



New South Wales

Water Management Amendment (Register of State and Commonwealth Water Access Licences) Bill 2025

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Water Management Act 2000* (*the Act*) to require the Minister to keep a public register of water access licences held by the State or Commonwealth.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name, also called the short title, of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

Schedule 1 Amendment of Water Management Act 2000 No 92

Schedule 1 amends the Act to require the Minister to keep a public register of water access licences held by the State or Commonwealth.



New South Wales

Water Management Amendment (Register of State and Commonwealth Water Access Licences) Bill 2025

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This PUBLIC BILL, originated in the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.

Legislative Assembly

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly



New South Wales

Water Management Amendment (Register of State and Commonwealth Water Access Licences) Bill 2025

No , 2025

A Bill for

An Act to amend the *Water Management Act 2000* to require the Minister to keep a public register of State and Commonwealth water access licences.

The LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL has this day agreed to this Bill with/without amendment.

Legislative Council

Clerk of the Parliaments

Tabling copy

The Legislature of New South Wales enacts—	1
1 Name of Act	2
This Act is the <i>Water Management Amendment (Register of State and Commonwealth Water Access Licences) Act 2025</i> .	3
	4
2 Commencement	5
This Act commences on the date of assent to this Act.	6

Schedule 1 Amendment of Water Management Act 2000 No 92

Chapter 9 Miscellaneous

Insert before section 395, with appropriate section numbering—

Register of State and Commonwealth water access licences

- (1) The Minister must keep a register that contains the following—
 - (a) a record of each water access licence held by or for the State, including the Ministerial Corporation,
 - (b) a record of each water access licence held by or for the Commonwealth,
 - (c) the following details of each water access licence recorded on the register—
 - (i) the name of the holder,
 - (ii) if any, the name of the person, department or other authority who acts on behalf of the holder in relation to the licence,
 - (iii) the water access licence number,
 - (iv) the share component of the licence, including the specified water source,
 - (v) the number of shares of the share component and the amount of water under each licence—
 - (A) made available for held environmental water, and
 - (B) committed, taken or permitted to be taken as licensed environmental water, and
 - (C) taken for other environmental purposes, and
 - (D) taken for other purposes,
 - (vi) the name of each program, project or other kind of activity, if any, that receives government funding for which the water access licence is used,
 - (d) a record of relevant dealings for each water access licence recorded on the register specifying the following—
 - (i) each type of relevant dealing,
 - (ii) the purpose and monetary value of each relevant dealing,
 - (iii) other water access licences related to each relevant dealing,
 - (e) the total share components in units, or however described, of the water access licences recorded on the register for each water source.
- (2) The register must be kept in electronic form and made publicly available on the Department's website.
- (3) In this section—

held environmental water has the same meaning as in the *Water Act 2007* of the Commonwealth.

licensed environmental water—see section 8(1)(b).

relevant dealing means a dealing referred to under the following—

 - (a) section 71M,
 - (b) section 71N,
 - (c) section 71P,

(d)	section 71Q,	1
(e)	section 71R,	2
(f)	section 71T,	3
(g)	section 71U,	4
(h)	section 71V.	5