



Department of
**Regional Development,
Manufacturing and Water**

Our ref: CTS 05297/23

19 April 2023

Mr Troy Grant
Inspector-General
Inspector-General of Water Compliance
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Email: troy.grant@igwc.gov.au

Dear Mr Grant

Thank you for your email of 24 March 2023 to the Honourable Glenn Butcher MP, Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water about the discussion paper on the Regulatory Policy project. The Minister has asked that I respond on his behalf.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the discussion paper. In reviewing the paper, the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (the department) is supportive of the general direction the policy is seeking to take.

The discussion paper highlights key principles that guide the approach however we would seek for the Regulatory Policy to provide more clarity and definition about the implementation of the Inspector-General's (IG's) functions, in particular:

- The Regulatory Policy should clearly articulate and communicate there will be no duplication of regulatory activities between the IG and Basin States. For example, this could be demonstrated through detailed explanations regarding similar responsibilities and defining the differences between the IG's function and the Basin States.
- Principles discussed from page six regarding the split of responsibilities, as the basis for areas of focus, require clarification within the Regulatory Policy. This is to ensure relevant coverage across all elements of the *Water Act 2007* (Commonwealth) objectives, including ecological and cultural outcomes for example.
- It is acknowledged that the IG intends to apply a risk-based approach in the application of regulatory powers and tools. However, a clearer explanation and examples regarding who, how and when these will be applied and what risk factors will guide these decisions and planned priorities is sought in the Regulatory Policy.

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- In development of any referenced additional guidance around how the IG intends to approach the use of the powers and tools, further clarity and/or commitments within the Regulatory Policy is sought about the process for any continued collaboration and consultation.
- The Regulatory Policy and supporting material should also include a review cycle and performance of the IG's functions that continues to refine and improve where required.

The department continues to be committed to strive towards best practice and undertaking its regulatory functions to the best of its ability. In doing so, we will continue to support and work with the Inspector-General of Water Compliance, and I thank you for your collaborative approach in working with Basin State jurisdictions.

If you require any further information, please contact Ms Rachel Scalongne, Director, Strategic Compliance, Intelligence and Investigations in the department on 0472 876 207 or email rachel.scalongne@rdmw.qld.gov.au who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



Jarrod Cowley-Grimmond
Acting Deputy Director-General
Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water