1. The Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade, published a Moratorium Notice under the *Water Act 2000* in the Wet Tropics area prior to the commencement of the preparation of the Wet Tropics Water Resource Plan.
2. A moratorium places a hold on further water development and allocation, where such action is needed to protect natural ecosystems or existing entitlements. It also prevents pre-emptive development and provides a stable base of entitlements that is needed prior to the water resource planning process commencing.
3. Generally, the moratorium notice:
* Prevents the issuing of new water licences, place existing applications on hold, and stops construction of new groundwater bores.
* Ensures existing licence holders continue to access water available under their entitlement, and are able to construct any new works required to take water under an existing water licence.
* Ensures continued access to water for town water supplies, indigenous communities, fire fighting, home use, watering stock, flood prevention, road building, or projects of state significance.
1. The moratorium will remain in place for the duration of the water resource planning process.
2. Cabinet noted that the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade, intended to publish a Moratorium Notice - *Water Act 2000* (Wet Tropics) 2009.
3. *Attachments*
* [Moratorium Notice - *Water Act 2000* (Wet Tropics) 2009](Attachments/Moratorium%20Notice%20for%20the%20Wet%20Tropics%20River%20Basins%20ATTACHMENT.pdf)
* [Map of the Proposed Moratorium area](Attachments/Moratorium%20Notice%20for%20the%20Wet%20Tropics%20River%20Basins%20map.pdf)