1. Water service providers can set water restrictions under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* (the Water Supply Act) for the volume of water, hours of use and the way water is used. It is an offence to contravene a water service provider’s water restriction with penalties attached.
2. The Water Legislation (Water Restrictions) Amendment Bill 2021 (the Bill) amends the *South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009* to enable the distributor-retailers to appoint authorised persons empowered to undertake investigation and enforcement actions against water restriction offences. Specifically, authorised persons appointed by the distributor-retailers will be empowered to enter onto a residential or commercial property, with or without consent, to search for evidence of potential non-compliances with water restrictions.
3. In September 2019, when the first annual reports with the new cyber security information was required, it was identified there was a potential significant cyber security risk to urban water security throughout Queensland.
4. Amendments to the Water Supply Act ensures the protection of information relating to the security of the water service provider’s water control systems and their statutory reporting requirements. It is proposed to continue the reporting requirements on cyber security measures to the water supply regulator, the Chief Executive responsible for administering the Water Supply Act.
5. The primary objectives of the Bill are to:
* give distributor-retailers, Urban Utilities and Unitywater, appropriate powers to support the implementation, monitoring, investigation and enforcement of water restrictions in their geographic areas; and
* ensure water service providers have adequate protections for the non-disclosure of critical operational information related to their cyber security procedures and protocols.
1. Cabinet approved that the Water Legislation (Water Restrictions) Amendment Bill 2021 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*:
* [Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 (refer to Part 4 and Part 6)](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Statement of Compatibility](Attachments/SoC.PDF)