



RIS Ref: QH0171-0120

File Ref: DOC20/183

4 February 2020

Ms Mary Morrison
Advanced Environmental Health Officer
Queensland Health
15 Butterfield Street
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Dear Ms Morrison

Decision Post Implementation Review— Chapter 2A of Public Health Act 2005 (Water Risk Management)

Thank you for your enquiry of 15 January 2020 seeking advice on the adequacy of the 'Chapter 2A of *Public Health Act 2005* (Water Risk Management)' Decision Post Implementation Review (PIR).

Background

The object of the *Public Health Act 2005* (the Act) is to protect and promote the health of the Queensland public. This object is achieved, in part, by provisions in the Act for preventing, controlling and reducing risks to public health; inquiring into serious public health matters; responding to public health emergencies; and providing for compliance with the Act to be monitored and enforced.

Following a report by Queensland's Chief Health Officer in 2013, mandatory interim measures were applied in 2014 requiring facilities to develop a water risk management plan, focusing on the management and control of the risks associated with *Legionella*.

In 2016, the interim measures were replaced with amendments to the Act, which came into force in February 2017. These amendments included the requirement for facilities to have a water risk management plan—a written plan to prevent or minimise the risks posed by all water-related hazards, hazard sources or hazardous events to individuals at the facility. These provisions are contained in Chapter 2A of the Act.

As a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) was not prepared to support the making of the amendments, Queensland Health (the department) prepared a Consultation PIR to assess the actual impacts of the amendments. The Consultation PIR was open for comment from 1 November 2019 to 29 November 2019 and seven submissions were received by the department.

Assessment of Decision PIR

The purpose of a Decision PIR is to assess the impacts, effectiveness and continued relevance of the new regulation. The Decision PIR continues to recommend the preferred option of the Consultation PIR—the retention of Chapter 2A of the Act, with no further changes to the legislative requirements.

The Queensland Productivity Commission (the Commission) has assessed the Decision PIR and considers it adequately presents the results of consultation, details of the department's response to stakeholder feedback and



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a discussion of the impacts of the proposal. Given this, the Commission considers the Decision PIR is adequate to support the decision maker's consideration of the proposal.

Consistent with the guidelines, once a Decision PIR has been approved for release it is published on the Commission's website along with this letter.

Please contact Robert Sugden, Senior Analyst on (07) 3015 5113 if you require any additional information or guidance in relation to the above comments or the guidelines in general.

Yours sincerely



Christine Tozer
Team Leader