1. Urban water and sewerage services are mainly delivered by local governments across Queensland. Current regulation of these providers under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* is burdensome, has not improved asset management or water security outcomes and does not adequately identify or seek to address risks.
2. The Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 transforms the regulatory framework applying to water service providers under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* to focus on outcomes rather than process – a goal of governance under the working draft of the Queensland Plan. Key features of the transformed framework are annual performance reporting by providers and, publication by the Department of Energy and Water Supply (DEWS) of a comparative report of industry performance and outcome-based regulation of lower exposure recycled water schemes**.**
3. Under the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002* installation of a water meter is considered plumbing work that may only be done by or under the supervision of a licensed plumber. Water meters installed on a service provider’s infrastructure are owned by water service providers even where they are located inside the boundary of premises. Restricting installation of these meters to licensed plumbers imposes costs on providers who otherwise can undertake work on their infrastructure.
4. The Bill allows authorised persons appointed by a water service provider to install water meters on the service provider’s infrastructure, in addition to licensed plumbers. However, the installation of sub-meters in premises will remain work only to be done by a licensed plumber.
5. The Bill simplifies regulation of recycled water schemes which supply for lower exposure uses by removing the need for these schemes to have an approved recycled water management plan. However, all schemes, except coal seam gas water schemes, will need to be registered.
6. The Bill repeals the *Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Act 1909* which governed the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board until the Board was disestablished in 1928 and its powers were assigned to Brisbane City Council. This Act has been superseded by more modern legislation and is now redundant.
7. Cabinet approved the Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
8. Cabinet approved the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2014, subject of a separate submission, be incorporated into the Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 before introduction.
9. Cabinet noted the Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 will be referred to an appropriate Parliamentary Portfolio Committee for consideration and report.
10. *Attachments*
* [Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)