

# Energy and Water Ombudsman (Prescribed Energy Entities) Amendment Regulation 2021

## Human Rights Certificate

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

In accordance with section 41 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, I, the Honourable Mick de Brenni, Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement provide this human rights certificate with respect to the *Energy and Water Ombudsman (Prescribed Energy Entities) Amendment Regulation 2021* made under the *Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2006*.

In my opinion, the *Energy and Water Ombudsman (Prescribed Energy Entities) Amendment Regulation 2021*, as tabled in the Legislative Assembly, 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 Subordinate Legislation

The main purpose of the *Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2006* is to ensure small energy customers have access to a free, timely, effective and independent dispute resolution service.

The amending regulation will prescribe new Ombudsman scheme participants and set the fees payable by these new scheme participants. Once the changes commence, residential embedded network customers in Queensland (e.g. residents of caravan parks and manufactured homes) will have access to the dispute resolution services provided by the Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland (EWOQ).

## Human Rights Issues

### Human rights relevant to the subordinate legislation (Part 2, Division 2 and 3 *Human Rights Act 2019*)

The amending regulation would engage, but not affect or limit, the following human right prescribed under the *Human Rights Act 2019*: Recognition and equality before the law (section 15). The amending regulation aims to give residential embedded network customers access to the services of EWOQ, thereby removing an existing restriction on residential embedded network customers which limits their access to fair and independent dispute resolution.

## Conclusion

I consider that the *Energy and Water Ombudsman (Prescribed Energy Entities) Amendment Regulation 2021* is compatible with the *Human Rights Act 2019* because it does not limit human rights.

**MICK DE BRENNI MP**  
MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN  
MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT

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