

Legislation, standards and codes governing the onshore gas industry

The operation of the onshore gas industry in Queensland is regulated by a range of laws, standards, codes of practice and guidelines.

These cover topics that span the lifecycle of gas production including:

- the allocation of tenure, which gives resource companies the right to explore for and produce the gas;
- environmental impact assessments and the inclusion of conditions in environmental authorities to prevent or mitigate impacts on the environment
- best practice for communication between companies and landholders, and conditions that companies must abide by in their involvement with landholders
- assessments of the potential impact on groundwater, and provisions to protect landholders' access to groundwater
- standards for drilling, using and decommissioning gas wells
- safety standards; and
- greenhouse gas storage

The majority of those laws, standards, codes and guidelines in Queensland come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

The table below lists the areas that come under the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines and the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, as they stood at the end of April 2013.

Because the Government is updating laws and regulations as needs and conditions emerge, it is not possible, or prudent, to describe this as a definitive list, but it does provide a starting point for people interested in the regulation of this industry in Queensland.

The Commission plans to refresh the list every three months.

Other agencies with involvement in the onshore gas industry in Queensland include the Coordinator-General in the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. (<http://www.dsdiq.qld.gov.au/our-department/coordinator-general.html>)

Proponents of a project with one or more of the following characteristics may apply to have it declared a 'coordinated project' by the Coordinator-General:

- complex approval requirements, involving local, state and federal governments
- significant environmental effects
- strategic significance to the locality, region or state, including for the infrastructure, economic and social benefits, capital investment or employment opportunities it may provide
- significant infrastructure requirements

The Coordinator-General is not bound to declare a project to be a coordinated project merely because it satisfies one or more of these characteristics. The declaration is made under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 (SDPWO Act).

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Legislation, regulations and guidelines for the onshore gas industry administered by DNRM

Focus	Legislation/regulation	Goal	Process or key features to achieve the goal
Water Environment	<i>Water Act 2000</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management framework for the planning allocation and use of water and other resources including water entitlements; • Regulatory framework for service providers covering asset management, customer standards, and dam safety; and • Governance regime for statutory authorities that provide water services. 	<p>A range of processes exist to achieve the objectives of Water Act 2000 relevant to the on-shore gas industry.</p> <p>Within the DNRM exist an Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment (OGIA) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advise the chief executive on matters relating to impacts on underground water by petroleum tenure holders • establish and maintain a database of information about underground water • prepare underground water impact reports for cumulative management areas • obtain information about underground water from petroleum tenure holders • establish a levy to be paid by the petroleum and gas industry to fund OGIA's activities • request petroleum tenure holders provide data in the required format
Water	Water Regulation 2002	The purpose of this regulation is to facilitate and regulate the carrying out of various water related activities for the efficient and reliable extraction, distribution, sharing and usage of water under the <i>Water Act 2000</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifying requirements for water bore driller's licences, as part of the implementation of a national regime for licensing of water bore drillers; and • Specifying activities in a watercourse, lake or spring for mining operations or resource activities.
Gas industry	Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004	The main purpose is to facilitate and regulate the carrying out of responsible petroleum activities and the development of a safe, efficient and viable petroleum and fuel gas industry	<p>Safety in the petroleum and gas industries is regulated under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Regulation 2004 by the Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate. The inspectorate regulates naturally produced petroleum and natural gas, fuel gases such as LPG, CNG, LNG and related products, and sewage and other bio-gases.</p> <p>The Inspectorate is responsible under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 for:</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • administering the safety and health, measurement and gas quality components of petroleum and gas-related legislation • licensing gas work and making approvals and exemptions to maintain safety standards • conducting regular audits and inspections of petroleum and gas plant and activities including drilling operations of related sectors • investigating accidents and incidents, and providing emergency response capability for petroleum and gas incidents in the general community • delivering education programs to people involved in the gas industry, senior emergency service personnel, TAFE college students and the community.
Gas industry	Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Regulation 2004	<p>The goal of the regulation is to prescribe how certain requirements in the Petroleum Act 1923 are to be carried out with respect to authorised activities for petroleum tenures administered under the Petroleum Act 1923.</p> <p>Some of the objectives of the Petroleum Regulation 2004 are similar to the goals of the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Regulation 2004. In terms of regulating the petroleum and gas industry, as a supporting document to the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 (P&G Act) the objectives of the Regulation are the same as the P&G Act, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhancing knowledge of states resources; • create an effective and efficient regulatory system for the carrying out of petroleum activities and the use of petroleum and fuel gas; 	<p>The Regulation prescribes reporting requirements which ensure that there is an adequate level of information being supplied in relation to applications and with respect to the results of authorised activities. For example, the regulation prescribes when and how seismic data must be provided to department after a seismic survey is completed by a holder.</p> <p>The required application information under the regulation is the minimum needed to enable the State to make an informed decision to grant or refuse the application. Reporting of results of authorised activities are needed for both compliance monitoring and as a means of determining the possibility of any liability in relation to authorised activities becoming the responsibility of the State.</p> <p>The regulation ensures that safety requirements associated with the production, transportation and use of petroleum and fuel gas activities under the Act are complied with by holders. The safety requirements are intended to provide the key elements in relation to operating plants and the contents of safety management plans to ensure</p> <p>The specific safety provisions in relation to coal seam gas are in place to ensure that key elements relating to the future safe and efficient mining of coal are addressed. These elements specifically address</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create an effective and efficient regulatory system for the construction and operation of transmission pipelines; • regulate and promote the safety of persons in relation to operating plant; • ensuring petroleum activities are carried on in a way that minimises conflict with other land uses; • appropriately compensates owners or occupiers of land, and • and encourages responsible land management in the carrying out of petroleum activities. <p>In addition to this the Regulation prescribes how certain requirements in the P&G Act are to be carried out with respect to authorised activities. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety; • reporting; • pipeline; • plant and equipment; • fuel gas, and • gas work licences. <p>The Regulation prescribes fees for petroleum and gas tenures. It also contains the requirements for compilation of the Land Access Code.</p> <p>The requirements in the Regulation may change depending on circumstances (for example, the Regulation includes information about fees, which may be revised each</p>	<p>issues such as the use of steel in petroleum wells, and in the abandonment of wells.</p> <p>The regulation adopts a recognised standard and ensures uniformity of procedures, especially in relation to pipelines that transport petroleum or natural gas interstate.</p> <p>The provisions in relation to fuel gas are intended to impose a best practice safety regime for the distribution and use of fuel gas.</p> <p>The provisions in relation to gas work licences and authorisations are made to ensure that only those people with the relevant competencies and skills for the work will be granted a licence or authorisation. The link to competencies and skills ensures that the person undertaking the activity is appropriate for the circumstances.</p> <p>The regulation imposes fees for the assessment of applications and approvals and the Queensland petroleum and gas safety and health fee.</p>

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		financial year).	
Gas Industry	<i>Mineral Resources Act 1989</i>	<p>The main objectives of the <i>Mineral Resources Act 1989</i> (MRA) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage and facilitate prospecting and exploring for and mining of minerals; • enhance knowledge of the mineral resources of the State; • minimise land use conflict with respect to prospecting, exploring and mining; • encourage environmental responsibility in prospecting, exploring and mining; • ensure an appropriate financial return to the State from mining; • provide an administrative framework to expedite and regulate prospecting and exploring for and mining of minerals, and • encourage responsible land care management in prospecting, exploring and mining. <p>The MRA also contains additional objectives for overlapping coal and petroleum tenements which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarifying rights under this Act to mine coal seam gas; • addressing issues arising for coal seam gas mining under this Act, and, in particular, issues arising when a coal mining lease or an oil shale mining lease and a petroleum lease are granted over the same area; 	<p>The objectives are achieved under the MRA by provisions which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that the processes and activities prescribed or permitted under the MRA are consistent with the main objectives. • ensure commercial coal seam gas production (other than for use for mining under a coal mining lease or an oil shale mining lease) is carried out under a relevant petroleum lease; • provide for processes to decide the priority of overlapping coal mining leases or oil shale mining leases and petroleum tenure applications or potential applications; • impose additional requirements for deciding the overlapping applications; • require proposed development plans to accompany all coal mining lease and oil shale mining lease applications; • impose restrictions on the authorised activities for particular coal or oil shale mining tenements, and • impose additional requirements relating to development plans for coal mining leases and oil shale mining leases; and conditions on coal or oil shale mining tenements.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing security of tenure to protect existing operations and investments relating to coal, oil shale and petroleum; • providing certainty of tenure for future investments relating to coal, oil shale and petroleum; • optimising the development and use of the State's coal, oil shale and petroleum resources to maximise the benefit for all Queenslanders, and • ensuring if it is commercially and technically feasible, the grant of coal mining leases and oil shale mining leases that may affect petroleum exploration or production, or proposed petroleum exploration or production, optimises the commercial use of coal, oil shale and petroleum resources in a safe and efficient way. 	
Environment	<i>Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009</i>	<p>The main purpose of the <i>Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009</i> (GHG Act) is to help reduce the impact of greenhouse gas emissions on the environment.</p> <p>The main purpose is achieved principally by facilitating the process called greenhouse gas geological storage, also called greenhouse gas storage (GHG storage).</p> <p>The GHG Act also aims to regulate resource management decisions and coordination with other resource permits including Petroleum and Gas permits.</p>	<p>The GHG Act regulates GHG storage by providing for the granting of permits to explore for or use underground geological formations or structures to store carbon dioxide, or carry out related activities, and providing a regulatory system for the carrying out of activities relating to GHG authorities.</p> <p>The GHG Act also has provisions which allow the holder of a GHG lease to make an arrangement with the holder of an overlapping authority for the GHG lease about GHG stream storage under the lease</p> <p>The arrangement must clearly identify the safety responsibilities of each party to the arrangement for the land the subject of the arrangement and the spatial relationship between the relevant leases for the arrangement is appropriate.</p>

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			<p>The GHG Act also permit the Minister to make a resource management decision to not grant or give a GHG resource priority where there is an overlapping permit has better resource potential.</p> <p>Under the GHG Act if a GHG holder discovers petroleum. The holder must within 3 business days give the chief executive a notice about the discovery.</p> <p>Compliance with the GHG Act is regulated under the P&G Act as well as the GHG Act.</p>
Environment	Greenhouse Gas Storage Regulation 2010	<p>In terms of regulating the mineral resources industry, as a supporting document to the <i>Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009</i> the goals of the Regulation are the same as the GHG Act (listed above).</p> <p>In relation to onshore gas the goal of the Regulation is to prescribe how certain requirements in the Act are to be carried out with respect to GHG activities. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work program and development plans; • test plans; • reporting, and • records and samples. <p>The Regulation regulates fees for Greenhouse Gas permits.</p> <p>The requirements in the Regulation may change depending on circumstances (for example, the Regulation includes information about fees, which may be revised each financial year).</p>	<p>The regulation prescribes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the description, assessments and rationale that must be provided for a work program under the GHG Act; • the details that the applicant must provide with development plans including any likely conflict between an authorised activity for the proposed GHG lease and an authorised activity P&G Act or 1923 Act, and • the requirements for a GHG test plan and reporting requirements for reports that must be submitted under GHG Act. <p>These requirements promote the regulatory objectives of the GHG Act as it ensures that the applicant will provide the appropriate level of information to help us facilitate GHG their GHG permit and with respect to the results of authorised activities enhances the states knowledge of GHG storage and we can reduce the impact of emissions.</p>
Gas industry	<i>Geothermal Energy Act</i>	In relation to regulation the petroleum and	The GEA has provisions which allow the holder of a geothermal lease to

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	2010	gas The <i>Geothermal Energy Act 2010</i> (the GEA) aims to regulate resource management decisions and coordination with other resource permits including Petroleum and Gas permits.	<p>make an arrangement with the holder of an overlapping authority about carrying out authorised activities for the tenure.</p> <p>The arrangement must clearly identify the safety responsibilities of each party to the arrangement for the land the subject of the arrangement and the spatial relationship between the relevant leases for the arrangement is appropriate.</p> <p>The GEA also allows the Minister to make a resource management decision to not grant or give a geothermal resource priority where there is an overlapping permit has better resource potential.</p>
Gas industry	<i>Petroleum and Gas Act 1923</i>	Regulates mining for petroleum and natural gas	
Gas industry	Petroleum Regulation 2004	To provide, an effective and efficient regulatory system for petroleum tenures administered under the <i>Petroleum Act 1923</i> .	

Other quasi-regulations – codes, guidelines, plans and agreements etc: DNRM

Focus	Standard or code or direction or guideline	Goal	Process or key features to achieve the goal
Land access	Land Access Code (a key component of land access laws referenced in land access laws in a range of resource-related legislation)	To balance the interests of the agricultural and resource sectors by addressing issues related to land access for resource exploration and development. Link: http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/assets/land-tenure-pdf/land_access_code_nov2010.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes best practice guidelines for communication between the holders of resource authorities and the owners and occupiers of private land; and • Impose mandatory conditions on how authorised activities are conducted on private land (including topics such as when and how landholders must be notified; conditions for using landholders' roads or ,making new roads; minimising disturbance to people, livestock and property; preventing the spread of pests; and protocols for using gates and grids).
Gas industry	Code of Practice for Constructing and Abandoning Coal Seam Gas Wells in Queensland	This Code of Practice has been developed to ensure that all CSG wells are constructed and abandoned to a minimum acceptable standard resulting in long term well integrity, containment of gas and the protection of groundwater resources. http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/assets/petroleum-pdf/code_practice_well_leak_class.pdf	This Code provides more detailed requirements and guidance to CSG well construction, well management including abandonment and related drilling activities. This Code of Practice has an enforceable effect in Queensland by being called up under the P&G Regulation as a "safety requirement".
Gas industry	Code of Practice for CSG gathering networks	The Australian Pipeline Industry Association (APIA) has prepared a Code of Practice (CoP) for the installation of Polyethylene (PE) Coal Seam Gas (CSG) gathering networks on behalf of members of the association representing CSG producing companies, constructors, PE pipe and fitting manufacturers and engineers.	Schedule 1 of the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Regulation 2004 has been amended to include the CoP as a "preferred" standard for safety requirements. Copies of the CoP can be obtained by contacting the APIA .
Gas industry	Competency Standard for the Petroleum and Gas Drilling Industry (2011)	This Standard is to ensure each person is competent to the defined minimum competency standard for each level of operation, or currently undergoing training for their position description. These are minimum requirements only and overarching obligations to ensure all workers are	By virtue of section 54AA of the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Regulation 2004 this Standard applies to operators of 'drilling operating plant' that drill prescribed wells as

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		<p>competent to undertake all tasks required of them remain with the safety management plan obligations under s674/675 of the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004.</p> <p>The Standard contains three vital elements which are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acceptance of the national competencies and qualifications for the drilling industry 2. Identifying mechanisms by which these competencies may be achieved 3. Showing how compliance can be achieved. <p>http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/assets/petroleum-pdf/drill_competency_std_v1_11.pdf</p>	<p>defined in the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004</p>
Gas industry	Code of Practice for CSG well head emissions, detection and reporting – (Version 2 June 2011)	<p>This Code of Practice standardises the detection, remediation and reporting of gas emissions from CSG well site facilities, and places particular emphasis on community safety.</p> <p>The Code is designed to be considered and used in conjunction with the CSG Operators internal risk assessment processes and operating procedures under their safety management systems. It adopts a standard process for monitoring, identifying and managing gas leaks from CSG well site facilities in Queensland. The Code ensures that emissions associated with gas leaks are identified, responded to and classified in a consistent manner, and that wells are monitored effectively by the CSG Operators.</p> <p>http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/assets/petroleum-pdf/code_practice_well_leak_class.pdf</p>	<p>The Code has been called up in the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Regulation 2004 as a preferred standard.</p>
Gas industry	SafeOp for Petroleum and Gas	<p>The revised version provides a guide for operators of petroleum and gas operating plant to meet their legislative obligations, particularly section 675 of the <i>Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004</i> in relation to safety management plans. This revised document has been updated to take into account minor legislative changes and has also been restructured into two parts. http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/safety-and-health/safeop.htm</p>	<p>The P&G Act obligates operators of operating plants to address a number of elements in their safety management plan (SMP) to the extent that they are appropriate for the plant. These are outlined in s.675 of the P&G Act (content requirements for safety management plans), s.388 of the P&G Act (additional content</p>

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			requirements), s.705B (content requirements for principal hazard management plans), and s.59 of the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Regulation 2004.
Gas industry	Standards	Mandatory and preferred standards for safety requirements are identified in the Petroleum and Gas Production and Safety Regulation 2004 Schedule 1 Part 1 Exploring for and Producing Petroleum Schedule 1 part 2 Transmission pipelines Schedule 1 part 3 Fuel gas distribution Schedule 1 part 4 LPG Storage and handling Schedule 1 part 5 Gas work Schedule 1 part 6 Other safety requirements	The Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Regulation 2004 calls up as a mandatory or preferred standard.
Gas industry	<i>Prescribed Incidents</i>	A prescribed incident involving operating plant the operator must ensure the incident is reported to the chief inspector in the prescribed way http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/assets/petroleum-pdf/guide_prescribed_incidents.pdf	The Petroleum and Gas Production and Safety Regulation 2004 Schedule 2 provides details when the report must be given.
Water	Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia	Prepared by the National Minimum Bore Specifications Committee, which consists of representatives from the drilling industry and each state and territory of Australia. These standards provide drillers information and a technical standard for constructing water bores.	These requirements are in place to protect ground water resources through construction requirements and are a condition of licensed water bore drillers.
Water	Minimum Standards for the Construction and Reconditioning of Water Bores that Intersect the Sediments of Artesian Basins in Queensland	These standards apply to both artesian and sub artesian water bores intersecting artesian water beds in the area managed under the Water Resource (Great Artesian Basin) Plan 2006.	These requirements are in place to protect ground water resources through construction requirements and are a condition of licensed water bore drillers.
Environment Water	Activities in a watercourse, lake or spring associated with a resource activity or	Guidelines for holders of an environmental authority under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> , mineral development licence or mining lease under the <i>Mineral Resources Act 1989</i> to undertake activities in watercourse, lake or spring without a riverine protection	This guideline prescribes parameters and requirements for activities that can be undertaken in a watercourse, lake or spring without a riverine protection permit.

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	mining operations (guideline specified under the Water Regulation)	permit.	
Environment	Practice Direction - Submission of Geophysical Survey Data under Resources Legislation	<p>This Practice Direction forms part of the practice manual maintained by the Chief Executive of the DNRM pursuant to s.416B of the MRA , s.142 of the <i>Petroleum Act 1923</i>, s858A of the P&G Act 2, s.427 of the <i>Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009</i> and s.383 of the <i>Geothermal Energy Act 2010</i>.</p> <p>It provide directions about what information, documents or instruments a petroleum and gas permit holder must give, the format a holder must supply the information in, and how or when the requested information must be given.</p> <p>The goal of this practice direction is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhancing the knowledge of natural mineral and petroleum resources by using new geophysical data in support of the Queensland Government’s geoscience programs; • obtain information for the mines and petroleum industry in support of their exploration programs; • facilitate the custodial role of Geological Survey of Queensland (GSQ) for geophysical data, and • allow GSQ use relevant data and release of the data into the public domain after confidentiality provisions have been met. 	<p>Under this practice direction permit holders are required to submit a ‘Notification of Geophysical Survey’ in the accepted DNRM form within 10 business days after the completion of a geophysical (seismic, scientific or technical) survey.</p> <p>Summary information is incorporated into an open file database.</p> <p>Survey location information must be shown as the actual survey boundaries for both exploration and open range surveys.</p> <p>All survey data is to be provided for the entire survey within 6 months of the completion of the survey.</p> <p>The data is to be submitted either as part of a required annual report, or where no report is required in the accepted DNRM form which forms part of the practice direction.</p>

Legislation, regulations and guidelines for the onshore gas industry administered by EHP

Focus	Title	Goal	Process/key features to achieve goal
Environmental Protection Act 1994, subordinate legislation and quasi regulation			
Environment Water	<p><i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> (EP Act)</p> <p>Subordinate legislation, and quasi regulation under this act in relation to the onshore gas industry are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environmental Protection Regulation 2008; • Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000 • The Coal Seam Gas Water Management Policy 2012; • The Financial Assurance Guideline; • The Residual Risks Guideline; • Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008; • Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2008; and • Environmental 	<p>To protect Queensland's environment while allowing for development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.</p>	<p>Companies are licensed under the EP Act, through an environmental authority (EA). When applying for an EA, operators of petroleum activities must include an assessment of the likely impact of each relevant activity on the environmental values.</p> <p>There are three types of EA applications under the EP Act. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard application; • Site specific application; and • Variation application. <p>An application for an environmental authority that is to be subject to standard conditions is deemed to be a standard application.</p> <p>EHP has developed draft eligibility criteria and standard conditions for certain petroleum and geothermal activities which is currently going through the public consultation process. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • petroleum exploration activities • petroleum survey activities • pipeline activities • geothermal exploration activities. <p>Where a company cannot comply with the eligibility criteria, a site-specific application is required to enable an impact assessment to be carried out. Where a company can comply with the eligibility criteria and does not want to—or cannot comply with a standard condition—they may make an application to vary the particular condition(s).</p> <p>There are further requirements in the EP Act for site-specific applications for CSG activities regarding CSG water production and management criteria.</p> <p>Under conditions prescribed in EA companies are also required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carry out a risk assessment and provide detailed information to the department about any chemicals that are proposed to be used in hydraulic fracturing activities.

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Environmental Protection Act 1994, subordinate legislation and quasi regulation			
	Protection (Noise) Policy 2008. <i>Further information about each of the above is provided about below.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> progressively rehabilitate land over the life of a petroleum project. <p>Compliance with EA conditions is mandatory under the EP Act. There are heavy penalties for non-compliance.</p>
Environment and water	<i>Environmental Protection Regulation 2008.</i>	To support the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.	<p>Provides supporting provisions in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> environmental impact statements prescribed material environmentally relevant activities annual fees environmental offences <p>Schedule 5 of the regulation also outlines the environmental objectives that must be considered when making an environmental management decision relating to an environmentally relevant activity.</p>
Environment	<i>Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000</i>	To protect the environment by minimising the impact of waste on the environment including, in particular, the impact of waste so far as it directly affects human health.	Provides supporting provisions in relation to waste management for the onshore gas industry. This regulation creates offences for dumping and unlawful activities at waste facilities.
Environment and water	Coal Seam Gas Water Management Policy 2012	The objective of the policy is to encourage the beneficial use of CSG water in a way that protects the environment and maximises its productive use as a valuable resource.	<p>The objective of the policy is to be achieved by managing CSG water in accordance with the following two priorities:</p> <p>Priority 1—CSG water is used for a purpose that is beneficial to one or more of the following: the environment, existing or new water users, and existing or new water-dependent industries.</p> <p>Priority 2—After feasible beneficial use options have been considered, treating and disposing of CSG water in a way that firstly avoids, and then minimises and mitigates impacts on environmental values.</p>
Environment	Environmental Protection	To protect Queensland's air	Petroleum tenure holders must consider the environmental values, indicators and air quality

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Environmental Protection Act 1994, subordinate legislation and quasi regulation			
	(Air) Policy 2008	environment.	objectives outlined in the Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008 when making an EA application under the EP Act.
Environment	Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2008	To protect Queensland's waters.	Petroleum tenure holders must consider environmental values, water quality guidelines and water quality objectives outlined in the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2008 when making an EA application under the EP Act
Environment	Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008	To protect Queensland's acoustic environment.	Petroleum tenure holders must consider environmental values, and acoustic quality objectives outlined in the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2008 when making an EA application under the EP Act.
Environment	Financial Assurance Guideline (<i>please note EHP is currently developing this guideline</i>).	Describes the arrangements for financial assurance under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .	Provides petroleum tenure holders with information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deciding the amount and form of financial assurance; • amending, discharging and claiming financial assurance; and, • financial assurance for transitional environmental programs.
Environment	Residual risks guideline (<i>please note EHP is currently developing this guideline</i>).	Describes the residual risks associated with the rehabilitation of land under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .	Provide petroleum tenure holders with information relating to the residual risks associated with the rehabilitation of land under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .

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Water Act 2000 and quasi regulation			
Water and Environment	<p><i>Water Act 2000 (chapter 3) (Water Act)</i></p> <p>Quasi regulation which applies to onshore gas operations under this act in relation to the onshore gas industry is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Baseline Assessment Guideline; and • The Bore Assessment Guideline. <p><i>Further information about each of the above is provided below.</i></p>	<p>Chapter 3 of the Water Act provides a regulatory framework to manage the impact on water supply bores and springs from the extraction of groundwater by petroleum tenure holders, including coal seam gas activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires that petroleum producers undertake a baseline assessment of landholders' water bores. • Requires the development of underground water impact reports that include a water monitoring strategy and a spring impact management strategy. • Establishes clear legal obligations for petroleum producers to make good impacts on bores capacity to supply water for its authorised use and purpose. • Outlines the amount of groundwater decline that triggers the requirement for make good obligations (called trigger thresholds). • Provides for the declaring and regulating of cumulative management areas (CMAs) where the impacts of different CSG producers overlap. • Requires the independent management and monitoring of CMAs. <p>The department has two statutory guidelines under the Water Act, the baseline assessment guideline and the bore assessment guideline.</p>
Water and Environment	Baseline Assessment Guideline	Assists responsible tenure holders to conduct baseline assessments under Chapter 3 of the Water Act.	<p>Provides both petroleum tenure holders and bore owners with information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the purpose of baseline assessments; • the legislative requirements that must be met by both petroleum tenure holders and bore owners; and • technical advice on the mechanisms for undertaking baseline assessments.
Water and Environment	Bore Assessment Guideline	Assists responsible tenure holders to conduct bore assessments under Chapter 3 of the Water Act.	<p>Provides both petroleum tenure holders and bore owners with information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the purpose of bore assessments; • the legislative requirements that must be met by both petroleum tenure holders and bore owners; and • technical advice on the mechanisms for undertaking bore assessments.

Title	Goal of document	Process/key features to achieve goal
Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011, subordinate legislation and quasi regulation		
<p><i>Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011.</i></p> <p>Subordinate legislation, and quasi regulation under this Act in relation to the onshore gas industry are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2011</i>; and • Beneficial Use approvals. <p><i>Further information about each of the above is provided below.</i></p>	<p>To promote waste avoidance and reduction, resource recovery and efficiency actions.</p> <p>The act sets out a framework for prioritising waste management practices to achieve the best environmental outcome.</p>	<p>The act provides for a hierarchy of waste and resource management practices. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid unnecessary resource consumption. • Reduce waste generation and disposal. • Re-use waste resources without further manufacturing. • Recycle waste resources to make the same or different products. • Recover waste resources, including the recovery of energy. • Treat waste before disposal, including reduction of the hazardous nature or waste. • Dispose of waste only if there is no other viable alternative. <p>The act also provides for beneficial use approvals as a way to minimise the amount of waste being sent for final disposal.</p>
<p><i>Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2011</i></p>	<p>To support the provisions of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011.</p>	<p>Outlines fees for applications involving coal seam gas extraction.</p>
<p>Beneficial Use approvals</p>	<p>To approve a waste as a resource if the department considers that it has a beneficial use other than disposal.</p>	<p>An approval of a resource for beneficial use is given where it is considered that a waste has a beneficial use. In approving a waste, conditions under which the resource is to be used are often imposed on the approval holder.</p> <p>There are two types of approvals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General; and • Specific. <p>General Approvals</p> <p>General approvals are instigated and issued by the department and cannot be applied for. Anyone can operate under a general approval that has been issued provided they are using the resource in accordance with</p>

		<p>the conditions of the approval.</p> <p>The following general beneficial use approvals have been issued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sugar mill by-products• Coal combustion products• Associated water (coal seam gas water) <p>Specific Approvals</p> <p>A specific approval is an approval of a resource of which only a stated person has the benefit. Specific approvals are those which a company or individual may apply for specifically relating to their proposed activity.</p>
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Title	Goal	Process/key features to achieve goal
Wild Rivers Act 2005		
<i>Wild Rivers Act 2005</i>	To provide for the preservation of the natural values of wild rivers, and for related purposes.	<p>Petroleum tenure holders must abide by a wild river declaration which is a statutory document under the Wild Rivers Act. The following is a list of declared Wild River areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooper Creek Basin Wild River Declaration 2011 • Georgina and Diamantina Basins Wild River Declaration 2011 • Wenlock Basin Wild River Declaration 2010 • Archer Wild River Declaration 2009 • Stewart Wild River Declaration 2009 • Lockhart Wild River Declaration 2009 • Fraser Wild River Declaration 2007 • Gregory Wild River Declaration 2007 • Hinchinbrook Wild River Declaration 2007 • Morning Inlet Wild River Declaration 2007 • Settlement Wild River Declaration 2007 • Staaten Wild River Declaration 2007 <p>A declaration sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the extent of the declared wild river area and its various management • any caps on resources that can be taken in the declared wild river area (e.g. water) • any rules or limits that must be complied with when undertaking new development activities (such as quarrying, agriculture and mining) in the declared wild river area • any development assessment codes that must be applied.

Title	Goal	Process/key features to achieve goal
Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 Act		
<i>Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 Act</i>	To provide for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and management of the coast including its resources and biological diversity.	<p>This act recognises the diverse range of coastal resources and values in the coastal zone and provides a comprehensive framework for their coordinated management.</p> <p>A number of approvals are required under this Act for onshore gas operations. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development approval for operational works that are tidal works. • Development approval for operational works within a coastal management district. • Approval for the removal or placement of quarry material below the high water mark. • Approval to damage of vegetation of state coastal land. • Approval for dredging.
Coastal Management Plan	To provide direction and guidance about the management of coastal land in Queensland to achieve the objectives of the Coastal Act.	EA applications must consider the Coastal Management Plan.

N.B EHP administer other guidelines for onshore gas operations but these are not statutory guidelines i.e required under the legislation. Therefore, EA holders are not required to comply with these guidelines.

This list includes:

- [Application requirements for petroleum activities \(PDF, 347K\)*](#)
- [Approval of Coal Seam Gas Water for Beneficial Use \(PDF, 188K\)*](#)
- [Final rehabilitation report for resource activities other than mining \(PDF, 95K\)*](#)
- [Manual for Assessing Hazard Categories and Hydraulic Performance of Dams - EM635 \(PDF, 535K\)*](#)
- [Preparing a plan of operations for an environmental authority relating to a petroleum lease \(PDF, 109K\)*](#)
- [Prescribing noise conditions for environmental authorities for petroleum activities \(PDF, 164K\)*](#)
- [Public notice requirements and submissions about site-specific applications for environmental authorities for resource activities other than mining \(PDF, 63K\)*](#)
- [Structures which are dams or levees constructed as part of environmentally relevant activities - EM634 \(PDF, 468K\)*](#)
- [The duty to notify of environmental harm \(PDF, 276K\)*](#)
- [Transitional environmental program \(TEP\) \(PDF, 167K\)*](#)
- [Treated coal seam gas \(CSG\) water injection well construction requirements \(PDF, 98K\)*](#)