1. The Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011 includes a range of amendments to water-related legislation.
2. Amendments to the *Water Act 2000* establish a Single Process framework for the concurrent development of water resource plans (WRPs) and resource operations plans (ROPs). The Single Process framework will provide stakeholders with the opportunity to consider both the draft WRP and draft ROP at the same time, providing greater opportunity for stakeholders to make an informed judgment about impacts on individual circumstances.
3. The Bill contains amendments to provide for Indigenous water reserves for each of the four wild river areas in the Gulf WRP plan area, including amendments to:
* the Gulf WRP to establish Indigenous water reserves including specified volumes of water; and
* the *Water Act 2000* to include a special provision to facilitate amendment of the Gulf ROP for dealing with the Indigenous water reserves.
1. Other amendments will address miscellaneous operational issues necessary to provide for continued effective implementation of the water planning and management framework under the *Water Act 2000*. Key amendments include:
* simplifying the notification of works process by changing the process to the publication of a notice by the chief executive rather than by subordinate legislation; and
* further streamlining the statutory process for transferring category 2 water authorities.
1. The Bill contains amendments to allow the Minister to establish Indigenous Reference Groups under the *Wild Rivers Act 2005* to provide greater engagement with Indigenous communities in the wild river declaration process. It also provides for the recognition of the wild river rangers program in the Wild Rivers Act.
2. An amendment will provide for a Property Development Plan (PDP) under the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007* to be recognised as a PDP in a wild river high preservation area of a wild river area, reducing the number of applications for proponents clearing vegetation for development in Indigenous Community Use Areas.
3. Cabinet approved that the Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
4. *Attachments*
* [Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory notes for the Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)