1. The Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 amends the *Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014* (the WROLA Act). The Bill provides for:

* explicitly reinstating the principles of ecologically sustainable development in the new purpose of the *Water Act 2000* (the Water Act) (as contained in the WROLA Act)
* replacing references to “responsible and productive management” with “sustainable management” in the purpose and throughout the WROLA Act
* omitting the provisions that allow for the declaration of designated watercourses
* omitting the water development option provisions in their entirety
* validating the establishment of the Lower Herbert Water Management Authority
* miscellaneous amendments to enable smooth implementation of the WROLA Act and to correct errors. These include:
  + correcting an error to ensure that a decision on a water licence application must be consistent with a water entitlement notice;
  + correcting an incorrect cross-reference in the Water Act to ensure all water allocations are registered on the water allocations register;
  + updating transitional provisions for water planning to ensure the provisions appropriately provide for the transition of water planning instruments from the Water Act to the new water planning framework under the WROLA Act;
  + correcting an oversight to ensure the chief executive considers the provisions of a water plan when deciding an application to relocate a water licence; and
  + making amendments to allow the chief executive to deal with a tenure that is partially within and partially outside a cumulative management area.

1. The Bill also includes operational amendments to clarify what was intended by amendments to the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940* (the RIT Act) by the WROLA Act, including:

* ensuring the Minister’s flexibility is retained to determine the appointees to a river improvement trust separately from a regulation establishing a trust; and
* making it clear that a trust is no longer required to seek chief executive approval prior to conducting works for the purpose of achieving the object of the RIT Act.

1. Cabinet approved that the Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*

* [Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2015](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)