

Department of Environment and Science Strategic Plan 2020–24 (amended January 2021)

OUR VISION

Our environment, science and the voice of our young people enrich Queenslanders' lives now and into the future.

OUR PURPOSE

We lead the efforts to achieve a better Queensland through healthy natural environments, science and by supporting young Queenslanders to thrive and help shape our state's future.

OUR VALUES



Customers first



Ideas into action



Unleash potential



Be courageous



Empower people

OUR COMMITMENT

- We will respect, protect and promote human rights in our decision-making and actions.
- We will ensure the delivery of quality services through good governance and the ethical conduct of all employees.
- We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive working environment that values, respects and supports the different perspectives, cultures and experiences of our employees.

OUR OBJECTIVES

Lead climate change action

- Supporting jobs
- Protecting the environment
- Safeguarding our health

Protect the Great Barrier Reef

- Protecting the environment
- Safeguarding our health
- Supporting jobs
- Growing our regions

Conserve Queensland's protected areas and biodiversity

- Protecting the environment
- Supporting jobs

Strengthen our partnerships with First Nations peoples

- Protecting the environment
- Supporting jobs

Protect the health of the environment and our communities

- Protecting the environment
- Supporting jobs
- Safeguarding our health

Strengthen and harness Queensland's scientific excellence

- Supporting jobs
- Growing our regions
- Protecting the environment

Engage with Queensland's youth

- Investing in skills

OUR STRATEGIES

- Lead whole-of-government climate change strategies
- Deliver interventions to deliver carbon and biodiversity co-benefits
- Support collaboration across government, business, research and community sectors

- Lead the progress towards 2025 Great Barrier Reef water quality targets
- Lead the implementation of the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program
- In partnership with the Australian Government, lead the implementation of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan
- Deliver innovative field management services

- Set policy and deliver programs, underpinned by science, to protect Queensland's natural and cultural values
- Deliver strategic biodiversity and threatened species management and recovery programs
- Enhance protected area management practices and partnerships
- Protect, promote and celebrate Queensland's unique heritage
- Support nature-based tourism and recreation opportunities

- Partner with First Nations peoples to better manage land and sea and co-steward protected areas
- Embed First Nations' knowledge and leadership in our systems, policies and programs
- Increase policy and program co-design with First Nations peoples
- Improve employment and procurement opportunities for First Nations peoples and businesses

- Deliver initiatives under the Queensland Waste Strategy to progress towards 2050 targets for reduced waste and increased resource recovery and recycling
- Facilitate new job opportunities through the support for a circular economy
- Engage industry, community and stakeholders to manage environmental impacts
- Deliver an improved regulatory framework to reduce environmental harm
- Prepare for and manage bushfire events on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service-managed estates

- Provide leading-edge science to support government decision making
- Maximise science community engagement and promotion
- Strengthen the science base in Queensland and improve the translation of research
- Strengthen disaster recovery and resilience by harnessing Queensland's scientific capability
- Harness digital and disruptive technologies to increase our impact

- Engage and celebrate young Queenslanders and listen to their voices in shaping government policies, programs and services
- Enhance the safe and responsible behaviour of school leavers and support Queensland communities over the schoolies holiday period
- Deliver initiatives to strengthen leadership skills and capabilities to help position young Queenslanders for a strong future
- Encourage participation and enrolment in STEM subjects

OUR OUTCOME INDICATORS

- Contribution towards the government's target of:
 - 30% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
 - zero net emissions by 2050

- Contribution towards the government's target of:
 - 60% reduction in anthropogenic end-of-catchment dissolved inorganic nitrogen loads
 - 25% reduction in anthropogenic end-of-catchment sediment loads

- Increased percentage of Queensland's land area that is protected
- Key natural, cultural and heritage values are maintained or improved
- Inclusion of culturally significant places in the Queensland Heritage Register

- Increased number of co-stewardship agreements
- Increased employment of First Nations peoples in DES
- Increased procurement from First Nations'-owned businesses

- Increased public access to a wider range of online compliance and enforcement data
- Reduction in overall risk to the environment
- Reduction in waste sent to landfill and increased recycling rates

- Increased national and international science collaborations and partnerships
- Greater participation in citizen science

- Contribute to the improved social, economic and civic participation of young people
- Increased inclusion of youth voices in shaping government policies, programs and services
- Greater promotion of STEM education

The department contributes to the Queensland Government's objectives for the community which are built around the *Unite and Recover—Queensland's Economic Recovery Plan*:



Protecting the environment

- Reduce Queensland's contribution to climate change through delivery of decarbonisation and adaptation programs
- Improve water quality through the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program and deliver reef joint field management services with the Australian Government
- Move towards becoming a zero-waste society, where waste is avoided, reused and recycled to the greatest possible extent
- Prevent and manage impacts to the environment through strong regulation
- Lead efforts to conserve Queensland's heritage and biodiversity, including support for threatened species recovery
- Enhance and maintain our protected areas guided by First Nations' knowledge, contemporary best practice and community needs



Supporting jobs and Growing our regions

- Support job creation in the conservation sector and in nature-based and cultural tourism
- Stimulate environmental markets and land restoration employment opportunities
- Increase jobs in waste management and resource recycling industry
- Improve the translation of science and research to create jobs



Safeguarding our health

- Ensure clean and healthy air, land and water through effective regulation
- Support science research and technologies that improve health outcomes
- Provide health and wellbeing benefits to the community through connection with nature



Investing in skills

- Support sustainability programs and develop science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning pathways for young children
- Enable Queensland's youth to contribute to shaping government policies, programs and services
- Support the capability of Queensland's business sector to increase energy and water efficiency and decrease waste going to landfill

We will manage our strategic risks to:

- lead effective action to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- contribute to the improvement of the Great Barrier Reef water quality through the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program
- provide regulatory arrangements that both protect the environment and support economic recovery
- deliver the outcomes expected of waste reforms
- ensure First Nations peoples' knowledge and rights are recognised and respected in our actions.

We will embrace opportunities to:

- provide stewardship for future generations through early engagement in the environment, science, heritage and with Queensland's youth
- transform our customer experience and the way we do business through new digital technologies and leading edge science
- collaborate and build partnerships beyond traditional boundaries—global, government and community—to deliver best practice solutions to complex problems
- promote the voices of young people so their views inform government policies, programs and services
- effectively partner with First Nations peoples to better steward Country and culture and deliver economic, social and cultural impact for all Queenslanders.



Queensland Government