Process for consideration of water related climate change effects in water planning

**Preparation of water plans**
(Water Act ss41-48)
(Subordinate legislation valid for 10 years)

**Implementation of water plans**
(Water Act ss67-78)

**Water plan report (5 year review)**
(Water Act ss49, Water Regulation 2016 ss22)

**Amending or replacing a water plan**
(Water Act ss50-56)

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**Input to development**
- Hydrological and technical assessment - using Expert scientific data - collected over the life of a plan
- Historical data
- Scenarios include future climate change risks currently not communicated to stakeholders or used in the management of water resources
- Risk assessments
- Ecological modelling
- Consultation

**Implementation through** –
- Water management strategies
- Associated rules
- Resource Operations licences (ss179)
- Water entitlement notices
- Operations manuals
- Water planning framework supported by monitoring activities undertaken by the QLD Govt including:
  - stream flow gauging station real time data
  - water quality data
  - environmental flow assessments

**Hydrological and technical assessment**

**Historical data**

**Climate change scenarios**

**Risk assessments**

**Ecological modeling**

**Expert scientific data**

**Minister must publish a report every 5 years stating** –
- If water plan outcomes are being achieved and if the water plan is still effective:
  - If strategies and objectives are still appropriate for the plan area, to achieve continual improvement during the planning cycle;
  - any identified risks.
- Assessment then made on whether a water plan requires an amendment in response to the outcomes of the review

**To amend or replace a water plan (ss51 and ss44-48)**
- ss45 now includes the consideration of climate change

**Climate change risks and the strategies to address these risks will be communicated to stakeholders during consultation on a draft water plan.**

**Strategies to address climate change risks may include:**
- changes to water sharing rules to increase water market trading
- changes to the amount of water held in reserves under a plan (that is not already allocated for environmental, social, economic or cultural outcomes, for consumptive use or allocated through an entitlement)
- changes to assessment process for new applications for access to water