# Make good on water bores an obligation

By **MARK PHELPS**

STATUTORY 'make good' obligations have been extended to water bore owners affected by mineral resources projects, similar to those that presently apply to the petroleum and gas sector.

Natural Resources and Mines Minister Andrew Cripps said amendments to both the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 established a consistent framework to manage groundwater in the resources sector.

Mr Cripps (pictured) said the current Water Act was more than 13 years old and new legislation was needed to keep pace with advances in water management, science and technology.

"The Queensland government has a strong plan to ensure our water resources are used responsibly and productively, helping to

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power a four pillar economy that will benefit all Queensland's industries and all communities," Mr Cripps said.

"At the same time, our plan maintains the security of existing water entitlements and balances economic, social and environmental outcomes.

"Our reforms will drive economic growth in the agricultural and resources sectors and create more jobs in regional Queensland, where water is a key input into economic activity."

Mr Cripps said the reforms would also deliver accelerated conversion of water licences to tradeable water allocations as part of the government's commitment to implement a fully tradable water market by 2017.

They would also reduce the regulatory burden by identifying areas that do not require a water licence where there is low risk to the resource.

Examples cited included water used to wash down dairies or water used in household garden plots where some of the produce was sold.

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