1. The South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 provides a streamlined approval process for new water and sewerage connections (the utility model) for south east Queensland distributor-retailers by merging two current approval processes.
2. The utility model will streamline the water and sewerage approval and connection process for developers and council owned distributor-retailers, Queensland Urban Utilities and Unitywater and their customers. Water and sewerage connection applications will be considered and approved directly by the relevant distributor-retailer to deliver simpler, faster and more cost effective approvals for all scales of development from a new house to a large scale subdivision.
3. Standard approvals with standard conditions apply to simple connections such as new houses, while accredited third parties will be able to manage aspects of more complicated water approval applications. The new streamlined approval process will make it easier for both developers and the distributor-retailers.
4. The Bill also strengthens the existing appeal process by introducing internal review to the distributor-retailer in the first instance to ensure early resolution of disputes between applicants and distributor-retailers.
5. The proposed amendments align with the Queensland Government’s broader planning reform agenda to deliver efficient, timely and transparent approval processes, supports the economic and infrastructure drivers within the Queensland Plan and economic development in south east Queensland.
6. Cabinet approved that the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 be incorporated into the Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, and its introduction into the Legislative Assembly.
7. Cabinet noted that the Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 will be referred to an appropriate Parliamentary Portfolio Committee for consideration and report.
8. *Attachments*
* [Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 (incorporating South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014)](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)