

Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy (No. 1) 2020

Human Rights Certificate

Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*

In accordance with section 41 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, I, Leeanne Enoch, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts provide this human rights certificate with respect to the Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy (No. 1) 2020 made under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

In my opinion, the Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy (No. 1) 2020, as tabled in the Legislative Assembly, is compatible with the human rights protected by the *Human Rights Act 2019*. I base my opinion on the reasons outlined in this statement.

Overview of the Subordinate Legislation

The Environmental Protection (Water and Wetlands Biodiversity) Policy 2019 is Queensland's primary water quality policy and planning instrument. It is subordinate legislation under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. The purpose of this policy is to achieve the object of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* in relation to waters and wetlands.

The purpose is achieved by—

- (a) identifying environmental values for waters and wetlands to be enhanced or protected; and
- (b) identifying management goals for waters; and
- (c) stating water quality guidelines and water quality objectives for enhancing or protecting the environmental values of waters; and
- (d) providing a framework for making consistent, equitable and informed decisions about waters; and
- (e) monitoring and reporting on the condition of waters.

The Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy (No. 1) 2020 establishes environmental values and water quality objectives under Schedule 1 of the Environmental Protection (Water and Wetlands Biodiversity) Policy 2019.

The scope of the amendment includes:

- establishing environmental values, water quality objectives and aquatic ecosystems mapping for the surface waters of the eastern Cape York basins and coastal waters; and
- establishing environmental values and water quality objectives for Mitchell and Walsh Rivers upper catchments receiving waters of the Mareeba Dimbulah Water Supply Scheme; and

- updates to the Wet Tropics coastal waters; including water quality objectives, aquatic ecosystems mapping and minor amendments to fresh waters based on the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality 2018; and
- establishing environmental values, water quality objectives and aquatic ecosystems mapping for the surface waters and groundwaters of the Queensland Murray-Darling and Bulloo basins.

Human Rights Issue

Human rights relevant to the subordinate legislation (Part 2, Division 2 and 3 *Human Rights Act 2019*)

The Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy (No. 1) 2020 will not affect any of the Human Rights listed in Part 2, Division 2 and 3 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*. There are no restrictions of, or interference with any of the Human rights listed.

Consideration of reasonable limitations on human rights (section 13 *Human Rights Act 2019*)

Not applicable.

Conclusion

I consider that the Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy (No. 1) 2020 is compatible with the *Human Rights Act 2019* because it does not engage any human rights.

LEEANNE ENOCH
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF
MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

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