

Impact Analysis Statement

A Summary Impact Analysis Statement (IAS) must be completed for all regulatory proposals. A Full IAS (see Box 1) must also be completed and attached for proposals that have significant impacts. Once completed, the IAS must be published.

Summary IAS

Details

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| Lead department | Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development |
| Name of the proposal | Amendments to the <i>Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009</i> |
| Submission type (<i>Summary IAS / Consultation IAS / Decision IAS</i>) | Summary IAS |
| Title of related legislative or regulatory instrument | <i>Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009</i> |
| Date of issue | 11 August 2025 |

For proposals noted in table below

Complete and delete rows where applicable. No further analysis is required.

| Proposal type | Details |
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| Regulatory proposals where no RIA is required | <p>This proposal is deregulatory in nature, does not increase costs or regulatory burden on business or the community, and is not subject to regulatory impact analysis (RIA) requirements under the Better Regulation Policy.</p> <p>Carbon Transport and Storage Corporation (CTSCo) is seeking to convert up to six greenhouse gas (GHG) wells on its former GHG exploration permit (EPQ10) into water supply bores and transfer ownership and responsibility to the landowners upon whose land the bores are located.</p> <p>Current legislative requirements under the <i>Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009</i> (the GGS Act)—as amended by the <i>Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024</i>—require CTSCo to plug and abandon these wells by June 2026.</p> <p>Without amendments to the GGS Act to facilitate the conversion and ownership transfer process, the GHG wells will be unnecessarily plugged and abandoned, resulting in a missed opportunity for beneficial reuse as water supply bores.</p> <p>This represents a regulatory gap that prevents the repurposing of existing infrastructure for community benefit, despite landowners expressing a preference and their support for converting the wells into water bores for stock and domestic use.</p> <p>This proposal will provide a legacy outcome for the landholders given the original intended use of the GHG wells on EPQ10 is no longer possible</p> |



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| | <p>after carbon capture and storage in the Great Artesian Basin was banned in 2024.</p> <p>The alternative to making these proposed amendments to the GGS Act, is for CTSCo to proceed with plugging and abandoning the GHG wells as prescribed in the GGS Act.</p> <p>This approach would still require a regulation amendment as the technical requirements for plugging and abandoning GHG wells are not currently prescribed under the GGS Regulation.</p> <p>The proposed amendments will provide a pathway for CTSCo to convert the GHG wells to water supply bores for transfer of ownership to landowners to meet their decommissioning obligations. The technical requirements for plugging and abandoning the wells as currently required under the GGS Act—will be prescribed in a transitional regulation following the passage of the Bill. In doing this, CTSCo will have flexibility to pursue either option.</p> <p>Facilitating the conversion of the GHG wells to water bores is expected to be less burdensome than the existing requirements under the GGS Act to plug and abandon the GHG wells. The proposal is expected to result in lower decommissioning costs to CTSCo given the associated costs CTSCo would incur plugging and abandoning are likely to be higher than the cost of converting a relevant GHG well to a water supply bore. Similarly, the landholders would receive ownership of a useable asset at no cost beyond the usual ongoing operational costs associated with water supply bores licenced to take water for stock and domestic purposes.</p> <p>The proposed amendments only relate to CTSCo and EPQ10. The amendments are designed to mitigate risks to landowners and the environment by prescribing the specific technical standards to ensure converted bores meet best practice bore construction requirements and legally transferring bore ownership to landowners, providing clear responsibility for ongoing maintenance and use. The amendments will broadly mirror the existing process for converting petroleum wells under the <i>Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004</i>.</p> <p>The proposed amendments will reduce regulatory burden on CTSCo when converting the GHG wells, and the landholders upon transfer of ownership of the water supply bores. A provision has been included in the proposal which stipulates that the conversion of the GHG wells to water supply bores is taken to be accepted development under the <i>Planning Act 2016</i>. Consequently, CTSCo will not be required to seek a development approval to convert the GHG wells to water supply bores, reducing regulatory burden and streamlining the conversion process.</p> <p>The amendments will also simplify the process for the landholders to obtain a water licence to take water from the bores for stock or domestic purposes. Upon the transfer of a converted water supply bore to a landowner, the <i>Water Act 2000</i> regulator will be required to grant the appropriate water licence. This will streamline the process the landholders would otherwise have to navigate to apply for a water licence, further reducing the regulatory burden.</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).

Impact assessment

**All proposals – complete [do not delete]:**

| | First full year | First 10 years** |
|---|-----------------|------------------|
| Direct costs – Compliance costs* | Zero | Zero |
| Direct costs – Government costs | Zero | Zero |

* The *direct costs calculator tool* (available at www.treasury.qld.gov.au/betterregulation) should be used to calculate direct costs of regulatory burden. If the proposal has no costs, report as zero. **Agency to note where a longer or different timeframe may be more appropriate.

Signed

Graham Fraine
 Director-General
 Department of Natural Resources and
 Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and
 Rural Development
 Date: 10/08/2025

Dale Last MP
 Minister for Natural Resources and Mines
 Minister for Manufacturing
 Minister for Regional and Rural
 Development
 Date: 11/08/2025