



Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water



Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 remake

Public consultation

Olia Koudrina
Manager Water Policy and Legislation

26 March 2025

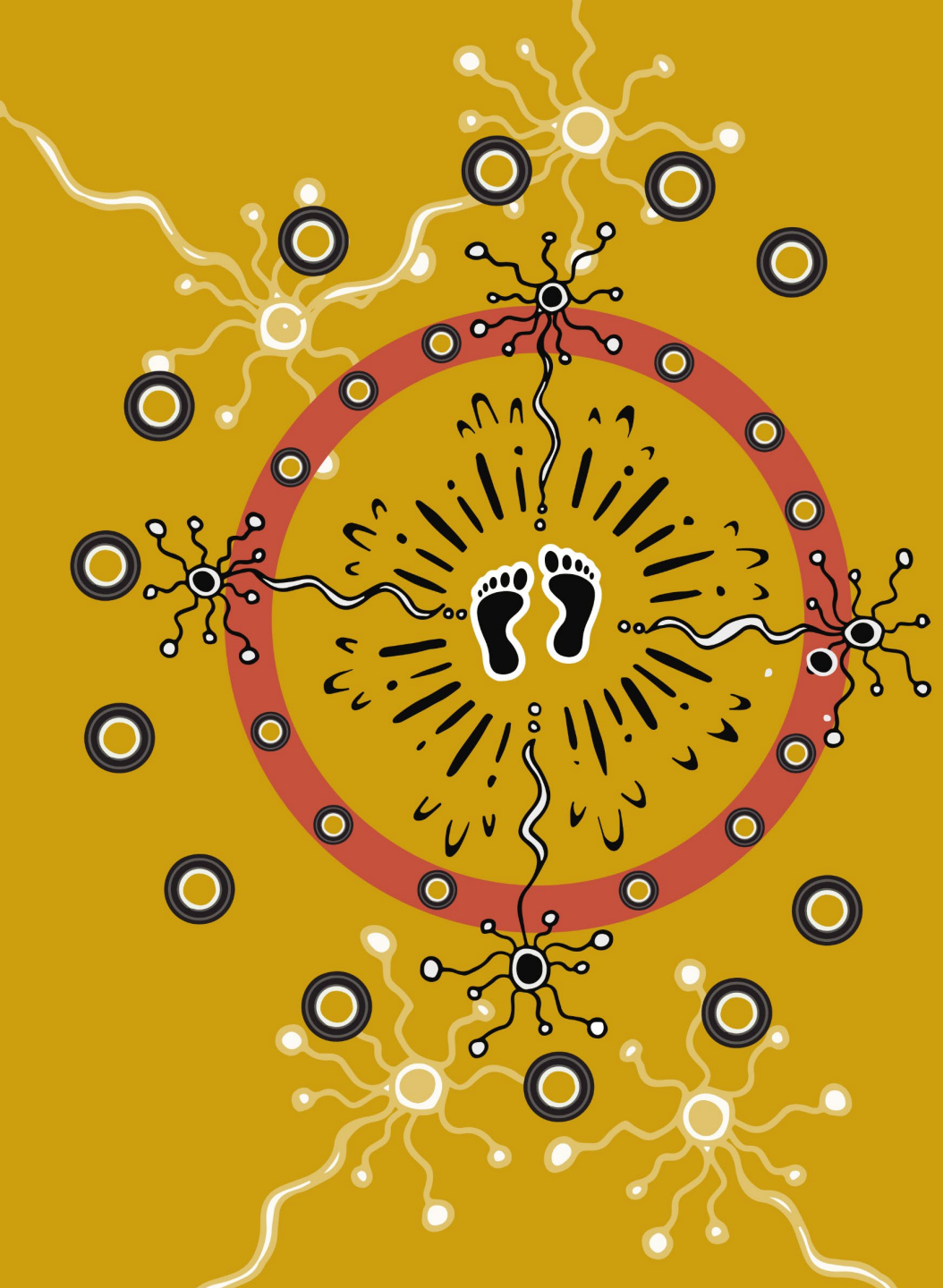
Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and water, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging.

We do this through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

Artist and designer Nikita Ridgeway from Aboriginal design agency – Boss Lady Creative Designs, created the People and Community symbol.



Agenda

Introduction and scope of presentation

Purpose of the changes

Proposed amendments to the General Regulation 2025

Proposed amendments to the Water Supply Authorities Regulation 2025

Process after public exhibition

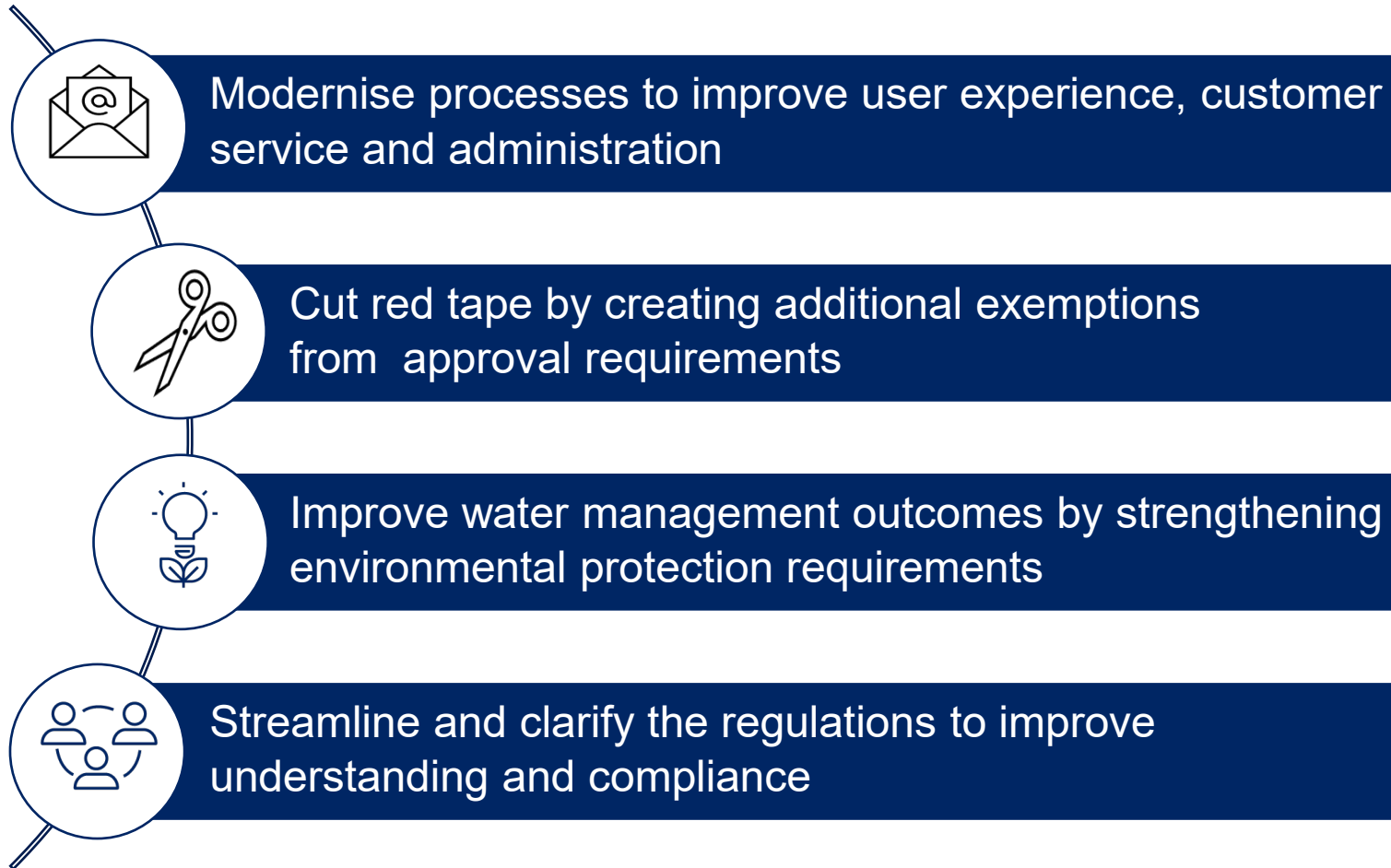
Have your say

Introduction

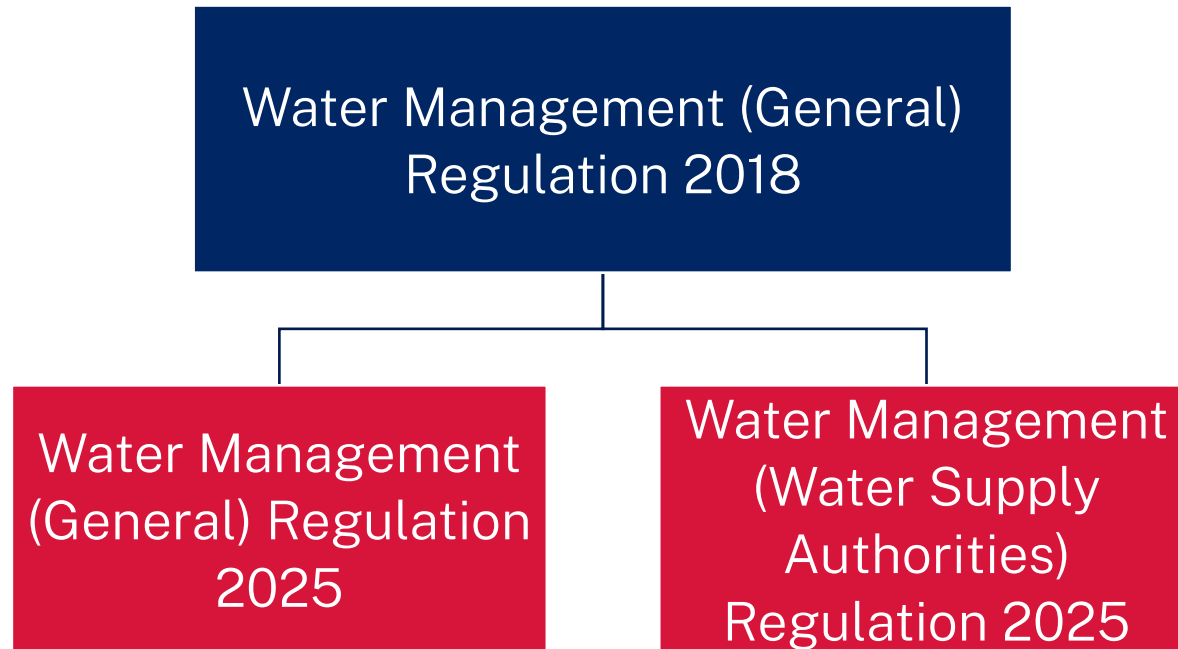


- The Water Management (General) Regulation is due for automatic repeal on 1 September 2025
- The department proposes to replace the 2018 Regulation with 2 separate regulations:
 - Water Management (General) Regulation 2025
 - Water Management (Water Supply Authorities) Regulation 2025
- Draft regulations are open for public consultation until 6 April 2025
- Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) explains changes and provides economic analysis

We are proposing changes to:



2018 Regulation split into two



Amendments in both:

- Updated drafting style, streamlined presentation, digitalisation and clearer, contemporary language
- Re-arranging of clauses

Water Management (General) Regulation 2025

Proposed amendments

Water access licence (WAL) exemptions

Proposed amendments

Requirement added to water access licence (WAL) exemptions relating to dust suppression or road construction and maintenance work:

- A roads authority or any public authority engaged in the use of water for dust suppression or road construction and maintenance work will be required to be satisfied that there are no significant negative impacts on water sources and dependent ecosystems to be exempt from requiring a WAL.

➔ Any dust suppression or road construction and maintenance work that threatens water sources and dependent ecosystems will require a WAL.

Water supply work approvals

Proposed amendments

Require the maintenance or decommissioning of emergency drought works constructed under an exemption



- The proposed amendment will allow the Minister to require public authorities, after the exemption period ends to:
- test and maintain works that are intended to be used in future droughts, and
 - decommission works that are not intended to be used again.

Place restrictions on dust suppression to protect the water source and its dependent ecosystems



Any dust suppression activity undertaken by a public authority by the means of a water tanker, that threatens water sources and dependent ecosystems, will require a water supply work approval.

Create an exemption for pipes that are not crossing sensitive lands



Portions of a work that do not cross sensitive lands will no longer require a water supply work approval.

Water use approval exemptions

Proposed amendments

Expand the list of activities which are exempt from needing water use approvals for uses that do not apply water to land:

- The use of water for power generation by a major utility if development consent is in place under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), and
- Supply of water to towns and communities for domestic consumption and commercial activities

➡ These uses will not need a water use approval anymore.

Controlled activity approval (CAA) exemptions

Proposed amendments

Controlled activities on certain waterfront land

- Remove stream order assessment and adjust conditions around separating structures

➡ Proposed exemption is broader, clearer and reflects operational practice.

Repair and restoration after storms (current clause 34 in Part 2, Schedule 4)

- Create a requirement for a CAA if the removal of deposited detritus after a storm involves the bed or bank of the watercourse and/or happens later than 6 months after the storm event

➡ Proposed exemption is strengthened to further protect the environment.

Water Management (Water Supply Authorities) Regulation 2025

Proposed amendments

Water Supply Authorities (WSAs)

Proposed amendments

Clarifying how WSAs must record service charges

Requiring WSAs to give reasons to an objector for a decision regarding a service charge

Requiring WSAs to advertise water restrictions in the NSW Government Gazette

Removing duplication regarding a statement of compliance for completed plumbing work, because it already applies under the *Crimes Act 1900*.

For Essential Energy (WSA supplying Broken Hill and surrounding areas):

- Requiring it is consistent with the regulations when it sets conditions on authorisations it issues
- Specifying it can suspend or cancel an authorisation conditionally or unconditionally
- Clarifying it can place conditions on exemptions to certain requirements regarding plumbing work.

➡ Clarify rules, increase transparency and consistency and remove duplication

What's next?

Public consultation closes on 6 April 2025



Draft Regulations and RIS will be amended (if required)



What We Heard Report on department's website, outlining the feedback received and the department's response



New Regulations commence on 1 September 2025

Have your say

The department is seeking your feedback on the proposed Water Management (General) Regulation 2025 and Water Management (Water Supply Authorities) Regulation 2025

- Fill out the survey and upload a submission or email us at water.enquiries@dpie.nsw.gov.au with your views. Consultation will close on 6 April 2025.
- A What We Heard report will be published after the public consultation period.
- To find out more, visit the department's website: [Water Management Regulation Remake | NSW Government Water](#)

Thanks for joining us

- Tell us how we went by using this QR code or [click here](#)



Send all other Water related queries to
water.enquiries@dpie.nsw.gov.au