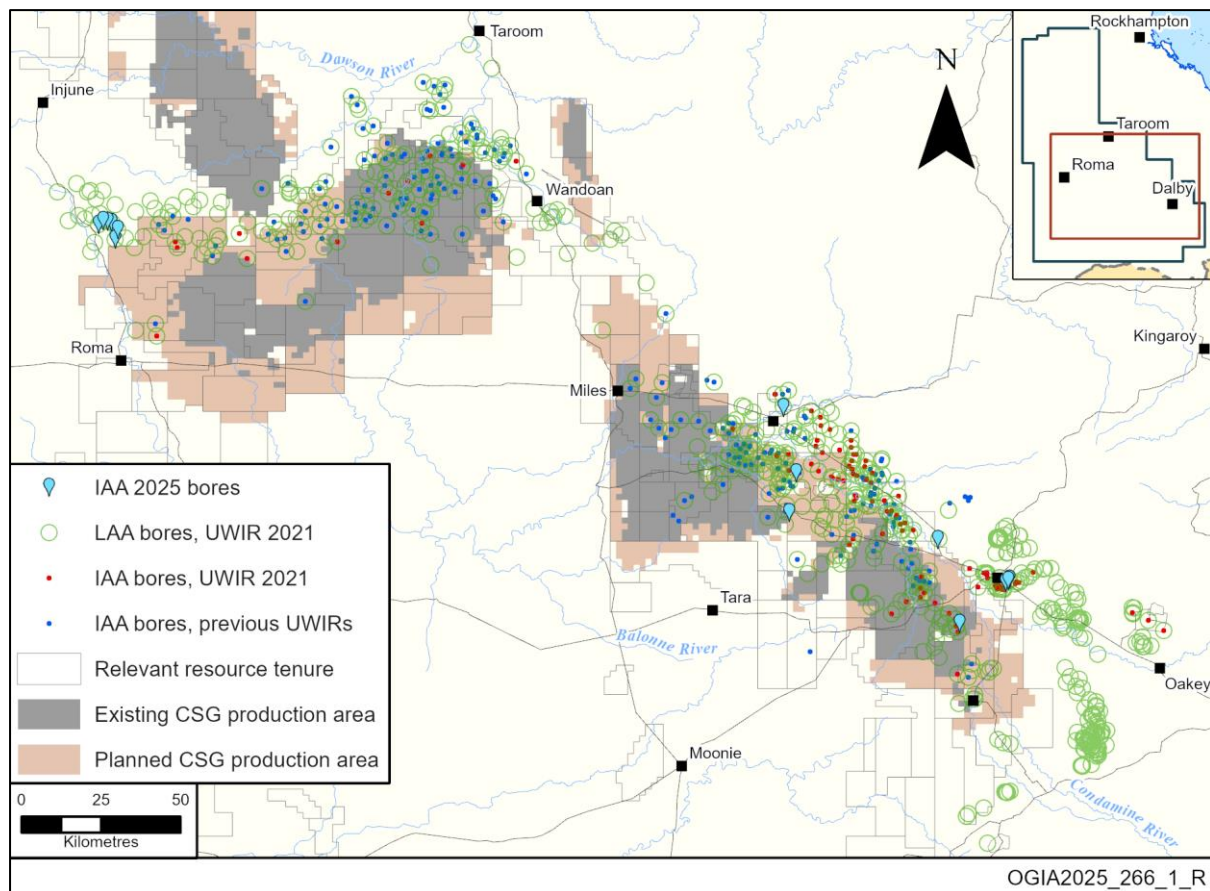


Figure 1: Location of IAA bores identified in UWIR addendum 2025

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