

Message from the Director-General

Our environment is our future – it is fundamental to the lives of all Queenslanders and needs to be protected for future generations.

The new Department of Environment and Science unifies Environment, Heritage Protection, National Parks, Science and the Arts. With our collective strengths we have a shared purpose to address some of the state's most challenging and complex issues.

Balancing innovation for the future with the importance of maintaining cultural enrichment and a historical legacy is a defining goal for this department.

The department is creating jobs for a future state that is more resilient, sustainable and prosperous as we safeguard some of the most important biodiversity in the world.

Protecting the Great Barrier Reef is one of the Queensland Government's key priorities, as the Reef's importance as an ecosystem, an economic driver, a cultural asset and a global treasure cannot be overstated.

The department works in partnership with Traditional Owners to manage public protected areas and ensure that natural and cultural values are preserved.

This 2017–18 annual report—the first for the Department of Environment of Science—highlights our achievements, our priorities and contributions to the Queensland Government's objectives for the community.

During the reporting period, we acted as custodians of Queensland's environment, protecting and

sustainably managing our natural assets and cultural and built heritage for future generations to enjoy. By enabling ecologically sustainable development; facilitating eco, nature-based, heritage, arts and cultural tourism we also made valuable contributions to Queensland's economic prosperity.

In Science, we continued to lead the Queensland Government's science strategy and supported science and research partnerships across the state. We played an important role in building our knowledge economy and advancing Queensland through ongoing investments in innovation and emerging technologies.

In Arts, we supported Queenslanders' access to arts and culture and confirmed the valuable role it plays in enriching our lives. As part of our ongoing commitment to growing the arts sector we delivered a range of investment programs to maintain our premier cultural assets and support capital infrastructure for public spaces.

I would like to thank the department's executive leadership team and our employees across all regions. Their commitment and dedication in delivering programs and services contributes to our shared goal to improve outcomes for all Queenslanders.



Jamie Merrick
Director-General