

Impact Analysis Statement

Summary IAS

Details

Lead department	Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
Name of the proposal	Amendment of the <i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Regulation 2020</i> to insert a new division under Part 4 for Taroom Trough Development Plan Works
Submission type (<i>Summary IAS / Consultation IAS / Decision IAS</i>)	Summary IAS
Title of related legislative or regulatory instrument	<i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Regulation 2020</i>
Date of issue	23 April 2026

Proposal type	Details
Minor and machinery in nature	<p>The proposal involves an amendment to the <i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Regulation 2020</i> (SDPWO Regulation) to direct the Coordinator-General to undertake the works reasonably connected with, or incidental to, the preparation of the Taroom Trough Development Plan (amendment regulation). It is minor and machinery in nature and will have no or negligible cost or regulatory burden on business, government or the community.</p> <p><u>Authorising law</u></p> <p>The purpose of the <i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971</i> (SDPWO Act) is to provide a statutory framework for coordinated State planning, development, and delivery of major public works, including powers and functions of the Coordinator-General to facilitate large-scale and complex projects, while ensuring their environmental and social impacts are properly managed.</p> <p>The SDPWO Regulation is subordinate legislation made under the SDPWO Act. Its primary function is to give legal and operational effect to certain powers of the Coordinator-General, particularly in relation to environmental coordination of coordinated projects and the direction and delivery of specific works.</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Queensland relies on imported crude oil to sustain domestic refining and imported refined fuels for the operation of its essential services, industries and communities, including mining, freight and agriculture. Supply chains are experiencing significant disruption, leaving Queensland's economy exposed to market volatility for these products. Queensland has limited ability to respond in the short-term with domestic oil production small and largely committed, while alternative sources remain undeveloped.</p>

On 8 April 2026, the Premier and Minister for Veterans announced that the Queensland Government is unlocking development in the Taroom Trough to bolster the State and the nation's future fuel security. This is to be guided by a Taroom Trough Development Plan prepared by the Coordinator-General as directed by way of a works regulation.

The Taroom Trough represents a potential significant onshore oil and gas resource that could enhance domestic supply, strengthen fuel security, and reduce dependence on imported crude oil and fuels. The Taroom Trough Development Plan is to provide a strategic whole-of-basin framework to enable the orderly, efficient and responsible development of gas and oil resources within the Taroom Trough.

The Taroom Trough Development Plan will:

- Establish a shared vision and development pathway for the orderly, efficient and responsible development of oil and gas resources in the Taroom Trough;
- Establish a shared, robust and integrated subsurface understanding to support infrastructure planning;
- Consider existing and planned facilities, infrastructure, networks, services and associated corridors and identify opportunities to leverage these assets (e.g. gas, power, water, pipelines, refineries, roads and other trunk infrastructure);
- Identify new facilities, infrastructure, services and associated corridors and other relevant matters that may support development of the Taroom Trough;
- Improve regulatory efficiency and certainty through a coordinated approach to approvals and shared evidence;
- Inform downstream pathway-to-market analysis, including liquids handling, transport, refinery suitability and integration with existing processing and supply chain infrastructure;
- Provide for the delivery of regional investment and jobs and the management of cumulative project impacts;
- Support community confidence and social licence, including addressing coexistence challenges while protecting environmental values; and
- Provide greater clarity and confidence for future decision making.

The Taroom Trough Development Plan is envisaged to deliver:

- Reduced duplication in future project-level assessments, including through development of a shared evidence base
- Improved efficiency and transparency of approval pathways and constraints
- Reduced, and better management of, cumulative environmental and social impacts, including through use of existing and shared infrastructure
- More efficient infrastructure planning and sequencing
- Social licence through early, ongoing engagement and benefit-sharing principles
- Improved certainty for industry investment and communities.

	<p><u>Key issues</u></p> <p>Existing regulatory frameworks for oil and gas development in Queensland operate effectively at a project-by-project level, including under the <i>Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004</i>, <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>, <i>Planning Act 2016</i> and the SDPWO Act. However, despite this, these frameworks are not well suited to addressing cumulative impacts, sequencing and coordination issues at an emerging whole-of-basin scale, particularly within compressed timeframes associated with fuel security priorities.</p> <p><u>Amendment regulation</u></p> <p>The amendment regulation proposes to insert a new division within Part 4 – Planned Development of the SDPWO Regulation to direct the Coordinator-General to undertake the works reasonably connected with, or incidental to, the preparation of the Taroom Trough Development Plan. It will also provide definitions for the Taroom Trough Development Plan, project works and project report.</p> <p>No new regulatory frameworks, approval requirements, decision-making powers or compliance obligations are created as a result of the amendment regulation.</p> <p>The amendment regulation would enliven existing powers in the SDPWO Act which the Coordinator-General may rely upon to support the preparation of the Plan, including land access under section 136. Land acquisition is not in scope.</p> <p>Limited temporary access to and use and occupation of land (including privately owned land) may be required for works reasonably connected with, or incidental to, the preparation of the Taroom Trough Development Plan. Any request for access would occur on a case-specific basis and use of the powers is subject to a separate and unique decision.</p> <p>Accordingly, the amendment regulation will have no or negligible costs or regulatory burden on business, government or the community.</p>
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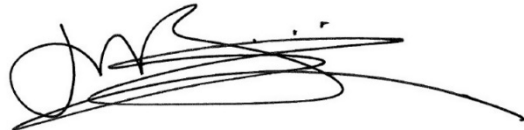
*Refer to *The Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy* for regulatory proposals not requiring regulatory impact analysis (for example, public sector management, changes to existing criminal laws, taxation).

Signed



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Gerard Coggan
Coordinator-General

Date: 22/04/2026



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Jarrod Bleijie MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development,
Infrastructure and Planning
Minister for Industrial Relations

Date: 21/04/2026