

## Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

**Submission No:** 5  
**Submitted by:** Queensland Conservation Council  
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**Submitter Comments:**



Secretary  
State Development and Regional Industries Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

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Date: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## **Re: Submission to the Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2022**

Dear Sir or Madam,

As the states peak environmental Non-Government Organisation, the Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to the Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (the Bill), which was introduced to the Queensland Parliament and referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

### **1. Amendment of the *South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009***

As they will improve its operational efficiency and will not cause any adverse environmental impacts, QCC supports the proposed amendments to the *South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009* under Part 2 of the Bill.

### **2. Amendment of the *Water Act 2000***

#### **2.1 Framework for implementing improved measurement of non-urban water take**

As they will lead to improved outcomes for freshwater species and ecosystems by enhancing the ability to manage Queensland water resources, QCC supports the provisions in the Bill that will introduce a framework into the *Water Act 2000* to implement the improved measurement of non-urban water take across the state.

Along with enhancing environmental outcomes, improving the measurement of non-urban water take will also significantly increase transparency and accountability with how non-urban water is managed, which will strengthen the public's confidence that Queensland's surface and underground water resources are appropriately managed.

## **2.2 Amendment of Chapter 3 of the Water Act (clauses 40, 41, 42 & 43 of the Bill)**

As they will lead to improved outcomes for groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDE's) by enhancing the Department of Environment and Science's ability to manage adverse impacts to groundwater from coal seam gas and mining, QCC supports the provisions in the Bill to amend Chapter 3 of the Water Act.

## **2.3 Other amendments to the *Water Act 2000***

As they will enhance its operational efficiency and will not cause any adverse environmental impacts, QCC supports the other proposed amendments to the *Water Act 2000* under Part 3 of the Bill.

## **3. Amendment of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008***

As they will improve its operational efficiency and will not cause any adverse environmental impacts, QCC supports the proposed amendments to the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* under Part 4 of the Bill.

## **4. Other amendments to various legislation**

As it will improve their operational efficiency and will not cause any adverse environmental impacts, QCC supports the proposed amendments to the various legislation under schedule 1 of the Bill.

## **5. Conclusion**

As they will improve their operational efficiency and won't cause any adverse environmental impacts, QCC urges the State Development and Regional Industries Committee to endorse the proposed amendments to the *South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009*, *Water Act 2000* and *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* contained in the Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.

Yours sincerely,



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