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Our Ref: D14/118771

9 October 2014

The Research Director
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Submitted via: AREC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission – Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

This submission is made by Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority trading as Seqwater (**Seqwater**) in response to the **Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 (Bill)**.

About Seqwater

Seqwater ensures a safe, secure, resilient and reliable water supply for South East Queensland, as well as providing essential flood mitigation services and managing catchment health. We also provide irrigation services to about 1,200 rural customers and provide recreation facilities to the community.

Seqwater is one of Australia's largest water businesses with the most geographically spread and diverse asset base of any capital city water authority. Our operations extend from the New South Wales border to the base of the Toowoomba ranges and north to Gympie.

The provision of a safe and reliable drinking water supply is critical for the health and well being of Queenslanders. A cost effective bulk water supply is also essential for strong economic development.

Submission

Seqwater supports the Government's objective of reducing red tape through reform of water resources legislation. In particular, Seqwater notes that the Bill aligns with and supports the Government's recently released **WaterQ**, the State's 30-year water strategy.

Seqwater's detailed submissions in relation to the proposed amendments to the *Water Act 2000* contained in the **Bill** are identified in **Attachment A**.

Should you require further information regarding Seqwater's submission, please contact

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Peter Dennis
Chief Executive Officer



Attachment A – Seqwater’s submissions on the Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

Proposed amendments to the *Water Act 2000*

Matter	Bill Reference	Submission
Watercourse identification map	Clause 64	Seqwater requests the opportunity to be consulted during development of any watercourse identification map. In particular, Seqwater is concerned to ensure only appropriate designated watercourses are identified.
Water plans	Clause 68 - Proposed new Chapter 2, Division 3	Seqwater requests the opportunity to be consulted during the development of new water plans relevant to the area of its operations. In particular, Seqwater is concerned to ensure that trading zones for allocations and water allocation security objectives are appropriate.
Preliminary public consultation – proposal to prepare water plan	Clause 68 - Proposed new sections 44 and 45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seqwater requests insertion of a new subsection 44(3), as follows: <i>Despite subsection (1), the Minister must consult about a proposal to prepare a water plan with the holder of any affected resource operations licence or distribution operations licence.</i> Seqwater requests insertion of a new subsection 45(2)(g), as follows: <i>Any submission received from the holder of an affected resource operations licence or distribution operations licence under section 44.</i>
Water development options	Clause 68 – Proposed new sections 83, 84 and 85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seqwater requests insertion of a new subsection in proposed new section 83(2), as follows: <i>Contain evidence of consultation with the holder(s) of any affected resource operations licence or distribution operations licence.</i> Seqwater requests that the process prescribed by regulation pursuant to proposed new section 84(1) contains a requirement to consult with the holder(s) of any affected resource operations licence or distribution operations licence. Seqwater requests insertion of a new subsection in proposed new section 85, as follows: <i>Any submission received from the holder of an affected resource operations licence or distribution operations licence.</i>



Matter	Bill Reference	Submission
Water management protocols	Clause 68 – Proposed new sections 68 and 158	Seqwater looks forward to consulting with the Department during development of new water management protocols relevant to the area of its operations. In particular, Seqwater is concerned to ensure that water allocation dealing rules are appropriate.
Disputes about approval of operations manuals	Clause 68 - proposed new sections 199 and 241	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seqwater requests amendment of proposed new section 199(8) as follows: <i>The chief executive must give the holder of the licence an information notice about the approval, including the date the approval takes effect.</i> • Seqwater requests amendment of proposed new section 241(2) as follows: <i>The panel is to consist of at least 3 suitably qualified individuals, and has the functions, the chief executive decides.</i>
Audit reports	Clause 68 - Proposed new section 203	<p>Seqwater requests amendment of subsection 203(2) as follows:</p> <p><i>The entity must give an authorised person free and uninterrupted access to the water infrastructure to which the licence applies and any records relating to the water infrastructure for conducting a relevant audit, if:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>the person complies with all reasonable safety requirements of the entity; and</i> (b) <i>the person has given at least 5 business days written notice to the entity before the entry.</i>