

Public Notice

Preliminary public consultation notice – Proposed replacement of the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007 – s44 of the *Water Act 2000*

1. Proposal to replace the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007

Notice is given under section 44 of the *Water Act 2000* that the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water proposes to replace the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007 (the Moreton water plan).

2. Water to which the plan will apply

It is proposed that the replacement Moreton water plan will continue to apply to the following water in the plan area:

- surface water in a watercourse or lake;
- surface water in springs not connected to groundwater;
- groundwater, other than groundwater to which the *Water Plan (Great Artesian Basin and Other Regional Aquifers) 2017* applies;
- overland flow water, other than water in springs connected to groundwater.

3. Reason for preparing the replacement plan

The Moreton water plan is due to expire on 14 December 2026. Assessments indicate the implementation of the plan has been effective in achieving many of the plan outcomes. However, to ensure the Moreton water plan can continue to advance the sustainable management of water resources in the plan area, the following issues need to be considered –

- effectiveness of outcomes, measures, strategies and performance indicators set out in the water plan
- future urban water supply requirements in the plan area to achieve regional water security
- water security for communities outside the SEQ Water Grid
- underground water management
- effectiveness of water sharing and water trading rules
- effectiveness of environmental management rules
- incorporating best-available science, including consideration of climate change on water availability and the water needs for the environment
- effectiveness of overland flow management
- current and emerging interests of Aboriginal people, Torres Strait Islander people and Native Title Holders in relation to water resources in the Moreton water plan area
- entitlements without volumetric limits
- requirements under the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

To address these issues, I propose to prepare a replacement plan. It is also proposed that key documents which implement the plan, including the Water Management Protocol, Water Entitlement Notice, Resource Operations Licences and Operations Manuals, will be developed or amended as necessary during the plan replacement process.

4. Proposed arrangements for consultation

Submissions are now being sought. I encourage anyone with an interest in the Moreton water plan area to consider putting forward their thoughts on water management in the plan area through a submission.

Submissions received and engagement with key stakeholders including water users, water supply scheme operators, Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islanders and other interest groups will inform the development of the draft replacement Moreton water plan.

There will be further opportunity for consultation through a public submissions process and meetings with key stakeholders following the release of the draft replacement Moreton water plan.

5. Enquiries and submission process

For further information or to make a submission on water planning aspects within the Moreton, please use the following:

- email MoretonWP@rdmw.qld.gov.au
- telephone 07 3708 8999
- or by post to:

Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
Chief Executive
Water Planning and Science South Region
Attention: Senior Policy Officer
GPO Box 2247
Brisbane QLD 4001

Submissions will close 5pm Friday 2 February 2024.

Dated this 3rd day of November 2023

The Hon. Mr Glenn Butcher MP

Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water

Hamish Butler

Executive Director – South Region (as the Chief Executive’s delegate)