

South Australia

Water Industry Bill 2010

A BILL FOR

An Act to facilitate planning in connection with water demand and supply; to regulate the water industry, including by providing for the establishment of a licensing regime and providing for the regulation of prices, customer service standards, technical standards for water and sewerage infrastructure and installations and plumbing, and by providing performance monitoring of the water industry; to provide for other measures relevant to the use and management of water; to make amendments to various related Acts; to repeal the *Sewerage Act 1929*, the *Water Conservation Act 1936* and the *Waterworks Act 1932*; and for other purposes.

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The Parliament of South Australia enacts as follows:

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Water Industry Act 2010*.

2—Commencement

5 This Act will come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

3—Objects

The objects of this Act are—

- (a) to promote planning associated with the availability of water within the State to respond to demand within the community; and
- 10 (b) to promote efficiency, competition and innovation in the water industry; and
- (c) to provide mechanisms for the transparent setting of prices within the water industry and to facilitate pricing structures that reflect the true value of services provided by participants in that industry; and
- 15 (d) to provide for and enforce proper standards of reliability and quality in connection with the water industry, including in relation to technical standards for water infrastructure and installations and plumbing; and
- (e) to protect the interests of consumers of water and sewerage services; and
- (f) to promote measures to ensure that water is managed wisely.

4—Interpretation

- 20 (1) In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears—
 - adjacent land*, in relation to other land, means land that abuts on the other land;
 - authorised officer* means a person appointed under Part 8 as an authorised officer;
 - Commission* means the Essential Services Commission established under the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002*;
 - 25 *condition* includes a limitation or restriction;

connection point means—

- (a) the point at which a customer's pipes connect with any water infrastructure or sewerage infrastructure; or
- (b) in any prescribed circumstances—such other point as may be prescribed by the regulations;

consumer means a person supplied with retail services as a consumer or user of those services;

contravention includes a failure to comply;

council means a council within the meaning of the *Local Government Act 1999*;

customer means a person who owns land in relation to which a retail service is provided and includes—

- (a) where the context requires, a person seeking the provision of a retail service; and
- (b) in prescribed circumstances—a person supplied with retail services as a consumer or user of those services (without limiting the application of this definition to owners of land); and
- (c) a person of a class declared by the regulations to be customers;

designated customers—see subsections (2) and (3);

District Court means the Administrative and Disciplinary Division of the District Court;

draining work means the installation, alteration, repair, maintenance or disconnection of sanitary drains;

equipment includes—

- (a) pipes, fittings and apparatus; and
- (b) any component of any equipment;

Health Department means the administrative unit of the Public Service that is, under a Minister, responsible for the administration of the *Public and Environmental Health Act 1987*;

industry ombudsman scheme means the scheme applying for the purposes of section 26(1)(h);

infrastructure includes—

- (a) pipes, conduits and associated fittings and apparatus;
- (b) pumping stations;
- (c) storage tanks;
- (d) bores and wells;
- (e) dams or reservoirs;
- (f) embankments, walls, channels, drains, drainage holes or other forms of works or earthworks;
- (g) treatment facilities;

- (h) testing or monitoring equipment;
- (i) roads and other works to provide for the movement of vehicles or equipment or to provide access to land, works or other forms of infrastructure;
- (j) bridges and culverts;
- 5 (k) buildings and structures;
- (l) components of any infrastructure;
- (m) other items brought within the ambit of this definition by the regulations;

land includes—

- (a) an estate or interest in land (including an easement); or
- 10 (b) a right or power over or in respect of land;

Minister's Department means the administrative unit of the Public Service that is, under the Minister, responsible for the administration of this Act;

occupier of land or a place means a person who has, or is entitled to, lawful possession or control of the land or place;

15 **owner** of land means—

- (a) if land is unalienated Crown land—the Crown; or
- (b) if the land is alienated from the Crown by grant in fee simple—the owner of the estate in fee simple; or
- (c) if the land is held from the Crown by lease or licence—the lessee or licensee,

20 and includes an occupier of the land;

plumbing means—

- (a) water plumbing work, sanitary plumbing work or draining work on the customer's side of any connection point; or
- (b) any other work brought within the ambit of this definition by the regulations;

25 **retailer's licence**—see section 19;

retail service means a service constituted by—

- (a) the sale and supply of water to a person for use (and not for resale other than in prescribed circumstances (if any)) where the water is to be conveyed (whether or not by the seller) by a reticulated system; or
- 30 (b) the sale and supply of sewerage services for the removal of sewage,

but does not include any service, or any service of a class, excluded from the ambit of this definition by the regulations;

road means a street, road or thoroughfare to which public access is available on a continuous or substantially continuous basis by the use of vehicles or as pedestrians or both and includes—

- 35 (a) a bridge, viaduct or subway; or
- (b) an alley, laneway or walkway;

sanitary drain means pipes and equipment to collect and convey wastewater from a sanitary plumbing installation to an on-site wastewater treatment facility or a sewerage or effluent disposal system;

sanitary plumbing work means the installation, alteration, repair, maintenance or disconnection of pipes or equipment to receive and convey wastewater to sanitary drains (including associated plumbing ventilation equipment);

SA Water means *South Australian Water Corporation* established under the *South Australian Water Corporation Act 1994*;

sewage includes any form of waste that may be appropriately removed or dealt with through the use of a sewerage service;

sewerage infrastructure means—

- (a) any infrastructure that is, or is to be, used for—
 - (i) the collection or storage of sewage and includes the connection point; or
 - (ii) the conveyance or reticulation of sewage; or
 - (iii) the treatment of sewage, including any outfall pipe or other work that stores or conveys water leaving infrastructure used for the treatment of sewage; or
- (b) any other infrastructure used in connection with sewage and brought within the ambit of this definition by the regulations,

and includes a combined system, but does not include—

- (c) any pipe, fitting or apparatus that is situated upstream of a customer's connection point to a sewer main; or
- (d) infrastructure situated entirely within one site and not connected to any other infrastructure situated within another site; or
- (e) any other infrastructure used in connection with sewage that is excluded from the ambit of this definition by the regulations;

sewerage service means—

- (a) a service constituted by the collection, storage, treatment or conveyance of sewage through the use of a reticulated system; or
- (b) any other service, or any service of a class, brought within the ambit of this definition by the regulations;

site means an area of land constituting a single land holding;

stormwater drain means pipes and equipment to collect and convey stormwater to a public stormwater disposal system;

Technical Regulator means the person holding the office of Technical Regulator under Part 3;

water includes stormwater, desalinated water, recycled water, re-use water and water that may include any other material or impurities, but does not include sewage;

water industry means any operations associated with the provision of water services or sewerage services;

water industry entity means—

- (a) a person licensed under Part 4; or
- (b) a person recognised by the Minister under subsection (4) as a water industry entity for the purposes of this Act,

5 and includes (where the context requires) a person who has been licensed under Part 4 whose licence has been suspended or cancelled or has expired or a person who is to be treated as a water industry entity under the regulations;

water industry officer means a person appointed under Part 5 as a water industry officer;

10 *water infrastructure* means—

- (a) any infrastructure that is, or is to be, used for—
 - (i) the collection or storage of water, including a dam or reservoir or a water production plant; or
 - (ii) the treatment of water; or
 - 15 (iii) the conveyance or reticulation of water and includes the connection point; or
- (b) any other infrastructure used in connection with water and brought within the ambit of this definition by the regulations,

and includes a combined system, but does not include—

- 20 (c) any pipe, fitting or apparatus that is situated downstream of a customer's connection point to a water main; or
- (d) any pipe, fitting or apparatus that is situated upstream of a customer's connection point to a stormwater drain; or
- 25 (e) infrastructure situated entirely within one site and not connected to any other infrastructure situated within another site; or
- (f) any other infrastructure used in connection with water that is excluded from the ambit of this definition by the regulations;

30 *water plumbing work* means the installation, alteration, repair, maintenance or disconnection of pipes or equipment (including water heaters) to be connected directly or indirectly to a water supply system;

water service means—

- (a) a service constituted by the collection, storage, production, treatment, conveyance, reticulation or supply of water; or
- 35 (b) any other service, or any service of a class, brought within the ambit of this definition by the regulation;

water/sewerage infrastructure means water infrastructure or sewerage infrastructure (or both).

(2) A reference in this Act to designated customers, or designated classes of customers (or customers of a designated class), is a reference to customers, or classes of customers, designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.

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- (3) The Minister may—
- (a) in acting under subsection (2), make different designations with respect to different sections of this Act;
 - (b) by further notice in the Gazette, vary or revoke a previous notice under subsection (2).
- (4) The Minister may, for the purposes of the definition of *water industry entity*, by notice in the Gazette—
- (a) recognise a person within the water industry as a water industry entity for the purposes of this Act, or specified provisions of this Act;
 - (b) vary or revoke the recognition of a particular person under paragraph (a).

5—Interaction with other Acts

- (1) Subject to this section, this Act is in addition to and does not limit or derogate from the provisions of any other Act.
- (2) This Act does not apply to or in relation to—
- (a) an irrigation trust, or any services provided or infrastructure held by an irrigation trust, under the *Irrigation Act 2009*;
 - (b) the Renmark Irrigation Trust, or any services provided or infrastructure held by the Renmark Irrigation Trust, under the *Renmark Irrigation Trust Act 2009*,
- except to the extent prescribed by the regulations.
- (3) This Act applies subject to—
- (a) the *Public and Environmental Health Act 1987*; and
 - (b) the *Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) Act 1982*.
- (4) This Act does not apply to any person or entity, or any circumstance, excluded from the operation of this Act by the regulations.

Part 2—Water planning

6—Water planning

- (1) The Minister must prepare and maintain a document to be called the *State Water Demand and Supply Statement*.
- (2) The State Water Demand and Supply Statement must—
- (a) assess the state of South Australia's water resources and the extent of water supplies available within the State; and
 - (b) assess current and future demand for water within the State; and
 - (c) outline policies, plans and strategies relevant to ensuring that the State's water supplies are secure and reliable and are able to sustain economic growth within the State.
- (3) The State Water Demand and Supply Statement may—
- (a) address any other matter considered to be relevant by the Minister; and

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- (b) take into account any policy, plan or strategy determined to be relevant by the Minister.
- (4) The Minister must comprehensively review the State Water Demand and Supply Statement at least once in every 5 years.
- 5 (5) The Minister may amend the State Water Demand and Supply Statement at any time.
- (6) The Minister must, in relation to a proposal—
- (a) to create the State Water Demand and Supply Statement; or
- (b) to undertake a comprehensive review of the State Water Demand and Supply Statement,
- 10 invite interested persons to make written representations on the proposal in such manner, and within a period, specified by the Minister.
- (7) The Minister must, within 12 sitting days after the finalisation of the State Water Demand and Supply Statement, or the finalisation of a comprehensive review of the State Water Demand and Supply Statement, cause copies of the statement (or the Statement as revised) to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.
- 15 (8) The Minister must—
- (a) make appropriate provision for the publication of the State Water Demand and Supply Statement; and
- (b) ensure that copies of the State Water Demand and Supply Statement are reasonably available for inspection (without charge) and purchase by the public at places determined by the Minister; and
- 20 (c) ensure that notice of any amendment to the State Water Demand and Supply Statement is published in the Gazette within a reasonable time after the amendment is made.
- 25 (9) The Minister must, on or before 31 December in each year, prepare a report that—
- (a) provides information about the water demand and supply status of the various regions of the State; and
- (b) identifies and analyses the impacts of any emerging risks or significant issues associated with the State's water supplies; and
- 30 (c) reports on such other matters as the Minister thinks fit.
- (10) The Minister must, within 6 sitting days after the preparation of the report under subsection (9), cause copies of the report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.
- (11) A statement or report under this section is an expression of policy and does not in itself affect rights or liabilities (whether of a substantive, procedural or other nature).

Part 3—Administration

Division 1—Functions and powers of Commission

7—Functions and powers of Commission

- 5 (1) The Commission has (in addition to the Commission's functions and powers under the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002*)—
- (a) the licensing, price regulation and other functions and powers conferred by this Act; and
 - (b) any other functions and powers conferred by regulation under this Act.
- 10 (2) If water industry entities are required by licence condition to participate in an ombudsman scheme, the Commission must, in performing licensing functions under this Act, liaise with the ombudsman appointed under the scheme.

Division 2—Technical Regulator

8—Technical Regulator

- 15 (1) There is to be a *Technical Regulator*.
- (2) The Technical Regulator will be appointed by the Minister.
- (3) The office of Technical Regulator may be held in conjunction with a position in the Public Service.
- (4) The Minister may assign an employee in the Public Service to act as the Technical Regulator—
- 20 (a) during a vacancy in the office of Technical Regulator; or
- (b) when the Technical Regulator is absent from, or unable to discharge, official duties.

9—Functions of Technical Regulator

The Technical Regulator has the following functions:

- 25 (a) to develop technical standards in connection with the water industry;
- (b) to monitor and regulate technical standards with respect to—
- (i) water and sewerage installations and associated equipment, products and materials (including on the customer's side of any connection point); and
 - (ii) plumbing;
- 30 (c) to provide advice in relation to safety or technical standards—
- (i) in the water industry to the Commission at the Commission's request; and
 - (ii) in the plumbing industry;

- (d) any other function assigned to the Technical Regulator under this or any other Act or conferred by regulation under this Act.

10—Delegation

- 5 (1) The Technical Regulator may delegate a function or power conferred on the Technical Regulator under this Act—
 - (a) to a particular person or body; or
 - (b) to the person for the time being occupying a particular office or position.
- (2) A function or power delegated under this section may, if the instrument of delegation so provides, be further delegated.
- 10 (3) A delegation—
 - (a) may be subject to conditions or limitations specified in the instrument of delegation; and
 - (b) does not derogate from the power of the Technical Regulator to act in a matter; and
 - 15 (c) is revocable at will by the Technical Regulator.
- (4) In any legal proceedings an apparently genuine certificate, purportedly given by the Technical Regulator, containing particulars of a delegation under this section, will, in the absence of proof to the contrary, be accepted as proof that the delegation was made in accordance with the particulars.

20 **11—Technical Regulator's power to require information**

- (1) The Technical Regulator may, by written notice, require a person to give the Technical Regulator, within a time stated in the notice (which must be reasonable), the information in the person's possession that the Technical Regulator reasonably requires for the performance of the Technical Regulator's functions (whether under this Act or any other Act).
- 25 (2) A person required to give information under this section must provide the information within the time stated in the notice.
Maximum penalty: \$20 000.
- (3) A person is not required to give information under this section if the information might tend to incriminate the person of an offence.
- 30

12—Obligation to preserve confidentiality

- (1) The Technical Regulator must preserve the confidentiality of information gained by the Technical Regulator (including information gained by an authorised officer under this Act) that—
 - 35 (a) could affect the competitive position of a water industry entity or other person; or
 - (b) is commercially sensitive for some other reason.

- (2) Despite subsection (1), the Technical Regulator may disclose confidential information in the following circumstances:
- (a) as reasonably required in connection with the administration or enforcement of this Act (including to the Minister, the Commission and persons assisting the Commission), or as otherwise related to the performance of the Technical Regulator's functions (whether under this Act or any other Act);
 - (b) to a person concerned in the administration or enforcement of another law of the State, or a law of the Commonwealth or another State or Territory of the Commonwealth, for the purposes related to the administration or operation of that other law;
 - (c) to a government agency or instrumentality of this State, the Commonwealth or another State or Territory of the Commonwealth for purposes related to the performance of its functions (or to a person acting on behalf of such a government agency or instrumentality);
 - (d) with the consent of the person who gave the information or to whom the information relates;
 - (e) as required by a court or tribunal constituted by law;
 - (f) as authorised by the Minister.
- (3) Information classified by the Technical Regulator as confidential is not liable to disclosure under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*.

13—Annual report

- (1) The Technical Regulator must, within 3 months after the end of each financial year, deliver the Minister a report on the Technical Regulator's operations during that financial year.
- (2) The Minister must cause a copy of the report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament within 12 sitting days after receipt of the report.

Division 3—Advisory committees

14—Consumer advisory committees

- (1) The Commission must establish an advisory committee comprising representatives of consumers (the *consumer advisory committee*)—
 - (a) to provide advice to the Commission in relation to the performance of its licensing functions under Part 4; and
 - (b) to provide advice to the Commission, either on its own initiative or at the request of the Commission, on any other matter relating to the water industry.
- (2) Despite subsection (1), the consumer advisory committee will, if the Commission so determines, be the same committee as the committee of that name established under Division 4 of Part 2 of the *Electricity Act 1996* and have the functions referred to in subsection (1) in addition to its functions under that Division.

15—Technical advisory committee

The Technical Regulator must establish an advisory committee (the *technical advisory committee*) including representatives of—

- (a) water industry entities; and
- (b) contractor and employee associations involved in the water industry; and
- (c) persons involved in the administration of public health legislation; and
- (d) local government; and
- (e) other entities determined by the Technical Regulator,

to provide advice to the Technical Regulator, either on its own initiative or at the request of the Technical Regulator, on any matter relating to the functions of the Technical Regulator.

16—Other advisory committees

The Minister, the Commission or the Technical Regulator may establish other advisory committees to provide advice on specified aspects of the administration of this Act.

Part 4—Water industry

Division 1—Declaration as regulated industry

17—Declaration as regulated industry

The water industry is declared to constitute a regulated industry for the purposes of the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002*.

Division 2—Licensing of water industry entities

18—Requirement for licence

(1) A person must not—

- (a) provide a retail service; or
- (b) undertake any other activity for which a licence is required by the regulations, unless the person holds a licence under this Part authorising the relevant services, operation or activity.

Maximum penalty: \$1 000 000.

(2) SA Water is entitled by the force of this section to hold a non-transferable licence under this Part appropriate to the services, operations or activities provided, carried on or undertaken by it from time to time.

(3) In connection with the operation of subsection (2)—

- (a) the Commission must issue SA Water with the appropriate licence or licences; and

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Part 4—Water industry

Division 2—Licensing of water industry entities

- (b) the Commission must comply with any requirements specified by the Minister as to the terms and conditions of a licence and rights conferred by a licence.
- (4) The requirements of the Minister as to the conditions of a licence under subsection (3) must be consistent with the provisions of this Act as to such conditions.
- (5) To avoid doubt, a licence under subsection (3) cannot be transferred, suspended or cancelled.

19—Categories of licence

There will be the following categories of licence:

- (a) a retailer's licence, which will relate to the provision of a retail service;
- (b) 1 or more other categories (if any) prescribed by the regulations.

20—Application for licence

- (1) An application for the issue of a licence must—
- (a) be made to the Commission in a form approved by the Commission; and
- (b) contain the information specified in the form.
- (2) The applicant must pay to the Commission an application fee fixed by the Treasurer of an amount that the Treasurer considers appropriate to meet the reasonable costs of determining the application.
- (3) The Commission may, as the Commission considers appropriate, accept a single application from an applicant in respect of different operations of the applicant or operations of the applicant at different locations or may require separate applications.
- (4) The applicant must give the Commission further relevant information requested by the Commission.

21—Consideration of application

- (1) The Commission must consider an application for the issue of a licence and may, subject to this Division, issue or refuse to issue the licence.
- (2) The Commission must have regard to the general factors specified in Part 2 of the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002* and, subject to this section, may only issue a licence if satisfied that—
- (a) the applicant is a suitable person to hold the licence; and
- (b) the applicant will be able to meet reasonably foreseeable obligations under contracts for the sale or supply of water or the supply of sewerage services for the removal of sewage (or both), as the case may require; and
- (c) the water infrastructure or the sewerage infrastructure (or both), as the case may require, to be used in connection with the relevant service is (or proposed infrastructure will be) appropriate for the purposes of which it will be used; and
- (d) the applicant has the capacity (including financial, technical, organisational and other necessary capacity) to provide the services safely and to appropriate standards that would be authorised by the licence; and

- (e) the applicant meets any special requirements imposed by the regulations for the holding of the licence; and
 - (f) the grant of the licence would be consistent with criteria (if any) prescribed by the regulations for a licence of the relevant category.
- 5 (3) In deciding whether an applicant is a suitable person to hold a licence, the Commission may consider—
- (a) the applicant's previous commercial and other dealings and the standard of honesty and integrity shown in those dealings; and
 - (b) the financial, technical and human resources available to the applicant; and
 - 10 (c) the officers and, if applicable, major shareholders of the applicant and their previous commercial and other dealings and the standard of honesty and integrity shown in those dealings (including breaches of statutory and other legal obligations); and
 - (d) other matters prescribed by regulation or considered relevant by the
 - 15 Commission.
- (4) If—
- (a) a person carries on or proposes to carry on operations for which a licence is required as agent of another person; and
 - (b) the agent makes application for the issue of such a licence on the agent's own
 - 20 behalf and on behalf of the principal; and
 - (c) the Commission is satisfied that the criteria for the issue of the licence are met in relation to the agent,

25 the Commission may, at the Commission's discretion, dispense with the requirement that the Commission be satisfied that the criteria are met in relation to the principal and issue the licence to the agent and the principal to be held by them jointly.

22—Licences may be held jointly

- (1) A licence may be held jointly by 2 or more persons.
- (2) If a licence is held jointly by 2 or more persons, those persons are jointly and severally
- 30 liable to meet requirements imposed under this Act or the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002*.

23—Authority conferred by licence

- (1) A licence authorises the person named in the licence to provide services or to carry on operations or activities in accordance with the terms and conditions of the licence.
- (2) Any services, operations or activities authorised by a licence need not be all of the
- 35 same character or undertaken at the same location but may consist of a combination of different services, operations or activities provided or carried on at 1 or more locations.

24—Term of licence

A licence may be issued for an indefinite period or for a term specified in the licence.

25—Licence fees and returns

- (1) A person is not entitled to the issue of a licence unless the person first pays to the Commission the relevant annual licence fee, or the first instalment of the relevant annual licence fee, as the case may require.
- 5 (2) The holder of a licence issued for a term of 2 years or more must—
- (a) in each year lodge with the Commission, before the date prescribed for that purpose, an annual return containing the information required by the Commission by condition of the licence or by written notice; and
- 10 (b) in each year (other than a year in which the licence is due to expire) pay to the Commission, before the date prescribed for that purpose, the relevant annual licence fee, or the first instalment of the relevant annual licence fee, as the case may require.
- (3) The annual licence fee for a licence is the fee fixed, from time to time, by the Treasurer in respect of that licence as an amount that the Treasurer considers to be a
- 15 reasonable contribution towards administrative costs.
- (4) The annual licence fee may, if the Commission so determines, be paid in equal instalments at intervals fixed by the Commission.
- (5) If the holder of a licence fails to lodge the annual return or pay the annual licence fee (or an instalment of the annual licence fee) in accordance with this section, the Commission may, by written notice, require the holder to make good the default and,
- 20 in addition, to pay to the Commission the amount prescribed as a penalty for default.
- (6) An annual licence fee (including any instalment of an annual licence fee or any penalty for default) payable under this section is recoverable as a debt due to the Crown.
- 25 (7) In this section—

administrative costs means—

- (a) the costs of administration of this Act; and
- (b) any costs of administration of the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002* relating to the water industry; and
- 30 (c) any costs associated with the development by the State Government of policies relating to the water industry; and
- (d) other costs prescribed by regulation;

holder of a licence includes the holder of a licence that has been suspended.

26—Licence conditions

- 35 (1) The Commission must make a licence subject to conditions determined by the Commission—
- (a) requiring compliance with applicable codes or rules made under the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002* as in force from time to time; and

-
- (b) requiring the water industry entity to comply with code provisions as in force from time to time (which the Commission must make under the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002*) relating to the following matters with respect to designated customers, or designated classes of customers:
- 5 (i) standard contractual terms and conditions to apply to the supply of designated services;
- (ii) minimum standards of service that take into account relevant national benchmarks developed from time to time;
- 10 (iii) limitations on the grounds on which the supply of designated services may be discontinued or disconnected;
- (iv) the processes to be followed before designated services are discontinued or disconnected; and
- (c) requiring the water industry entity, at the request of a designated customer, to provide designated services at the water industry entity's standard contract price and subject to the water industry entity's standard contractual terms and conditions; and
- 15 (d) requiring the water industry entity to comply with code provisions as in force from time to time (which the Commission must make under the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002* on or before a prescribed date) relating to the provision of pricing information to designated customers, or designated classes of customers; and
- 20 (e) requiring the water industry entity to include in each account for services provided to designated customers, or customers of a designated class, information prescribed by the regulations; and
- 25 (f) requiring the water industry entity to maintain specified accounting records and to prepare accounts according to specified principles; and
- (g) requiring a specified process to be followed to resolve disputes between the water industry entity and its customers; and
- 30 (h) if the water industry entity provides designated services to designated customers, or designated classes of customers, requiring the water industry entity to participate in an ombudsman scheme determined or approved by the Commission; and
- (i) requiring compliance with specified technical or safety requirements or standards; and
- 35 (j) requiring the water industry entity—
- (i) to prepare and periodically revise a safety, reliability, maintenance and technical management plan dealing with matters prescribed by regulation; and
- 40 (ii) to obtain the approval of the Commission (which may only be given by the Commission on the recommendation of the Technical Regulator) to the plan and any revision; and
- (iii) to comply with the plan as approved from time to time; and

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Part 4—Water industry

Division 2—Licensing of water industry entities

- (iv) to audit from time to time the entity's compliance with the plans and report the results of those audits to the Technical Regulator; and
- (k) requiring the water industry entity to monitor and report as required by the Commission on indicators of service performance determined by the Commission; and
- (l) relating to the water industry entity's financial or other capacity to provide services or to continue operations or activities under the licence; and
- (m) requiring the water industry entity to maintain specified kinds and levels of insurance; and
- (n) requiring the water industry entity to provide and maintain fire plugs, maintain various standards, and comply with other requirements relating to the provision of water for fire-fighting purposes, in accordance with any scheme determined by the Minister for the purposes of this paragraph; and
- (o) requiring the water industry entity to have all or part of the services, operations or activities authorised by the licence audited and to report the results of the audit to the Commission; and
- (p) requiring the water industry entity to notify the Commission about changes to officers and, if applicable, major shareholders of the entity; and
- (q) requiring the water industry entity to provide, in the manner and form determined by the Commission, such other information as the Commission may from time to time require; and
- (r) requiring the water industry entity to comply with the requirements of any scheme approved and funded by the Minister for the provision by the State of customer concessions or the performance of community service obligations by water industry entities.
- (2) The Commission must make a licence subject to further conditions that the Commission is required by regulation to impose on the issue of such a licence.
- (3) The Commission may make a licence subject to further conditions considered appropriate by the Commission.
- (4) A code or set of rules under subsection (1)(a) must, if the Minister so requires, include provisions to assist customers who may be suffering specified types of hardship relevant to the supply of any services (being provisions that comply with any direction of the Minister and that will apply under the code or rules despite any provision made by the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002*).
- (5) The Commission must provide to the Minister any information that the Minister requires for the purposes of the administration of a scheme for the provision by the State of customer concessions, or the performance of community service obligations, relating to the sale or supply of water.
- (6) For the purposes of this section, the Minister may—
- (a) by notice in the Gazette, designate various services;
- (b) by further notice in the Gazette, vary or revoke a previous notice under paragraph (a).

27—Third party access

- (1) The Minister must take steps to develop a third party access regime to apply to water infrastructure and sewerage infrastructure services.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Minister must—
 - 5 (a) establish a process under which public consultation will occur with respect to an issues paper and an interim report; and
 - (b) ensure that a final report relating to third party access is prepared and provided to the Minister by 1 July 2012.
- (3) The final report under subsection (2)(b) must address—
 - 10 (a) various options for third party access; and
 - (b) the extent of coverage of a third party access regime; and
 - (c) the procedures that should be established for seeking access and the resolution of disputes; and
 - (d) access pricing principles; and
 - 15 (e) compliance with relevant national competition principles; and
 - (f) the maintenance of public health, environmental and safety standards; and
 - (g) the issues raised by submissions received from the public with respect to the issues paper and interim report,and may address such other matters as the Minister thinks fit.
- 20 (4) The Minister must, within 18 sitting days after the completion of the final report and its submission to the Minister, cause copies of the report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

28—Offence to contravene licence conditions

- (1) A water industry entity must not contravene a condition of its licence.
25 Maximum penalty: \$1 000 000.
- (2) An offence against subsection (1) may be prosecuted as an indictable offence or a summary offence at the discretion of the prosecutor but, if prosecuted as a summary offence, the maximum penalty that may be imposed is a fine not exceeding \$20 000.

29—Variation of licence

- 30 (1) The Commission may vary the terms or conditions of a water industry entity's licence by written notice to the entity.
- (2) A variation under subsection (1) may only be made—
 - (a) on application by the water industry entity or with the water industry entity's agreement; or
 - 35 (b) after giving the water industry entity reasonable notice of the proposed variation and allowing the entity a reasonable opportunity to make representations about the proposed variation.
- (3) The conditions of a licence prescribed by the regulations may be varied from time to time by further regulations.

- (4) The conditions of a licence may be varied by the addition, substitution or deletion of one or more conditions.

30—Transfer of licence

- (1) A licence may be transferred with the Commission's agreement.
- 5 (2) The Commission may impose conditions on the transfer of a licence, or vary the terms and conditions of the licence on its transfer.
- (3) The Commission must not agree to the transfer of a licence if the transferee would not be entitled to the issue of the licence.
- (4) An application for agreement to the transfer of a licence must—
- 10 (a) be made by the transferor with the consent of the transferee to the Commission in a form approved by the Commission; and
- (b) contain the information specified in the form.
- (5) The applicant must pay to the Commission an application fee fixed by the Treasurer of an amount that the Treasurer considers appropriate to meet the reasonable costs of
- 15 determining the application.
- (6) The applicant must give the Commission further relevant information requested by the Commission.

31—Consultation with consumer bodies

20 The Commission may, before issuing a licence, agreeing to the transfer of a licence or determining or varying conditions of a licence, consult with and have regard to the advice of—

- (a) the Technical Regulator; and
- (b) the Ombudsman holding office under the industry ombudsman scheme; and
- (c) the consumer advisory committee under Part 3.

32—Notice of licence decisions

- (1) The Commission must give an applicant for a licence, or for agreement to the transfer of a licence, written notice of the Commission's decision on the application.
- (2) The Commission must give the holder of a licence written notice of any decision by the Commission affecting the terms or conditions of the licence.

33—Surrender of licence

- (1) A water industry entity may, by written notice given to the Commission, surrender its licence.
- (2) The notice must be given to the Commission so as to comply with a period of notice required under the terms of the licence.
- 35 (3) The Commission may, by agreement with the water industry entity, shorten the required period of notice.

34—Suspension or cancellation of licences

- (1) The Commission may, if satisfied that—
- (a) the holder of a licence obtained the licence improperly; or
 - 5 (b) the holder of a licence has been guilty of a material contravention of a requirement imposed by or under this Act or any other Act in connection with the operations authorised by the licence; or
 - (c) the holder of a licence has ceased to carry on operations authorised by the licence; or
 - 10 (d) there has been any act or default such that the holder of a licence would no longer be entitled to the issue of such a licence,
- suspend or cancel the licence with effect from a specified date.
- (2) A suspension under this section may be for a specified period, or until the fulfilment of specified conditions, or until further order of the Commission.
- (3) Before the Commission acts under this section, the Commission must—
- 15 (a) notify the holder of the licence in writing of the proposed action specifying the reasons for the proposed action; and
 - (b) allow the holder of the licence at least 14 days within which to make submissions to the Commission in relation to the proposed action.

35—Register of licences

- 20 (1) The Commission must keep a register of the licences currently held by water industry entities under this Act.
- (2) The register must include—
- (a) the terms and conditions of each licence; and
 - (b) other information required under the regulations.
- 25 (3) A person may, without payment of a fee, inspect the Register.

Division 3—Price regulation

36—Price regulation

- 30 (1) Subject to this section, the Commission may make a determination under the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002* regulating prices, conditions relating to prices, and price-fixing factors for—
- (a) retail services;
 - (b) other services prescribed by the regulations.
- 35 (2) Despite the provisions of the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002*, the operation of a determination of a kind referred to in subsection (1) is not to be stayed pending the determination of an application for review or appeal under Part 6 of that Act.
- (3) In addition to the requirements of section 25(4) of the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002*, the Commission must, in acting under subsection (1), comply with the requirements of any pricing order issued by the Treasurer under this section.

- (4) The Treasurer may, for the purposes of subsection (3), issue an order (a *pricing order*) that—
- (a) sets out any policies or other matters that the Commission must have regard to when making a determination contemplated by this section;
 - 5 (b) specify various parameters, principles or factors that the Commission must adopt or apply in making a determination contemplated by this section;
 - (c) relates to any other matter that the Treasurer considers to be appropriate in the circumstances.
- (5) A pricing order—
- 10 (a) takes effect on a date specified in the order; and
 - (b) cannot be varied (except as contemplated by the order) or revoked (but this paragraph does not prevent new pricing orders being made from time to time).
- (6) Notice of the making of a pricing order must be published in the Gazette.
- 15 (7) The notice must include a brief description of the nature and effect of the pricing order and state how a copy may be inspected or purchased.
- (8) The Treasurer must—
- (a) send a copy of a pricing order to each water industry entity to which the order may relate; and
 - 20 (b) ensure that copies of the order are available for inspection and purchase by members of the public.
- (9) In this section—
price includes price range.

Division 4—Standard terms and conditions for retail services

37—Standard terms and conditions for retail services

- 25 (1) A water industry entity may, from time to time, fix standard terms and conditions governing the provision of services by the entity to customers of a designated class.
- (2) A water industry entity must publish in the Gazette a notice setting out any standard terms and conditions fixed by the provider.
- 30 (3) A water industry entity must, when it publishes a notice in the Gazette under subsection (2), also publish a notice in a newspaper circulating generally in the State describing the general nature of the standard terms and conditions and advising where a person may read or obtain a copy of the standard terms and conditions.
- (4) Standard terms and conditions fixed under this section—
- 35 (a) must comply with the conditions of any relevant licence; and
 - (b) must not fix prices that exceed maximum prices fixed under this Act; and
 - (c) come into force on the day specified by the provider in the notice of the standard terms and conditions published in the Gazette under this section, being a day not earlier than the day on which the notice is published; and

- (d) when in force are contractually binding on the water industry entity and the class of customers to which the terms and conditions are expressed to apply.
- (5) Subject to the conditions of a licence, a standard term or condition fixed under this section may be modified or excluded by express agreement between the water industry entity and a customer of the entity.
- (6) A water industry entity that has fixed standard terms and conditions under this section must—
- (a) supply a copy of the standard terms and conditions, without charge, on request made to the entity at a place approved by the Commission; and
- (b) publish the standard terms and conditions on a website maintained by the entity.

Maximum penalty: \$2 500.

Division 5—Commission's powers to take over operations

38—Power to take over operations

- (1) If—
- (a) a water industry entity contravenes this Act, or a water industry entity's licence ceases, or is to cease, to be in force; and
- (b) it is necessary, in the Commission's opinion, to take over the entity's operations (or some of them) to ensure an adequate supply of water to customers or the proper provision of any sewerage service (as the case may require),
- the Governor may make a proclamation under this section.
- (2) Before a proclamation is made under this section, the Commission must give the water industry entity a reasonable opportunity to make written representations giving reasons why the proclamation should not be made.
- (3) A proclamation under this section—
- (a) authorises the Commission to take over the water industry entity's operations or a specified part of the water industry entity's operations; and
- (b) may contain ancillary directions (and may, in particular, contain directions about how the costs of carrying on the operations, and revenue generated from the operations, are to be dealt with).
- (4) A direction under subsection (3)(b) operates to the exclusion of rights that are inconsistent with it.

39—Appointment of operator

- (1) When a proclamation is made under this Division, the Commission must appoint a suitable person (who may, but need not, be a water industry entity) to take over the relevant operations on agreed terms and conditions (including as to remuneration).
- (2) A person appointed to take over a water industry entity's operations is referred to in this section as the *operator*.

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Part 4—Water industry

Division 5—Commission's powers to take over operations

- (3) The water industry entity must facilitate the take over of the relevant operations by the operator.
- (4) The operator may have access to the property of a water industry entity for the purposes of carrying on the relevant operations.
- 5 (5) A person must not obstruct the operator's access to property or the exercise by the operator of the operator's responsibilities under this Division.
Maximum penalty: \$250 000.
- (6) A person must comply with reasonable directions given by the operator in the exercise of the operator's responsibilities under this Division.
10 Maximum penalty: \$250 000.
- (7) The remuneration of the operator and all other costs and expenses arising out of the exercise of the operator's responsibilities under this Division are payable out of the funds of the water industry entity.

Division 6—Related matters**40—Ministerial directions**

- 15 (1) Despite section 7 of the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002*, the Minister may, in relation to any prescribed matter, by notice published in the Gazette, give directions to the Commission as to—
- 20 (a) whether or not a prescribed matter—
- (i) should be subject to regulation under a code or set of rules made under the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002*;
- (ii) should be subject to conditions of a licence under this Part;
- (iii) should be subject to any other form of regulation by the Commission under this Act or the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002*; and
- 25 (b) insofar as a prescribed matter is subject to any form of regulation under paragraph (a), the extent of the regulation and, if the Minister thinks fit, provisions that will apply with respect to that prescribed matter.
- (2) The Minister, may by further notice in the Gazette, vary or revoke a previous notice published by the Minister under this section.
- 30 (3) This section does not limit or derogate from any other power of the Minister under this Act.
- (4) In this section—
- prescribed matter* means—
- 35 (a) any matter relevant to water meters, including as to their design, features, installation or operation; and
- (b) any matter relevant to billing customers in relation to the supply of water under a retail service where a water meter is not available to be used to determine the quantity of water supplied.

Part 5—Powers and duties relating to land and infrastructure

Division 1—Water industry officers

41—Appointment of water industry officers

- 5
- (1) A water industry entity may, subject to conditions or limitations determined by the Minister, appoint a person to be a water industry officer for the entity.
 - (2) A water industry officer may only exercise powers under this Act subject to the conditions of appointment, any limitations imposed by the Minister, and any directions given by the relevant water industry entity.

42—Conditions of appointment

- 10
- (1) A water industry officer may be appointed for a stated term or for an indefinite term that continues while the officer holds a stated office or position.
 - (2) A water industry officer may be removed from office by the water industry entity.

43—Identity cards

- 15
- (1) A water industry entity must give each water industry officer for the entity an identity card.
 - (2) The entity card must be in a form approved by the Minister and must—
 - (a) contain a photograph of the water industry officer taken for the purpose; and
 - (b) be signed by the water industry officer; and
 - (c) identify the water industry officer as a water industry officer for the relevant water industry entity.
 - (3) A water industry officer must, before exercising a power in relation to another person, produce the officer's identity card for inspection by the other person.
 - (4) A person must, within 2 days after ceasing to be a water industry officer, return the identity card to the water industry entity.
- 20
- 25 Maximum penalty: \$250.

Division 2—Management of land and infrastructure

44—Power to enter land to conduct investigations

- 30
- (1) A water industry entity may, by agreement with the occupier of land or on the authorisation of the Minister, enter and remain on land to conduct investigations or carry out any other form of work to assess the suitability of the land for the construction or installation of water/sewerage infrastructure.
 - (2) The Minister may authorise a water industry entity to enter and remain on land under this section on conditions the Minister thinks appropriate.

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Division 2—Management of land and infrastructure

- (3) If a water industry entity enters land under the authorisation of the Minister, the water industry entity—
- (a) must give reasonable notice of the proposed entry on land under this section to the occupier; and
 - 5 (b) must minimise the impact of work carried out by the water industry entity on activities of others on the land; and
 - (c) must comply with the conditions of the authorisation.

45—Acquisition of land

- 10 (1) A water industry entity may acquire land in accordance with the *Land Acquisition Act 1969*.
- (2) A water industry entity may only acquire land by compulsory process under the *Land Acquisition Act 1969* if the acquisition is authorised in writing by the Minister.

46—Power to carry out work on public land

- 15 (1) Subject to this section, a water industry entity may—
- (a) install water/sewerage infrastructure on public land; or
 - (b) operate, maintain, repair, alter, add to, remove or replace water/sewerage infrastructure on public land; or
 - (c) lay pipes and install and operate pumps and other equipment on public land; or
 - 20 (d) carry out other work on public land in connection with the establishment or operation of any water/sewerage infrastructure or otherwise connected with any water service or sewerage service.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the water industry entity may excavate public land for the purposes of carrying out work under subsection (1).
- 25 (3) Subject to this section, a water industry entity must—
- (a) give the authority responsible for the management of public land not less than 12 hours notice of the entity's intention to carry out work on the land; and
 - (b) secure the authority's agreement to the carrying out of the work.
- (4) An agreement under this section may contain conditions the authority responsible for management of the land considers appropriate in the public interest.
- (5) Prior notice is not required under subsection (3) for work of a kind prescribed by regulation for the purposes of this subsection.
- (6) Agreement is not required under subsection (3) for work of a kind prescribed by regulation for the purposes of this subsection.
- 35 (7) In an emergency, a water industry entity may exercise a power under this section at any time and without prior notice or an agreement.
- (8) If a dispute arises between a water industry entity and the authority responsible for managing public land about whether work should be permitted under this section on the land or about the conditions on which work should be permitted on public land, 40 either party to the dispute may refer the dispute to the Minister.

- (9) Subsection (8) does not apply to a dispute where the authority responsible for managing the public land is a Minister or a person or body to whom directions may be given by a Minister in relation to the matter in dispute.
- (10) If a dispute is referred to the Minister under this section, the Minister must—
- 5 (a) allow the parties to the dispute the opportunity to make representations to the Minister on the questions at issue in the dispute; and
- (b) make a reasonable attempt to get the parties to agree to settlement of the dispute on agreed terms.
- (11) If the Minister cannot get the parties to agree, the Minister may make—
- 10 (a) an order that the work is or is not permitted on the land;
- (b) if the Minister orders that the work is permitted, an order fixing the conditions on which the work is permitted,
- as the Minister thinks fit.
- (12) When a person enters land under this section on behalf of a water industry entity, the
- 15 person—
- (a) may be accompanied by such assistants as the person considers necessary or appropriate; and
- (b) may take any vehicles, equipment or materials the person considers necessary or appropriate for the functions the person is to carry out on the land.
- (13) A water industry entity must make good any damage caused by the exercise of powers under this section as soon as practicable or pay reasonable compensation for the damage.
- (14) This section does not derogate from the obligation to comply with the provisions of any other Act.
- (15) This section does not constitute a statutory authorisation for the purposes of section 221 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.
- (16) In this section—
- public land** means—
- 30 (a) land owned by the Crown or an instrumentality or agent of the Crown or by a council or other local government body;
- (b) without limiting paragraph (a), a road under the care, control and management of the Crown or an instrumentality or agent of the Crown or a council or other local government body;

47—Power to take possession of land

- 35 (1) An authorised entity may, at any reasonable time, enter and remain on land (including a road)—
- (a) to construct, improve or add to any water/sewerage infrastructure or to establish, inspect or carry out work in relation to any equipment; or
- (b) to obtain or enlarge a supply of water; or
- 40 (c) to protect, improve or restore the quality of water; or

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Part 5—Powers and duties relating to land and infrastructure

Division 2—Management of land and infrastructure

- (d) to perform any other function brought within the ambit of this section by the regulations.
- (2) The powers that may be exercised in the performance of a function set out under subsection (1) include—
- 5 (a) to dig, break and trench any soil; and
- (b) to remove or use any earth, stone, minerals, trees or other materials or things located on the land; and
- (c) to sink wells or shafts; and
- 10 (d) to construct, make, maintain, alter, add to or discontinue any water/sewerage infrastructure; and
- (e) to divert or hold any water; and
- (f) to dig up, form or alter any road; and
- (g) to construct workshops, sheds or other buildings of a temporary nature; and
- 15 (h) to undertake other activities or work as may be necessary or incidental to the performance of any such function.
- (3) If an authorised entity seeks to enter land under this section for the first time, the entity must give prior written notice to the occupier of the land stating the reason and the date and time of the proposed entry.
- (4) The regulations may prescribe other circumstances when notice must be given to the occupier of land.
- 20 (5) The period of notice under subsection (3) or (4) must be reasonable.
- (6) When a person enters land under this section or behalf of an authorised entity, the person—
- 25 (a) may be accompanied by such assistants as the person considers necessary or appropriate; and
- (b) may take any vehicles, equipment or materials the person considers necessary or appropriate for the functions the person is to carry out on the land.
- (7) An authorised entity must, at the request of an owner or occupier of land used for any purpose under this section, separate the land being used for the other part or parts of the land by a fence of reasonable construction and design (with such gates as may be necessary for the convenient use of any land) and, in the case of a dispute as to the fence to be construction under this section, the matter may be referred to the Magistrates Court for resolution.
- 30 (8) An authorised entity must make good any damage caused by the exercise of powers under this section as soon as practicable (including so as to reinstate any road or other place) or pay reasonable compensation for the damage.
- 35 (9) In this section—
- authorised entity** means—
- 40 (a) the Minister; or
- (b) any water industry entity holding an authorisation granted by the Minister for the purposes of this section.

(10) The Minister may—

- (a) grant an authorisation under this section on conditions the Minister thinks appropriate; and
- (b) revoke an authorisation under this section after giving reasonable notice to the relevant water industry entity.

48—Power to enter land for purposes related to entity's infrastructure

- (1) A water industry entity may, at any reasonable time, enter and remain on land (including a road) where the water/sewerage infrastructure of the entity is situated to inspect, operate, maintain, test, repair, alter, remove or replace the infrastructure or any equipment or to carry out work for the protection of the infrastructure or equipment or the protection of public safety.
- (2) Subject to this section, if a water industry entity seeks to enter land under this section, the entity must give prior written notice to the occupier of the land stating the reason and the date and time of the proposed entry.
- (3) The period of notice under subsection (2) must be reasonable.
- (4) If the proposed entry is refused or obstructed, a water industry entity may obtain a warrant under Part 10 to enter the land.
- (5) An authorised entity—
 - (a) is not required to obtain a warrant under subsection (4); and
 - (b) may use reasonable force to enter any land.
- (6) In an emergency, a water industry officer may exercise a power of entry of a water industry entity under this section—
 - (a) at any time and without prior notice if it is not practicable to give such notice; and
 - (b) if necessary in the circumstances, by the use of reasonable force.
- (7) When a person enters land under this section on behalf of a water industry entity, the person—
 - (a) may be accompanied by such assistants as the person considers necessary or appropriate; and
 - (b) may take any vehicles, equipment or materials the person considers necessary or appropriate for the functions the person is to carry out on the land.
- (8) A person acting on behalf of a water industry entity must be accompanied by a police officer—
 - (a) when entering a place under a warrant;
 - (b) if it is practicable to do so, when entering a place by force in an emergency.
- (9) Subject to this section, a water industry entity must make good any damage caused by the exercise of powers under this section as soon as practicable (including so as to reinstate any road or other place) or pay reasonable compensation for the damage.

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(10) In this section—

authorised entity means—

- (a) the Minister; or
- (b) any water industry entity holding an authorisation granted by the Minister for the purposes of this section.

49—Infrastructure does not merge with land

In the absence of agreement in writing to the contrary, the ownership of any infrastructure or equipment is not affected by the fact that it has been laid or installed as water/sewerage infrastructure on or under land.

50—Requirement to connect to infrastructure

- (1) This section applies to a water industry entity involved (or proposing to be involved) in the sale and supply of sewerage services for the removal of sewage (and the infrastructure to be used for the purposes of those services will be referred to as "prescribed infrastructure" under this section).
- (2) A water industry entity to which this section applies may apply to the Minister for the approval of a scheme under this section.
- (3) A scheme to which an application relates will be a scheme—
 - (a) that provides for the supply of sewerage services through the use of prescribed infrastructure; and
 - (b) that proposes that any owner of land adjacent to land where a designated part of the prescribed infrastructure is situated (other than owners (if any) excluded from the scheme) be required to connect to the prescribed infrastructure so as to become a customer of the water industry entity with respect to the sale and supply of the sewerage services under the scheme; and
 - (c) that has, in relation to the prescribed infrastructure, been approved by a prescribed body as being fit and adequate for the provision of services that are proposed to be offered under the scheme; and
 - (d) that complies with any other requirements prescribed by the regulations.
- (4) A scheme under this section may—
 - (a) provide that any connection made by a person under the scheme comply with any requirements specified by the water industry entity after consultation with the Technical Regulator or the Health Department; and
 - (b) provide other requirements relating to the establishment, operation or management of the scheme that must be complied with by any owner of land adjacent to land where any prescribed infrastructure is situated; and
 - (c) provide for other matters specified by the water industry entity and approved by the Minister under this section.
- (5) The Minister may, after taking into account such matters as the Minister thinks fit, determine whether or not to approve a scheme under this section.

- 5 (6) If the Minister approves a scheme, the water industry entity may, by notice that complies with any requirements prescribed by the regulations and served on any owner of land adjacent to land where the designated part of the prescribed infrastructure is situated, require the owner to connect drains, equipment or works to the prescribed infrastructure in order to provide for the discharge of sewage into the infrastructure.
- (7) If a notice is served on an owner of land under subsection (6)—
- 10 (a) the owner must comply with the notice in accordance with the requirements of the notice; and
- (b) any drains, equipment or works used for the purposes of making the connection must comply with specifications approved by the Technical Regulator or the Health Department for the purposes of this section (if any); and
- 15 (c) the costs incurred by the owner in complying with the notice will be borne by the owner.
- (8) The following owners of land will be excluded from a scheme under this section:
- (a) any owner, or owner of a specified class, excluded by the Minister from the scheme at the time that the Minister approves the scheme;
- 20 (b) any owner of land where it is not reasonably practicable to connect to the prescribed infrastructure;
- (c) any owner of a class excluded from the operation of this section by the regulations (if any) or otherwise excluded under the terms of the scheme itself.
- (9) If the requirements of a notice under this section are not complied with, the relevant water industry entity may take any action required by the notice.
- 25 (10) Action taken by a water industry entity under subsection (9) may be taken on the entity's behalf by a water industry officer or another person authorised by the water industry entity for the purpose.
- (11) A person taking action under subsection (10) may enter any relevant land at any reasonable time.
- 30 (12) The reasonable costs and expenses incurred by a water industry entity in taking action under subsection (9) or (10) may be recovered by the water industry entity as a debt from the person who failed to comply with the requirements of the notice.
- (13) A water industry entity may from time to time, with the approval of the Minister, vary a scheme under this section.
- 35 (14) A requirement applying or imposed under this section operates subject to any authority or approval granted or applying under—
- (a) the *Environment Protection Act 1993*; or
- (b) the *Public and Environmental Health Act 1987*.

Part 6—Protection and use of infrastructure, equipment and water and powers in relation to installations

Division 1—Protection of infrastructure, equipment and services

51—Encroachments

- 5 (1) A person must not, without lawful authority—
- (a) construct or place a building, wall, fence or other structure on or over any water/sewerage infrastructure, or create some other form of encroachment over any water/sewerage infrastructure (or any land directly associated with such infrastructure); or
 - 10 (b) create any form of encroachment over any easement that exists for the purposes of any water service or sewerage service; or
 - (c) obstruct, fill in, close up or divert any water/sewerage infrastructure; or
 - (d) excavate or alter any land or structure supporting any water/sewerage infrastructure,
- 15 without the consent of a water industry entity that owns, manages or uses the water/sewerage infrastructure or who has the benefit of the easement (as the case may be).
- Maximum penalty: \$10 000.
- 20 (2) If a water industry entity believes on reasonable grounds that a person has acted in contravention of subsection (1)—
- (a) the water industry entity may, at any reasonable time, enter land and carry out an inspection of any place; and
 - (b) as it thinks fit (whether or not an inspection has taken place), by notice that complies with any requirements prescribed by the regulations and served on
 - 25 the person, require the person to take such action as may be specified in the notice to remedy any contravention of subsection (1).
- (3) If any entry under subsection (2)(a) is refused or obstructed, a water industry entity may obtain a warrant under Part 10 to enter the land.
- (4) If the requirements of a notice under subsection (2)(b) are not complied with, the
- 30 relevant water industry entity may take any action required by the notice.
- (5) A person taking action under subsection (4) may enter any relevant land at any reasonable time.
- (6) The reasonable costs and expenses incurred by a water industry entity in taking action under subsection (4) or (5) may be recovered by the water industry entity as a debt
- 35 from the person who failed to comply with the requirements of the notice.
- (7) Action taken by a water industry entity under this section may be taken on the entity's behalf by a water industry officer or another person authorised by the water industry entity for the purpose.

(8) In any proceedings for an offence against this section, or for the recovery of costs and expenses under this section, it is a defence for the defendant to prove that he or she did not know, and could not be the exercise of reasonable diligence have ascertained, the position of any water/sewerage infrastructure (if relevant).

5 (9) This section does not apply in any circumstances excluded from the operation of this section by the regulations.

52—Protection of infrastructure and equipment

(1) A person must not, without lawful authority—

10 (a) attach any equipment or other thing, or make any connection, to water/sewerage infrastructure; or

(b) interfere with—

(i) the collection, storage, production, treatment, conveyance, reticulation or supply of water through the use of water infrastructure; or

15 (ii) the collection, storage, treatment, conveyance or reticulation of sewage through the use of sewerage infrastructure; or

(c) disconnect or interfere with any water/sewerage infrastructure, or any equipment associated with any water/sewerage infrastructure; or

20 (d) damage any water/sewerage infrastructure, or any equipment associated with any water/sewerage infrastructure.

Maximum penalty: \$10 000.

(2) If a water industry entity believes on reasonable grounds that a person has acted in contravention of subsection (1)—

25 (a) the water industry entity may, at any reasonable time, enter any land and carry out an inspection of any place; and

(b) as it thinks fit (whether or not an inspection has taken place), after complying with any requirements prescribed by the regulations, disconnect or remove anything that has, in the opinion of the entity, been attached or used in connection with the contravention.

30 (3) If any entry under subsection (2)(a) is refused or obstructed, a water industry entity may obtain a warrant under Part 10 to enter the land.

(4) Action taken by a water industry entity under this section may be taken on the entity's behalf by a water industry officer or another person authorised by the water industry entity for the purpose.

35 (5) A person must not, without lawful authority, pull up or remove any poles, stakes or other items driven into, or placed in or on, the ground for the purposes of carrying out any works associated with the construction, alteration, maintenance, management or removal of any water/sewerage infrastructure.

Maximum penalty: \$5 000.

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- (6) A person must not, without lawful authority, destroy or damage any works associated with the construction, alteration, maintenance, management or removal of any water/sewerage infrastructure.

Maximum penalty: \$10 000.

- (7) If a water industry entity suffers loss as a result of a contravention of this section, the entity may recover compensation for the loss from a person guilty of the contravention—

(a) on application to a court convicting the person of an offence against this section; or

(b) by action in a court of competent jurisdiction.

53—Notice of work that may affect water/sewerage infrastructure

- (1) A person who proposes to do work near water/sewerage infrastructure must give the relevant water industry entity at least 14 days notice of the proposed work if—

(a) there is a risk of equipment or a structure coming into dangerous proximity to water/sewerage infrastructure; or

(b) in the case of water infrastructure—there is a risk of the work affecting the quality of any water within, or reasonably likely to enter, the infrastructure; or

(c) the work may interfere with water/sewerage infrastructure in some other way.

Maximum penalty: \$2 500.

Expiation fee: \$210.

- (2) It is a defence to a charge of an offence against subsection (1) if, in the circumstances of an emergency, it is not practicable to give the notice required by subsection (1), and the notice is given as soon as practicable.

- (3) A person who does work near water/sewerage infrastructure must comply with—

(a) requirements prescribed by regulation that are applicable to the work; and

(b) reasonable requirements made by the water industry entity for the protection of the infrastructure or the safety of the persons carrying out the work.

Maximum penalty: \$2 500.

Expiation fee: \$210.

- (4) If a water industry entity suffers loss as a result of a contravention of this section, the entity may recover compensation for the loss from a person guilty of the contravention—

(a) on application to a court convicting the person of an offence against this section; or

(b) by action in a court of competent jurisdiction.

- (5) This section does not apply in a case that is within the ambit of section 54.

54—Duty to give notice before paving a road etc

- (1) Before beginning—

(a) to first lay the pavement or hard surface in any road; or

- (b) to relay the pavement or hard surface in any road; or
- (c) to widen or extend the pavement or hard surface in any road; or
- (d) to alter the level of any road; or
- 5 (e) to construct or alter any footpaths, gutters, kerbing or water tables in any road; or
- (f) to construct or alter any drainage work in any road,

in which there is any water/sewerage infrastructure, the person authorising or intending to do so must give the relevant water industry entity at least 14 days notice of the proposed work (being a notice that includes details of the nature and thickness of the pavement or hard surface proposed to be made or laid in any such work, and of
10 any other work that is proposed to be undertaken).

- (2) The water industry entity must, within 14 days after receiving a notice, advise the person who gave the notice of any new water/sewerage infrastructure proposed in the relevant road and of any interference that is expected to be caused to the existing
15 water/sewerage infrastructure.
- (3) If any work referred to in subsection (1) would involve any alteration to any water/sewerage infrastructure that is owned or operated by a water industry entity, the person who undertakes the work must, subject to subsection (6), pay to the entity half of the actual cost of the alteration and of any damage caused by the work (and if the regulations prescribed an amount as the cost of any alteration, then that amount must
20 be taken to be the cost of the alteration for the purposes of this subsection).
- (4) If the information required by subsection (1) is not provided in accordance with the requirements of subsection (1), then the person who undertakes the work must pay to the water industry entity the whole cost of any alteration and of any damage caused by the work (and if the regulations prescribe an amount as the cost of any alteration, then that amount must be taken to be the cost of the alteration for the purposes of this
25 subsection).
- (5) If an alteration to any water/sewerage infrastructure is of such a nature as to involve expense which in the opinion of the relevant water entity would be excessive, the entity may confer with the person authorised to do the work to determine whether any variations to the proposed work would be advantageous to the parties.
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- (6) If any work referred to in subsection (1) would involve an alteration to any water/sewerage infrastructure and the relevant water industry entity considers that the infrastructure should be replaced or enlarged, the costs of all materials required for any such replacement or enlargement must be borne by the water industry entity, but
35 all other costs and charges will be payable in accordance with this section.
- (7) A water industry entity may, under an agreement between the entity and a person otherwise required to give notice under this section, waive the requirement to give such notice in relation to specified classes of work (and such an agreement may have
40 effect according to its terms).

55—Unlawful abstraction, removal or diversion of water or sewage

- (1) A person must not, without proper authority—
 - (a) abstract or divert water from any water infrastructure; or

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(b) abstract or divert any sewage from any sewerage infrastructure.

Maximum penalty: \$10 000 or imprisonment for 2 years.

(2) A person must not install or maintain a pipe capable of conveying water beyond the boundaries of a site occupied by the person unless—

5 (a) the person is a water industry entity; or

(b) the person does so with the approval of a water industry entity that supplies water to the site; or

(c) the person is authorised under the regulations or is acting in any prescribed circumstances.

10 (3) If a water industry entity suffers loss as a result of a contravention of this section, the entity may recover compensation for the loss from a person guilty of the contravention—

(a) on application to a court convicting the person of an offence against this section; or

15 (b) by action in a court of competent jurisdiction.

56—Water meters

(1) A person who is supplied with water by a water industry entity must, if required by the water industry entity—

20 (a) allow a person authorised by the entity to enter land and fix a meter supplied by the relevant water industry entity; or

(b) ensure that a meter of a kind specified by the entity is fixed and used for purposes of measuring water supplied to the person.

Maximum penalty: \$10 000.

25 (2) If a meter is fixed under subsection (1)(a), a person supplied with water by the water industry entity must use the meter.

Maximum penalty: \$10 000.

(3) A requirement under subsection (1)(b) may, with the approval of the Commission or in prescribed circumstances, include a requirement that a person fix or use a meter supplied by the relevant water industry entity.

30 (4) A person must comply with any direction or requirement of a water industry entity with respect to the installation or use of a meter required or supplied by the entity under subsection (1) or (3).

Maximum penalty: \$10 000.

Expiation fee: \$500.

35 (5) The regulations may prescribe exceptions to the operation of a preceding subsection.

(6) A person must not, without proper authority, open, remove, alter, repair or interfere with a meter or other equipment for measuring the amount of water supplied by a water industry entity.

Maximum penalty: \$10 000.

40 Expiation fee: \$500.

- (7) A person must not, without proper authority, install, operate or use any pipe or other equipment to by-pass a meter installed for measuring the amount of water supplied by a water industry entity.

Maximum penalty: \$10 000.

5 Expiation fee: \$500.

- (8) If, in proceedings for an offence against subsection (6) or (7) it is proved that any equipment has been installed or any other act done, without proper authority, the apparent purpose of which is to abstract or divert water to any particular land or place or to affect the proper measurement of water supplied to any particular land or place,

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it will be presumed, in the absence of proof to the contrary, that the occupier of the land or place installed the equipment or did the other act with that purpose.

- (9) If a water industry entity suffers loss as a result of a contravention of this section, the entity may recover compensation for the loss from a person found guilty of the contravention—

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(a) on application to a court convicting the person of an offence against this section; or

(b) by action in a court of competent jurisdiction.

57—Discharge of unauthorised material into water infrastructure

- (1) A person must not, without proper authority, discharge any solid, liquid or gaseous material, or any other item or thing, into any water infrastructure.

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Maximum penalty: \$25 000.

Expiation fee: In circumstances prescribed by the regulations—\$750.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply in any circumstances excluded from the operation of this section by the regulations.

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- (3) If a water industry entity suffers loss as a result of a contravention of this section, the entity may recover compensation for the loss from a person found guilty of the contravention—

(a) on application to a court convicting the person of an offence against this section; or

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(b) by action in a court of competent jurisdiction.

58—Discharge of unauthorised material into sewerage infrastructure

- (1) A person must not, without proper authority, discharge into any sewerage infrastructure any solid, liquid or gaseous material, or any other item or thing—

(a) that is likely to damage the infrastructure; or

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(b) that is a waste product of a prescribed business or undertaking; or

(c) that is prescribed by the regulations as material that may not be discharged into sewerage infrastructure; or

(d) at a temperature or in a concentration that exceeds a temperature or concentration prescribed by the regulations in relation to that material; or

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(e) at a rate that is in breach of the regulations; or

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(f) in a form that is prohibited by the regulations.

Maximum penalty: \$25 000.

Expiation fee: In circumstances prescribed by the regulations—\$750.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply in any circumstances excluded from the operation of that subsection by the regulations.

(3) In connection with the operation of subsection (1), a water industry entity may, in relation to any sewerage infrastructure operated by the entity—

(a) on application by any person—authorise the person to discharge waste material referred to in the authorisation into the infrastructure;

(b) by notice in the Gazette—authorise the discharge of waste material referred to in the notice into the infrastructure by members of the public generally or by members of a group referred to in the notice.

(4) A person must not, without the authorisation of the relevant water industry entity, cause, permit or allow any rainwater, stormwater or surface water to flow into, or to gain admission to, any sewerage infrastructure.

Maximum penalty: \$2 500.

Expiation fee: \$150.

(5) Subsection (4) does not apply in any circumstances excluded from the operation of that subsection by the regulations.

(6) A water industry entity may attach such conditions to an authorisation under this section as the entity thinks fit and may vary or revoke the authorisation at any time.

(7) It will be a defence to a prosecution for an offence against subsection (1) or (4) for the defendant to prove that the person who discharged the material concerned did so in accordance with an authorisation under this section and that the authorisation was in force and applied for the defendant's benefit at that time.

(8) If a water industry entity suffers loss as a result of a contravention of this section, the entity may recover compensation for the loss from a person found guilty of the contravention—

(a) on application to a court convicting the person of an offence against this section; or

(b) by action in a court of competent jurisdiction.

59—Work to be carried out by owner at requirement of water industry entity with respect to sewerage infrastructure

(1) In order—

(a) to provide for the proper treatment (including the deodorising) of waste material before it is discharged from land into a drain connected to any sewerage infrastructure; or

- (b) to prevent the discharge of rainwater, stormwater or surface water into any sewerage infrastructure or to prevent the discharge into any sewerage infrastructure of waste material that has been prescribed as water material that may not be discharged into any sewerage infrastructure or that is, in the opinion of the relevant water industry entity, likely to damage or be detrimental to any sewerage infrastructure,

the relevant water industry entity may, by notice in writing served on the owner or occupier of the land, require the owner or occupier, within the time stated in the notice, to carry out work specified in the notice.

- (2) A notice referred to in subsection (1) may require the person on whom it is served to—

- (a) install or construct in such locations as are specified in the notice;
- (b) connect to the infrastructure;
- (c) alter or replace;
- (d) maintain, repair or cleanse;
- (e) remove, block or disconnect,

such drains, equipment or works as are specified in the notice in the manner specified in the notice or take other action specified in the notice.

- (3) The water industry entity may vary or revoke a notice referred to in subsection (1) by a subsequent notice in writing served on the owner or occupier of the land.

- (4) A person to whom a notice is issued under this section must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with the notice.

Maximum penalty: \$10 000.

- (5) If the requirements of a notice under this section are not complied with, the relevant water industry entity may take any action required by the notice.

- (6) Action taken by a water industry entity under subsection (5) may be taken on the entity's behalf by a water industry officer or another person authorised by the water industry entity for the purpose.

- (7) A person taking action under subsection (6) may enter any relevant land at any reasonable time.

- (8) The reasonable costs and expenses incurred by a water industry entity in taking action under subsection (6) or (7) may be recovered by the water industry entity as a debt from the person who failed to comply with the requirements of the notice.

60—Power to disconnect drains or to restrict services

- (1) If a water industry entity has grounds to believe that material has been discharged from land into sewerage infrastructure in contravention of this Division and that it is likely that a similar contravention will occur in the future, the entity may, after complying with any requirement prescribed by the regulations, close off or disconnect from the sewerage infrastructure 1 or more drains on the land that are connected to the infrastructure or restrict the provision of any sewerage service to the land.

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- (2) Before reopening or reconnecting a drain closed off or disconnected under this section, the water industry entity may require the owner or occupier of the relevant land to pay the prescribed fee.

Division 2—Protection and use of water supply**61—Power to restrict or discontinue water supply**

- (1) If a water industry entity believes on reasonable grounds—
- (a) —
- (i) that the quantity of water available for supply by the entity is, or is likely to be, insufficient to meet the demands of the persons to whom it is required to supply water (either because of a reduction in the quantity of water available or an increase in demand); or
- (ii) that the quantity or quality of water available for supply by the entity is, or is likely to be, below a standard set or adopted by the entity for the purposes of this subsection, or prescribed by the regulations; or
- (iii) that the capacity of any water infrastructure is, or is likely to be, insufficient to cope with existing or anticipated demand; and
- (b) that action under this subsection is justified in the circumstances, the entity may, after complying with any requirements prescribed by the regulations, exercise 1 or more of the powers specified under subsection (3).
- (2) A requirement prescribed by the regulations under subsection (1) may include 1 or more of the following:
- (a) that the water industry entity not act without obtaining the approval of the Minister or the Commission;
- (b) that the water industry entity comply with any process or procedure before acting under this subsection;
- (c) that the water industry entity consult in a manner specified by the regulations;
- (d) that the water industry entity review any action taken under this section in accordance with any requirements specified by the regulations;
- (e) that the water industry entity provide reports to the Minister or the Commission in accordance with any requirements specified by the regulations, the Minister or the Commission.
- (3) The following powers are specified under this subsection, namely, that the water industry entity may:
- (a) lessen the supply of water through any infrastructure (to such extent and in such manner as the entity thinks fit);
- (b) prohibit the use of water in a specified purpose or purposes, or restrict or regulate the purposes for which water can be used;
- (c) prohibit the use of water in a specified manner or by specified means, or restrict or regulate the manner in which, or the means by which, water may be used;

- (d) prohibit specified uses of water during specified periods, or restrict or regulate the times at which water may be used;
- (e) for such time or times as the entity thinks proper, discontinue the supply of water.

5 (4) A requirement under subsection (3) may provide that a specified activity involving the use of water cannot occur without the authority of a permit issued by the water industry entity in accordance with the regulations.

(5) A prohibition or notice under subsection (3)—

- 10 (a) must be imposed by a notice published or served in accordance with any requirements prescribed by the regulations; and
- (b) may be varied or revoke in accordance with any requirements prescribed by the regulations.

(6) A person who contravenes or fails to comply with a notice under this section is guilty of an offence.

15 Maximum penalty:

- (a) where the offender is a body corporate—\$10 000;
- (b) where the offender is a natural person—\$5 000.

Expiation fee: \$315.

62—Power to require the use of devices to reduce flow

20 (1) If a water industry entity believes on reasonable grounds that action under this section is justified in the circumstances to supply water during periods of greatest demand, the entity may serve notice under this section on the owner or occupier of land that is connected to water infrastructure operated by the entity.

(2) The notice may direct the owner or occupier—

25 (a) to install (at his or her expense) a flow reducing device of the kind specified in the notice at the point specified in the notice (including at a point on the customer's side of any connection point) to enable the flow in the pipes on the land that are connected to the infrastructure to be reduced; and

30 (b) to use the device to reduce flow in those pipes during the periods specified in the notice.

(3) The notice must specify a reasonable period for compliance with the requirements of the notice referred to in subsection (2)(a).

(4) A person who fails to comply with a notice under this section is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty:

- 35 (a) where the offender is a body corporate—\$10 000;
- (b) where the offender is a natural person—\$5 000.

Expiation fee: \$315.

40 (5) If the requirements of a notice under this section are not complied with, the water industry entity may install a flow reducing device to reduce the flow in the pipes on the relevant land notwithstanding that this reduction in flow will operate continuously instead of during the periods specified in the notice.

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- (6) The reasonable costs and expenses incurred by a water industry entity in taking action under subsection (5) may be recovered by the water industry entity as a debt from the person who failed to comply with the requirements of the notice.

63—Water conservation measures

- 5 (1) For the purposes of this section, water conservation measures may do 1 or more of the following:
- 10 (a) prohibit the use of water for a specified purpose or purposes, or restrict or regulate the purposes for which water can be used;
 - 10 (b) prohibit the use of water in a specified manner or by specified means, or restrict or regulate the manner in which, or the means by which, water may be used;
 - 10 (c) prohibit specified uses of water during specified periods, or restrict or regulate the times at which water may be used.
- 15 (2) The Governor may, by regulation, introduce 1 or more water conservation measures.
- 15 (3) Regulations under subsection (2) must be declared to be made—
- 20 (a) for the purposes of taking action to provide for the better conservation, use or management of water (*longer-term measures*); or
 - 20 (b) for the purposes of taking action on account of a situation, or likely situation, that, in the opinion of the Governor, has resulted, or is likely to result, in a decrease of the amount of water available within a particular area of the State (*short-term measures*).
- (4) A regulation under subsection (2) will, unless it has already been revoked, expire—
- 25 (a) in the case of a longer-term measure—at the expiration of 5 years from the day on which it comes into operation;
 - 25 (b) in the case of a short-term measure—at the expiration of 1 year from the day on which it comes into operation.
- (5) Before a regulation is made under subsection (2) the Minister should take reasonable steps to consult with persons who, in the opinion of the Minister, are appropriate representatives of groups who will be affected by the proposed regulation.
- 30 (6) A regulation under this section may provide that a specified activity involving the use of water cannot occur except under the authority of an approval or permit issued by the Minister or another specified person or body in accordance with the regulations.
- (7) A regulation under this section may—
- 35 (a) apply in relation to any water—
 - (i) that forms part of the water resources of the State; or
 - (ii) that is available for use within the State (including through a water reticulation system);
 - (b) apply in relation to the whole or any part of the State;
 - 40 (c) apply any measure in relation to specified classes of persons or bodies, or generally;

- (d) specify conditions or provide for exemptions;
- (e) otherwise make different provision according to circumstances specified in the regulation.

(8) A person who contravenes or fails to comply with a regulation under this section is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty:

- (a) where the offender is a body corporate—\$10 000;
- (b) where the offender is a natural person—\$5 000.

Expiation fee: \$315.

64—Power to test and protect water

(1) An authorised entity may, at any reasonable time, enter and remain on land—

- (a) to test any water that constitutes, or is reasonably likely to constitute, water to be supplied in connection with the provision of water services under this Act; or
- (b) to avert, eliminate or minimise any risk, or perceived risk, to any water that constitutes, or is reasonably likely to constitute, water to be supplied in connection with the provision of water services under this Act; or
- (c) in the event that it appears that water that constitutes, or is reasonably likely to constitute, water to be supplied in connection with the provision of water services under this Act, has been adversely affected, or is reasonably likely to be adversely affected, by any circumstance—to take action to address that situation.

(2) For the purposes of this section—

- (a) testing under subsection (1)(a) may include taking samples of any water; and
- (b) action taken under subsection (1)(b) or (c) may constitute such action as the authorised entity thinks fit, including by removing anything from any water or any other place; and
- (c) action may be taken under this section whether or not the water is located in any infrastructure.

(3) Subject to this section, if an authorised entity seeks to enter land under this section, the entity must give prior written notice to the occupier of the land stating the reason and the date and time of the proposed entry.

(4) The period of notice under subsection (3) must be reasonable.

(5) If the proposed entry is refused or obstructed, an authorised entity may obtain a warrant under Part 10 to enter the land.

(6) In an emergency, an authorised entity may exercise a power of entry under this section—

- (a) at any time and without prior notice if it is not practicable to give such notice; and
- (b) if necessary in the circumstances, by the use of reasonable force.

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 Division 2—Protection and use of water supply

- (7) When a person enters land under this section, the person—
- (a) may be accompanied by such assistants as the person considers necessary or appropriate; and
 - (b) may take any vehicles or equipment the person considers necessary or appropriate for the functions the person is to carry out on the land.
- (8) A person acting under this section must be accompanied by a police officer—
- (a) when entering a place under a warrant;
 - (b) if it is practicable to do so, when entering a place by force in an emergency.
- (9) A person acting under this section must comply with any requirements specified by the Minister from time to time by notice published in the Gazette for the purposes of this section.
- (10) This section does not limit a power that may be exercised under another provision of this Act.
- (11) In this section—
- authorised entity* means—
- (a) an authorised officer; or
 - (b) a water industry officer holding an authorisation granted by the Minister for the purposes of this section.

Division 3—Powers in relation to infrastructure and installations**65—Entry to land and related powers**

- (1) A water industry officer for a water industry entity may, at any reasonable time, enter and remain in a place to which a water service or a sewerage service is supplied by the use of water/sewerage infrastructure operated by the entity—
- (a) to inspect any infrastructure, equipment or other thing installed or used in connection with the supply, use or storage of water or the collection or removal of sewage (including on the customer's side of any connection point); or
 - (b) without limiting paragraph (a), to read, or check the accuracy of, a meter for measuring the supply of water; or
 - (c) to install, repair or replace any infrastructure, meter, equipment or works (including where the infrastructure, meter, equipment or works have been installed by another person or are located on the customer's side of any connection point); or
 - (d) to investigate suspected theft of water; or
 - (e) without limiting a preceding paragraph—to investigate whether there has been a contravention of Division 1 or 2; or
 - (f) without limiting a preceding paragraph—
 - (i) to see whether a hazard exists in connection with any infrastructure, equipment, works or other thing; or

- (ii) to take action to prevent or minimise any hazard in connection with the supply, use or storage of water or the collection or removal of sewage; or
- (g) to take samples of any water or other material in any infrastructure, equipment or works, or on any land; or
- (h) to exercise any other power prescribed by the regulations.
- (2) In an emergency, a water industry officer may exercise a power of entry under this section at any time, and if necessary in the circumstances, by the use of reasonable force.
- (3) When a water industry officer enters a place under this section, the water industry officer—
- (a) may be accompanied by such assistants as the water industry officer considers necessary or appropriate; and
- (b) may take any vehicles or equipment the water industry officer considers necessary or appropriate for the functions the water industry officer is to carry out in the place.
- (4) A water industry officer must, if it is practicable to do so, be accompanied by a police officer when entering a place by force in an emergency.
- (5) A water industry officer may, if in his or her opinion it is necessary or desirable, excavate land for the purposes of an inspection, to perform any work or to take or obtain any sample.
- (6) This section does not limit a power that may be exercised under another provision of this Act.

66—Disconnection etc if entry refused

- (1) If a water industry officer seeks to enter a place under this Part and entry is refused or obstructed, the water industry officer may, by written notice to the occupier of the place, ask for consent to entry by the water industry officer.
- (2) The notice must state the reason and the date and time of the proposed entry.
- (3) If entry is again refused or obstructed, the water industry entity may—
- (a) if it is possible to do so—disconnect the supply of water to the place, or the collection of sewage from the place, or restrict the supply of services to that place, without entering the place; or
- (b) if it is not possible to act under paragraph (a) without entering the place—obtain a warrant under Part 10 to enter the place for the purpose of making a disconnection or restriction envisaged under paragraph (a), and then enter the place under the warrant and take the relevant action.
- (4) A water industry officer may not enter a place under a warrant unless accompanied by a police officer.
- (5) The water industry entity must restore a connection if—
- (a) the occupier—
- (i) consents to the proposed entry; and

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Part 6—Protection and use of infrastructure, equipment and water and powers in relation to installations
Division 3—Powers in relation to infrastructure and installations

- (ii) pays the appropriate reconnection fee; and
- (b) it is safe to restore the connection; and
- (c) there is no other lawful ground for refusing to restore the connection.

67—Disconnection in an emergency

5 A water industry entity may, without incurring any liability, cut off the supply of water to any region, area, land or place if it is, in the entity's opinion, necessary to do so to avert danger to any person or property.

68—Special legislation not affected

10 Nothing in this Act affects the exercise of any power, or the obligation of a water industry entity to comply with any direction, order or requirement, under the *Emergency Management Act 2004*, *Environment Protection Act 1993*, *Essential Services Act 1981*, *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* or the *Public and Environmental Health Act 1987*.

Part 7—Technical and safety issues**69—Standards**

- 15 (1) The Technical Regulator may, by notice in the Gazette, publish standards—
- (a) relating to the design, manufacture, installation, inspection, alteration, repair, maintenance (including cleaning), removal, disconnection or decommissioning of—
 - 20 (i) any infrastructure that is used, or is capable of being used, in the water industry; or
 - (ii) any equipment connected to, or any equipment, products or materials used in connection with, any infrastructure that is used, or is capable of being used, in the water industry (including on the customer's side of any connection point); or
 - (b) relating to plumbing, including plumbing work or any equipment, products or materials used in connection with plumbing; or
 - (c) providing for any other matter that this Act may contemplate as being dealt with or administered by a standard prepared or published by the Technical Regulator.
- 30 (2) Without limiting subsection (1), a standard may—
- (a) specify the nature and quality of the materials from which infrastructure or equipment must be constructed; and
 - (b) specify the design and size of any pipes or other equipment that may be connected to any infrastructure or used in connection with plumbing; and
 - (c) specify requirements in relation to the construction, installation or positioning of any infrastructure or equipment; and
 - (d) specify the number of pipes and other equipment that may be connected to any infrastructure or device; and
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- (e) specify the position of pipes and other equipment connected to any infrastructure or device; and
- (f) specify requirements with respect to any products or materials used in connection with any infrastructure or plumbing; and
- 5 (g) specify the procedures to be followed when installing, inspecting, altering, repairing, maintaining, removing, disconnecting or decommissioning any infrastructure or equipment; and
- (h) specify requirements relating to the operation, testing or approving of any infrastructure, equipment, products or materials; and
- 10 (i) specify examination and testing requirements; and
- (j) specify performance or other standards that must be met by any infrastructure, equipment, products or materials (and, in doing so, specify methodologies or other processes or criteria for assessing compliance with those standards, including as to the efficiency, impact or effectiveness of any infrastructure, equipment, products or materials); and
- 15 (k) provide for any other matter prescribed by the regulations.
- (3) The Technical Regulator may, by further notice in the Gazette, vary or revoke a standard published under subsection (1) (and, as the Technical Regulator thinks fit, publish new or substitute standards).
- 20 (4) A standard published by the Technical Regulator may—
- (a) be of general or limited application; and
- (b) provide that a matter or thing in respect of which the standard applies is to be determined according to the discretion of the Technical Regulator, or any other person determined or approved by the Technical Regulator; and
- 25 (c) provide for exemptions to be granted (with or without conditions) by the Technical Regulator, or any other person authorised by the Technical Regulator; and
- (d) apply, adopt or incorporate, with or without modification, any code, standard or other document prepared or approved by a body or authority referred to in the standard as in force from time to time or as in force at a specified time.
- 30 (5) If a code, standard or other document is applied, adopted or incorporated in a standard—
- (a) a copy of the code, standard or other document must be kept available for inspection by members of the public, without charge and during normal office hours, at the office of the Technical Regulator; and
- 35 (b) in any legal proceedings, evidence of the contents of the code, standard or other document may be given by production of a document apparently certified by or on behalf of the Technical Regulator as a true copy of the code, standard or other document.
- 40 (6) The Minister must, within 14 sitting days after the publication of a standard, or the variation of a standard, cause a copy of the standard or the variation (as the case may be) to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

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- (7) If either House of Parliament—
- (a) passes a resolution disallowing a standard laid before it under subsection (6), then the standard ceases to have effect;
 - (b) passes a resolution disallowing a variation laid before it under subsection (6), then the variation ceases to have effect (and the relevant standard will, from that time, apply as if it has not been varied by that variation).
- (8) A resolution is not effective for the purposes of subsection (7) unless passed in pursuance of a notice of motion given within 14 sitting days (which need not fall within the same session of Parliament) after the day on which the standard or variation (as the case may be) is laid before the House.
- (9) If a resolution is passed under subsection (7), notice of that resolution must forthwith be published in the Gazette.
- (10) Subsections (5), (6) and (7) do not apply—
- (a) to the variation of a standard if the Minister certifies, on the advice of the Technical Regulator, that the variation constitutes a minor variation to an existing standard (including a standard that has adopted a national code or standard prepared by another body or authority; or
 - (b) in any other circumstance prescribed by the regulations.

70—Performance of regulated work

- (1) Any work to which this subsection applies must be carried out by a person with qualifications or experience recognised by regulations made for the purposes of this section.
- Maximum penalty: \$5 000.
Expiation fee: \$315.
- (2) A person to whom this subsection applies who carries out specified work—
- (a) in relation to any infrastructure that is used in the water industry; or
 - (b) in relation to any equipment connected to, or used in connection with, any infrastructure that is used in the water industry (including on the customer's side of any connection point); or
 - (c) without limiting paragraph (b)—in connection with plumbing (including on the customer's side of any connection point),
- must ensure that—
- (d) the work is carried out as required by a standard published under this Part; and
 - (e) examinations and tests are carried out as required by standards published under this Part.
- Maximum penalty: \$5 000.
Expiation fee: \$315.
- (3) A standard published by the Technical Regulator under this Part may—
- (a) specify work to which subsection (1) applies; and

- (b) specify persons to whom subsection (2) applies.

71—Responsibilities of water industry entity

A water industry entity must, in relation to—

- (a) any infrastructure used by the entity in the water industry; or
5 (b) any equipment connected to, or any equipment, products or materials used in connection with, any infrastructure used by the entity in the water industry,

take reasonable steps to ensure that—

- (c) the infrastructure, equipment, products or materials comply with, and are used in accordance with, technical and safety requirements specified by standards published under this Part; and
10 (d) the infrastructure, equipment, products or materials are safe and in good working order.

Maximum penalty: \$250 000.

72—Responsibilities of customers

- 15 (1) A customer who is supplied with a retail service must—

- (a) ensure that any equipment located on his or her premises that is relevant to the operation of that service (being equipment located on the customer's side of the connection point) complies with any relevant technical or safety requirements and is kept in good repair; and

- 20 (b) take reasonable steps to prevent—

- (i) any water running to waste on the premises; or
(ii) any waste material that should be discharged into a sewerage system to escape.

Maximum penalty: \$2 500.

25 Expiation fee: \$250.

- (2) For the purposes of ensuring under this section that any equipment complies with any technical or safety requirements, a person may, subject to the regulations, rely on any certificate of compliance issued under a scheme (if any or if relevant) established or approved by the Technical Regulator for the purposes of this Part.

- 30 (3) If a person fails to comply with subsection (1), the Technical Regulator or the water industry entity providing the service may disconnect the supply of water to the place, or the collection of sewerage from the place, or restrict the supply of services to that place.

- 35 (4) If an authorised officer or a water industry officer seeks to enter a place for the purposes of taking action under subsection (3) and entry is refused, the authorised officer or water industry officer may do so under a warrant under Part 10.

- (5) An authorised officer or a water industry officer may not enter a place under a warrant unless accompanied by a police officer.

73—Prohibition of sale or use of unsuitable items

- 5 (1) If, in the Technical Regulator's opinion, a particular component or component of a particular class is, or is likely to become, unsuitable for use in connection with the supply of water or the removal or treatment of sewerage, the Technical Regulator may prohibit the sale or use (or both sale and use) of the component or components of the relevant class.
- 10 (2) If, in the Technical Regulator's opinion, a particular component or component of a particular class is, or is likely to become, unsuitable for use in connection with the supply of water or the removal or treatment of sewerage, the Technical Regulator may require traders who have sold the component in the State—
- (a) to take specified action to recall the component from use; and
 - (b) —
 - 15 (i) to take specified action to render the component suitable for use; or
 - (ii) if it is not practicable to render the component suitable for use or the trader chooses not to do so—to refund the purchase price on return of the component.
- (3) A prohibition or requirement is imposed under this section—
- 20 (a) by notice in writing given personally or by post to the person to whom it is addressed; or
 - (b) if addressed to a class of persons, or the public generally—by public notice, and may be varied or revoked in the same way.
- (4) A person must not contravene or fail to comply with a prohibition or requirement under this section.
Maximum penalty: \$10 000.
- 25 (5) In this section—
- component** means a component for any infrastructure, equipment, product or material used in or in connection with the water industry or in connection with plumbing.

74—Public warning statements about unsuitable components, practices etc

- 30 (1) The Technical Regulator may, if satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so, make a public statement identifying and giving warnings or information about any of the following:
- 35 (a) components for any relevant equipment that, in the opinion of the Technical Regulator, are or are likely to become unsuitable for use and persons who supply the components;
 - (b) uses of relevant equipment or components for relevant equipment, or installation practices, that, in the opinion of the Technical Regulator, are unsuitable;
 - (c) uses of products or materials that, in the opinion of the Technical Regulator, are unsuitable;
 - 40 (d) any other practices or circumstances associated with relevant equipment or components for relevant equipment.

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- (2) A statement under subsection (1) may identify particular equipment, components, services, practices and persons.
- (3) Neither the Technical Regulator nor the Crown incurs any liability for a statement made by the Technical Regulator in good faith in the exercise or purported exercise of powers under this section.
- (4) No liability is incurred by a person for publishing in good faith—
- (a) a statement referred to in subsection (3); or
 - (b) a fair report or summary of such a statement.
- (5) In this section—

relevant equipment means any equipment that may be used in connection with any infrastructure used in or in connection with the water industry or in connection with plumbing (including on the customer's side of any connection point).

Part 8—Enforcement

Division 1—Appointment of authorised officers

75—Appointment of authorised officers

- (1) The Minister may appoint a person to be an authorised officer.
- (2) An authorised officer may (but need not be) a Public Service employee.
- (3) An authorised officer may be assigned to assist 1 or more of—
- (a) the Minister;
 - (b) the Commission;
 - (c) the Technical Regulator,
- as the Minister considers appropriate.
- (4) An authorised officer will, in the performance of functions and the exercise of powers, be subject to control and direction by an entity referred to in subsection (3) under a scheme established by the Minister after consultation with the Commission and the Technical Regulator.

76—Conditions of appointment

- (1) An authorised officer may be appointed for a stated term or for an indefinite term that continues while the officer holds a stated office or position.
- (2) An authorised officer holds office on the conditions stated in the instrument of appointment.
- (3) An authorised officer may resign by written notice given to the Minister.
- (4) An authorised officer may be removed from office by the Minister.

77—Identity cards

- (1) An authorised officer must be issued with an identity card in a form approved by the Minister—
- (a) containing the person's name and a photograph of the person; and
 - (b) stating that the person is an authorised officer for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) The identity card must be issued as soon as is reasonably practicable after the appointment is made (but an authorised officer is not prevented from exercising powers under this Act just because an identity card is yet to be issued).
- (3) An authorised officer must, at the request of a person in relation to whom the officer intends to exercise any powers under this Act, produce for the inspection of the person his or her identity card (unless the identity card is yet to be issued).

Division 2—General powers of authorised officers

78—Power of entry

- (1) An authorised officer may, as reasonably required for the purposes of the administration or enforcement of this Act, enter and remain in any place.
- (2) When an authorised officer enters a place under this section, the authorised officer—
- (a) may be accompanied by such assistants as the authorised officer considers necessary or appropriate; and
 - (b) may take any vehicles or equipment the authorised officer considers necessary or appropriate for the functions the authorised officer is to carry out in the place.
- (3) An authorised officer may use reasonable force to enter a place under this Part if—
- (a) the entry is authorised under a warrant under Part 10; or
 - (b) the entry is necessary in an emergency.
- (4) An authorised officer must be accompanied by a police officer—
- (a) when entering a place under a warrant;
 - (b) if it is practicable to do so, when entering a place by force in an emergency.

79—Inspection powers

- (1) An authorised officer who enters a place under this Part may—
- (a) ask questions of any person found in the place; and
 - (b) inspect, examine or test any infrastructure, plumbing, equipment, product, materials or other thing, or any substance, located or found at the place; and
 - (c) require any person to state his or her full name and address; and
 - (d) take and remove samples of any substance or other thing found or located at the place; and
 - (e) require any person to produce any plans, specifications, books, papers or documents; and

- (f) examine, copy and take extracts from any plans, specifications, books, papers or documents; and
 - (g) take photographs, films or video recordings; and
 - (h) take measurements, make notes and carry out tests; and
 - 5 (i) remove any substance or object that may constitute evidence of the commission of an offence against this Act; and
 - (j) exercise any other power prescribed by the regulations.
- (2) If an authorised officer takes possession of an object that may be evidence of an offence—
- 10 (a) the authorised officer must give the occupier of the place a receipt for the object; and
 - (b) the object must be returned to its owner—
 - 15 (i) if proceedings for an offence are not commenced within 6 months after the authorised officer takes possession of the object—at the end of that period; or
 - (ii) if such proceedings are commenced within that period—on completion of the proceedings, unless the court, on application by the Minister, Commission or Technical Regulator, orders confiscation of the object.
- 20 (3) A court may order the confiscation of an object of which an authorised officer has taken possession under subsection (1) if of the opinion that the object has been used for the purpose of committing an offence or there is some other proper reason for ordering its confiscation.
- (4) If the court orders the confiscation of an object, the Minister, the Commission or
- 25 Technical Regulator may dispose of the object.
- (5) A person who—
- (a) having been asked a question under this section, does not answer the question to the best of his or her knowledge, information and belief; or
 - 30 (b) being the person in charge of a place subject to an inspection and having been required to provide reasonable assistance to facilitate the inspection, refuses or fail to provide such assistance,
- is guilty of an offence.
Maximum penalty: \$10 000.

Division 3—Specific powers in relation to infrastructure and equipment

35 80—Disconnection of supply

- (1) If an authorised officer finds that water is being supplied or consumed contrary to this Act, the authorised officer may disconnect the water supply.

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Part 8—Enforcement

Division 3—Specific powers in relation to infrastructure and equipment

(2) If an authorised officer disconnects a water supply under this section, the officer must give written notice to the occupier of the relevant place—

(a) informing the occupier that the water supply has been disconnected under this section; and

(b) directing that the water supply must not be reconnected until arrangements have been made to the satisfaction of an authorised officer to ensure against future contravention of this Act.

(3) If a water supply has been disconnected under this section, a person must not reconnect the water supply, or have it reconnected, without the approval of an authorised officer.

Maximum penalty: \$10 000.

81—Power to make infrastructure etc safe

(1) If an authorised officer finds any water/sewerage infrastructure or any equipment, product or materials unsafe, the authorised officer may—

(a) disconnect the supply of water to the place, or the collection of sewerage from the place, or give a direction requiring any such disconnection;

(b) restrict the provision of any service;

(c) give a direction requiring the carrying out of work necessary to make the infrastructure, equipment, product or materials safe before any reconnection is made.

(2) Subject to this section, a direction under this section must be given—

(a) in relation to water/sewerage infrastructure—to the water industry entity that operates the infrastructure;

(b) in relation to any equipment, product or materials—to the person in charge of the equipment, product or materials or the occupier of the place in which the equipment, product or materials are installed or located.

(3) A direction under this section may be given by written notice or, if the authorised officer is of the opinion that immediate action is required, orally (but if the direction is given orally it must be confirmed in writing).

(4) A person to whom a direction is given under this section—

(a) must comply with the direction; and

(b) if relevant, must not reconnect or permit the reconnection of the water supply or sewerage infrastructure (as the case may be) unless the work required by the direction under this section has been carried out, or an authorised officer approves the reconnection.

Maximum penalty: \$10 000.

Division 4—Related matters**82—Power to require information or documents**

(1) An authorised officer may require a person to provide information in the person's possession relevant to the administration or enforcement of this Act.

- (2) An authorised officer may require a person to produce documents in the person's possession that may be relevant to the administration or enforcement of this Act for inspection by the authorised officer.
- (3) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with a requirement under this section.
Maximum penalty: \$10 000.
- (4) This section does not limit the operation of any other provision of this Act.

83—Enforcement notices

- (1) An authorised officer may issue a notice (an *enforcement notice*) under this section for the purpose of securing compliance with a requirement imposed by or under this Act (including a standard issued under Part 7).
- (2) A notice under this section—
- (a) subject to subsection (3), must be in the form of a written notice served on the person to whom it is issued; and
 - (b) must specify the person to whom it is issued (whether by name or by a description sufficient to identify the person); and
 - (c) may direct 2 or more persons to do something specified in the notice jointly; and
 - (d) without limiting any other provision, in the case of a notice that relates to a situation existing on any premises, may be issued to any person who—
 - (i) is the owner or occupier of the premises; or
 - (ii) has the management or control of the premises; and
 - (e) without limiting any other provision, may be issued to any person who has performed, or is performing, any work (including work on any premises owned or occupied by another person); and
 - (f) must state the grounds on which the notice is issued; and
 - (g) may impose any requirement reasonably required for the purpose for which the notice is issued including 1 or more of the following:
 - (i) a requirement that the person discontinue, or not commence, a specified activity indefinitely or for a specified period or until further notice from a relevant authority;
 - (ii) a requirement that the person take specified action in a specified way, and within a specified period or at specified times or in specified circumstances;
 - (iii) a requirement that the person comply with any specified standard or code published by the Technical Regulator or any other specified person or body referred to in the notice;
 - (iv) a requirement that the person undertake specified tests or monitoring;
 - (v) a requirement that the person furnish to a relevant authority specified results or reports;
 - (vi) a requirement prescribed by the regulations; and

(h) must state that the person may, within 14 days, apply for a review of the notice or institute an appeal against the notice under the provisions of this Act.

5 (3) An authorised officer may, if of the opinion that urgent action is required, issue an emergency notice imposing a requirement of a kind referred to in subsection (2)(g) as reasonably required in the circumstances.

10 (4) An emergency enforcement notice may be issued orally (and without compliance with a requirement to give preliminary notice) but, in that event, the person to whom the notice is issued must be advised forthwith of the person's right to appeal to the District Court against the order.

(5) If an emergency enforcement notice is issued by an authorised officer, the notice will cease to have effect on the expiration of 72 hours from the time of issuing unless confirmed by a written notice served on the relevant person.

15 (6) An authorised officer may, by written notice served on a person to whom a notice under this section has been issued, vary or revoke the notice.

(7) A relevant authority may, by written notice served on a person to whom a notice under this section has been issued by the relevant authority, vary or revoke the notice.

(8) A person to whom a notice is issued under this section must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with the notice.

20 Maximum penalty: \$25 000.

Expiation fee: \$750.

(9) A person must not hinder or obstruct a person complying with a notice under this section.

Maximum penalty: \$25 000.

25 (10) If the requirements of a notice under this section are not complied with, a relevant authority may take any action required by the notice.

(11) Action to be taken by a relevant authority under subsection (10) may be taken on the relevant authority's behalf by an authorised officer or another person authorised by the relevant authority for the purpose.

30 (12) A person taking action under subsection (10) or (11) may enter any premises at any reasonable time.

(13) The reasonable costs and expenses incurred by a relevant authority in taking action under subsections (10) and (11) may be recovered by the relevant authority as a debt from the person who failed to comply with the requirements of the notice.

35 (14) If an amount is recoverable from a person by a relevant authority under this section, the relevant authority may, by notice in writing to the person, fix a period, being not less than 28 days from the date of the notice, within which the amount must be paid by the person, and, if the amount is not paid by the person within that period, the person is liable to pay interest charged at the prescribed rate per annum on the amount
40 unpaid.

(15) In this section—

relevant authority means—

(a) the Minister; or

- (b) the Commission; or
- (c) the Technical Regulator.

84—Self-incrimination

- 5 (1) Subject to subsection (2), a person is not required to give information or produce a document under this Part if the answer to the question or the contents of the document would tend to incriminate the person of an offence.
- (2) If a person is required to give information or produce a document under this Part in circumstances prescribed by the regulations and the information or document would tend to incriminate the person of an offence, the person must nevertheless give the information or produce the document, but—
 - 10 (a) if the person is a natural person, the information or document so given or produced will not be admissible in evidence against the person in proceedings for an offence (other than an offence relating to the making of a false or misleading statement or declaration); and
 - 15 (b) if the person is a body corporate—
 - 20 (i) the information or document so given or produced will not be admissible in evidence against a director of the body corporate in proceedings for an offence (other than an offence relating to the making of a false or misleading statement or declaration); and
 - 25 (ii) a director will not be guilty of an offence (other than an offence relating to the making of a false or misleading statement or declaration) as a result of the body corporate having been found guilty of an offence in proceedings in which the information or document so given or produced was admitted in evidence against the body corporate.

85—Warning notices and assurances

- 30 (1) If it appears to the Commission that a person has contravened a provision of Part 4, the Commission may issue a warning notice to the person—
 - (a) informing the person that the Commission considers that the contravention has occurred; and
 - (b) providing the person with the option—
 - 35 (i) to the extent that the contravention is capable of being rectified—to take action specified in the notice to rectify the contravention within the period specified in the notice; and
 - (ii) to give the Commission an assurance, in the terms specified in the notice, and within the period specified in the notice, that the person will avoid a future such contravention.
- 40 (2) If it appears to the Technical Regulator that a person has contravened a provision of Part 7, the Technical Regulator may issue a warning notice to the person—
 - (a) informing the person that the Technical Regulator considers that the contravention has occurred; and
 - (b) providing the person with the option—

- (i) to the extent that the contravention is capable of being rectified—to take action specified in the notice to rectify the contravention within the period specified in the notice; and
- (ii) to give the Technical Regulator an assurance, in the terms specified in the notice, and within the period specified in the notice, that the person will avoid a future such contravention.
- (3) A warning notice issued under this section, and an assurance given under this section, must be in writing.
- (4) The action that may be specified in a warning notice to rectify a contravention may include action to remedy adverse consequences of the contravention, for example (without limitation)—
- (a) the refunding of an amount wrongly paid to the person as a result of the contravention; or
- (b) the payment of compensation to a person who has suffered loss, damage or injury as a result of the contravention; or
- (c) the disclosure of information; or
- (d) the publication of advertisements relating to the contravention or relating to action to rectify or remedy the contravention.
- (5) The Commission or the Technical Regulator may, by written notice to a person, vary a warning notice issued to the person.
- (6) If—
- (a) the Commission or the Technical Regulator issues a warning notice to a person; and
- (b) the person—
- (i) fails to take action specified in the notice to rectify the contravention within the period specified in the notice; or
- (ii) fails to give the Commission or the Technical Regulator, as the case requires, an assurance in the terms specified in the notice within the period specified in the notice; or
- (iii) contravenes an assurance given by the person in response to the notice,
- then the Commission or the Technical Regulator may proceed against the person in respect of the contravention to which the notice relates (but if the person takes up the option provided by the notice, and does not fall within the ambit of paragraph (b), then the person is not liable to be prosecuted for the contravention).
- (7) In connection, with the operation of the preceding subsections—
- (a) the Commission must keep a register of warning notices issued by the Commission under this section, and a register of assurances given to the Commission under this section; and
- (b) the Technical Regulator must keep a register of warning notices issued by the Technical Regulator under this section, and a register of assurances given to the Technical Regulator under this section.

- (8) A person may, without payment of a fee, inspect a register kept under subsection (7).

86—Injunctions

- 5 (1) If the District Court is satisfied, on the application of the Minister, the Commission, the Technical Regulator or any other person, that a person has engaged or proposes to engage in conduct that constitutes or would constitute a contravention of this Act, the Court may grant an injunction in such terms as the Court determines to be appropriate.
- 10 (2) If the District Court is satisfied, on the application of the Minister, the Commission, or the Technical Regulator, that a person has engaged in conduct constituting a contravention of this Act, the Court may grant an injunction requiring that person to take specified action to remedy any adverse consequence of that conduct.
- (3) The action that may be required by an injunction to remedy adverse consequences of conduct constituting a contravention may include (without limitation)—
- 15 (a) the refunding of an amount wrongly paid as a result of the contravention; or
- (b) the payment of compensation to a person who has suffered loss, damage or injury as a result of the contravention; or
- (c) the disclosure of information; or
- (d) the publication of advertisements relating to the contravention or relating to action to rectify or remedy the contravention.
- (4) An injunction may be granted by the District Court under this section—
- 20 (a) in proceedings in which the Court convicts a person of an offence to which the application relates; or
- (b) in proceedings brought before the Court for the purpose of obtaining the injunction.
- (5) The power of the District Court to grant an injunction restraining a person from engaging in conduct may be exercised—
- 25 (a) whether or not it appears to the Court that the person intends to engage again, or to continue to engage, in conduct of that kind; and
- (b) whether or not the person has previously engaged in conduct of that kind; and
- 30 (c) whether or not there is an imminent danger of substantial damage to any other person if the person engages in conduct of that kind.
- (6) The power of the District Court to grant an injunction requiring a person to do an act or thing may be exercised—
- (a) whether or not it appears to the Court that the person intends to refuse or fail again, or to continue to refuse or fail, to do that act or thing; and
- 35 (b) whether or not the person has previously refused or failed to do that act or thing; and
- (c) whether or not there is an imminent danger of substantial damage to any other person if the person refuses or fails to do that act or thing.
- 40 (7) An interim injunction may be granted under this section pending final determination of the application.

- (8) A final injunction may, by consent of the parties, be granted under this section without proof that proper grounds for the injunction exist.
- (9) Where the Minister, the Commission or the Technical Regulator applies for an injunction under this section, no undertaking as to damages will be required.
- 5 (10) The Minister may give an undertaking as to damages or costs on behalf of some other applicant and, in that event, no further undertaking will be required.
- (11) An injunction under this section may be rescinded or varied at any time.
- (12) A reference in this section to the District Court is a reference to the Court in any of its Divisions.

10 **Part 9—Reviews and appeals**

87—Review of decisions by Commission or Technical Regulator

- (1) Subject to this section, an application may be made to—
- 15 (a) the Commission by an applicant for the issue or variation of the terms or conditions of a licence under Part 4, or for agreement to the transfer of such a licence, for review of a decision of the Commission to refuse the application; or
- (b) the Commission by a water industry entity for review of a decision of the Commission under Part 4 to suspend or cancel the entity's licence or to vary the terms or conditions of the entity's licence; or
- 20 (c) the Technical Regulator by a person to whom a direction has been given under this Act by the Technical Regulator or an authorised officer for review of the decision to give the direction; or
- (d) the Technical Regulator by a person affected by the decision for review of a decision of an authorised officer or a water industry officer to disconnect a supply of water to a place, or the collection of sewage from a place, or to restrict the provision of a service.
- 25
- (2) An application may not be made under subsection (1) in relation to—
- (a) the exercise of a power of an authorised officer under Part 8 Division 2; or
- 30 (b) a decision to issue an enforcement notice under Part 8 Division 4, or any matter associated with the requirements or enforcement of such a notice.
- (3) An application for review under this section must—
- (a) be in writing; and
- (b) set out the decision to which the application relates; and
- 35 (c) set out in detail the grounds on which the applicant seeks review and the decision sought on the review; and
- (d) be accompanied by any information that the applicant considers should be taken into account by the Commission or the Technical Regulator on the review; and
- (e) be lodged with the Commission or the Technical Regulator—

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- 5
- (i) in the case of a decision relating to a licence or application for a licence—within 10 working days after written notice of the decision is given to the water industry entity or applicant;
 - (ii) in the case of a decision to a direction—within 10 working days after the direction is given;
 - (iii) in the case of a decision to disconnect a service—within 10 working days after notice of the disconnection is given or, if notice is not given, within 10 working days after the service is disconnected.
- 10
- (4) The Commission or the Technical Regulator, as the case requires, may stay the operation of the decision to which the application relates.
 - (5) A review must be decided within 4 weeks of the application being lodged.
 - (6) If a review is not decided within that period, the Commission or the Technical Regulator, as the case requires, is to be taken to have confirmed the decision.
 - (7) After considering the application, the Commission or the Technical Regulator, as the case requires, may confirm, amend or substitute the decision.
 - (8) The Commission or the Technical Regulator must give the applicant written notice of the decision, and the reasons for the decision, on the review.
- 15

88—Appeals

- 20
- (1) The following rights of appeal lie to the District Court:
 - (a) an applicant for review under section 87 who is dissatisfied with a decision as confirmed, amended or substituted by the Commission or the Technical Regulator;
 - (b) a person to whom an enforcement notice has been issued under Part 8 Division 4.
- 25
- (2) An appeal must be made—
 - (a) in the case of an appeal under subsection (1)(a)—within 14 days after receipt of the written notice of the decision appealed against or, if the Commission or the Technical Regulator failed to make a decision on the review within the allowed period, within 14 days after the end of that period; and
 - (b) in the case of an appeal under subsection (1)(b)—within 14 days after the notice is issued to the relevant person.
- 30
- (3) In the case of an appeal under subsection (1)(a), the District Court must sit with experts selected in accordance with Schedule 1.
 - (4) The District Court may—
- 35
- (a) on an appeal under subsection (1)(a)—
 - (i) affirm the decision appealed against; or
 - (ii) remit the matter to the original decision maker for consideration or further consideration in accordance with any directions of the Court; and
 - (b) on an appeal under subsection (1)(b)—
- 40

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- (i) confirm, vary or revoke the notice; or
 - (ii) remit the matter to any person or body under this Act for further consideration; and
 - (c) in any event—make any consequential or ancillary order or direction, or impose any condition, that the Court considers necessary or expedient on account of an appeal under this section.

- 5
- (5) An appeal under the *District Court Act 1991* will lie against a decision of the District Court under this section on a question of law (but not on a question of fact).

89—Minister's power to intervene

10 The Minister may intervene, personally or by counsel or other representative, in a review or appeal under this Part for the purpose of introducing evidence, or making submissions, on any question relevant to the public interest.

Part 10—Miscellaneous

90—Minister's power to require information

- 15 (1) The Minister may require the Commission, a water industry entity or other person to give the Minister, within a time specified by the Minister (which must be reasonable), information in the person's possession that the Minister reasonably requires for the performance of the Minister's functions under this Act.
- (2) A person required to give information under this section must provide the information within the time specified by the Minister.
- 20 Maximum penalty: \$20 000.

91—Delegation by Minister

- (1) The Minister may delegate a function or power conferred on the Minister under this Act—
- 25 (a) to a particular person or body; or
- (b) to the person for the time being occupying a particular office or position.
- (2) A function or power delegated under this section may, if the instrument of delegation so provides, be further delegated.
- (3) A delegation—
- 30 (a) may be made subject to conditions or limitations specified in the instrument of delegation; and
- (b) does not derogate from the power of the Minister to act in a matter; and
- (c) is revocable at will by the Minister.
- (4) In any legal proceedings an apparently genuine certificate, purportedly given by the Minister, containing particulars of a delegation under this will, in the absence of proof to the contrary, be accepted as proof that the delegation was made in accordance with the particulars.
- 35

92—Consultation between agencies

- (1) The following agencies must, insofar as they share common interests, consult with each other in connection with the operation and administration of this Act:
- (a) the Commission;
 - 5 (b) the Technical Regulator;
 - (c) the Minister's Department;
 - (d) the Health Department;
 - (e) the Environment Protection Authority.
- (2) The consultation under subsection (1) must be consistent with any requirement prescribed by the regulations.
- 10 (3) This section does not derogate from the operation of sections 10 and 11 of the *Essential Services Commission Act 2002*.

93—Seizure and dismantling of infrastructure

- 15 (1) Water/sewerage infrastructure cannot be seized and dismantled in execution of a judgment.
- (2) This section does not prevent the sale of infrastructure as a part of a going concern in execution of a judgement.

94—Save the River Murray levy

- 20 (1) The Save the River Murray levy is—
- (a) for category 1 land—\$C1 (indexed) for each financial year;
 - (b) for category 2 land—\$C2 (indexed) for each financial year.
- (2) In subsection (1)—
- Category 1 land** is residential land and land of any other class declared under subsection (5) to be Category 1 land;
- 25 **Category 2 land** is any land other than Category 1 land;
- \$C1** is—
- (a) in relation to the financial year commencing or underway when this section comes into operation—the amount applying under section 65CA of the *Waterworks Act 1932* in relation to Category 1 land, indexed in the manner contemplated by that section; and
 - 30 (b) in relation to each subsequent financial year—the amount adjusted under subsection (4);
- \$C2** is—
- 35 (a) in relation to the financial year commencing or underway when this section comes into operation—the amount applying under section 65CA of the *Waterworks Act 1932* in relation to Category 2 land, indexed in the manner contemplated by that section; and
 - (b) in relation to each subsequent year—the amount adjusted under subsection (4).

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- (3) A proportionate amount of the levy is payable for each quarter.
- (4) The amount of any levy is to be adjusted (to the nearest 20 cents) for each financial year commencing after the commencement of this section by multiplying the relevant amount fixed in subsection (1) by a multiplier obtained by dividing the Consumer Price Index (All Groups Index for Adelaide) for the March quarter in the calendar year in which the relevant financial year commences by the Consumer Price Index (All Groups Index for Adelaide) for the March quarter of the calendar year in which this section commences.
- (5) The Minister may—
- (a) declare specified non-residential land or a particular class of non-residential land to be category 1 land; or
 - (b) exclude specified land or land of a specified class from the application of the levy; or
 - (c) declare that specified persons or persons of a specified class are entitled to a remission or partial remission of the levy; or
 - (d) vary or revoke a previous declaration or exclusion under this subsection.
- (6) The Minister is to exercise the powers conferred by subsection (5)—
- (a) by notice in the Gazette; or
 - (b) in the case of a declaration or exclusion related to specified land or specified persons (or the variation or exclusion of such a declaration or exclusion)—either by notice in the Gazette or by instrument in writing.
- (7) In connection with the operation of subsections (5) and (6)—
- (a) a declaration or exclusion (or the variation or revocation of a declaration or exclusion) is to take effect from the commencement of a particular financial year or a particular quarter (to be specified in the relevant notice or instrument); and
 - (b) where the declaration or exclusion (or its variation or revocation) is made by notice in the Gazette, the notice must be published before the date on which it is to take effect; and
 - (c) an instrument related to specified land or specified persons may operate retrospectively from a specified date (but not from a date falling before the commencement of the financial year in which the instrument is made).
- (8) The above provisions are subject to the following qualifications:
- (a) a council is liable to a single levy of \$C2 (as defined under subsection (2) and as indexed in accordance with the scheme under subsection (4)) for each financial year irrespective of the number of its landholdings and their classification;
 - (b) a person entitled to a remission of water rates under the *Rates and Land Tax Remission Act 1986* is exempt from the levy;

- 5 (c) a registered housing co-operative entitled to a remission of water rates in respect of premises or a part of premises under section 104 of the *South Australian Co-operative and Community Housing Act 1991* is exempt from the levy to the extent that it would (apart from this paragraph) apply to the relevant premises or the relevant part of the premises.
- (9) The levy will, in accordance with a scheme established by the Minister after consultation with the Treasurer and published in the Gazette—
- 10 (a) be payable at first instance to a retail service provider by each customer of the retail service provider (subject to any exclusion applying under this section and to the operation of subsection (9)); and
- (b) once received under paragraph (a), be passed on by each retail service provider to the Minister.
- 15 (10) If land is divided by a strata plan under the *Community Titles Act 1996* or the *Strata Titles Act 1988*, the owner of each lot or unit is liable for payment of the Save the River Murray levy in respect of the lot or unit.
- (11) In this section—
- owner* in relation to a lot or unit includes subsequent owners of the lot or unit.

95—Save the River Murray Fund

- 20 (1) The *Save the River Murray Fund* continues in existence.
- (2) The Fund will be held by the River Murray Minister.
- (3) The amounts constituting the Save the River Murray levy received by the Minister under this Act will be paid into the Fund.
- (4) The money paid into the Fund under this section will from time to time be applied by the River Murray Minister towards—
- 25 (a) programs and measures to—
- (i) improve and promote the environmental health of the River Murray; or
- (ii) ensure the adequacy, security and quality of the State's water supply from the River Murray; and
- 30 (b) if the State's contributions to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (established under the *Water Act 2007* of the Commonwealth) for a particular financial year exceed \$A million (as indexed under subsection (5))—payment of the excess; and
- 35 (c) if the River Murray Minister is satisfied that it may be appropriate to provide rebates in particular cases—the costs of rebates (including the costs of administering the rebate scheme).

(5) In subsection (4)—

\$A million is—

- 5 (a) in relation to the financial year commencing or underway when this section comes into operation—the amount applying under section 100(5)(b) of the *Waterworks Act 1932*, indexed in the manner contemplated by that section; and
- (b) in relation to each subsequent financial year—the amount obtained by applying the same index factor as is applicable to the calculation of the amount of the levy for that financial year.

10 (6) The River Murray Minister must, as soon as practicable after 30 June in each year, submit to the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly a report detailing—

- (a) the amount of money paid into the Fund under this section; and
- 15 (b) the application by the River Murray Minister of money paid into the Fund under this section,

during the period of 12 months preceding that 30 June.

(7) The President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly must, on receiving a report under this section, lay the report before their respective Houses.

20 (8) In this section—

River Murray Minister means the Minister to whom the administration of the *River Murray Act 2003* is for the time being committed.

96—Immunity

25 (1) No act or omission undertaken or made by a designated entity, or by another person acting under the authority of a designated entity, exercising or performing a power or function under this Act (including by discontinuing or disconnecting any service, taking action that may damage any land or property, or adversely affecting the use or enjoyment of any land or property) gives rise to any liability against the designated entity, person or the Crown.

30 (2) Nothing done by a person in furnishing information to a designated entity in accordance with a requirement under this Act—

- (a) is to be regarded as placing the person in breach of contract or confidence or as otherwise making the person guilty of a civil wrong; or
- 35 (b) is to be regarded as placing the person in breach of, or as constituting a default under, any Act or other law or obligation or any provision in any agreement, arrangement or understanding; or
- (c) is to be regarded as fulfilling any condition that allows a person to exercise a power, right or remedy in respect of or to terminate any agreement or obligation; or
- 40 (d) is to be regarded as giving rise to any remedy for a party to a contract or an instrument; or
- (e) gives rise to any right or entitlement to damages or compensation.

(3) In this section—

designated entity means—

- (a) the Minister; or
- (b) the Commission; or
- 5 (c) the Technical Regulator; or
- (d) an authorised officer.

97—Impersonation of officials etc

A person must not impersonate an authorised officer, a water industry officer or anyone else with powers under this Act.

10 Maximum penalty: \$5 000.

98—Obstruction of officials etc

(1) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, obstruct an authorised officer, a water industry officer, or anyone else engaged in the administration of this Act or the exercise of powers under this Act.

15 Maximum penalty: \$10 000.

(2) A person must not use abusive or intimidatory language to, or engage in offensive or intimidatory behaviour towards, an authorised officer, a water industry officer, or anyone else engaged in the administration of this Act or the exercise of powers under this Act.

20 Maximum penalty: \$5 000.

99—Obstruction of works by occupiers

An occupier of land must not—

- 25 (a) refuse to allow an owner of the land to enter the land and take action to comply with any provision of this Act, or a requirement imposed under this Act; or
- (b) without reasonable excuse, obstruct an owner of the land who is taking action to comply with any provision of this Act, or a requirement imposed under this Act.

Maximum penalty: \$5 000.

30 100—False or misleading information

A person must not make a statement that is false or misleading in a material particular (whether by reason of the inclusion or omission of any particular) in any information furnished under this Act.

Maximum penalty:

- 35 (a) if the person made the statement knowing that it was false or misleading—\$10 000 or imprisonment for 2 years;
- (b) in any other case—\$5 000.

101—Offences

- (1) Proceedings for an offence against this Act must be commenced within 5 years of the date of the alleged offence.
- (2) Proceedings for an offence against this Act may be commenced by—
- 5 (a) the Minister; or
- (b) the Commission; or
- (c) the Technical Regulator; or
- (d) an authorised officer; or
- (e) the Director of Public Prosecutions; or
- 10 (f) a water industry entity authorised by the Minister; or
- (g) a water industry officer authorised by the Technical Regulator; or
- (h) a person acting with the authorisation in writing of the Minister.
- (3) An apparently genuine document purporting to be under the hand of the Minister or the Technical Regulator and to authorise the commencement of proceedings under this Act must be accepted in legal proceedings, in the absence of proof to the contrary, as proof of the authorisation.
- 15 (4) The following persons are authorised to give expiation notices for an alleged offence against this Act (in addition to any person authorised under the *Expiation of Offences Act 1996*):
- 20 (a) any authorised officer authorised in writing by the Technical Regulator;
- (b) any water industry officer authorised in writing by the Technical Regulator.
- (5) An authorisation under subsection (4) may be given subject to such conditions or limitations as the Technical Regulator thinks fit.
- (6) An apparently genuine document purporting to be under the hand of the Technical Regulator and to give an authorisation under subsection (4) must be accepted, in the absence of proof to the contrary, as proof of the authorisation.
- 25

102—General defence

- (1) It is a defence to a charge of an offence against this Act if the defendant proves that the offence was not committed intentionally and did not result from any failure on the part of the defendant to take reasonable care to avoid the commission of the offence.
- 30 (2) It is a defence to a charge of an offence against this Act if the defendant proves that the act or omission constituting the offence was reasonably necessary in the circumstances in order to avert, eliminate or minimise danger to person or property.

103—Offences by bodies corporate

35 If a body corporate is guilty of an offence against this Act, each director of the body corporate is, subject to the general defences under this Part, guilty of an offence and liable to the same penalty as may be imposed for the principal offence.

104—Continuing offences

- (1) A person convicted of an offence against a provision of this Act in respect of a continuing act or omission—
- 5 (a) is liable, in addition to the penalty otherwise applicable to the offence, to a penalty for each day during which the act or omission continued of not more than one-tenth of the maximum penalty prescribed for that offence; and
- 10 (b) is, if the act or omission continues after the conviction, guilty of a further offence against the provision and liable, in addition to the penalty otherwise applicable to the further offence, to a penalty for each day during which the act or omission continued after the conviction of not more than one-fifth of the maximum penalty prescribed for the offence.
- (2) If an offence consists of an omission to do something that is required to be done, the omission will be taken to continue for as long as the thing required to be done remains undone after the end of the period for compliance with the requirement.

105—Order for payment of profit from contravention

15 The court convicting a person of an offence against this Act may order the convicted person to pay to the Crown an amount not exceeding the court's estimation of the amount of any monetary, financial or economic benefits acquired by the person, or accrued or accruing to the person, as a result of the commission of the offence.

106—Statutory declarations

20 If a person is required by or under this Act to furnish information to the Minister, Commission or Technical Regulator, the Minister, Commission or Technical Regulator may require that the information be verified by statutory declaration and, in that event, the person will not be taken to have furnished the information as required unless it has been verified in accordance with the requirements of the Minister, Commission or Technical Regulator.

107—Power of exemption

- 30 (1) The Commission may, with the approval of the Minister, grant an exemption from Part 4, or specified provisions of that Part, on terms and conditions the Commission considers appropriate.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the power to exempt includes power to exempt a person from the application of a provision requiring the Commission to make a licence held by the person subject to a specified condition.
- 35 (3) A person exempted from a requirement to hold a licence under Part 4 is, if the Commission has so determined by writing, to be treated as a water industry entity for the purposes of specified provisions of this or another Act.
- (4) Except as otherwise provided in the exemption, an exemption under subsection (1), or a determination under subsection (3), may be varied or revoked by the Commission by notice in writing.
- 40 (5) The Technical Regulator may grant an exemption from Part 7, or specified provisions of that Part, on terms and conditions the Technical Regulator considers appropriate.
- (6) Except as otherwise provided in the exemption, an exemption under subsection (5) may be varied or revoked by the Technical Regulator by notice in writing.

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- (7) The Minister may grant an exemption from any provision of this Act, other than under Part 4, on terms and conditions the Minister considers appropriate.
- (8) Except as otherwise provided in the exemption, an exemption under subsection (7) may be varied or revoked by the Minister.
- 5 (9) The Commission and the Technical Regulator must each keep a register of exemptions granted by the Commission or the Technical Regulator (as the case may be) under this Act.
- (10) A register kept under subsection (9) must include the terms and conditions of each exemption recorded in it.
- 10 (11) A person may, without payment of a fee, inspect a register kept under subsection (9).
- (12) A person in whose favour an exemption is given must comply with the conditions of the exemption.
- Maximum penalty: \$50 000.

108—Application and issue of warrant

- 15 (1) An authorised officer or a water industry officer may apply to a magistrate for a warrant to enter a place specified in the application.
- (2) A magistrate may issue a warrant if satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for issuing the warrant.
- 20 (3) A warrant authorises the authorised officer or water industry officer, with any assistance and by any force reasonably necessary—
- (a) to enter the place specified in the warrant; and
 - (b) to do anything authorised by this Act,
- at any time, or within any period, specified in the warrant.
- (4) A water industry officer must be accompanied by a member of the police force when entering a place under a warrant.
- 25 (5) A warrant is to specify the date on which, and the time at which, the warrant ceases to have effect.
- (6) A water industry officer may make an application under this section on behalf of a water industry entity.

30 109—Urgent situations

- (1) An authorised officer or a water industry officer may apply to a magistrate for a warrant by telephone, fax or other prescribed means if the officer considers the urgency of the situation requires it.
- 35 (2) The magistrate may complete and sign the warrant in the same terms as for a warrant applied for in person if satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for issuing the warrant urgently.
- (3) The magistrate must—
- (a) tell the officer—
 - (i) the terms of the warrant; and

-
- (ii) the date on which, and the time at which, the warrant was signed;
and
- (iii) the date on which, and the time at which, the warrant ceases to have
effect; and
- 5 (b) record on the warrant the reasons for granting the warrant.
- (4) The officer must—
- (a) complete a form of warrant in the same terms as the warrant signed by the
magistrate; and
- (b) write on the form—
- 10 (i) the name of the magistrate; and
- (ii) the date on which, and the time at which, the warrant was signed;
and
- (c) send the magistrate the completed form of warrant not later than the day after
the warrant is executed or ceases to have effect.
- 15 (5) On receipt of the form of warrant, the magistrate must attach it to the warrant the
magistrate signed.
- (6) A form of warrant completed by an authorised officer or a water industry officer under
subsection (4) has the same force as a warrant signed by the magistrate under
subsection (2).
- 20 (7) A water industry officer may make application under this section on behalf of a water
industry entity.

110—Evidence

- (1) If, in any legal proceedings, a person is alleged to have held a specified appointment
under this Act at a specified time, the allegation is taken to have been proved in the
25 absence of proof to the contrary.
- (2) In any legal proceedings, an apparently genuine document purporting to be a
certificate of the Commission certifying—
- (a) that a person was or was not the holder of a licence at a specified date or as to
the particulars or conditions of a licence; or
- 30 (b) as to the giving, issuing, receipt or contents of an order, direction, delegation,
exemption, approval, authorisation, notice or assurance by the Commission,
constitutes proof of the matters so certified in the absence of proof to the contrary.
- (3) An apparently genuine document purporting to be a certificate of the Commission
certifying as to a person's status as a customer of a prescribed class, in relation to a
35 specified time and place, constitutes proof of the matters so certified in the absence of
proof to the contrary.
- (4) In any legal proceedings, an apparently genuine document purporting to be a
certificate of the Technical Regulator certifying as to the giving, issuing, receipt or
40 contents of a direction, requirement, delegation, exemption, approval, authorisation,
notice or assurance by the Technical Regulator, constitutes proof of the matters so
certified in the absence of proof to the contrary.

(5) In any legal proceedings, an apparently genuine document purporting to be a certificate of an authorised officer certifying as to the giving and contents of a direction by the officer under this Act, constitutes proof of the matters so certified in the absence of proof to the contrary.

5 (6) If, in any legal proceedings, a person is alleged to have acted without proper authority or a specified approval required under this Act, the absence of such authority or approval will be presumed in the absence of proof that such authority or approval in fact existed or had been given.

111—Service

10 (1) A notice or other document required or authorised to be given to or served on a person under this Act may be given or served—

(a) by delivering it personally to the person or an agent of the person; or

(b) by leaving it for the person at the person's place of residence or business with someone apparently over the age of 16 years; or

15 (c) by posting it to the person or agent of the person at the person's or agent's last known place of residence or business; or

(d) in some other manner authorised by the regulations.

(2) Without limiting the effect of subsection (1), a notice or other document required or authorised to be given to or served on a person may, if the person is a body corporate, be given to or served on the person in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth.

25 (3) If a notice or other document is required or authorised to be given to or served on the holder of a licence under this Act and the licence is held by 2 or more persons, it is sufficient for the purposes of this Act if the notice or other document is given to or served on any one of those persons.

112—Ventilators

(1) A water industry entity may cause a ventilating shaft, pipe or tube for any sewerage infrastructure or drain to be attached to the exterior wall of a building.

30 (2) However, the mouth of a shaft, pipe or tube must be at least 1.8 metres higher than any window or door situated within a distance of 9 metres from its location.

113—Regulations

(1) The Governor may make such regulations as are contemplated by, or necessary or expedient for the purposes of, this Act.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the regulations may—

35 (a) require the keeping of records and other information by a water industry entity or any other person or body prescribed by the regulations;

(b) require the furnishing of reports (including technical or expert reports), returns, documents or other information to the Minister, the Commission, the Technical Regulator or any other person or body prescribed by the regulations;

40

- (c) regulate the construction, installation and positioning of infrastructure or equipment or the use of any products or materials;
- (d) without limiting any other paragraph, provide for any matters relating to plumbing;
- 5 (e) prescribe technical, operational and safety requirements and standards and provide for monitoring and enforcing compliance with prescribed requirements or standards;
- (f) make provision in relation to the payment or recovery of the Save the River Murray levy;
- 10 (g) exempt (conditionally or unconditionally) any persons or operations from the application of this Act or specified provisions of this Act;
- (h) prescribe fees or charges in connection with any matter arising under this Act, including fees or charges for or in connection with the exercise, performance or discharge of any power, function or duty of the Minister, the Commission, the Technical Regulator or an authorised officer under this Act, which may be of varying amounts according to factors prescribed by the regulations or specified by the Minister by notice in the Gazette, and provide for the waiver or refund of such fees or charges;
- 15 (i) provide that a breach of a specified provision of this Act or the regulations is expiable, or expiable in prescribed circumstances, and set an expiation fee not exceeding \$500;
- 20 (j) prescribe penalties, not exceeding \$10 000, for contravention of a regulation.
- (3) If the regulations grant an exemption from the requirement to hold a licence under Part 4, the regulations may require a person exempted from the requirement to be treated as a water industry entity for the purposes of specified provisions of this Act.
- 25 (4) The regulations may—
- (a) be of general application or limited in application according to the persons, areas, times or circumstances to which it is expressed to apply;
- (b) provide that a matter or thing in respect of which regulations may be made is to be determined, regulated or prohibited according to the discretion of the Minister, Commission or the Technical Regulator;
- 30 (c) refer to or incorporate, wholly or partially and with or without modification, any standard or other document prepared or published by a body referred to in the regulation, as is in force from time to time or as in force at a particular time.
- 35

Schedule 1—Appoint and selection of experts for District Court

- 1 The Minister must establish a panel of experts who may sit as assessors with the District Court consisting of persons with knowledge of, or experience in, the water industry or in the fields of commerce or economics.
- 40 2 A member of a panel is to be appointed by the Minister for a term of office not exceeding 3 years and on conditions determined by the Minister and specified in the instrument of appointment.

- 3 A member of a panel is, on the expiration of a term of office, eligible for
reappointment.
- 4 Subject to subclause 5 and except in the case of an appeal limited to a question of law,
5 a judicial officer of the District Court must select 2 members from the panel to sit with
the Court on an appeal that is to be heard by the Court sitting with experts.
- 6 A member of a panel who has a direct or indirect pecuniary or other interest in a
matter before the District Court is disqualified from participating in the hearing of the
matter.
- 7 Subclause 5 does not apply if the interest is as a result of the supply of goods or
10 services that are available to members of the public on the same terms and conditions.
- 8 If a member of a panel sitting with the District Court dies or is for any reason unable
to continue with any proceedings, the Court constituted of the judicial officer who is
presiding at the proceedings and the other member of the panel sitting with the Court
may, if the judicial officer so determines, continue and complete the proceedings.
- 15 9 If proceedings are reheard, the District Court may have regard to any record of
proceedings made in the earlier proceedings (including a record of evidence taken in
those proceedings).

Schedule 2—Related amendments, repeals and transitional provisions

Part 1—Related amendments

1—Amendment provisions

In this Schedule, a provision under a heading referring to the amendment of a specified Act amends the Act so specified.

Part 2—Amendment of *South Australian Water Corporation Act 1994*

2—Insertion of sections 18A and 18B

After section 18 insert:

18A—Entry onto land of the Corporation

- (1) A person who enters onto, or remains on, land owned or occupied by the Corporation or that is under the care, control and management of the Corporation without being authorised to do so by the Corporation is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: \$2 500.

Expiation fee: \$315.

- (2) Without limiting the manner in which the Corporation may authorise a person to enter and remain on land, the Corporation may authorise members of the public to enter and remain on its land by notice published in the Gazette.

- (3) A notice referred to in subsection (2) may be varied or revoked by the Corporation by subsequent notice published in the Gazette.

- 5
- (4) An authorisation under this section is subject to conditions imposed—
- (a) by this section; or
 - (b) by regulation; or
 - (c) by including them in a notice published in the Gazette under subsection (2) or in any other form of authorisation given by the Corporation; or
 - (d) by direction of a person under subsection (5); or
 - (e) by 2 or more of those methods.
- 10
- (5) A person acting with the authority of the Corporation (whether an employee of the Corporation or not) may give directions to person on, or about to enter, land referred to in subsection (1) in relation to their entry, or their right to remain on, the land.
- 15
- (6) A direction given to a person under subsection (5) is a condition of that person's authorisation to enter and remain on the land.
- (7) It is a condition of an authorisation under this section (except in the case of a person who has been exempted from this condition by the Corporation) that a person who is on land referred to in subsection (1)—
- 20
- (a) must carry with him or her identification that shows his or her name and his or her current residential address; and
 - (b) must present the identification to a person who is entitled to give directions under subsection (5) when requested to do so.
- 25
- (8) A person must not give directions under subsection (5) or make a request under subsection (7)(b) unless he or she—
- 30
- (a) carries identification issued by the Corporation that states that he or she is authorised to act under this section; and
 - (b) presents, or makes a genuine attempt to present, the identification to a person for inspection when giving a direction to the person under subsection (5) or when requesting to see the person's identification under subsection (7).
- 35
- (9) A person who contravenes or fails to comply with a condition to which an authorisation is subject is guilty of an offence.
- Maximum penalty: \$2 500.
- Expiation fee: \$315.

18B—Recovery of amounts due to Corporation

- 5 (1) Subject to subsection (2), any amount (other than a pecuniary penalty) due to the Corporation with respect to the provision of a water service or a sewerage service under the *Water Industry Act 2010* or under an agreement to defer payment of an amount due with respect to the provision of a water service or a sewerage service under the *Water Industry Act 2010* will, until payment, be and remain a first charge on the land in relation to which the relevant services have been provided.
- 10 (2) An amount referred to in subsection (1) that is payable in relation to land that comprises the whole or part of the common property of a scheme under the *Community Titles Act 1996* or the *Strata Titles Act 1988* is not a charge on the common property but is, instead, a first charge on each of the lots or units of the community or strata scheme.
- 15 (3) No statute of limitations or other Act will bar or in any way affect any action or other legal proceeding for the recovery of any such amount.

18C—Power to sell land

- 20 (1) If any designated charges are in arrears for a period of 2 years, the Corporation may publish a notice in the prescribed manner and form for the purposes of this section.
- 25 (2) If, after at least 1 year from the publication of a notice under subsection (1), all or any of the relevant designated charges remain unpaid, the Corporation may, with the approval of the Minister, take action to sell the relevant land.
- 30 (3) Before the Corporation sells land in pursuance of this section, the Corporation must serve notice on the owner and occupier of the land—
- 35 (a) stating the period for which the designated charges have been in arrears; and
- (b) stating the amount of the total liability presently outstanding and charged on the land; and
- (c) stating that if that amount is not paid in full within 1 month of service of the notice (or such longer time as the Corporation may allow), the Corporation intends to sell the land under this section.
- 40 (4) A copy of a notice must be served on—
- (a) any registered mortgagee or encumbrancee of the land; and
- (b) the holder of any caveat over the land.
- (5) If the outstanding amount is not paid in full within the time allowed under subsection (3), the Corporation may proceed to sell the land.

- 5
- (6) The sale will, except in the case of land held from the Crown under a lease, licence or agreement to purchase, be by public auction (and the Corporation may set a reserve price for the purposes of the auction).
- (7) An auction under this section must be advertised on at least 2 separate occasions in a newspaper circulating generally throughout the State.
- 10
- (8) If, before the date of the auction, the outstanding amount and the costs incurred by the Corporation in proceeding under this section are paid to the Corporation, the Corporation must withdraw the land from auction.
- (9) If—
- (a) an auction fails; or
- (b) the land is held from the Crown under a lease, licence or agreement to purchase,
- 15 the Corporation may sell the land by private contract for the best price that the Corporation can reasonably obtain.
- (10) Any money received by the Corporation in respect of the sale of land under this section will be applied as follows:
- 20
- (a) firstly—in paying the costs of the sale and any other costs incurred in proceeding under this section;
- (b) secondly—in discharging the liability for the designated charges and any other liabilities to the Corporation in respect of the land;
- 25
- (c) thirdly—in discharging any liability to the Crown for rates, charges or taxes (including rates, charges or taxes that are a charge on the land);
- (d) fourthly—in discharging any liability to a council for rates or any other liability to a council in respect of the land;
- 30
- (e) fifthly—in discharging any liabilities secured by registered mortgages, encumbrances or charges;
- (f) sixthly—in discharging any other mortgages, encumbrances and charges of which the Corporation has notice;
- (g) seventhly—in payment to the former owner of the land.
- 35
- (11) If the former owner cannot be found after making reasonable inquiries as to his or her whereabouts, an amount payable to the former owner must be dealt with as unclaimed money under the *Unclaimed Moneys Act 1891*.
- 40
- (12) If land is sold by the Corporation in pursuance of this section, an instrument of transfer executed by the Corporation will operate to vest title to the land in the purchaser.

- (13) If the Corporation cannot sell the land under this section after taking all reasonable steps to do so—
- (a) the Corporation may, by notice in the Gazette, assume title to the land (and title will then, by force of this subsection, vest in the Corporation); and
 - (b) the value of the land vested in the Corporation under paragraph (a), as at the date of the notice under that paragraph, will be deducted from any outstanding amount and the costs incurred by the Corporation in proceeding under this section.
- (14) The title vested under subsection (12) or (13) will be free of—
- (a) all mortgages, charges and caveats; and
 - (b) except in the case of land held from the Crown under lease or licence—all leases and licences.
- (15) An instrument of transfer passing title to land in pursuance of a sale under this section must, when lodged with the Registrar-General for registration or enrolment, be accompanied by a statutory declaration made by the chief executive officer of the Corporation stating that the requirements of this section in relation to the dealing with the land have been observed.
- (16) The chief executive officer of the Corporation must, as soon as is reasonably practicable after the publication of a notice under subsection (13), inform the Registrar-General of the publication of the notice and lodge with the Registrar-General a statutory declaration stating that the requirements of this section in relation to dealing with the land have been observed.
- (17) If it is not reasonably practicable to obtain the duplicate certificate of title to land that is vested in a purchaser or the Corporation in pursuance of this section, the Registrar-General may register the vesting despite the non-production of the duplicate, but in that event the Registrar-General must cancel the existing certificate of title for the land and issue a new certificate in the name of the transferee or the Minister (as the case may be).
- (18) A reference in this section to land, or title to land, held from the Crown under lease, licence or agreement to purchase, is a reference to the interest of the lessee, licensee or purchaser in the land.
- (19) In this section—
- designated charges*** means any amount (other than a pecuniary penalty) due to the Corporation with respect to the provision of a water service or a sewerage service under the *Water Industry Act 2010* or under an agreement to defer payment of an amount due with respect to the provision of a water service or a sewerage service under the *Water Industry Act 2010*.

Part 3—Repeals

3—Repeals

(1) The following Acts are repealed:

- (a) the *Sewerage Act 1929*;
- (b) the *Water Conservation Act 1936*;
- (c) the *Waterworks Act 1932*.

(2) The Governor may, by proclamation, suspend the repeal of a specified provision of an Act referred to in subclause (1) until a subsequent day fixed by proclamation, or a day to be fixed by subsequent proclamation.

(3) For the purposes of subclause (2), a reference to a provision of an Act extends to a part of a provision (including a definition within a provision).

Part 4—Transitional provisions

Drafting note—

A series of transitional provisions will be included after consultation has occurred on the substantive provisions of this Bill.