

State Development and Public Works Organisation (CopperString 2032—Workers Accommodation Camps) Amendment Regulation 2024

Explanatory notes for SL 2024 No. 79

made under the

State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971

General Outline

Short title

State Development and Public Works Organisation (CopperString 2032—Workers Accommodation Camps) Amendment Regulation 2024 (the Amendment Regulation).

Authorising law

Sections 99, 100, 108, 109 and 173 of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SDPWO Act).

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

In September 2022, the Queensland Government launched the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (QEJP) outlining how Queensland’s energy system will transform to deliver clean, reliable and affordable energy to provide power for generations. The Queensland Government committed to developing the \$5 billion CopperString 2032 project, a high voltage transmission line to connect the North West Minerals Province to the national electricity grid. On 30 October 2023, the Queensland Government committed to commencing construction in mid-2024. The project is expected to be completed in 2029.

Achievement of policy objectives

The objective of the Amendment Regulation is to create a new division in the State Development and Public Works Organisation Regulation 2020 that directs Powerlink to undertake project works in accordance with sections 99 and 100 and directs the Coordinator-General to undertake facilitation works in accordance with sections 108 and 109 of the SDPWO Act.

The Amendment Regulation will achieve its objective of commencing construction of the project in mid-2024 by removing the requirement for development permits under local planning schemes for the construction of workers accommodation camps at Hughenden, Julia Creek and Richmond. The Coordinator-General will be able to assist by using powers under the SDPWO Act.

The effect of the Amendment Regulation will be minor as the camp's impacts, usually assessed through a development application, have been assessed by the Coordinator-General.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with the primary objectives of the SDPWO Act and amends the State Development and Public Works Organisation Regulation 2020 to utilise the existing powers under the SDPWO Act.

The Coordinator-General's powers under the SDPWO Act are intended to facilitate large-scale and complex projects while ensuring their environmental and social impacts are properly managed.

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with Part 6, Division 3 and Division 4 of the SDPWO Act. Sections 99 and 100 within Division 3 state that a regulation may direct any local body to undertake works following consideration and approval of the Amendment Regulation by Governor in Council. Sections 108 and 109 within Division 4 state that a regulation may direct the Coordinator-General to undertake works following consideration and approval of the regulation by Governor in Council.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

Alternative ways of achieving the policy objectives (including the option of not making subordinate legislation) have not been adopted.

Project works will not be delivered within required timeframes without the use of the Coordinator-General's functions and powers under the SDPWO Act and the Amendment Regulation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

Under the QEJP, the Queensland Government committed \$5 billion for Powerlink to develop the CopperString 2032 project. In October 2023, the Queensland Government announced \$1.3 billion to advance the delivery of the CopperString 2032 project to enable construction to commence mid-2024.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The proposed direction for a local body to undertake project works and for the Coordinator-General to undertake facilitation works, by the making of the Amendment Regulation, is consistent with the principles of good legislation including the fundamental legislative principles. Sufficient regard has been given to the rights and liberties of individuals and the institution of Parliament.

Consultation

State and local governments support the economic and social benefits to be provided by the project and the use of the Amendment Regulation to allow the quicker realisation of these benefits.