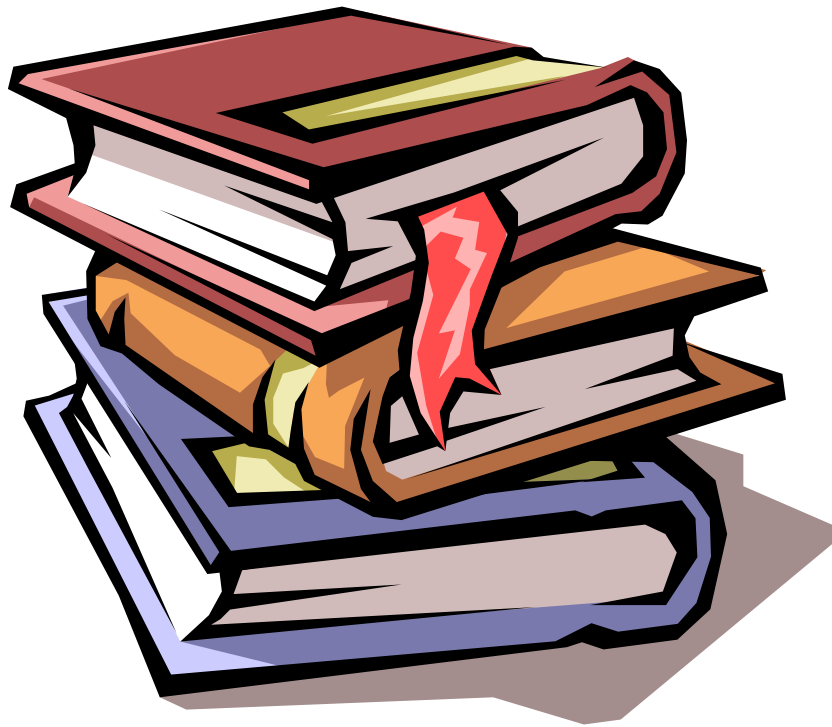


Overview of Changes in Policy and Legislation



The *Water Act 2000*

- *“An Act to provide for the sustainable management of water and other resources, a regulatory framework for providing water and sewerage services and the establishment and operation of water authorities, and for other purposes”*



The *Water Act 2000*

- Chapter 4 – Water Authorities
- Chapter 3 – Infrastructure and Service

Chapter 4 – Water Authorities

- Purpose is to establish a framework for the establishment and operation of water authorities that provides for (s.542):
 - Efficiency in carrying out water activities by the application of commercial principles
 - Appropriate governance arrangements and accountability requirements
 - Community involvement in making and implementing arrangements for using, conserving and sustainably managing water

Chapter 3 – Infrastructure and Service

- Purpose includes (s.361):
 - Provide for a regulatory framework for providing water and sewerage service in Queensland
 - Provide for the functions and powers of service providers
 - Protect the interests of customers of service providers
- Creates the office of the “regulator” (s.514)

The Regulator

- The chief executive of NR&M (s.514)
- General functions set out in s.515:
 - Keep a register of service providers
 - Review and make recommendations about standards and practices under Chapter 3
 - Monitor compliance with Chapter 3
 - Perform other functions given to the regulator by the *Water Act* or other legislation



Impact of Changes

- Change in the focus of NR&M's role
- Potential for conflict of interest if NR&M staff act as directors of water authorities
- NR&M officers can no longer take part in water authorities' decision making process
- NR&M's role is now to ensure compliance with the *Water Act* while providing assistance and guidance to water authorities in appropriate circumstances