

Serial 21
Water Amendment (Aboriginal Water Reserves) Bill 2025
Mr Burgoyne

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Water Act 1992*

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

WATER AMENDMENT (ABORIGINAL WATER RESERVES) ACT 2025

Act No. [] of 2025

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Act No. [] of 2025

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An Act to amend the *Water Act 1992*

[Assented to [] 2025]
[Introduced [] 2025]

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

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1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Water Amendment (Aboriginal Water Reserves) Act 2025*.

2 Commencement

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This Act commences on the day after the day on which the Administrator's assent to this Act is declared.

3 Act amended

This Act amends the *Water Act 1992*.

4 Section 22C amended (Designation of eligible land for Aboriginal water reserve in water allocation plan)

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(1) Section 22C(1)(b)

omit, insert

(b) there are water resources:

(i) for surface water – on or immediately adjacent to the land; or

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(ii) for groundwater – beneath the land.

(2) Section 22C(2)

omit

5 Section 71BA replaced

Section 71BA

5 *repeal, insert*

71BA Agreement required before water extraction licence given in respect of Aboriginal water reserve

The Controller must not grant a water extraction licence in relation to an Aboriginal water reserve unless the Controller is satisfied that:

- 10 (a) the applicant for the licence is an eligible Aboriginal person for the eligible land in respect of which the Aboriginal water reserve applies; or
- 15 (b) the applicant for the licence has obtained the agreement of the eligible Aboriginal people for the eligible land in respect of which the Aboriginal water reserve applies to apply for the licence.

6 Repeal of Act

This Act is repealed on the day after it commences.