

**Template for responding to information requests in the
National Water Reform Productivity Commission Issues Paper, March 2017**

Issue/driver and information request	Comments
<div data-bbox="136 347 219 1141" data-label="Section-Header"> <p>National water reform priorities (see table 1)</p> </div> <div data-bbox="230 347 808 1141" data-label="List-Group"> <p><i>Water resource management, e.g.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Property rights clear and secure</i> - <i>Transparent, inclusive, cost-effective process for determining allocation and sharing</i> - <i>Ability to trade at highest value</i> - <i>Efficient and effective environmental management</i> <p><i>Water services, e.g.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Efficient provision of rural and urban water services</i> <p><i>What new water sources should be brought into a water entitlement process and why?</i></p> <p><i>Are current approaches to water rights compliance and enforcement fit-for-purpose?</i></p> </div>	<p>The planning, allocation and use of Queensland water resources are carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Queensland Water Act through the purpose of sustainable management (section 2) and take into account the principles of ecologically sustainable development.</p> <p>The provision of safe, reliable and affordable rural and urban water services is one of the key strategic objectives of the Queensland Government through the Queensland Water Supply Act (section 3).</p> <p>Under Part 3 of Chapter 2 of the Queensland Water Act, Queensland's water resource framework can deal with entitlements to overland flow water, including urban stormwater, where unregulated take would have an impact on resource availability and environmental objectives. Generally, urban stormwater is not captured within the entitlements framework.</p> <p>Chapter 5 of the Queensland Water Act protects the rights of water users and minimises the unlawful take or use of water. DNRM is committed to maintaining and implementing compliance and enforcement responses under the Queensland Water Act and its water regulations that are further supported by fit-for-purpose management arrangements.</p>
<div data-bbox="136 1141 219 1469" data-label="Section-Header"> <p>Water planning</p> </div> <div data-bbox="230 1141 808 1469" data-label="Text"> <p><i>What are the key areas of water planning where further progress is required to achieve the objectives and outcomes of the NWI?</i></p> </div>	<p>Queensland's commitment to the NWI in respect to water planning is principally met through Chapter 2 of the Queensland Water Act. The Queensland Water Act provides for the Minister to prepare water plans for any part of the state to manage the allocation and sustainable management of water to meet Queensland's current and future needs. Water plans provide the framework for managing water resources in an area to achieve a sustainable balance between water for Indigenous people, industry, irrigators, town water supply, recreation, tourism, properties and the environment.</p> <p>Since the Queensland Water Act commenced in 2000, water plans have been developed for 22 out of 23 catchments and the Great Artesian Basin. They manage surface water, overland flow, artesian and sub-artesian water resources.</p>

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	<p>Progressive review of state's water plans have been ongoing since 2009. . To date these reviews have included statutory replacement of 4 water plans, extension of 5 more plans and commencement of review and replacement of the Queensland Murray Darling Basin and Great Artesian Basin plans.</p> <p>The Queensland Water Act has recently been amended which made changes to water planning and licensing processes (predominantly administrative) and in dealing with underground water impacts associated with the resources sector (eg mining, gas and petroleum).. Please find a link below which provides an overall summary of the changes that commenced on 6 December 2016.</p> <p>https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/water-reform</p>
<p><i>Is there scope to streamline water planning processes to reduce unnecessary costs on planners and participants?</i></p>	<p>In 2016 changes to the Queensland Water Act commenced that streamline the administrative process for water planning. The Queensland government is in the process of implementing water planning under the changed processes. Please find a link to a summary of these changes: https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/planning-process</p> <p>The Queensland Water Regulation has also undergone a significant review process. In 2016 a new Queensland Water Regulation commenced, which takes a greater role in supporting the water planning process. Specifically the regulation now can include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state-wide rules for water allocation dealings and seasonal water assignments which complement any specific water dealing or seasonal assignment rules stated in a water plan • standard process and criteria for converting water authorisations to water allocations which complement any specific conversion criteria stated in a water plan.
<p><i>Are processes for reviewing water plans sufficiently robust, transparent, open, and timely?</i></p>	<p>Chapter 2, Division 3 of the Queensland Water Act and Part 2, Division 3 of the Queensland Water Regulation specify the timeframes and matters that must be included in Minister's reports on water plans. The Minister is required to prepare a report for each plan area within 5 years of commencement and no later than every subsequent 5 years.</p>
<p>Is there scope to improve how water plans deal with long-term shifts in climate affecting resource availability?</p> <p>Are there recent examples of leading practice?</p>	<p>Long term changes in water availability and associated risks to social, economic and ecological outcomes are assessed periodically, at least every 5 years in accordance with Chapter 2, Division 3 of the Queensland Water Act and Part 2, Division 3 of the Queensland Water Regulation requirements.</p> <p>This includes reviewing the degree of climate variability to date compared with the level of climate variability within the historic hydrologic model used to support and test water plan arrangements. Where climate variability to date is found to be significantly greater than that represented within the historic hydrologic model, the risks to plan outcomes are elevated and the water plan may require review and</p>

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	<p>amendment or replacement, including extension/updating of the hydrologic model to include the most recent climatic and hydrologic data.</p>
<p><i>Are current water entitlement and planning frameworks conducive to investor confidence, facilitating investment in major new infrastructure (such as in northern Australia), while managing risks to the supply security of existing water users?</i></p>	<p>The existing frameworks under the Queensland Water Act and the Queensland Water Supply Act provide a suitable basis for confidence in planning for major new investments. The Department of Energy and Water Supply (DEWS) in partnership with councils and water service providers are developing regional water supply security assessments (RWSSA).</p> <p>The regional water supply security assessment provides an overview of the capability of the existing water sources during different rainfall events for projected population growth and water demands. Hydrologic modelling is used to assess the performance of the bulk water supply in meeting forecast demands. Currently 11 RWSSA have been finalised and 9 are underway.</p> <p>More information can be found at: https://www.dews.qld.gov.au/water/supply/security/wssa</p> <p>Under Chapter 2A of the Queensland Water Act the bulk water supply authority for South East Queensland must have a water security program. The water security program is underpinned by desired level of service objectives which are prescribed under Part 6 of the Queensland Water Regulation.</p> <p>Unallocated water: Part 2, Division 2 of the Queensland Water Regulation, https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/W/WaterR16.pdf allows for unallocated water to be released via a number of methods - competitive tender or auction; fixed price sale; or to be granted for a particular purpose. To date, DNRM has undertaken six general reserve releases and granted water from State and strategic reserve. To date 199,118 megalitres of water has been granted for agricultural purposes.</p>
<p><i>How can the interests and needs of Indigenous people be better accommodated and represented in water planning processes?</i></p>	<p>Section 2 (Purpose of Act and their achievement) of the Queensland Water Act recognises the interests of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders and their connection with water resources. This purpose is relevant to the development of water plans.</p> <p>Queensland continues to improve the way Indigenous people are consulted as part of the water planning process. The quality of Queensland's consultation with Indigenous people is illustrated by feedback from the Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN) in their recommendation for accreditation of the Warrego, Paroo and Nebine Water Resource Plan to the Commonwealth Minister.</p>

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<p><i>What steps have been taken — or should be taken — to integrate water quality objectives into water planning arrangements?</i></p>	<p>In making a new water plan, under s42 of the Queensland Water Act, or amending or replacing a water plan under s51,—, the Minister must consider (amongst other matters) (under s48) Environmental Values established under the <i>Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009</i>.</p> <p>Queensland water planning instruments developed under Chapter 2 of the Queensland Water Act help to deliver water quality outcomes through appropriate management of flows, for example, to support healthy riparian vegetation, waterholes and healthy and productive estuarine environments. This is complemented by Healthy Water Management Plans and Water Quality Improvement Plans which identify water quality objectives and targets for Queensland catchments as well as management actions, typically relating to land management issues, which are expected to result in improvements towards identified water quality targets and objectives.</p>
<p>Water trading</p> <p><i>Are there worthwhile opportunities to expand trade to new regions and water resources?</i> <i>Are there restrictions on trading water that are unwarranted and should be removed or revised?</i> <i>Are there actions that governments should take to reduce costs and delays of trading water, including for inter-region and interstate trade?</i> <i>How can water market information be made more timely, reliable and accessible in a cost-effective way?</i> <i>Additional comments</i></p>	<p>Water markets—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water allocations are tradeable entitlements, separate to land title and are registered on the State's Torrens-based Water Allocations Register (WAR). Operating since 2003, the WAR operates on the same automated, publicly accessible conveyance platform as Queensland's land registry, and provides the necessary certainty for a functioning water market. It provides for transfers, leases, subdivisions, amalgamations and the registration of encumbrances/caveats over water titles, as well as providing guarantees against fraudulent dealings. • The location of water allocations can also be moved according to clearly defined and public rules contained within water planning documents and water under an allocation can also be seasonally assigned to meet the immediate water use needs). Many of these rules have 'pre-tested' trades in anticipation of water demand patterns, resulting in an efficient assessment and approval framework which minimises transaction costs for participants. • These trade rules, ensure that the movement of water satisfies outcomes for protecting third-party reliability of water supply and environmental objectives Good access to accurate and timely information on the price of traded water products to assist market participants in making optimal decisions is supported. To this end, in 2003 Queensland developed a Permanent Water Trade Report with associated Business Rules (see www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/water/water/water-markets/market-information). These Business Rules attempt to provide an accurate reflection of market prices with unreliable or ambiguous data 'filtered'—such as trades between related parties. . Water sales data is also publicly available via the Queensland Valuation and Sales Database, in the same way and with the same fee structure as for the land market.
<p>Environmental management</p> <p><i>What are the guiding principles for 'best practice' management of environmental water?</i> <i>Are the institutional and governance arrangements for held environmental water working well?</i></p>	<p>Queensland has adopted a rules-based approach to provide and manage environmental water. This is a long-term integrated approach which supports identified flow-dependent environmental assets and ecosystem functions while maintaining the performance of consumptive water entitlements. The science-based rules are consulted with stakeholders before being adopted in subordinate legislation.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWO) is the only holder of held environmental water in the Queensland part of the Murray-Darling Basin.</p>

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<p><i>What is the role for governments in promoting trade in environmental water, and acquiring environmental water at least cost to the community?</i></p> <p><i>How can institutional arrangements be used to ensure agencies with natural resource management responsibilities (including environmental water managers) pursue least-cost approaches to achieving environmental and other public benefit objectives?</i></p> <p><i>Are the policies that affect the health of water systems sufficiently integrated?</i></p>	<p>Held environmental entitlements are treated similarly to other entitlements and may participate in the same water market. Queensland provides science and technical information to the Commonwealth to assist them in buying held environmental water.</p> <p>Queensland manages the Healthy HeadWaters Water Use Efficiency Project (HHWUE) which acquires water for the environment by investing in on-farm irrigation infrastructure. HHWUE is funded by the Australian Government as part of the implementation of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan in Queensland.</p>
<p>Rural water services</p> <p><i>Has the NWI been successful in achieving its objectives with respect to rural water services?</i></p> <p><i>If not, what actions are required to achieve these objectives?</i></p>	<p>Unallocated water</p> <p>Under the Queensland Water Act, unallocated water is not reserved in catchment areas that are at capacity.</p> <p>Where unallocated water is available release processes can facilitate an increase in economic growth and jobs within rural communities.</p> <p>Entitlements granted through unallocated water release process under the Queensland Water Act and Queensland Water Regulation are fit for purpose and best suit the market needs for specific particular water plan area.</p> <p>Decisions when granted from unallocated water reserves take into account a set of criteria relevant to each plan area (e.g. including the efficiency of existing proposed water use practices). To date 199,118 megalitres of water has been granted for agricultural purposes.</p> <p>Water charges—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland recovers a specific proportion of water planning and management costs. Schedule 14 of the Queensland Water Regulation imposes a number of transactional-based water fees and also volumetric-based water harvesting charges for unsupplemented users. Consistent with its NWI commitments, Queensland is meeting its transparency objectives surrounding publication of these charges. <p>Pricing principles</p> <p>Queensland State pricing policies are consistent with NWI pricing principles. Queensland has transitional price path arrangements under which irrigation prices are gradually moving towards cost reflective pricing arrangements – consistent with the NWI. These provisions allow the Government to assist areas that face</p>

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	<p>hardship/customer capacity to pay considerations by paying Seqwater and SunWater Community Service Obligation (CSO) payments in the recognition that the regulated irrigation prices to not recover the costs in all water supply scheme at a certain point in time.</p> <p>These payments are made transparent via the State Budget process.</p>
<p><i>Are there any instances where similar rural water service providers should be subject to different regulatory treatments based on the nature of their ownership and/or jurisdiction of operation?</i></p> <p><i>If so, when and why are such different approaches warranted?</i></p>	<p>Yes, where a rural water service provider is customer owned, there should not be economic regulation of prices in the absence of evidence of market failure. The Queensland Government is in the process of investigating the possibility of SunWater's eight channel irrigation schemes transitioning to local management arrangements (LMA). Local management would place the channel irrigation schemes under the ownership and operation of the local irrigators who benefit from the schemes.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has provided formal offers to the boards established to represent customers in the Emerald, Eton, Theodore and St George irrigation schemes. The offer relates to the transfer of all below-dam water assets, and includes \$36.6 million to help with the transition.</p> <p>The <i>Water (Local Management Arrangements) Amendment Act 2017</i> was recently passed to facilitate the restructure and transfer of these schemes to local management arrangements.</p> <p>Further details about local management arrangements are available at: http://www.lmairrigation.com.au/</p>
<p><i>What role should independent economic regulators play in the regulation of rural water services?</i></p>	<p>Within Queensland the economic regulator Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) has a monopoly oversight role to ensure that consumers pay a fair price for water and wastewater services in Queensland. Under the <i>Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997</i>, the QCA ensures regulated monopolies do not spend or charge more than they should for efficient and sustainable services.</p> <p>SEQ bulk water prices and irrigation water prices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEQ bulk water prices and irrigation water prices in Queensland are set by the Queensland Government. • The prices were set based on recommendations from the QCA. <p>Council prices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The QCA is the independent economic regulator of water and wastewater services in Queensland. • The QCA can investigate urban water (for cities, towns and suburbs) and rural water (irrigation on farms and for regional areas). • The QCA has investigated or monitored the water and wastewater activities of eight entities: Queensland Urban Utilities, Unitywater, Gold Coast City Council, Logan City Council, Redland City Council, Seqwater, SunWater and Gladstone Area Water Board. The QCA has not found evidence of abuse of monopoly power by service providers.

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	<p>Economic regulation for rural water services in Qld</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation water prices in Queensland are set by the Queensland Government for set time periods. For example, current irrigation prices have been set until 30 June 2017 and are being extended by the Government until 30 June 2019. • Following the implementation of the Local Management Arrangements in SunWater's channel water schemes, the QCA will no longer recommend channel water irrigation prices and each scheme will be free to set their own price.
<p><i>How are the needs of rural water service providers (both bulk water and irrigation delivery) and preferences of users balanced in the setting of infrastructure charges?</i></p> <p><i>In what ways could these processes be improved?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation water prices in Queensland are set by the Queensland Government for set time periods. (E.g. Current irrigation prices have been set until 30 June 2017 and are being extended by the Government until 30 June 2019.) • Queensland Government's pricing policies have generally been developed in consultation with industry and customers and based on advice from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the independent QCA for prudence and efficiency costing considerations. ○ consideration to historical/legacy issues, customers' capacity to pay, and consideration of the benefits/costs arising from a subsidy targeting a particular sector or purpose. • Furthermore these policies are designed to be compliant with the National Water Initiative pricing principles including consumption-based water pricing, full cost recovery. To manage irrigators' capacity to pay considerations, Government sets transitional price path arrangements and/or have an accompanying CSO or indirect Government subsidy (both of which are publically disclosed at an aggregate level) to minimise price shocks for customers.
<p><i>How effectively do infrastructure network owners engage with users (both current and prospective) to ensure infrastructure programs address current and future needs?</i></p>	<p>SunWater and Seqwater conduct annual consultation with irrigators on their planned activities in the schemes through the Network Service Plan process, SunWater have irrigation consultative committees and Seqwater hold town hall style meetings.</p>
<p><i>Is infrastructure charging sufficiently flexible to cope with changes to the number and composition of customers within networks?</i></p> <p><i>If not, how could infrastructure charges be improved?</i></p> <p><i>What role (sic) have played in this?</i></p>	<p>Yes. Irrigation prices are set as charges per megalitre of water. This provides flexibility for instances where new customers enter a scheme, there is a price that is applicable. For example, if water is traded from an industrial contract customer to an irrigation customer, the price that has been set for the period can be applied per megalitre of water traded. Irrigation pricing reviews set prices that apply over a set time period (e.g. a regulatory period of five years). This provides certainty for customers within the period and the price reviews allow for SunWater and Seqwater the opportunity to revise arrangements in line with any changing costs of supply.</p>

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		<p>There is a two-part tariff arrangement for Queensland irrigation prices, consisting of: a fixed charge (a cost independent of how much water a customer uses, sometimes called an access charge to recover costs of operating and maintaining the scheme); and a volumetric charge (usage charge).</p> <p>Water may be traded within schemes and in the case of distribution schemes it may be traded from the distribution scheme into the associated bulk river scheme. Where the latter occurs, there is a termination fee payable to ensure exiting customers contribute to future costs of the scheme, thereby protecting remaining customers from cost increases.</p>
	<i>Have termination fees been effective in enabling infrastructure network owners to adjust their networks in response to declining usage?</i>	Yes, termination fee arrangement whereby irrigation customers pay 11x multiple of the annual fixed infrastructure charge to SunWater/Seqwater alleviates financial viability risk for the water entities.
	<i>What, if any, government oversight should there be of privately owned providers of irrigation services?</i>	Privately owned irrigation providers should be subject to the same level of oversight as other irrigation service providers e.g. under the Queensland Water Supply Act and other relevant legislation (Queensland Water Act and environmental legislation etc.).
	<i>How robust are the cost-benefit analyses applied to irrigation infrastructure projects?</i> <i>Where could they be improved?</i>	Under the <i>Building Queensland Act 2015</i> (the Act), Building Queensland (BQ) is required to provide independent expert advice to the Queensland Government about infrastructure. The Act requires BQ to provide infrastructure advice based on rigorous analysis, including cost benefit analysis and community benefits.
	<i>Are there sufficient checks and balances to prevent unviable or unsustainable infrastructure projects from proceeding?</i> <i>If not, what are the areas needing improvement?</i>	All new infrastructure is subject to appropriate rigorous engineering, geotechnical, social, environmental, financial and economic assessments.
Urban water services	<i>What policy and institutional arrangements are needed in the urban water sector to improve the efficiency of service provision?</i>	<p>Queensland is a large decentralised state. Provision of urban water services has historically been a local government function. The State is a provider of bulk water in South East Queensland and in some regional centres in Queensland.</p> <p>Significant reform and consolidation of water supply arrangements in SEQ occurred in response to the Millennium Drought (between 2006 and 2012) resulting in the establishment of three corporation-like distributor-retailers (DRs) under the <i>South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009</i>. The distributor-retailers are owned by and service 10 local governments in SEQ (one distributor-retailer has been disestablished and reverted to the three relevant local governments). The State Government, through Seqwater, became the provider of bulk water to the DRs and three local government providers (City of Gold Coast, Logan City and Redland City) in SEQ.</p>

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	<p>Outside the south east corner, Queensland's population is regionally dispersed with communities ranging in size; water service providers also range in size and capacity. Of the 180 registered water service providers as of 1 January 2017, 68 are local governments; 29 local government providers have less than 1000 connected properties and overall 38 registered providers have less than 1000 connections.</p> <p>In 2008, local government amalgamations reduced the number of local governments from 157 to 76, and resulted in the establishment of a number of large regional councils. The Government does not support further forced amalgamations, but promotes regional collaboration between local governments outside SEQ to improve efficiencies in the delivery of urban water services.</p> <p>The particular challenge for Queensland is the support (financial and technical) required for remote and regional communities to underpin judicious decision-making.</p> <p>In this regard, under QWRAP (Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program), established in 2011, the Queensland Government provides funding for groups of councils to form alliances to investigate a range of alternative and collaborative arrangements for managing urban water and sewerage services to achieve greater efficiencies. Since 2011, five QWRAP groups encompassing approximately 30 local government participants have been formed. The formal alliances have only been in operation for two years but in that time, councils have realised savings and improved operations.</p>
<p><i>What approach should be taken to price regulation in the urban water sector?</i></p> <p><i>Is there a need for greater consistency in price setting approaches across different jurisdictions?</i></p> <p><i>Do current pricing practices promote investor confidence?</i></p>	<p>SEQ bulk water prices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEQ bulk water prices has a pricing (tariff) structure, whereby 100 per cent of costs are currently recovered from usage, or volumetric charges (that is, there is no fixed access charge). Because of this, prices and revenues are highly sensitive to demand. • The process for establishing SEQ bulk water prices follows that used for establishing irrigation prices described above. That is, the Government directs the Queensland Competition Authority to undertake a review of SEQ bulk water prices and recommend prices for a set period. In recommending prices, the QCA is to consider the prudent and efficient costs of the provision of bulk water services by the bulk water service provider, Seqwater. <p>Economic regulation of urban water prices in Queensland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently there is no economic regulation framework in place for SEQ council water entities (or for outside SEQ water entities). • Queensland Treasury is leading a review the economic regulation framework for SEQ water entities, noting the previous SEQ council water business framework expired on 30 June 2015. • Queensland notes the Essential Services Commission of Victoria is advocating light-handed regulation of water authorities in Victoria • Refer to 'role of economic regulation' for further information.

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<p><i>Is there a case to increase the involvement of customers in regulatory decision making, as is commencing in Victoria?</i></p> <p><i>If so, what is the best way to do this?</i></p>	<p>In the revised regulatory framework for urban water service providers implemented in 2012, Customer Service Standards were seen as a way for the provider to engage its customer community in a discussion about willingness-to-pay for service quality. Accordingly, the new framework mandated that some key issues had to be addressed in the Customer Service Standard by setting targets against selected KPIs, but the State did not set a performance benchmark for those targets. The providers do, however, have to engage with their community in setting the standard through public consultation.</p>
<p><i>How can the level of competition in the provision of urban water services be increased?</i></p>	<p>Trying to introduce competition in the provision of urban water services is impractical for most of Queensland's remote and regional communities. Introducing competition in SEQ via WaterSecure (manufactured water production) and LinkWater for bulk water distribution proved to be artificial with manufactured water being too expensive and the institutional frameworks too costly to sustain in the longer term. Hence, there was rationalisation of bulk water services in SEQ with all three bulk suppliers incorporated into Seqwater under the <i>South East Queensland Water (Restructuring) Act 2007</i></p> <p>Currently in Queensland, there are approximately 30 private entities registered to provide bulk water, irrigation, stock and domestic, and sewerage services. These are mostly located in rural Queensland.</p> <p>Approximately, nine private entities are registered to provide reticulated water or sewerage services. These entities include mining companies, port and airport corporations, and other special cases. They provide small scale services that address a specific need.</p> <p>The process to be registered as a service provider in Queensland requires the proponent to have made a significant commitment. In order to become registered the proponent must have constructed relevant infrastructure and be intending to charge for a service.</p>
<p><i>Do water and wastewater services delivered to regional and remote communities, including Indigenous communities, comply with relevant public health, safety and environmental regulations?</i></p> <p><i>If not, what policy remedies might improve performance?</i></p>	<p>Rural and remote communities in particular have greater difficulty achieving and maintaining compliance with drinking water quality regulatory requirements. However, DEWS has programs to support rural and remote communities to meet drinking water quality regulatory requirements and DEWS takes appropriate enforcement action where non-compliance has the potential to impact public health.</p>
<p><i>Do the processes for determining public health, safety and environmental regulations applying to</i></p>	<p>The Queensland Water Supply Act applies to all drinking water service providers. Each provider is required to have a drinking water quality management plan in place and comply with the details of the plan. The</p>

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	<p><i>urban water providers promote cost-effective and targeted regulations?</i></p> <p><i>Do the various policy-making and regulatory bodies have clear roles and responsibilities?</i></p>	<p>regulator (as defined under the Act) ensures that each service provider's plan meets the requirements of the Act.</p>
	<p><i>What is the importance of integrated water cycle management?</i></p> <p><i>Are roles and responsibilities in relation to this clear?</i></p>	<p>Provisions in relation to the integrated water cycle management in respect to planning schemes are addressed under the <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i> and the <i>State Planning Policy State Interest – Water Quality</i>.</p> <p>See https://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/resources/guideline/spp/spp-guideline-water-quality.pdf</p>
	<p><i>How can demand management approaches such as water restrictions and water-use efficiency measures best contribute to the efficiency of urban water services?</i></p>	<p>Demand management is now fundamental and built into planning processes for water services delivery. In Queensland, it is best exemplified via the implementation of 'level of service' (LOS) frameworks in SEQ (via the SEQ Water Security Program), with such techniques gradually being applied throughout the state. The LOS discipline requires virtually continual monitoring / management of demands during normal times. Further, planning based on desired LOS objectives ensures that drought response is built seamlessly into the overall approach for water supply planning and operations rather than being an add-on process once a water supply has been planned, designed and built.</p> <p>Chapter 2A of the Queensland Water Act provides the legislative basis for Queensland's demand management approaches, primarily in SEQ, but can be applied elsewhere in the state.</p>
Achieving reform	<p><i>What have been the key benefits of water sector reform to date?</i></p> <p><i>Data and information sources that might be useful for assessing progress</i></p> <p><i>Should further water reform be pursued through an improved NWI?</i></p> <p><i>How can policy impetus be best generated?</i></p>	<p>The Queensland Government continues to meet NWI objectives through responding to the evolving needs of the water sector and is committed to continuous improvement of water sector reform and has just completed an extensive review of the Queensland Water Act and Queensland Water Regulation which will provide improved, streamlined regulatory processes for the sustainable management of Queensland's water resources and quarry materials. A summary of the changes is available here: https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/water-reform</p> <p>It is considered that NWI has provided a good basis for water reform. However, it should be recognised that while consistency in major areas of reform is desirable, States should also be given the flexibility to be diverse in the way reforms are implemented according to geographic outlook, economic development, environmental and community needs.</p>

Comparison between Commonwealth and Queensland terminology

Commonwealth	Queensland	Description
Water access entitlement	Water allocation	Enduring legal title to a defined share of the water resources of a water management area. Tradeable separate to land.
Water allocation	Announced allocation	The portion of a water access entitlement (water allocation) that can be accessed in the water accounting period.
Regulated	Supplemented	A scheme or system where water supply reliability is enhanced by infrastructure such as a dam or weir (also refers to water entitlements in such a system).
	Queensland Water Act	<i>Water Act 2000</i> that is administered in Queensland
	Queensland Water Regulation	Water Regulation 2016 that is administered in Queensland
	Queensland Water Supply Act	Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008