

## **Statement of Human Rights Compatibility**

Prepared in accordance with the Thirteenth Assembly Sessional Orders (Part 12.3)  
as adopted on 24 August 2017.

### **Water Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2019**

This Bill is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011* (Cth).

#### **Overview of the Bill**

The Bill amends the *Water Act* and Water Regulations by addressing technical irregularities and administrative inefficiencies that have been identified in its administration. There are no changes in policy resulting from the proposed amendments.

#### **Human rights implications**

This Bill does not engage any of the applicable rights or freedoms.

The exclusion of water extraction licence decisions from Part 6A of the Act relating to trade of licensed entitlements between existing water extraction licences may be perceived to advantage those persons with existing water extraction licences, in that trade will be able to occur more readily. It is considered that the time and cost of publishing notices that would result if a new licence applicant resolved to trade with an existing licence holder would be insignificant when compared to the costs associated with the pumping of ground or surface water which is estimated to be in the order of fifty to eighty dollars per megalitre. (A licence might be 1,000 megalitres, as an example). Therefore, the saving for applicants in not requiring advertising to be paid for, confers no advantage on these people when the cost relativities are considered. These people have also, already paid once for their existing licences to be advertised.

#### **Conclusion**

The Bill is compatible with human rights.