

# Water Resources Environmental Flow Guidelines 2019

Disallowable instrument DI2019–37

made under the

Water Resources Act 2007, s 12 (Environmental flow guidelines)

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

---

Section 13 of the *Water Resources Act 2007* (***the Act***) requires the Environment Protection Authority (***the Authority***) to prepare Environmental Flow Guidelines (***the Guidelines***) for the Minister’s approval. The purpose of the Guidelines is to manage the water flow in the ACT’s streams, rivers and impoundments necessary to maintain aquatic ecosystems. The Guidelines support the legislative framework to ensure that ecological processes in ACT water bodies are protected.

Under section 13 (2) of the Act, in preparing the Environmental Flow Guidelines, the Authority’s primary consideration is the ecological needs of aquatic ecosystems. The Authority bases its consideration on numerous instruments including the Territory Plan, ACT legislation, Commonwealth threatened species legislation, ACT Government policies and knowledge gained from research to ensure that the Guidelines are current and comprehensive. The Authority also takes into account the environmental, economic and social impact of the Guidelines.

The 2019 draft Environmental Flow Guidelines were prepared by the Authority and released for public comment on 25 June 2018. The Authority targeted consultation with a range of stakeholders in the development of the Guidelines, including Government agencies, the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, the Conservation Council and community groups. The Guidelines have been amended to incorporate comments received where possible and appropriate.

The Guidelines replace the Environmental Flow Guidelines 2013.