1. The draft Gulf Resource Operations Plan and the draft Mitchell Resource Operations Plan were released for public submissions in October 2008.
2. Key provisions of the final plans:
* detail rules for the conversion to, and granting of, water entitlements to tradable water allocations in the Mount Isa water supply scheme areas;
* set out a process for dealing with 178 900 megalitres of unallocated water in the Gulf plan area and 70 000 megalitres of unallocated water in the Mitchell plan area;
* provide for resource operations licences to be granted to SunWater and Mount Isa Mines Limited to operate infrastructure and manage water allocations in the Lake Julius and the Lake Moondarra water supply scheme areas;
* provide for a distribution operations licence to be granted to the Mount Isa Water Board to formalise their role in supplying and distributing water to customers of the Lake Julius and Lake Moondarra water supply schemes;
* detail the operating and environmental management rules, water sharing rules, water trading and seasonal water assignment rules to apply in the Lake Julius and Lake Moondarra water supply scheme areas;
* better define existing water licences with consistency in licensing terms and ensures that licences state volumetric limits;
* establish a limited trading regime for licences in areas of high demand;
* establish a process for granting or amending entitlements to take overland flow water;
* detail water and natural ecosystem monitoring and assessment requirements; and
* detail monitoring and reporting requirements that will be used to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the water resource plans.
1. Cabinet noted that the Chief Executive of the Department of Environment and Resource Management would seek Governor in Council approval for the final Mitchell Resource Operations Plan and for the final Gulf Resource Operations Plan.
2. *Attachments*
* [Gulf Resource Operations Plan](Attachments/gulf-rop.pdf)
* [Mitchell Resource Operations Plan](Attachments/mitchell_rop.pdf)