

# Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy 2022

## 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, Meaghan Scanlon, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs provide this human rights certificate with respect to the *Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy 2022* made under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

In my opinion, the *Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy 2022*, 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 *Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019* is Queensland's primary water quality policy and planning legislation. It is subordinate legislation under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act), and the purpose of this policy is to achieve the object of the EP Act in relation to waters and wetlands. The purpose is achieved by—

- (a) identifying environmental values (EVs) for waters and wetlands to be enhanced or protected; and
- (b) identifying management goals for waters; and
- (c) stating water quality guidelines and water quality objectives (WQOs) for enhancing or protecting the EVs of waters; and
- (d) providing a framework for making consistent, equitable and informed decisions about waters; and
- (e) monitoring and reporting on the condition of waters.

The *Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy 2022* establishes EVs and water quality objectives for the project waters under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019*, and other minor amendments.

The scope of the amendment to the *Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019*, includes:

- establishing EVs and WQOs for the project waters:
  - the Burdekin, Don and Haughton regions: establishing EVs, WQOs and aquatic ecosystems mapping for the surface waters and groundwaters of the regions;
  - the Mackay and Whitsundays regions: updates to EVs, WQOs and aquatic ecosystems mapping for surface waters of the regions, focused on estuarine and coastal waters, and minor amendments to fresh waters based on the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality 2018;
  - the South East Queensland region: updates to EVs, WQOs and aquatic ecosystems mapping for the surface waters of the region; and
- revisions to clarify definitions, terminology and protocols for decision making.

## Human Rights Issues

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

The *Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy 2022* does not engage any of the Human Rights listed in Part 2, Division 2 and 3 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

**Consideration of reasonable limitations on human rights (section 13 *Human Rights Act 2019*)**

Not applicable.

## Conclusion

I consider that the *Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy 2022* is compatible with the *Human Rights Act 2019* because it does not engage any human rights.

**MEAGHAN SCANLON MP**  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF  
MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

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