



Queensland

Water Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2011

Explanatory Notes for SL 2011 No. 105

made under the
Water Act 2000

General outline

Short title

Water Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2011.

Policy Objectives

The objectives of the Regulation are to amend the *Water Regulation 2002* to amend the arrangements for bulk water entities in South East Queensland (SEQ) to contribute to an annual levy funding the Queensland Water Commission (Commission), to take account of the merger of two of these entities (WaterSecure and Seqwater), effective from 1 July 2011.

Reason for the Policy Objectives

Section 360F of the *Water Act 2000* provides for the operations of the Commission to be funded by an annual levy payable by certain bulk water service providers. Section 360F(2) provides that the levy is to be in the amount and paid at the time and in the way prescribed under a regulation.

Part 2A of the *Water Regulation 2002* sets out the requirements for payment of the annual levy to the Commission. Section 24A defines the relevant water service providers as:

- the Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority trading as Seqwater;
- the Queensland Bulk Water Transport Authority trading as LinkWater; and
- the Queensland Manufactured Water Authority trading as WaterSecure.

Section 24B(3) provides that the total annual levy amount is to be apportioned among the three bulk water service providers with each to pay one third of the total amount.

On 5 December 2010, the Treasurer and the then Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy announced that SEQ's two bulk water authorities (Seqwater and WaterSecure) would be merged, effective from 1 July 2011.

Consequential amendments are required to the *Water Regulation 2002* to reflect the change in the number and names of the water service providers from 1 July 2011.

How the Policy Objectives will be achieved

The policy is to be achieved by amending the *Water Regulation 2002* to reflect the change in the number and names of the water service providers from 1 July 2011.

Alternatives to the Bill

There are no other viable alternatives that would achieve the policy objectives other than the proposed Regulation.

Estimated administrative cost to the Government for implementation

There will be no new or additional costs to the Government. These consequential amendments are the result of the Government's decision in late 2010 to merge Seqwater and WaterSecure from 1 July 2011.

Consistency with Fundamental Legislative Principles

The Regulation has no adverse impact on the rights and liberties of individuals, or on the institution of Parliament.

Consultation

Community and industry stakeholders

No consultation has been undertaken with the community or industry stakeholders in relation to these consequential amendments.

Government

Consultation has occurred with the Department of Environment and Resource Management, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Queensland Treasury.

Results of consultation

The Department of Environment and Resource Management, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Queensland Treasury support the regulation.

Notes on Provisions

Clause 1 Short title provides that the regulation may be cited as the *Water Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2011*.

Clause 2 Commencement provides that this regulation commences on 1 July 2011.

Clause 3 Regulation amended provides that this regulation amends the Water Regulation 2002.

Clause 4 Amendment of s 24A (Definitions for pt 2A) amends the definition of “relevant water service provider” to remove reference to the Queensland Manufactured Water Authority, trading as WaterSecure.

Clause 5 Amendment of s 24B (Amount and apportionment of annual levy) amends to “half” the apportionment of the total annual levy amount to reflect that after 1 July 2011 there will be two relevant water service providers rather than three, each responsible for payment of an equal share of the levy amount.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Laid before the Legislative Assembly on . . .
- 2 The administering agency is the Queensland Water Commission.

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