

# Public Notice

## Preliminary public consultation notice – Proposed replacement of the Water Plan (Gold Coast) 2006 – s44 of the *Water Act 2000*

### 1. Proposal to replace the Water Plan (Gold Coast) 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 (Gold Coast) 2006 (**the plan**).

### 2. Water to which the plan will apply

It is proposed that the replacement plan will continue to apply to the water in a watercourse, lake or spring

It is also proposed to investigate whether the replacement plan will apply to overland flow water and underground water in the plan area.

### 3. Reason for preparing the replacement plan

The existing 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 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
- opportunities for new unallocated water reserves
- future urban needs and water security for off-grid communities
- 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
- underground water management in the moratorium areas of Tamborine Mountain and Springbrook
- overland flow and underground water management
- current and emerging interests of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders, and Native Title holders in relation to water resources in the 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 Licence and Operations Manual, 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 Gold Coast 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 Gold Coast 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 Gold Coast water plan.

#### 5. Enquiries and submission process

For further information or to make a submission on water planning aspects within the Gold Coast water plan area, please use the following:

- email [GoldCoastWP@rdmw.qld.gov.au](mailto:GoldCoastWP@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 on 21 July 2023.

**Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 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)**