

Cross-Border Commissioner Bill 2024

Statement of Compatibility

Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*

In accordance with section 38 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, I, Glenn Butcher, Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water make this statement of compatibility with respect to the Cross-Border Commissioner Bill 2024.

In my opinion, the Cross-Border Commissioner Bill 2024 is compatible with the human rights protected by the *Human Rights Act 2019*. I base my opinion on the reasons outlined in this statement.

Overview of the Bill

The Bill establishes the Cross-Border Commissioner (the Commissioner). The Commissioner is a new role that will work closely with governments, agencies, other cross-border commissioners, and broader communities along Queensland's border with New South Wales, South Australia, and the Northern Territory.

The Cross-Border Commissioner will enhance stakeholder engagement and facilitate collaboration between Queensland and relevant jurisdictions in areas of mutual interest related to cross-border communities along Queensland's border.

The Commissioner will facilitate the identification, and advocate for the resolution, of issues related to residing in these cross-border communities which impede regional economic development, community resilience and service delivery.

In establishing the Commissioner, the Bill provides for the operational aspects of the Commissioner including appointment, ministerial expectations and direction, and reporting requirements.

The Bill proposes that the main functions of the Commissioner are to:

- facilitate the operation of cross-border agreements. An example of a cross-border agreement is the Memorandum of Understanding for Cross-Border Collaboration between Queensland and New South Wales.
- build effective relationships with stakeholders in cross-border communities and stakeholders whose activities affect cross-border communities including across local governments, regional bodies, other states, territories or the Commonwealth, industry associations and community groups.
- enhance stakeholder engagement and facilitate collaboration between the State and a relevant jurisdiction to advocate for both the resolution of issues affecting cross-border communities, and improved access to services for cross-border communities.
- provide general advice to stakeholders in cross-border communities on government policy and programs relevant to cross-border communities.

- provide advice to the government on issues affecting cross-border communities.
- perform any other function given to the commissioner under this or another Act.

Human Rights Issues

The Bill seeks parliamentary approval to establish the Cross-Border Commissioner and office as a statutory authority. The functions, and related powers, of the Commissioner in no way limits the human rights of an individual.

Conclusion

I consider that the Cross-Border Commissioner Bill 2024 is compatible with the *Human Rights Act 2019* because it does not limit human rights.

**THE HONOURABLE GLENN BUTCHER MP
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING
MINISTER FOR WATER**

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