

Public Notice

Preliminary public consultation notice – Proposed replacement of the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006 – s44 of the *Water Act 2000*

1. Proposal to replace the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006

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 (Mary Basin) 2006 (**the plan**).

2. Water to which the plan will apply

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

- water in a watercourse, lake or spring
- underground water in the Cooloola Sandmass subartesian area.

3. Reason for preparing the replacement plan

The existing plan is due to expire on 1 September 2021. Assessments indicate the implementation of the plan has been effective in achieving many of the plan outcomes. However, to ensure the 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
- future urban needs and agriculture expansion
- unallocated water reserves
- effectiveness of water sharing rules to facilitate more flexible arrangements
- effectiveness of environmental management rules
- the impacts of the Millennium drought
- the need to incorporate best-available science, including consideration of climate change on water availability and water needs of threatened species
- current and emerging interests of any Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islanders in relation to water resources in the plan area and
- 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 Mary Basin 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 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 water plan.

5. Enquiries and submission process

For further information or to make a submission on water planning aspects within the Mary Basin water plan area that you feel needs addressing please use the following:

- email waterplanning.mary@rdmw.qld.gov.au
- telephone 07 5352 4216
- or by post to
Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
Chief Executive
Water Services South Region
Attention: Senior Project Officer
LMB 383
Gympie QLD 4570

Submissions will close on 30 July 2021.

Dated this 27th day of May 2021

The Hon. Mr Glenn Butcher MP

Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water

David Wiskar

Executive Director Water Policy (as the Chief Executive's delegate)