



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEES**

Report on subordinate legislation tabled between 27 August 2025 and 9 December 2025

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee



Report No. 9

58th Parliament, March 2026

Overview

This report summarises the committee’s findings following its examination of the single piece of subordinate legislation within its portfolio areas that was tabled between 27 August 2025 and 9 December 2025. It reports on any issues identified by the committee relating to the policy to be given effect by the legislation, fundamental legislative principles and lawfulness. It also reports on the compliance of the explanatory notes with the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* (LSA).¹

The report also notes any issues identified by the committee in its consideration of compliance with the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HRA)² and the human rights certificates tabled with the subordinate legislation.³

Subordinate legislation examined

No.	Subordinate legislation	Date tabled	Disallowance date*
147	Water Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2025	9 December 2025	23 April 2026

* Disallowance dates are based on proposed sitting dates as advised by the Leader of the House. These dates are subject to change.

Committee consideration of the subordinate legislation

Committee Comment



The committee did not identify any significant issues regarding the policy, consistency with fundamental legislative principles, the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation or non-compliance with the HRA.

Similarly, the committee considers that the explanatory notes tabled with the subordinate legislation noted in this report comply with the requirements of section 24 of the LSA, which includes advice about consultation, and that the human rights certificates tabled with the subordinate legislation provide a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the subordinate legislation in relation to their compatibility with the HRA.

1 SL No. 147 – Water Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2025

The Water Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2025 (SL No. 147) amends the Water Regulation 2016 (Water Regulation) to:

- dissolve the Fernlee Water Authority (FWA) for conversion to alternative institutional structures consisting of all the parties to the Boanbirra Bore Water Scheme, Booroomba Bore Water Scheme and Janalian Bore Water Scheme⁴

¹ *Legislative Standards Act 1992*, Part 4. See also, LSA s 4.

² *Human Rights Act 2019*, s 8, 13.

³ *Human Rights Act 2019*, s 41.

⁴ SL No. 147, s 5.

- extend by a year (to 1 December 2026) the period before which holders of relevant authorisations in 6 water management areas within 2 Queensland Murray-Darling Basin water plans are required to attach a telemetry device to their meters⁵
- amend the meter revalidation dates for a plan area and certain sub-catchment areas.⁶

Fernlee Water Authority

The FWA is a category 2 water authority⁷ that distributes water for stock and domestic supply. FWA's Board requested the dissolution of FWA and transfer of its assets and liabilities to 3 closed water activity agreements.⁸ According to the explanatory notes, such a dissolution is consistent with the recommendations of the Webbe-Weller review of statutory bodies in Queensland, 'which found that, on balance, the public interest was not served by the continuance of these authorities'.⁹

Extension of time

The Water Regulation prescribes measurement requirements to apply to relevant authorisations. SL No. 147 amends the Water Regulation to provide holders of relevant authorisations in 6 water management areas within the Water Plan (Border Rivers and Moonie) 2019 and the Water Plan (Condamine and Balonne) 2019 with an additional 12 months to attach a telemetry device to their metres.

The explanatory notes state that the extension of time will:

*... provide relevant authorisation holders more time to understand and meet their regulatory obligations and to access the funding available from the Australian Government to subsidise the costs of installation and certification.*¹⁰

Revalidation dates

The explanatory notes provide that certified meters installed on works used to take water must be certified every 5 years. Meters approved prior to the commencement of the measurement requirements have revalidation dates prescribed in the Water Regulation.¹¹ After revalidation, the meters become certified and are subject to the 5 yearly certification.¹²

SL No. 147 prescribes revalidation dates for a plan area under the Water Plan (Barron) 2023 and 3 sub-catchment areas under the Water Plan (Burdekin Basin) 2007 and the Water Resource (Whitsunday) Plan 2010.

⁵ SL No. 147, s 6.

⁶ SL No. 147, ss 3, 4.

⁷ A category 2 water authority is a water authority other than the Gladstone Area Water Board or the Mount Isa Water Board. *Water Act 2000*, sch 4.

⁸ Closed water activity agreements are described in section 695A of the *Water Act 2000*.

⁹ SL No. 147, explanatory notes, pp 1-2. See also, Simone Webbe and Pat Weller AO, *A Public interest map: an independent review of Queensland Government boards, committees and statutory authorities*, Part A report, December 2008.

¹⁰ SL No. 147, explanatory notes, p 2.

¹¹ See Water Regulation, sch 11.

¹² SL No. 147, explanatory notes, p 2.

The explanatory notes provide the rationale for prescribing the revalidation dates:

*Certified meter installation and revalidation dates in specific North Queensland water management areas require extension to better align measurement requirements with government initiatives and sustainable water management frameworks.*¹³

1.1 Consultation

The explanatory notes state that no consultation external to government was undertaken because the amendments are 'minor and machinery in nature'.¹⁴



Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the Legislative Assembly note this report.

James Lister MP

Chair

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

Chair Mr James Lister MP, Member for Southern Downs

Deputy Chair Mrs Margie Nightingale MP, Member for Inala

Members Mr Adam Baillie MP, Member for Townsville

Mr Mark Boothman MP, Member for Theodore

Mr Michael Healy MP, Member for Cairns

Ms Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton

¹³ SL No. 147, explanatory notes, p 2.

¹⁴ SL No. 147, explanatory notes, p 4.