



Managing Groundwater Impacts - Chapter 3 of the Water Act

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

Roles and responsibilities (EHP)

1. Environmental approvals – *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
2. Management of groundwater impacts – *Water Act 2000*

Chapter 3 of the Water Act - Overview

- Requires petroleum tenure holders (PTH) to monitor impacts, and enter into good agreements:
 - ✓ Baseline assessments
 - ✓ Underground water impact reports (UWIRs)
 - ✓ Bore assessments.
- Cumulative management areas.

Baseline Assessments

- All PTHs must prepare a baseline assessment plan
- Sets out a strategy for undertaking baseline assessments for water bores in the tenure area.
- Must be submitted to administering authority for approval before:
 - the **start day** for the tenure; or
 - A longer period if agreed to.

Underground Water Impact Report (UWIR)

- A UWIR must include:
 - Water quantity extraction records and estimates;
 - Details of aquifers affected or likely to be affected;
 - Maps identifying where water level declines are predicted to exceed the **bore trigger threshold**;
 - A water monitoring strategy; and
 - A spring impact management strategy.
- Responsible entities must also:
 - Undertake public consultation prior to submission
- New report – every 3 years

Make Good obligations

- Obligations for a PTH for a bore in an immediately affected area are:
 - Undertaking a bore assessment;
 - Entering in a make good agreement with the bore owner; and
 - If asked to vary the make good agreement – negotiating a variation of the make good agreement.
- The PTH's obligations continue after the tenure ends.



Make Good cont...

- A bore owner must be adequately compensated for any impacts on the bore's authorised use or purposes.
- Examples for making good include:
 - deepening the bore;
 - improving its pumping capacity;
 - constructing a new bore;
 - providing an alternative supply of suitable water; or
 - or providing financial compensation.

EHP's compliance activities

- Ensuring plans and reports are submitted on time...
- Ensuring that monitoring and make good agreements are entered into as outlined in reports and plans
- Working with the CSG Compliance Unit on any ongoing complaints or concerns.