

Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

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MOUNT ISA TO TOWNSVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE



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Submission: Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

MITEZ, the peak economic advocacy voice in North West Queensland, supports the State Government's measures to improve water management and compliance through the Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.

Amending the Water Act 2000 (Water Act) to establish a regulatory framework for implementing strengthened arrangements for measuring the take of non-urban water is necessary to ensure accurate and timely information for accountability around who and how much water is taken. MITEZ welcomes improved water management and compliance but urges that measures are taken to ensure potential costs for implementation do not place undue burden on users.

Water security is fundamental to develop the North West corridor's potential and assure a sustainable and diversified economy. High value irrigated cropping will drive economic activity in the regions, from paddock to port, creating jobs and prosperity along the entire logistic supply chain. There is massive untapped agricultural potential that can be unlocked generating economic returns for the State's economy. MITEZ urges that the Amendment Bill does not inhibit the expansion of agriculture in North West Queensland and that the Government further supports water releases to build the foundations for a thriving, diversified and sustainable agriculture industry, including value add processing enterprises such as cotton gins, grain sorting facilities, cattle feed lots and beef processing abattoirs.

Community and Tourism are also critical pillars of MITEZ, with water an important component to both in terms of community infrastructure such as recreational lakes. Whether filled by natural run off, pumping from rivers or bores, MITEZ would not welcome legislation that compromises these assets which increase recreational activities in rural towns, support community health and well-being and provide tourists with an extra reason to stay longer.

Yours faithfully



Maria James
Chief Executive Officer

