

# Impact Analysis Statement

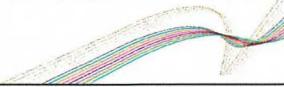
## Summary IAS

### Details

Lead department	Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers
Name of the proposal	Border Rivers and Moonie Water Entitlement Notice 2025
Submission type	Summary IAS
Title of related legislative or regulatory instrument	Border Rivers and Moonie Water Entitlement Notice 2025
Date of issue	August 2025

Proposal type	Details
Minor and machinery in nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Water Plan (Border Rivers and Moonie) 2019 (Water Plan) commenced 22 February 2019. The Water Plan provides a framework for the sustainable management of water resources within the plan area. The Water Plan expires on 1 September 2029.</li> <li>The Water Plan applies to the following water resources within the plan area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>water in a watercourse or lake;</li> <li>water in a spring not connected to water to which the Water Plan (Great Artesian Basin and Other Regional Aquifers) 2017 applies;</li> <li>overland flow water, other than water in a spring connected to water to which the Water Plan (Great Artesian Basin and Other Regional Aquifers) 2017 applies;</li> <li>underground water to which the Water Plan (Great Artesian Basin and Other Regional Aquifers) 2017 does not apply.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Water Plan forms part of the Queensland Border Rivers-Moonie Water Resource Plan which was accredited by the Australian Government in September 2019 as consistent with <i>the Murray-Darling Basin Plan 2012</i>.</li> <li>The Border Rivers and Moonie Water Entitlement Notice 2025 (BRM WEN) implements the Water Plan and will provide for the granting of 27 new water licences and the amendment of 28 existing water licences for the relevant take of overland flow (OLF) water on the Border Rivers and Moonie floodplains.</li> <li>For the 27 proposed new licensees, their pre-existing right to take OLF water is provided under section 101 (1)(b) of the <i>Water Act 2000</i> (Water Act) through notified existing OLF works under section 39(1)(c)(ii) of the Water Plan.</li> <li>For the 28 existing licensees, their pre-existing right to take OLF water is prescribed under existing water licences, however these licences are being amended for consistency in terms of content and conditions.</li> <li>The granting and amending of water licences through the BRM WEN will deliver on a measure under the Water Plan and deliver on a commitment to measure high-risk take of water included in the <i>Murray-Darling Basin Compliance Compact</i>.</li> </ul>

Proposal type	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The BRM WEN is minor and machinery in nature, as it represents a routine update on the process of implementing the Water Plan and complying with the <i>Queensland Non-Urban Water Measurement Policy (1 September 2022)</i> and the <i>Queensland Non-Urban Water Measurement Standard (2 December 2024)</i>.</li> <li>• The BRM WEN does not result in any substantive regulatory or policy change that has not already been through specific and robust consultation and impact analysis procedures during: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the making of the BRM WEN under the Water Act;</li> <li>– the making of the Water Plan under the Water Act;</li> <li>– the making of the <i>Queensland Non-Urban Water Measurement Policy</i> and the <i>Queensland Non-Urban Water Measurement Standard</i>;</li> <li>– the making of legislative amendments to the Water Act in September 2023 (<i>Act 2023, No. 24</i>) and the Water Regulation 2016 in July 2024 (<i>2024 SL No. 121</i>) that provided the operational and administrative requirements necessary to implement the strengthened non-urban water measurement policy and updated measurement standards.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A Summary Impact Analysis Statement was issued by the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers (DLG WV) on 2 December 2024 for the publication of the updated Queensland non-urban water measurement standards.</li> <li>• The relevant measure under section 25(1)(c) of the Water Plan requires that all relevant taking of OLF is measured, as directed by the chief executive, by 31 December 2022. The measure was included in the Water Plan in response to an increased level of risk of taking OLF water from the Border Rivers and Moonie floodplains beyond the level of works that existed when Water Act section 30 moratoria became effective prohibiting new OLF works. The moratorium notices were put in place on 20 September 2000 for Border Rivers catchments and 9 June 2001 for Moonie River catchments.</li> <li>• There has been extensive technical assessment and hydrologic modelling based on information from detailed reports prepared by a Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland (RPEQ) and provided by landholders in the development of the draft BRM WEN. While undertaking this work, there was significant engagement with landowners and RPEQ on a property-by-property basis to ensure the assessment and modelling accurately represented the take of OLF water that could have been taken under the relevant operating arrangements at the time of the moratoria.</li> <li>• On 17 July 2024, the chief executive's delegate made a written direction under the Water Plan section 25(1)(c), stating that water licences for OLF take in the BRM area should include content and conditions which facilitate the measurement of relevant take (and which are standardised to the extent possible to achieve consistency across water licences in the Plan Area). The BRM WEN progresses the direction of the chief executive made under the Water Plan.</li> <li>• A WEN is made by the chief executive and is subject to a robust process of notification and consultation with affected parties, and review of submissions and issues including by an independent expert Water Act Referral Panel, prior to being finalised, approved and published, under the Water Act (sections 70 to 77).</li> </ul>



Proposal type	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft BRM WEN was released for comment in August 2024. An extended submission period was provided, and meetings were offered with all affected landholders. DLGWV undertook a thorough analysis of submissions. An independent Water Act Referral Panel provided recommendations to DLGWV in making the final BRM WEN.</li> <li>The BRM WEN is a statutory instrument made by the chief executive, or delegate of the chief executive, and approved by the Governor in Council under the Water Act.</li> </ul>

## Impact assessment

	First full year	First 10 years**
<b>Direct costs – Compliance costs*</b>	In alignment with the <i>Water Regulation 2016</i> , an annual licence fee (at 1 July 2025 the fee is \$95.13 excluding GST) will apply to 27 licences to be granted through the final WEN. Licencing fees for new licences was considered in the development of the Water Plan.	Under the Water Act, water licence fees are ongoing and there is no usage charge currently applied to OLF water take in the BRM. The <i>Queensland Non-Urban Water Measurement Policy</i> sets out the objectives and approach for implementation and compliance for the updated metering and measurement requirements, which are reflected in the BRM WEN. This policy and the related legislative amendments were developed in consultation with peak bodies and industry groups, water users and the community. The costs of implementation were considered during policy development and under the related legislative amendment processes.
<b>Direct costs – Government costs</b>	Water licence administration and compliance under existing DLGWV programs – ongoing administrative costs.	Water management and compliance under existing DLGWV programs – ongoing administrative costs.

## Signed

Joshua Hannan  
Acting Director-General

Date: 11 / 7 /2025

Ann Leahy MP  
Minister for Local Government and Water and  
Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers

Date: 14 / 8 /2025