

Water (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022

Explanatory notes for SL 2022 No. 60

made under the

Water Act 2000

General Outline

Short title

Water (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022.

Authorising law

Section 1014 of the *Water Act 2000*

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The objectives of the *Water (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022* are to:

1. convert regulatory fees and charges under *Water Regulation 2016* from fee dollars to fee units, for fees associated with the allocation, supply or taking of water and payable to the chief executive of the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (the Department); and
2. make minor and technical amendments to the *Water Regulation 2016* to remove redundant requirements about water management areas and the application of relevant fees and charges.

Queensland Government fees and are primarily administered in accordance with Queensland Treasury's *Principles for Fees and Charges* policy (the Policy). This outlines the Government's indexation rate that applies to fees set by departments and statutory bodies (agencies), excluding specified exceptions.

Government indexation seeks to maintain the value of the fee over time relative to the anticipated increase in associated costs. The regulatory fee unit model will provide for indexation of the fee unit rather than the amendment of multiple regulations each year. This will streamline the annual process of indexing regulatory fees and reduce administrative inefficiencies for agencies and the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel (OQPC).

Achievement of policy objectives

To achieve its policy objectives, the *Water (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022* will convert fee dollars to fee units using the conversion rate of 1 fee unit = \$1.00;

This approach is considered reasonable and appropriate because it aligns with Queensland Treasury's *Principles for Fees and Charges* policy and enables the implementation of amendments to the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*. The fee unit value is specified in the *Acts Interpretation (Fee Unit) Regulation 2022* and will adjust fees and charges levied accordingly from 1 July 2022.

The minor amendments and corrections will achieve consistency and currency of the department legislation in line with government objectives.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The *Water (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022* is consistent with the objective of the authorising law.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The *Water (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022* is not inconsistent with any policy objectives of any legislation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The indexation of fees provides a mechanism understood by the community and industry to maintain price relativity, aiding the government in formulating the state and departmental budgets.

There are no additional costs associated with implementing the amendment regulation.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The *Water (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022* is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

In accordance with the Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation, the Office of Best Practice Regulation was not consulted in relation to the regulatory proposal.

The department applied a self-assessable exclusion from undertaking further regulatory impact analysis (Category (h) – Regulatory proposals that put forward standard annual fee variations in line with or below a government endorsed indexation factor; and Category (f) – Regulatory proposals that correct technical errors or amend legislation to take account of current Queensland drafting practice).

No stakeholder consultation was undertaken as the amendment regulation implements annual fee increases by the government indexation rate approved by Queensland Treasury.

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