

Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

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Submitted by: Urban Utilities
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Urban Utilities
Level 2, 15 Green Square Close
Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

GPO Box 2765
Brisbane QLD 4001

10th November 2022

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

Re: Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

Urban Utilities thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Bill. The changes to the three Acts proposed under the Bill are supported by Urban Utilities. The following additional changes are provided to further clarify related elements of the legislation.

South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009

Section	Description	Reason for suggested change	Suggested change
99 BT(1)	Requires the Netserv Plan, map of connection areas, SEQ Code and other materials be “available for inspection and purchase”.	This is inconsistent with other amendments that provide for documents to be made freely available online.	Delete requirement for physical copies to be available for a fee, and insert requirement for copies to be made available online.
99BU(1)	Requires all details in the Infrastructure Charge Notice (ICN) register to be publicly available while section 99 BU(4) also requires individual ICNs to be publicly available.	As the register reflects all the detail of the notice, providing individual notices duplicates the initial requirement and generates unnecessary administrative effort and costs.	Delete the requirement to provide individual Infrastructure Charge Notices.
99BAA(5)	Lists corrections or changes to a water netserv plan that constitute ‘administrative amendments’	Other routine changes should also be included under administrative amendments to save the time and cost of undertaking minor or major amendments for common trivial changes.	Add the following to the list of administrative amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clarification/explanation of a term where the meaning does not change, - routine changes to the extent of the Connection Area - annual updates of ‘future connection area’ to ‘connection area’

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ABN 86 673 835 011

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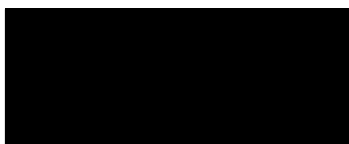


Definitions	There is no definition of a Business Day but in the Planning Act 2016, Schedule 2 Dictionary a business day “does not include a day between 26 December of a year and 1 January of the next year”.	This inconsistency creates confusion for service providers, councils and the development community, and extra work in managing assessments.	Define ‘Business Day’ to align with the Planning Act for the purposes of Infrastructure Assessments.
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Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008

Section	Description	Reason for suggested change	Suggested change
144(1)	Requires that water charges be waived for water used to test stand-alone, private firefighting systems.	This amounts to a significant (approximately 1%) proportion of urban supply used with no cost signal encouraging inefficient test practices.	Allow service providers to recover the bulk water charge (approximately 40% of the total bill) for this water use.

Yours Sincerely,



David Wiskar
 General Manager City and Regional Futures
 Integrated Solutions, Urban Utilities



A: GPO Box 2765 Brisbane QLD 4001