























## WATER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018 (SERIAL 60)

### OVERVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

#### SUBMISSIONS

In response to the call made by the Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee, 442 submissions were received on the proposed Water Legislation Amendment Bill (the Bill or Serial 60); comprising:

- 3 from mining and petroleum industry sectors (#1, #2, #13);
- 4 from environmental groups/interests (#7, #8, #10, #11);
- 421 from individuals using a Proforma A (#5);
- 3 from individuals using a Proforma B (#6);
- 7 from individual members of the public (#3, #4, #9, #12, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18); and
- 2 from other interests (#19, #20).

#### COMMENTS IN SUPPORT

Support for the Bill was directly expressed in 7 submissions:

1. “ ... understands and supports ... bringing the mining and petroleum industries into line with other water-using industries ... under the amended *Water Act* “(#1 Minerals Council of Australia NT Division)
2. “ ... vital that this Bill pass the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner to facilitate significant private sector investment “(#13 Australian Association of Petroleum Production & Exploration Association Ltd)
3. “On the whole, EDONT supports the Bill subject to our comments and suggested amendments “ (#7 Environmental Defenders Office NT)
4. “We support the amendment in principle ... “ (#8 Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand)
5. “Overall, we welcome the update to the Act to remove an exemption for mining and petroleum in section 15 ... (and) ... acknowledge improvements ... including by introducing strict liability offences and reversing the burden of proof. “(#10 Lock the Gate Alliance)
6. “ ... I support the inclusion of mining and petroleum companies and the significant increases in penalties ... “ (#15 Dr Rosalie Schultz, FRACGP, FARGP, FAFPHM)
7. “ ... the NTCA is pleased with the inclusion of a defence to prosecution ... (at) Section 56 ... to allow for the urgent drilling of bores in circumstances which without the urgent access to groundwater could or would result in adverse public health and animal welfare outcomes. “ (#19 Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association)

#### COMMENTS RELATING TO OUT OF SCOPE MATTERS

A significant number of submissions included comments concerning two matters that lie outside of the approved scope of the Bill:

- Retaining sections 7(2) and 7(4) from the *Water Act*, which prevent the Act applying to waste discharges and pollution within mining and petroleum sites (#4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, #14, #16, #18); and
- Implementing all relevant recommendations in Chapter 7 of the *Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory* (#4, #5, #6, #9, #10, #11, #14, #20)

When approving the scope of Bill, Government agreed that sections 7(2) and 7(4) of the *Water Act* will continue to regulate waste discharges and pollution leaving mining and petroleum sites until the new environmental protection Act is established.

Also, the recommendations from the *Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory (Inquiry Report)* will be incorporated into the *Water Act* under a separate Bill that will be introduced in the near future.

Comments on other matters that are also outside the scope of the Bill were also received. These other matters should be addressed during the planned comprehensive public consultation on a broader array of water reform topics that will occur during 2019. These comments covered the following range of matters:

- Will the amended legislation include offences and penalties to protect mining explorers' monitoring bores from interference (#1)
- Concerned that unless (significant) water extraction for mining activities is adequately addressed as part of EIS processes, a water extraction licence is viewed as a *fait accompli*: it should be assessed/licensed/permitted as part of the primary environmental approval (#8)
- It is concerning that there is no clear legislative process for charging for water used by mining and petroleum industries (#11)
- Legality to manage/stop risks to sustainability, human rights and natural biodiversity should be implemented to prevent companies suing (#4)
- It is detrimental (*sic*) the Bill ensures the purpose of the Act is to 'protect the safety, health and wellbeing of Territorians, the water and the land' (#4)
- The opportunity has not been taken to address long standing criticisms of the water allocation planning process and unchecked powers of the Controller of Water; and there is no recognition of recent failures of the Act to guard against inappropriate extra-procedural licensing for extraction and waste discharge (#9)
- Rather than relying on exemptions declared under section 47 of the *Water Act*, the Water Regulations should be amended to remove the need for grant of permits under the Act for drilling, construction and maintenance of stock and domestic bores on pastoral properties (#ntca)
- Reserves of water must be set aside for First Nation People for their consideration and as water rights for communities, for their homelands and for their natural areas at their discretion (#greens)
- All allocations must allow for reserves and sustainable supply and that sustainability must be part of the *Water Act* (#greens)
- All water users and waste discharges must be treated equally in paying for uses and discharges (#greens)
- Commercial endeavours should pay more because they profit from a communal resource (#greens)

Comments were also received on matters that will be addressed in the lead up to and following the passage of the Bill through planned stakeholder communications and the joint DENR-DPIR Implementation Policy: Applying the *Water Act* to Mining and Petroleum Activities, as approved by Government. Targeted communication and implementation activities will allay the concerns expressed in the following comments that were submitted:

- Uncertain about impact on planning and on day-to-day operations of mineral developments (#1)
- Concerned about reforms until amended Act and Regulations are tested and recommend performance review after 1 year (#1)
- Concerned at possibility of duplicate reporting on water use to DENR & DPIR (#1)
- Concerned at statutory time frames for water extraction licensing decisions (#1)
- Will planning and allocations under the Act recognise that miners can use lower quality water not sought by other users (#1)
- Additional layer of red tape will result in higher cost to industry (#2)
- Inclusion of a water extraction licence is duplicative of the EPA and DPIR approvals required before a mine can proceed (#2)

- Unclear how the additional layer of licensing and DENR will improve environmental outcomes (#2)
- Water is often a “hindrance” in mining exploration and operations (#2)
- Mineral exploration is small scale shorter time-frame operation (#2)
- Water extraction licences for industry should be accessible to the public (#11).

## COMMENTS RELATING TO MATTERS IN SCOPE

Comments relating directly to the Bill and the Department’s responses are as follow:

### 1. BURDEN OF PROOF

The majority of the new offences proposed in the Bill place the onus on a defendant to prove that the defendant took reasonable steps and exercised due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence.

#### Submitter Comments:

- Fundamentally opposed to reversal of burden of proof (#2).
- Reverse onus of proof provisions for strict liability offences go beyond HFI Final Report (**Final Report**) recommendation 14.32 (#13).

#### DENR Response:

- Reversing the burden of proof is considered appropriate considering the capability of a small regulatory force to police the remote and extended reaches of the NT.
- Prosecutions are unlikely to be raised if it is understood that alleged offenders could prove they had taken reasonable steps and exercised due diligence etc.
- The **Inquiry Report** was completed and endorsed too late for comprehensive inclusion in the Bill.

### 2. LEGAL CLARIFICATIONS

#### Submitter Comments:

- Evidence” provisions do not expressly provide for rebuttal [e.g. new section 40(8)] and should allow the accused to rebut the statutory presumption as contemplated in the **Inquiry Report** (#13).
- “Evidence” provisions are insufficiently precise for criminal proceedings compared to examples given in the **Inquiry Report** and new sections 40(8), 59(6) and 66(6) should be removed (#13).

#### DENR Response:

- There is no need to expressly provide a right of ‘rebuttal’ in sections 40(8), 59(6), and 66(6).
- The defence has this right unless expressly abolished – which the Bill does not do.
- These provisions deal with *prima facie* evidence only, which is open to rebuttal by defendants bringing counter evidence that is only available from their own knowledge. Given the nature of the offences, the remoteness of most ‘water users’, a small regulatory force and the prosecution still having to prove the offence beyond reasonable doubt, these provisions are considered appropriate.

#### Submitter Comments:

- The elements of the offences should be more clearly articulated. In particular, the elements of the absolute liability offences for executive officers should be more clearly articulated (#13)
- In particular the elements of the offences at sections 98 and 99 should be more clearly articulated. Guidance or thresholds should be given on the meanings of “diminish”, “materially diminish”, “reckless” and “enjoyment” (#13)

DENR Response:

- All offences have been brought into compliance with Part IIAA of the NT Criminal Code Act which means the elements of all offences are clearly articulated for criminal proceedings and due diligence assessments.
- DENR will establish guidelines both for internal administrative purposes and for broader public understanding.
- It should be noted that sections 98 and 99 in particular will provide protection from third party interference to water extraction licences and authorised water monitoring infrastructure held and operated by mining and petroleum activities.

Submitter Comments:

- We request that the Committee reconsider wording providing for a 'took reasonable steps' defence to several offences – to include 'compliance with the relevant law'; and where there is non-compliance there should be enforcement (#10).
- Alternatively, different penalties could apply where the company or person made attempts to prevent the offence occurring (#10).

DENR Response:

- The defence is 'taking reasonable steps and exercising due diligence'.
- The defence provided is reasonable and allows extenuating circumstance for non-compliance to be considered on a case by case basis.
- New section 105C .gives the court discretion to consider penalties on a case by case basis and taking these factors into account.

Submitter Comment:

- Unreasonable to be presumed guilty prior to entering an area (#2).

DENR Response:

- This concern is understood to arise from the definition of '*occupier*' and the liability under new section 102 whereby a land occupier may also be guilty of an offence committed by another person on the land.
- This liability carried by a land occupier (and owner) is considered appropriate, given the 'duty of care' established by new section 102(1) and 'standard' defence to prosecution given in new section 102(3).

Submitter Comment:

- It is unclear if the definition of *occupier* includes all petroleum tenure holders or just the operator (#13).
- It is unclear if all petroleum tenure holders need to hold *Water Act* authorisations or if it is just the operator (#13).
- Clarity is needed on liabilities when the petroleum tenure is held by several persons and the *Water Act* authorisation is held by only one of the tenure holders or by the operator (#13).

DENR Response:

- If tenure holders are entitled to occupy the land then they are occupiers for the purpose of the Act – both when they physically occupy the land and when they do not.
- If operators are entitled to occupy the land (e.g. by lawful arrangement with the tenure holder) then they are occupiers for the purpose of the Act - both when they physically occupy the land and when they do not.

- *Water Act* authorisations can be held by the petroleum tenure holder or by an operator authorised by the tenure holder. They can also be held jointly by the tenure holder and operator if that is their preference.
- The holders of *Water Act* authorisations must have legal right of access to the land associated with the authorisation.
- The holder of a *Water Act* authorisation definitely carries liability for contravention of the authorisation.
- Tenure holders who do not hold a *Water Act* authorisation carry liability as land occupiers for contravention of the Act on the tenure land by an operator authorised to occupy the tenure area by the tenure holder – subject to the defences available to the tenure holder as an occupier in these circumstances.
- Tenure holders who do not hold a *Water Act* authorisation carry liability as land occupiers for contravention of the Act by an operator or other tenure holder authorised to occupy the tenure area – subject to the defences available to the tenure holder as an occupier in these circumstances.

Submitter Comment:

- Civil offences apply to ‘a person’ which could be an operator, petroleum tenure holder or both. Criminal offences apply to the *occupier* and the executive officer of an *occupier* – and clarity on the definition of *occupier* is important (#13).

DENR Response:

- *Water Act* offences are all considered to be criminal offences.
- The Bill proposes a new clearer definition of term *occupier* for section 4 of the *Water Act*:
  - a) a person occupying the land (under whatever title or permission, or without title or permission);
  - or
  - b) a person entitled to occupy the land, whether or not the person is actually occupying the land.

### 3. PENALTIES

Submitter Comments:

- All penalty units should be much higher than proposed – at least equivalent to \$1,000,000 (#4).
- The penalties should be at least 10 times what is proposed – more like what they have currently in NSW (#5).
- We consider that the update penalties remain well below best practice and observe that the penalties in Qld and NSW are almost double those proposed in the Bill, and submit that the penalties must be significantly increased (#7).
- The proposed new penalties fall well below those available in other jurisdictions (#10).
- The penalties proposed in the Bill are too small compared to other jurisdictions and should be increased to ensure they will operate as an effective deterrent to offending under the Act (#11).
- The increased penalties do not bring the NT into line with other jurisdictions (#9).
- Penalties need to be at least brought into line with standards in other jurisdictions and made an order of magnitude larger (#14).

DENR Response:

- New penalties will rank third highest, behind Queensland and New South Wales only, having come from absolute lowest.
- Circumstances in the Northern Territory are not considered to warrant higher penalties than proposed, particularly given the clearer and extensive assignment of criminal liabilities and the possibility that ‘water use’ offences committed by or in association with mining and petroleum activities may be prosecuted simultaneously under the *Water Act*, *Mining Management Act* and *Petroleum Act*.

#### 4. HYDRAULIC FRACTURING DEFINITION

##### Submitter Comments:

- The definition of *hydraulic fracturing* needs to be updated to mean “the process of injecting fluid at high pressure into a hole in the ground to extract petroleum resources and hydrocarbons from subterranean rock” (#5).
- We recommend the definition of *hydraulic fracturing* should not be limited to extraction of ‘shale gas’ and should capture any hydrocarbon (gas, oil) that is subject to the process of hydraulic fracturing.(#7).
- The definition of *hydraulic fracturing* should be amended to mean “the process of injecting fluid at high pressure into a hole in the ground to extract petroleum resources and hydrocarbons from subterranean rock” (#10).
- The definition of hydraulic fracturing should be broadened: well stimulation is utilised in non-shale source rocks (#11).
- The definition of *hydraulic fracturing* should be broadened to mean “the process of injecting fluid at high pressure into a hole in the ground to extract petroleum resources and hydrocarbons from subterranean rock” (#11).
- The definition of hydraulic fracturing should be “the process of injecting fluid at high pressure into a hole in the ground to extract petroleum resources and hydrocarbons from subterranean rock” (#14).

##### DENR Response:

- This definition has one purpose – it is purely for the purposes of section 113 in the transition arrangements – in order to ensure that *Water Act* licences and permits will be required for activities associated with hydraulic fracturing immediately upon commencement of the *Water Legislation Amendment Act 2018*; in line with Government policy arising from the ***Inquiry Report***.

#### 5. TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

##### Submitter Comments:

- Section 113 should be clarified to make it explicit that all existing activities will transition to the new Act as their EMPs and MMPs are renewed and that there should be a maximum time-frame of 2 years from commencement of the amended Act for existing activities to transition to the new framework (#7).
- This belated arrival to 21<sup>st</sup> century environmental law reform explicitly exempts, in section 113, activities which began, or were applied for, before these amendments (#9).
- This is at odds with the intent of the *Mining Management Act*, which requires regular renewal of permits (#9).
- Inconsistent application of regulations to fracking activities compared to other petroleum and mining activities will split regulation of the industry in two (#11).
- There are uncertainties about the transitional provisions, particularly the regulation of mining applications currently progressing through assessment (#11).
- There is a risk that mining projects currently progressing through assessment will never be regulated under the updated Act (#11).
- According to section 113, if a mining or petroleum activity applies for a management plan before the end of the transition period the former Act will apply – it is not clear whether this will be for the entire life of that project and water use will never be regulated under the amended Act (#11).
- As mining and petroleum management plans are not publicly available, there will be no public oversight and transparency of water use by those activities (#11).
- There should be a mandatory provision that all mining and petroleum activities must be regulated under the *Water Act* after one year following the end of the transition period (#11).

- During the transition period, water issues for mining will be regulated by DPIR but water issues for fracking will be regulated by DENR – this separation in regulation has not been justified, is environmentally inappropriate and could lead to duplication of water regulation (#11).

DENR Response:

- Proposed new section 113(d)(ii) explains that the former Act will apply to mining and petroleum activities for which applications for approval of management plans were received before the end of the transition period and those plans were approved without change. When those plans are amended then the amended Act will apply.
- The only difference in implementation processes is that the amended *Water Act* and Regulations will apply to petroleum activities related to hydraulic fracturing 6 months earlier than they will to all other petroleum and mining activities.
- Transition period for mining and conventional petroleum activities is required to allow them to prepare and submit applications for *Water Act* licences and permits, while the immediate application to unconventional petroleum activities is in line with Government policy arising from the *Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory*.
- Based on audits of all current mining management plans and petroleum environment management plans, and continuation of current annual re-approval of mining management plans, DENR believes that all petroleum and mining activities will be subject to the *Water Act* within 18 months of the amended Act commencing.
- No currently approved petroleum activities involve ‘water use’ that will require licensing under the amended Act.
- The *Mining Management Act* and Regulations do not require regular renewal of permits but all amendments to operations trigger the need for approval of an amended mining management plan at which time the amended *Water Act* and Regulations will apply.
- Mining exploration and petroleum management plans are posted to DPIR web-site and there is an election commitment to add all mining management plans.

**6. MISCELLANEOUS**

Submitter Comment:

- Mining authorisation under the *Mining Management Act* should be conditional on prior issue of water extraction licences for projects extracting over a certain volume or significantly reducing downstream flows (#8).

DENR Response:

- This two-step process would extend/delay project approval time-frames unnecessarily and the proposed approach to run the mining and water extraction approval processes in parallel should be preferred by all stakeholders.

Submitter Comment:

- Section 41(3) should be retained and amended to state that some interference with a waterway must be time constrained as directed by the Controller (#8).

DENR Response:

- There will always be time constraints specified in the terms and conditions of a permit to interfere with a waterway and it is unnecessary to write this into the Act



## IMPLEMENTATION POLICY

### APPLYING THE *WATER ACT* TO MINING AND PETROLEUM ACTIVITIES

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#### 1.0 PURPOSE

To provide guidance for applying the *Water Act* to mining activities and petroleum activities from 2019 onwards in accordance with the transitional arrangements set out in Part 15 of the Act.

This policy is intended to:

- Ensure that statutory authorisation processes under the *Water Act*, *Mining Management Act* and *Petroleum Act* are appropriately coordinated through a clearly defined working arrangement between DENR and DPIR.
- Prevent unnecessary delays in the completion of all required statutory authorisations for current and proposed mining and petroleum activities.
- Define the ongoing regulatory compliance arrangements in regard to the *Water Act* and Regulations for mining and petroleum activities.
- Provide clarity to DENR and DPIR staff, industry stakeholders and the community about the application of the *Water Act* to sustainable water resource use by mining and petroleum activities.

#### 2.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- Granting a permit to interfere with a waterway;
- Granting a licence to take surface water or ground water;
- Undertaking bore work by a licensed driller;
- Granting a permit to do bore work;
- Granting a licence to recharge an aquifer; and
- Regulatory compliance functions relating to *Water Act* permits and licences granted for mining and petroleum activities.

This policy takes into account the exemptions declared under sections 15, 44 and 47 of the *Water Act* and operating from 1 January 2019. With specific regard to mining and petroleum activities, these exemptions are summarised as follows:

- Grant of a permit to interfere with a waterway under section 41(1) of the Act is not required if the interference is a dam with bank height less than 3 metres and a catchment area of less than 5 square kilometres.







- 4.14 In the event that a required licence or permit has been applied for but not granted before a mining management plan or environment management plan is approved, DENR will recommend that no compliance enforcement action be taken under the *Water Act* pending the granting of the licence or permit.
- 4.15 As far as is practicable, DENR will inspect water bore surface collars in Water Control Districts before construction continues under a permit to do bore work. Where such pre-construction inspections cannot be carried out, DENR will inspect water bores constructed for mining and petroleum activities during annual inspection of water extraction licence infrastructure.
- 4.16 DENR will inspect water meters and infrastructure associated with each water extraction licence at least annually for compliance with NT Code of Practice for non-Urban Water Meters, and discuss water use records and general operational matters with the licence holder (or agent).
- 4.17 DENR will inspect relevant structures on waterways in accordance with the terms and conditions of permits to interfere with waterways.
- 4.18 DENR will publish (to the Water Licensing Portal web-site) an annual report by 31 July each year on *Water Act* licence and permit compliance inspections, including those associated with mining activities and petroleum activities.

### **Water resource assessment and water allocation planning**

- 4.19 DENR and DPIR will collaborate closely on water allocation planning for water resource systems that provide water supplies for mining and petroleum activities to ensure that adequate and sustainable allocations are provided in an equitable and transparent manner for all consumptive use beneficial uses.
- 4.20 DPIR will make historical data on water resource extraction, standing water levels, water quality provided by petroleum activities and mining activities available to assist DENR in developing regional water resource models, undertaking water extraction licence application assessments and preparing water allocation plans. Sharing of data and other information between the respective agencies will be to the extent permitted under the *Water Act*, *Mineral Titles Act*, *Mining Management Act* and *Petroleum Act*. DENR will ensure such data is treated with the appropriate level of confidentiality.

## **5.0 GLOSSARY**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DPIR	Department of Primary Industry and Resources
Water Control District	An area declared under section 22 of the <i>Water Act</i> - usually where there is a need for enhanced management of water resources to ensure ecologically sustainable development.

## 6.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS AND LEGISLATION

- *Water Act* and Water Regulations
- *Mining Management Act* and Regulations
- *Petroleum Act* and Regulations
- NT Code of Practice for Non-urban Water Metering
- DENR Policy Position: Trading Water Entitlements - draft
- DENR Policy Position: Management of Unused Water Entitlements - draft.

## 7.0 APPROVAL

NT Government approval:	17/8/2018
Version	1.0
DENR/DPIR Approvers and Dates:	
Chief Executive Officer, DENR	Chief Executive Officer, DPIR
Joanne Townsend / /2018	Alister Trier / /2018

**Part 15 Transitional matters for Water Legislation Amendment Act 2018****112 Definitions**

In this Part:

**commencement** means the commencement of the *Water Legislation Amendment Act 2018*.

**former Act** means the *Water Act* as in force immediately before the commencement.

**hydraulic fracturing** means the process of injecting fluid at high pressure into a hole in the ground to extract shale gas from subterranean rock.

**offence provisions** means the provisions of this Act that create or relate to offences (including in relation to criminal responsibility, defences and penalties).

**transition period** means the period of 6 months on and from the commencement.

**113 Application to mining and petroleum activity**

The former Act continues to apply in relation to a mining activity or petroleum activity if:

- (a) the activity is not related to hydraulic fracturing; and
  - (b) the activity involves interfering with a waterway, taking surface water, taking ground water, bore work or recharging an aquifer; and
  - (c) the activity is conducted in accordance with:
    - (i) a mining management plan approved under the *Mining Management Act*; or
    - (ii) an environment management plan approved under the *Petroleum (Environment) Regulations*; and
- (2) The former Act continues to apply in relation to the activity if:
- (d) the activity started;
    - (i) before the end of the transition period; or
    - (ii) after the transition period, but the application for the management plan was made before the end of the transition period and was approved without change.

**APPLYING WATER EXTRACTION LICENSING TO MINING AND PETROLEUM ACTIVITIES**

2018						2019												2020 onwards
July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
<b>Unconventional petroleum activities</b>																		
An <b>unconventional petroleum activity</b> applies well stimulation techniques and must have an approved environmental management plan. The <i>Water Act</i> and Regulations will apply from 1 January 2019.																		
						DNR publishes Notices of Decision, Statements of Decisions and issues licences <b>from 1 April 2019 onwards</b> .												
						DNR assesses and lodges licence applications, advertises Notices of Intention and prepares Notices and Statements of Decision and draft licences.												
						DNR contacts projects requiring water extraction licences <b>after 31 March 2019</b> .												
DNR contacts projects needing water extraction licences <b>before 1 April 2019</b> .		DNR assesses and lodges licence applications, advertises Notices of Intention and prepares Notices and Statements of Decision and licences.				DNR publishes Notices and Statements of Decision and issues licences <b>before 1 April 2019</b> .												
						DPIR approves environment management plans for projects starting <b>after 31 March 2019</b> .												
						DPIR approves environment management plans for projects starting <b>before 1 April 2019</b> .												
DNR and DPIR monitor applications for approval of environment management plans and identify projects that will require <i>Water Act</i> licensing and/or permitting <b>from 1 January 2019 onwards</b> and synchronise administrative actions and scheduling of future authorisations required under the <i>Water Act</i> and <i>Petroleum Act</i> .																		
<b>Current mining activities and current conventional petroleum activities</b>																		
A <b>current mining activity</b> must have an approved mining management plan, or the application for approval must be accepted, by or on 30 June 2019. The <i>Water Act</i> and Regulations do not apply for the term of the approved plan.																		
A <b>current conventional petroleum activity</b> does not employ well stimulation techniques and must have an approved environment management plan, or the application for approval must be accepted, by or on 30 June 2019. The <i>Water Act</i> and Regulations do not apply for the term of the approved plan.																		
						DNR publishes Notices and Statements of Decision and issues licences in conjunction with approvals for mining management plans and environment management plans <b>starting from 1 July 2019 onwards</b> .												
						DNR assesses and lodges licence applications, advertises Notices of Intention and prepares Notices and Statements of Decision and licences.												
DNR informs all current projects of proposed changes to the <i>Water Act</i> and Regulations.		DNR contacts all projects that will require water extraction licences after their approved mining management and environmental management plans <b>expire from 1 July 2019 onwards</b> .																
<b>Future mining activities and future conventional petroleum activities</b>																		
A <b>future mining activity</b> will have had the application for approval of its mining management plan accepted after 30 June 2019. The <i>Water Act</i> and Regulations will apply from the start of the approved plan.																		
A <b>future conventional petroleum activity</b> will not employ well stimulation techniques and will have had the application for approval of its environment management plan accepted after 30 June 2019. The <i>Water Act</i> and Regulations will apply from the start of the plan.																		
						DPIR accepts and approves mining management plans and environmental management plans for projects starting <b>after 30 June 2019</b> .												
						DNR publishes Notices and Statements of Decision and issues licences in conjunction with approvals for mining management plans and environment management plans starting <b>after 30 June 2019</b> .												
						DNR assesses and lodges licence applications, advertises Notices of Intention and prepares Notices and Statements of Decision and licences for projects starting <b>after 30 June 2019</b> .												
						DNR and DPIR synchronise administrative actions and scheduling of future authorisations required <b>from 1 July 2019 onwards</b> under the <i>Water Act</i> , <i>Mining Management Act</i> and <i>Petroleum Act</i> .												
						DNR and DPIR monitor applications for approval of mining management plans and environment management plans and identify projects that will require <i>Water Act</i> licensing and/or permitting <b>from 1 July 2019 onwards</b> .												