

## WHAT'S AT STAKE

Queensland is home to incredible biodiversity with 85% of Australia's native mammals and more than half of the nation's reptiles and frogs. Queensland has 955 species listed as threatened under the NCA.

## THREATS

invasive species, climate change, land clearing, habitat loss

## OUTCOMES

Species survival rates increased.  
Habitat maintained and improved.  
Common threats reduced.

## TOWARDS A NEW

# BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

## FOR QUEENSLAND

**The Queensland Government will prepare a draft Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for discussion with the community, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and scientific and conservation stakeholders.**

## Why do we need a new Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Queensland?

Queensland is a global hotspot for biodiversity. Our natural places and unique species are recognised globally for their importance. Biodiversity is central to our identity, wellbeing, and lifestyle. It also underpins our prosperity, given that it is crucial to our global brand and a range of economic activities, such as tourism, primary production, and the burgeoning film industry.

Scientific analysis demonstrates that biodiversity is in decline here, as it is around the world. Current management responses alone are not enough. We need to act now.

Queensland has world-class national parks and other protected areas, and an array of environmental programs and policies to support protection of our natural environments. We are also the location for internationally recognised scientists and conservation research, and we have communities dedicated to protecting their local environments.

Governments and communities can take further action to protect the natural systems that support clean and healthy environments, today and for future generations. A key step in this is developing a new Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Queensland.

## What are the key building blocks of a new strategy?

- Targets to reduce and prevent the decline in biodiversity
- Targets to support and increase the resilience of species, ecosystems and ecological processes
- A new prioritisation framework to drive more effective investment decisions and action
- Actions to reduce threats to biodiversity, including habitat protection and rehabilitation, and action on climate change
- Expansion of the public and private protected area estate
- Improved actions to protect and conserve individual threatened species
- Improved knowledge and insight, based on science, to promote adaptive management
- Clear roles and responsibilities for biodiversity management and delivery
- Harnessing innovation and technology to scale conservation efforts

- Greater recognition of the community value of biodiversity
- A fit for purpose approach to monitoring and evaluation so progress can be tracked and new actions identified

## What will it do?

Governments cannot act alone in protecting our biodiversity. A new strategy will recognise and support the community, including Traditional Owners and other landowners and managers, scientists, local councils, land care and environmental groups, individuals and families, industry and philanthropists in delivering conservation partnerships and success.

A new strategy will highlight the importance of better understanding of both current and emerging threats to biodiversity, such as the impacts of climate change and development, and coordinated responses across government, industry and community.

A new Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Queensland will also ensure accountability to the community in terms of valuing biodiversity, measuring and reporting on progress in meeting targets, and in ensuring threatened species management is responsive and transparent. It will also contribute to the delivery of Our Future State, Advancing Queensland's Priorities, including supporting the biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef.

## How will it be developed?

Engagement will be critical to the creation of a successful strategy.

The Department of Environment and Science will lead engagement with the full range of stakeholders and the community. We will seek broad input into the identification of goals, objectives and actions of the strategy.

A new Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Queensland will draw on the latest scientific thinking about species resilience and a whole-of-landscape approach (terrestrial, freshwater, marine) to species protection. It will also recognise the critical role of traditional knowledge and citizen science.

The Department of Environment and Science is drawing on the best available science about both the challenges and opportunities in responding strategically to biodiversity decline.

The engagement process will also bring new voices to the table, recognising that new ideas and solutions will be needed as part of long-term strategy that best protects Queensland's unique biodiversity.

## When will it be finalised?

Consultation is commencing in late 2018, and through the first half of 2019, with release of a strategy in mid-2019.

# Work already underway by the QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION



## 1. Protected Area Innovations

### EXPANDED PROTECTED AREAS

Increase of over one million hectares since 2015.

### PROTECTED AREA STRATEGY

A new Protected Area Strategy is in development, to be released in 2019, which will outline a range of management and delivery approaches to national parks and private protected areas.

### NEW APPROACHES TO PROTECTED AREAS

Special Wildlife Reserves, a new class of protected area, will put Queensland ahead of the nation in private conservation. New models of support for Indigenous land management are being explored.



## 2. Addressing Threats and Landscape-scale responses

### VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Land clearing has been the largest single threat to biodiversity in Queensland. Vegetation clearing laws were strengthened in 2018 to better protect species habitat, heeding advice from more than 400 leading scientists (many from Queensland) about the impacts of land clearing on biodiversity.

### \$500M LAND RESTORATION FUND

The \$500 million Land Restoration Fund is being established, which will support partnerships to restore essential threatened species habitat, and thereby deliver biodiversity and carbon sequestration co-benefits.

### PRISTINE RIVERS

The government has made a renewed commitment to work with Traditional Owners and communities to ensure Queensland's Pristine Rivers are adequately protected.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

A Biodiversity and Ecosystems Sector Adaptation Plan to improve the resilience of our natural environment in the face of climate change was recently released.

### BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS

A comprehensive review of the environmental offsets framework is underway to ensure the environmental effects of development are mitigated to reduce impacts on Queensland's ecosystems and threatened species.

### INVASIVE SPECIES

Work to tackle the threat of invasive species continues through investment in targeted programs on national parks and through partnership programs such as the \$11M per annum Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program, Community Sustainability Action Grants, and NatureAssist.



## 3. Recovery Actions For Species

Recovery projects for individual threatened species, are underway across Queensland, drawing upon many valuable partnerships with conservation groups. Highlights include hairy-nosed wombat recovery, bilby conservation, 50 years of turtle research and monitoring at Mon Repos, and turtle nesting ground improvement on Raine Island.

A SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy will be released and implemented in 2019.



## 4. Science Informing Decision Making

### EXPANDED STATEWIDE LANDCOVER AND TREES STUDY

Better mapping, assessment and monitoring of vegetation.

### COLLABORATION WITH RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Including Threatened Species Hub's Australian Threatened Species Index.

## 5. Community Partnerships

New investment to support community groups to protect threatened species and habitats. Expanded support for citizen science.

