

# Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water

## Public Notice

### Preliminary public consultation notice – Proposed replacement of the Water Plan (Barron) 2002 – s44 of the *Water Act 2000*

#### 1. Proposal to replace the Water Plan (Barron) 2002

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 (Barron) 2002 (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

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

#### 3. Reason for preparing the replacement plan

The existing plan is due to expire on 19 December 2022. 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
- opportunities for new unallocated water reserves
- potential future infrastructure arrangements
- effectiveness of water sharing and water trading rules
- effectiveness of environmental management rules
- effectiveness of groundwater management arrangements in the Atherton and Cairns Northern Beaches groundwater management areas
- update science assessments to include the past 20 years of climate and flow data, and include consideration of climate change
- identify and provide for water related cultural outcomes in consultation with Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders
- 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 Barron 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 Barron water plan area please use the following:

- email [waterplanning.barron@dnrme.qld.gov.au](mailto:waterplanning.barron@dnrme.qld.gov.au)
- telephone 1800 697 805
- or by post to  
Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water  
Chief Executive  
Water Planning North Region  
Attention: Coordinator, Water Plan Implementation  
PO Box 156  
**Mareeba Qld 4880**

Submissions will close on COB Friday 16 April 2021.

**Dated this 1st day of March 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)**