Purpose of the report
This annual report details the financial and non-financial performance of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. It highlights the work, achievements, activities and strategic initiatives of the department and satisfies the requirements of Queensland’s Financial Accountability Act 2009.

Feedback
The annual report is an important document representing communication and accountability. EHP values comments and welcomes feedback from readers. To provide feedback, please take the time to complete the electronic survey available through the Get Involved website www.qld.gov.au/annual report feedback.

Public availability
This publication can be assessed and downloaded from the department’s website www.ehp.qld.gov.au/about/corporatedocs/index.html. Alternatively, had copies of this publication can be obtained by emailing info@ehp.qld.gov.au.

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September 2016
Contents

Message from the Director-General .................................................................................................................................2

Our organisation ................................................................................................................................................................4

Who we are ..................................................................................................................................................................4

Our structure ................................................................................................................................................................5

Our contribution .............................................................................................................................................................6

Our executive management team ....................................................................................................................................7

Organisational structure .....................................................................................................................................................9

The year at a glance ........................................................................................................................................................10

Looking ahead to 2016–17 ...........................................................................................................................................12

Financial summary ..........................................................................................................................................................14

Our performance ............................................................................................................................................................19

Goal 1—Enhance Queensland’s ecosystems ..................................................................................................................19

Our key performance indicators ..................................................................................................................................19

Our program of work ......................................................................................................................................................20

Goal 2—Protect the Great Barrier Reef ..........................................................................................................................25

Our key performance indicators ..................................................................................................................................25

Our program of work ......................................................................................................................................................25

Goal 3—Protect significant heritage places ....................................................................................................................27

Our key performance indicators ..................................................................................................................................27

Our program of work ......................................................................................................................................................27

Goal 4—Avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts on the environment ....................................................................................30

Our key performance indicators ..................................................................................................................................30

Our program of work ......................................................................................................................................................30

Goal 5—Work collaboratively and productively with industry, business and community .................................................37

Our key performance indicators ..................................................................................................................................37

Our program of work ......................................................................................................................................................37

Goal 6—Invest in our people to deliver quality and innovative services ...........................................................................41

Our key performance indicators ..................................................................................................................................41

Our program of work ......................................................................................................................................................41

Our people ....................................................................................................................................................................43

Workforce profile ............................................................................................................................................................43

Workforce attraction and retention ..................................................................................................................................46

Employee performance management ................................................................................................................................47

Managing our business .......................................................................................................................................................49

Governance committees ..................................................................................................................................................49

Executive Management Team ..........................................................................................................................................49

Finance Committee ...........................................................................................................................................................49

Audit and Risk Committee ...............................................................................................................................................50

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Investment and Strategy Committee ...........................................51

workingsafe workingwell Steering Committee ................................................................................................................52
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources Committee</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance processes</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and professional services</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to contact us</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 1—Legislation</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 2—Government bodies</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 3—Litigation 2015–16</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 4—Annual report on the administration of the <em>Environmental Protection Act 1994</em></td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 5—Queensland Heritage Council</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 6—Board of Trustees of Newstead House</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 7—Additional published information</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 8—External scrutiny</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronyms</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glossary</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compliance checklist</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial statements</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
28 September 2016

The Honourable Dr Steven Miles MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef
400 George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Minister

I am pleased to submit for presentation to the Parliament the Annual Report 2015–16 and financial statements for the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

I certify that this Annual Report complies with the:

- prescribed requirements of the Financial Accountability Act 2009 and the Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009, and
- detailed requirements set out in the Annual report requirements for Queensland Government Agencies.

A checklist outlining the annual report requirements can be found at page 102 of this annual report.

Yours sincerely

Jim Reeves
Director-General
Message from the Director-General

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) is committed to a healthy and resilient environment for a sustainable and prosperous Queensland. I am pleased to present the 2015–16 annual report, which outlines the significant work program undertaken by the department to support this vision.

In 2015–16, EHP continued to protect and manage our vast and diverse natural environment and deliver on our priorities to protect the Great Barrier Reef, enhance Queensland’s ecosystems, protect our significant heritage places and safeguard our environment from harm.

The management of the Great Barrier Reef remains a key priority and significant progress was made on our commitments under the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan to secure the reef’s future. The Office of the Great Barrier Reef continued to implement and coordinate the Queensland Government’s reef strategies and programs, with a focus on improving reef water quality.

The Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce delivered its final report which outlined 10 recommendations and the best options for investing an additional $90 million over four years for improving reef water quality. The Queensland Government agreed, or agreed in principle, to all of the recommendations and has committed $21.7 million in 2016–17 to implement them. This is in addition to the existing $35 million investment in reef water quality programs—bringing the total investment to $56.7 million in 2016–17.

As the state’s environmental regulator, EHP continued to undertake compliance and enforcement actions to uphold environmental standards and reduce environmental harm.

EHP continued its prosecution against Linc Energy Limited. The company was committed to stand trial on charges of wilfully and unlawfully causing serious environmental harm at its former Chinchilla underground coal gasification site. This case is the largest ever undertaken by the department and underscores the important role the department has to play in protecting our environment.

The Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Act 2016 was passed in this reporting period and gives EHP greater powers to pursue companies, entities and individuals who fail to uphold their environmental obligations and responsibilities. This important piece of legislation prevents companies from closing their doors and leaving taxpayers with the clean-up bill.

EHP continued to support the expansion of the protected area estate by securing more land with significant conservation value. In 2015–16, the protected area estate increased by 421,449 hectares and now represents 7.92 per cent of Queensland. Eleven new nature refuges were also declared in the past 12 months, bringing the total coverage of land protected to more than four million hectares. 2.31 per cent of the state is now under nature refuge.

EHP also continued its important work to identify and conserve the state’s built heritage. Heritage places not only reinforce our sense of place and identity, they also play a vital role in sustaining local economies and contributing to Queensland’s cultural heritage and tourism industry.

The release of Living Heritage Information System (LHIS) promotes greater understanding of our unique heritage places by providing the community with greater online access to digitised documents and images for the 1700-plus places on the Queensland Heritage Register.

While I am extremely proud of our achievements to date, I am equally excited by what EHP will continue to deliver in the coming 12 months.

We will continue to work with our Commonwealth partners to implement the Reef 2050 Plan and the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, on the ground, in local communities.

Improving reef water quality by reducing sediment and nutrient run-off through better agricultural practices will remain a key focus along with implementing the recommendations of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce report.

In conjunction with our community partners, we will also be actively working to improve local waterways in reef catchments through the Wet Tropics Healthy Waterways Partnership and more comprehensive regional report cards for the Mackay Whitsundays and Gladstone Harbour.

EHP will also lead the development of the government’s revitalised climate change agenda, ensuring Queensland does its part in the international effort to reduce carbon pollution and adapt to current and future climate change impacts.

By developing and implementing climate adaptation, mitigation and coastal hazards strategies, we will ensure that Queensland is ready to face the challenges of climate change and embrace the opportunities for the future.

This important work will ensure Queensland is in the best position to effectively manage our changing climate and ensure the long-term viability of our economy, communities and industries.

The $12 million Community Sustainability Action Grants program will support environmental, heritage protection and conservation activities through targeted funding rounds in 2016–17.
Wildlife management and conservation remains a priority with funding to support key programs for koala conservation work, wildlife hospitals and call centre support. In addition, $12.1 million will be provided to further protect koalas and their habitats, along with $5.8 million for crocodile management and monitoring programs.

In conclusion I would like to thank the department’s Executive Management Team and all employees for their ability to deliver the government’s vision and the department’s priorities and services in a dynamic and challenging work environment.

Jim Reeves
Director-General
Our organisation

Who we are
EHP is responsible for managing the health of the environment to protect Queensland’s unique ecosystems, including its landscapes and waterways, as well as its native plants and animals and biodiversity.

The department’s role is to act as a strong environmental regulator which supports the sustainable long-term economic development of Queensland.

It does this by developing and implementing policy and administering a range of environmental regulations and laws, providing timely approval authorities and ensuring compliance with them.

In addition to Queensland’s natural environment, the department is also responsible for identifying and conserving the state’s built heritage places. These places contribute to our identity and help define who we are as Queenslanders. They include buildings, structures, cemeteries, archaeological sites, gardens, urban precincts and natural and landscape features.

The department was established in April 2012 under the Public Service Act 2008, Part 2, Division 2 – Administrative Arrangements Order (No.3) 2012 and Public Service Departmental Arrangements Notice (No. 1) 2012.

Our vision and mission
EHP is committed to the vision of a healthy and resilient environment for a sustainable and prosperous Queensland. The department’s mission is to lead environment and heritage protection and sustainability in Queensland.

Our values
EHP’s service delivery, decision making and organisational management are governed by the following values:

- **Customers first**—Know your customers; Deliver what matters; Make decisions with empathy; Strive to ensure the safety of our customers.
- **Ideas into action**—Challenge the norm and suggest solutions; Encourage and embrace new ideas; Work across boundaries.
- **Unleash potential**—Expect greatness; Lead and set clear expectations; Seek, provide and act on feedback.
- **Be courageous**—Own your actions; successes and mistakes; Take calculated risks; Act with transparency.
- **Empower people**—Lead, empower and trust our staff; Play to everyone’s strengths; Develop

Our strategic direction
EHP is focused on achieving the following goals:

- enhance Queensland’s ecosystems
- protect the Great Barrier Reef
- protect significant heritage places
- avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts on the environment
- work collaboratively and productively with industry, business and community
- invest in our people to deliver quality and innovative services.

Our challenges
Key factors for EHP include:

- balancing environment, social and economic outcomes
- reducing the impacts of climate change through mitigation and adaptation
- achieving best practice environmental regulation
- reducing the impacts of environmental disasters
- ensuring environmental and heritage management is evidence-based
- building a positive culture of performance.

Our stakeholders
In order to achieve its objectives, the department works collaboratively with other organisations that have an interest or role in protecting the environment. This includes all levels of government, regional natural resource management groups, environmental authorities, industry, conservation and special interest groups, landholders and the general community. The department engages with its stakeholders through a range of communication channels to receive feedback about its activities and direction.
Our structure

EHP has three service areas.

Environmental Protection Services

Environmental protection focuses on avoiding, minimising or mitigating impacts to the environment through the design, application and monitoring of strategic direction, standards and regulations that guide the operation and control the activities of business and individuals that have or can have significant environmental impacts. This is achieved through:

- the delivery of the Queensland Government’s environmental legislation, policy priorities.
- providing targeted, consistent and transparent regulation that facilitates sustainable development in Queensland.
- managing and monitoring environmental risks proactively through modern and innovative assessment, compliance, investigation and enforcement programs.

Species and Ecosystem Protection Services

Species and ecosystem protection focuses on protecting the integrity of Queensland’s ecosystems by ensuring the diversity and integrity of Queensland’s natural ecosystems are preserved and conservation status of native species are maintained or enhanced. This is achieved through:

- protecting Queensland’s flora and fauna and high value ecosystems and managing the negative interactions between humans and wildlife.
- promoting sustainable management of Queensland’s terrestrial and marine biodiversity values and wetlands, and employing additional Indigenous rangers through the Land and Sea Rangers Program.
- working with departmental interest groups including local government, conservation groups, businesses and communities to achieve a sustainable environment for the future by reducing our environmental footprint and communicating the health of our ecosystems.

Heritage Protection Services

Heritage protection focuses on protecting Queensland’s heritage by recognising its value and ensuring it is conserved, adaptively re-used and its value is promoted for present and future generations. This is achieved through:

- supporting the operations of the Queensland Heritage Council, identifying and registering places with state heritage value and assisting in their management.
- communicating with, and educating Queenslanders on, their built heritage and working with local governments to incorporate heritage requirements in their planning arrangements.
- supporting adaptive and multi-purpose use of heritage buildings.

This structure is our means of achieving our vision, purpose and delivery of our services.

Our operating environment

EHP is a leading contributor to achieving the government’s objective to protect the environment, with its priorities of protecting the Great Barrier Reef, conserving nature and heritage, ensuring sustainable management of natural resources and enabling responsible development.

In order to progress this objective, it is imperative for the department to respond positively to social, economic and environmental trends in the broader community.

A key challenge is responding to, and managing the impacts of, climate change, which has a significant impact on the health of the reef and the viability of Queensland’s coastal settlements. The department has a lead role in developing whole-of-government climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, including working with other agencies and the community to increase the use of renewable energy.

The water quality of the Great Barrier Reef catchment is affected by agricultural and mining activities, and the department is fostering the adoption of best management practices to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff to the reef.

Many Queensland ecosystems and habitats are under threat because of climate change and urbanisation, so it is vital for the department to develop and implement a long-term strategy to increase the protected area estate. Expansion of the existing ‘report card’ system will allow the department to monitor the health and status of ecosystems against environmental standards. In addition, the department will need to continue to regulate environmentally relevant activities and achieve better waste management to reduce the impact of development and urbanisation on the state’s coasts and catchments.

Mining companies have an obligation under their environmental authorities to rehabilitate the land post-mining. The same obligation applies to non-mining companies that hold environmental authorities. Mining companies provide financial assurance to the state as a guarantee that funds are available for rehabilitation in the event of company collapse. When mines are abandoned they are managed by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), however EHP calculates the amount of financial assurance held by the state. As holding inadequate financial assurance poses a risk to the state’s balance sheet it requires careful management. The department is currently working with the mining sector and key government
agencies to ensure that in the event of company collapse, the state does hold sufficient financial assurance to rehabilitate land to the extent that the site does not pose an environmental risk.

Meeting Queensland’s environmental challenges will require a greater focus on sustainable development by public, private and non-government partners. The department can encourage this by providing more timely and comprehensive environmental information and analysis at a state and local level.

Broader societal trends such as empowerment, social networking and new technologies provide both challenges and opportunities. The department has responded to the increasing expectation that its services and information be available online.

The department’s social media channels provide an opportunity to disseminate news and information in real time and communicate with stakeholders and the community by developing engaging, useful and shareable content.

Our contribution

EHP’s direction and service delivery initiatives help contribute strongly to the Queensland Government’s objectives for the community which focus on four key areas:

Protecting the environment

- protecting the Great Barrier Reef
- conserving nature and heritage
- ensuring sustainable management of natural resources
- enabling responsible development.

Creating jobs and a diverse economy

- increasing workforce participation
- ensuring safe, productive and fair workplaces
- stimulating economic growth and innovation
- delivering new infrastructure and investment.

Delivering quality frontline services

- achieving better education and training outcomes
- strengthening our public health system
- providing responsive and integrated government services.

Building safe, caring and connected communities

- ensuring an accessible and effective justice system
- providing an integrated and reliable transport network
- encouraging safer and inclusive communities
- building regions.

The department’s strategic plan focusses primarily on contributions to the objective—Protecting the environment. Through implementing its environmental and heritage initiatives the department in turn contributes to creating jobs, delivering quality frontline services and building regions and communities.

The Queensland Plan

The department’s policies, programs and services align with the Queensland Government Interim Response to The Queensland Plan (the Interim Response). The Interim Response supports the government’s objectives for the community and identifies the priorities and key initiatives that will contribute towards implementing Queenslanders’ vision.

The department primarily focused on the Queensland Government’s objectives for the community to protect the environment and its key priorities: protecting the Great Barrier Reef, conserving nature and heritage, ensuring sustainable management of natural resources, and enabling responsible development.

More information about our policies, programs and services, and what the department delivered in 2015–16 can be found in the Our performance section of this report.
Our executive management team

The Executive Management Team (EMT) is EHP’s peak decision and advisory body and provides the Director-General with advice on issues in relation to corporate governance, strategic policy, strategic planning and alignment, performance management, service delivery, culture, values and environment.

As at 30 June 2016, membership of the EMT was as follows.

Jim Reeves
Director-General

As Director-General, Jim is responsible for the efficient, effective and economic administration of EHP. He sets the strategic direction and priorities for the department ensuring they are aligned with the priorities and objectives of the Queensland Government. He holds primary responsibility for strategic planning activities, resource allocation decisions, policy and legislative reform, continuous service improvement and strategic risk management. As the department’s chief executive, Jim also leads departmental collaboration between EHP and other government departments and liaison and engagement with the department’s key customers and stakeholders.

Maria Mohr
Deputy Director-General, Conservation and Sustainability Services

Maria is responsible for the implementation of programs to conserve and enhance the health of the state’s natural environment. This includes managing the interaction between people and protected species, including the delivery of programs associated with wildlife management, threatened species and protected areas. Maria is also responsible for promoting the sustainable management of Queensland’s terrestrial and marine biodiversity values and wetlands, litter and illegal dumping programs, conservation and environment grants and the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers Programs.

Tony Roberts
Deputy Director-General, Environmental Policy and Planning

Tony is responsible for developing strategy, policy and legislation to support the Queensland Government’s environment and heritage agenda. Tony leads EHP’s portfolio strategy on environmental legislation and policy priorities in relation to: climate change, water quality, waste, coastal, sand mining on North Stradbroke Island, planning and development, heritage, air and chemicals, state of the environment reporting, environment protection and reef policy. Tony supports the Minister and Director-General in representing Queensland’s environmental and heritage interests at the national level.

Dean Ellwood
Deputy Director-General, Environmental Services and Regulation

Dean leads EHP’s regulatory program, ensuring that it is targeted, consistent and transparent in its facilitation of sustainable development and strong environmental performance. He ensures that relevant frameworks and service delivery mechanisms are in place to support both the implementation of legislation and policy and environmental assessments for development and resource projects across the state. Dean is also responsible for managing environmental risks through a proactive compliance and enforcement program which includes strong litigation capabilities to respond to serious breaches.

Peter Griffin
Deputy Director-General, Corporate Services

Peter is responsible for leading the delivery of corporate services within EHP under the Business and Corporate Partnership model. These services include finance, asset management, human resources, corporate communications and governance and strategy including the delivery and performance of procurement services, Right to Information, privacy and internal audit functions across multiple departments.

Elisa Nichols
Executive Director, Office of the Great Barrier Reef

Elisa leads the Office of the Great Barrier Reef which is responsible for coordinating the implementation of Great Barrier Reef programs and investment across the Queensland Government. This includes actions under the joint Australian and Queensland governments’ Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (which incorporates the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013) and other Saving the Great Barrier Reef government commitments. The Office of the Great Barrier Reef also supported the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce and is responsible for implementation of its recommendations. It also coordinates reef monitoring and reporting including the annual Great Barrier Reef Report Card and regional waterway health report cards in the reef catchments.
Ken Davis
Executive Director, Governance and Strategy

Ken reports to the Deputy Director-General, Corporate Services and is responsible for leading the delivery of corporate performance and reporting, integrity and governance frameworks and Cabinet and Parliamentary Services including executive correspondence and ministerial liaison. Ken is also responsible for delivering Right to Information, privacy and procurement services to EHP as well as five other government departments and internal audit to four other government departments through the Business and Corporate Partnership. These services enable these six government departments to embed good governance and meet their legislative obligations.
The year at a glance

- The Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce delivered its final report which outlined 10 recommendations for improving reef water quality and investing an additional $90 million over four years.

- A reef regulation compliance program was implemented focussing on nutrient use on cane farms in the Wet Tropics and Burdekin catchments. Activities undertaken included proactive compliance activities and engagement with regional cane farmers.

- A prospectus for the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program was released to encourage corporate sector investment to expand the program. In 2015–16, EHP provided funding of $9 million to fund 65 rangers in 15 regional and remote communities.

- The protected area estate increased by 421,449 hectares, representing 7.92 per cent of Queensland. Eleven new nature refuges were declared, bringing the total coverage of land protected to more than four million hectares.

- The Wet Tropics Healthy Waterways Partnership was established to provide vital information on the health of waterways in the Wet Tropics. It is one of four regional report card partnerships established as part of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan. In 2015–16, the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership’s first full report card and the Mackay Whitsunday pilot report card were released.

- EHP led the development of the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Act 2016. This Act substantially ends sand mining on North Stradbroke Island by 2019, reinstates a restricted mine path at Enterprise mine and the ability to amend it under strict conditions, and establishes a new rehabilitation authorisation under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to support rehabilitation.

- EHP continued its prosecution against Linc Energy Limited. The company has been committed to stand trial on charges of wilfully and unlawfully causing serious environmental harm at its former Chinchilla underground coal gasification site.

- Springvale Station, a former cattle property near Cooktown, was purchased to help protect critical habitat for Queensland’s unique fauna and flora and boost efforts to protect the Great Barrier Reef as the property was a major contributor to local waterway sediment.

- The Waste Industry Compliance and Inspections Taskforce was established to stamp out unlicensed waste activities. A total of 104 investigations have been completed resulting in 29 enforcement outcomes.

- Mandatory auditor certification was introduced for contaminated land documents submitted to the department. This reduces the time taken by the department to assess changes to the status of contaminated land, providing a boost to the property development sector.
- EHP continued to work with industry and local governments to investigate solutions to a number of waste issues including unlawful waste and recycling activities, uncompetitive practices within the waste and recycling industry, and the application of financial assurances for landfill.

- Advisory groups were established to investigate a container deposit scheme and a plastic bag ban to help reduce litter and increase resource recovery. The groups include representatives from local government, community and environment groups, and the recycling, retail and beverage industry.

- A new heritage database Living Heritage Information System (LHIS) was developed, which provides online access to digitised documents and images for places on the Queensland Heritage Register.

- Two Minister’s Environment Roundtables were held to support continued dialogue between local and regional conservation organisations, senior representatives from across government and the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection on key issues as they impact on the Environment.

- A new Financial Assurance guideline was released providing greater clarity about those activities that may require financial assurance and greater flexibility for industry in relation to providing third party rates and removing the need to calculate GST.

- Five public benefit orders were sought from the courts following the prosecution of companies and executive officers of those companies. For example: EHP successfully prosecuted a mining company and a company director. At a sentencing hearing on 28 October the company and company director were fined a total of $300,000. A Public Benefit Order was also handed down, which requires that, as part of the total fine, $40,000 was paid to each of the recipients to the order, being the Mitchell River Watershed Management Group and for a project to be administered by the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers program, for works to be carried out by the Gummi Junga Aboriginal Corporation. Both projects are for environmental rehabilitation works that improve water quality in local waterways downstream of the mine site.
Looking ahead to 2016–17

In 2016–17, EHP’s focus will include the following priorities:

- Implement the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce’s recommendations for improving reef water quality. Immediate priorities include developing two major integrated projects in the Wet Tropics and Burdekin catchments and establishing an Innovation Fund to support the new technologies and approaches and increased reef-wide and finer-scale monitoring.

- Continue to invest in the Reef Water Quality Science Program to investigate continuous improvements to farming practices, prioritisation of investment along with industry partnerships to extend the findings of completed science projects. Furthermore, a significant proportion of the investment will be into practice change and demonstration projects that work with farming communities to improve practices.

- Review and update the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, including setting targets for the 35 basins that drain into the Great Barrier Reef. This will provide more functional alignment with the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan, Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce recommendations and incorporate the investments made through the Reef Trust.

- Expand the protected area estate by purchasing key strategic properties and continuing the NatureAssist program to secure nature refuges over lands of significant conservation value and high climate change resilience.

- Undertake public consultation on a Protected Area Strategy to guide the expansion and improved management of the protected area estate and work towards the long-term goal of having 17 per cent of the state’s land mass designated as protected area.

- Deliver a policy paper outlining the government’s expectations for improved mine rehabilitation and identify options to improve mine rehabilitation performance.

- Continue to progress World Heritage nominations for Cape York Peninsula and the extension of the Fraser Island World Heritage area.

- Lead the design and implementation of a container deposit scheme for Queensland and continue to work with key stakeholders, including the New South Wales Government.

- Work with stakeholders to complete a statutory guideline to complement the amendments to the Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Act 2016 and give business and the community confidence that the additional powers will be used in a consistent and transparent manner to achieve the best outcomes for Queensland.

- Expand the range of regulatory information publicly available on EHP’s website e.g. environmental approvals for the waste sector.

- Provide support to the koala expert panel, which is responsible for providing evidence-based recommendations to the government on the most appropriate and realistic actions to reverse the decline of koala populations in Queensland.

- Complete the review of the crocodile relocation policy in urban areas to ensure the correct balance between crocodile conservation and human safety.

- Improve the current flying-fox roost management framework to ensure that the arrangements in place are effective, are based on sound science, and do not put Queensland’s flying-fox populations at risk. To support this, in June 2016, the Minister announced a $2.7 million program over three years to improve our understanding and management of flying-fox roosts in urban areas. The program is targeted at creating transferrable knowledge of assistance to local governments to manage flying-fox roosts.

- Review the current status of the science related to river protection and initiate public consultation regarding the adequacy of the current regulatory river protection framework.

- Lead the development and delivery of whole-of-government climate change mitigation and adaptation programs.

- Release the four-yearly (2012–15) State of the Environment report. This report is the first of its kind in Australian to be developed in an interactive, web-based format.

- Deliver ICT reform including online application and approval capabilities and the ability to submit waste transportation data online to the department. This will improve the speed and efficiency of lodgements for customers and allow the department to focus its resources on compliance efforts and reporting obligations.

- Allocate up to $4 million in funding for the first round of the Community Sustainability Action grants. The program aims to support community engagement, encourage innovation and enable eligible groups and individuals to improve wildlife protection, environmental rehabilitation and conservation of local heritage sites.

- Undertake biodiversity assessment work in Queensland’s Gulf regions to better understand the values and help manage potential development pressures in this environmentally sensitive region.
• Lead the Queensland Climate Transition Strategy (QCTS) which will outline the Queensland Government’s comprehensive response to the challenge of climate change. The QCTS will seek to ensure Queensland takes advantage of the opportunities of transitioning to a low carbon world and that a fair share of those jobs and industries of the future are built here. This will include making investments in technologies such as renewable energy and electric vehicles that can lead to long-term reductions in Queensland’s greenhouse gas emissions. The QCTS will also respond to the 6000 submissions received through the Advancing Climate Action in Queensland: Making the transition to a low carbon future discussion paper.

• Continue the state-wide biodiversity assessments program, including an updated terrestrial assessment for South East Queensland, to support the South East Queensland Regional Plan.

• Undertake a systematic review of the Queensland Heritage Register to update data content and identify representational gaps, both geographically and by historic theme.

• Progress the review of the Nature Conservation Regulations to strengthen conservation outcomes and modernise the system for keeping and trading wildlife.

• Commence a comprehensive crocodile population monitoring program to monitor local crocodile numbers and population trends in rivers and estuaries from Cape York to Gladstone.
Financial summary

This summary provides an overview of EHP’s financial performance for the 2015–16 financial year. A more detailed view can be found in the financial statements included with this report.

The department reported a net deficit for the year of $4.606 million, compared to a surplus of $1.022 million in 2014–15. The deficit position for 2015–16 is primarily related to the decrease in the value of land held by the department of $4.6 million, as well as minor movements in external grant funding.

As the department is funded through appropriation, a surplus or deficit is not necessarily indicative of an operational profit or loss but is primarily related to either the timing of receipted external grant revenues compared to the expenditure they fund, or the impact of revaluation of the department’s property, plant and equipment.

During 2015–16, new external grant revenue was received, which will be utilised to fund future expenditure. As at 30 June 2016, the department holds $11.423 million in unspent external grant funding. Total expenditure increased by 18 per cent ($32.522 million) from 2014–15, primarily as a result of additional funding for programs such as Saving the Great Barrier Reef, and revenue increased by 15 per cent ($26.894 million).

The following table summarises the financial results of controlled operations.

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of comprehensive income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income from continuing operations</td>
<td>206,194</td>
<td>179,300</td>
<td>26,894</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses from continuing operations</td>
<td>210,800</td>
<td>178,278</td>
<td>32,522</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus / (Deficit)</td>
<td>(4,606)</td>
<td>1,022</td>
<td>(5,628)</td>
<td>-551%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of financial position</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>90,981</td>
<td>75,907</td>
<td>15,074</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>24,211</td>
<td>11,488</td>
<td>12,723</td>
<td>111%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total equity</td>
<td>66,770</td>
<td>64,419</td>
<td>2,351</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement of comprehensive income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Variance</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriation revenue</td>
<td>148,124</td>
<td>121,936</td>
<td>26,188</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User charges, fees and fines</td>
<td>49,248</td>
<td>45,528</td>
<td>3,720</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and other contribution</td>
<td>7,078</td>
<td>9,575</td>
<td>(2,497)</td>
<td>-26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>279%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td>1,650</td>
<td>2,025</td>
<td>(375)</td>
<td>-19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenue</td>
<td>206,191</td>
<td>179,088</td>
<td>27,103</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gains on sale of property plant and equipment</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>(209)</td>
<td>-99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income from continuing operations</td>
<td>206,194</td>
<td>179,300</td>
<td>26,894</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Statement of comprehensive income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses from continuing operations</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Variance</th>
<th>Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses from continuing operations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee expenses</td>
<td>108,090</td>
<td>99,817</td>
<td>8,273</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies and services</td>
<td>59,610</td>
<td>50,630</td>
<td>8,980</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and subsidies</td>
<td>26,243</td>
<td>22,202</td>
<td>4,041</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and amortisation</td>
<td>2,712</td>
<td>2,911</td>
<td>(199)</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revaluations</td>
<td>4,642</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,642</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Losses</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>(427)</td>
<td>-57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>9,187</td>
<td>1,975</td>
<td>7,212</td>
<td>365%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses from continuing operations</strong></td>
<td>210,800</td>
<td>178,278</td>
<td>32,522</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total comprehensive income (Surplus / (Deficit))</strong></td>
<td>(4,606)</td>
<td>1,022</td>
<td>(5,628)</td>
<td>-551%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Income

Appropriation funding provided by the Queensland Government was EHP’s main source of revenue, totalling $148.124 million. Other sources of revenue included $49.248 million from user charges and fees (which include environmental licensing and permitting activity), grants and other contributions of $7.078 million and $1.65 million from other revenues.

### Sources of Controlled Income: 2015-16

- Appropriation revenue: 72%
- User charges and fees: 24%
- Grants and other contributions: 3%
- Interest: 0%
- Other revenue (incl Revaluation): 1%
Expenses

In 2015–16, total expenses were $210.8 million, which was $35.522 million higher than expenses in 2014–15. Employee expenses, including wages, salaries, related taxes (FBT) and superannuation contributions for 2015–16 totalled $108.08 million and represented 51 per cent of the department’s total expenditure.

Supplies and services make up the second largest category of expenditure, representing 28 per cent ($59.61 million) of EHP’s expenditure. Key items within supplies and services included consultants and contractors ($8.7 million), operating leases ($11.023 million) and outsourced service delivery ($16.223 million). Overall, supplies and services increased by 18 per cent. Within this category outsourced service delivery increased by $7.559 million. These costs were partially offset by savings in shared service costs ($1.137 million), minor plant and equipment ($0.435 million) and telephones ($0.453 million).

Grants and subsidies increased by 18 per cent primarily as a result of new or increased grant programs including the climate change coastal adaption program ($4.0 million) and the Great Barrier Reef protection package ($2.4 million). This was partially offset by a reduction in the Everyone’s Environment grants program ($2.9 million).
Statement of financial position

EHP continues to maintain a sound net asset position of $66.77 million, illustrating the net worth of the departmental entity. The department’s assets, valued at $90.981 million, consist primarily of cash, receivables, property plant and equipment and intangibles (software assets). Land makes up the largest portion of assets valued at $45.555 million.

The department’s liabilities primarily relate to operating payables to external vendors and staff entitlements, as well as unearned revenue relating to forfeited financial assurances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement of Financial Position</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Variance</th>
<th>Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>23,932</td>
<td>11,786</td>
<td>12,146</td>
<td>103%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>11,863</td>
<td>13,238</td>
<td>(1,375)</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>1,377</td>
<td>2,082</td>
<td>(705)</td>
<td>-34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td>37,172</td>
<td>27,106</td>
<td>10,066</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPE</td>
<td>45,555</td>
<td>43,579</td>
<td>1,976</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intangible assets</td>
<td>8,254</td>
<td>5,222</td>
<td>3,032</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-current assets</strong></td>
<td>53,809</td>
<td>48,801</td>
<td>5,008</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>90,981</td>
<td>75,907</td>
<td>15,074</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payables</td>
<td>16,223</td>
<td>6,902</td>
<td>9,321</td>
<td>135%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued employee benefits</td>
<td>4,448</td>
<td>3,625</td>
<td>823</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unearned revenue</td>
<td>2,851</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>2,791</td>
<td>4652%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions - onerous contract</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>23,734</td>
<td>10,799</td>
<td>12,935</td>
<td>120%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions - onerous contract</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>(212)</td>
<td>-31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>477</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>(212)</td>
<td>-31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>24,211</td>
<td>11,488</td>
<td>12,723</td>
<td>111%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
<td>66,770</td>
<td>64,419</td>
<td>2,351</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed equity</td>
<td>85,215</td>
<td>78,258</td>
<td>6,957</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated surplus / (Deficit)</td>
<td>(18,445)</td>
<td>(13,839)</td>
<td>(4,606)</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total equity</strong></td>
<td>66,770</td>
<td>64,419</td>
<td>2,351</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Budget versus actual commentary

The 2015–16 financial statements include a budget versus actual comparison as required by AASB 1055 Budgetary Reporting. Included in note 28 of the financial statements, the comparison provides an explanation of key variances between the original budget (as per the 2015–16 Service Delivery Statements) and the final year-end result with regard to the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Cashflows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015–16 budget</th>
<th>2015–16 actual</th>
<th>Variance</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of comprehensive income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income from continuing operations</td>
<td>205,019</td>
<td>206,194</td>
<td>1,175</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses from continuing operations</td>
<td>207,651</td>
<td>210,800</td>
<td>3,149</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus / (Deficit)</td>
<td>(2,632)</td>
<td>(4,606)</td>
<td>(1,974)</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of financial position</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>72,679</td>
<td>90,981</td>
<td>18,302</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>9,055</td>
<td>24,211</td>
<td>15,156</td>
<td>167%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total equity</td>
<td>63,624</td>
<td>66,770</td>
<td>3,146</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Whilst there were significant offsetting movements within each category, overall revenues and expenses were close to budget.

Significant movements to note include, land revaluation decrement of $4.6 million, an increase in cash relating to additional environmental offsets, and forfeited financial assurance as well as $7 million in appropriation payable to return to the State (further detailed information can be found in note 28 of the attached financial statements).

Administered activities

Administered activities are those undertaken by departments on behalf of the Queensland Government. EHP administers funds on behalf of the State which include the collection of a range of regulatory fees associated with contaminated land searches, development applications and sand dredging royalties; permits for the keeping of wildlife; and licensing of the recreational and commercial harvesting of wildlife.

All administered revenue received is ultimately transferred to the Consolidated Fund.
Our performance

To support the achievement of the government’s objectives for the community, and address the state’s environmental challenges, EHP identified four key goals and two complementary goals in its 2015–19 Strategic Plan. These are:

1. enhance Queensland’s ecosystems
2. protect the Great Barrier Reef
3. protect significant heritage places
4. avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts on the environment
5. work collaboratively and productively with industry, business and community
6. invest in our people to deliver quality and innovative services.

The department’s performance—either achievement of performance targets or implementation of strategies—is assessed against these goals.

Goal 1—Enhance Queensland’s ecosystems

EHP seeks to ensure the diversity and integrity of Queensland’s natural ecosystems are preserved and the conservation status of native species is maintained or enhanced. The department also endeavours to ensure safe interactions between people and wildlife, and that appropriate tenure arrangements are in place to provide species and habitat conservation.

Our key performance indicators

- Water quality improvement measured through performance scorecards and report cards, including Healthy Waterways and Gladstone Harbour.
- Improved results for threatened species through the Back on Track program.
- 17% of land gazetted as protected area estate by 2035.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service standard</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2015–16 target / estimate</th>
<th>2015–16 actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Queensland’s land area that is protected.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of threatened species, targeted under recovery plans, which maintain or improve their classification.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average cost per wildlife permit issued.</td>
<td>3, 4</td>
<td>$184</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

1. This service standard measures the percentage of Queensland land that is dedicated as national park or regional park or declared as a nature refuge. Due to a number of impediments not being resolved and delays with NatureAssist negotiations, the protected area estate has not increased as much as expected. However, EHP is working closely with stakeholders to advance these additions as soon as possible.
2. Recovery plans may be formal plans adopted under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (C’wlth) or informal conservation action plans developed by the Queensland Government to recover species. Implementation actions include regular monitoring to enable determination of species status as an annual measure.
3. This service standard measures the cost of each wildlife permit or licence approved, refused or withdrawn by the department. The costs involve salaries, on-costs and operational expenses. The variance between the 2015–16 target / estimate and the actual result is due to the unavailability of data when initially determining the target. As a result of monitoring the measure over the past year, the 2016–17 target has been adjusted to less than $100.
Our program of work

Healthy water quality

Healthy Waterways and Catchments (formerly known as Healthy Waterways and Catchments Ltd) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that works with relevant stakeholders to protect and improve South East Queensland’s waterways. It produces waterway health report cards, in conjunction with EHP, to inform the community about the condition of waterways, the benefits they bring and the actions undertaken to protect and improve them.

The 2015 South East Queensland Healthy Waterways report card was released in October 2015. It introduced additional environmental condition indicators including the extent of key habitats (such as riparian vegetation) and highlighted that sediment loads entering local waterways and Moreton Bay are a critical issue affecting the health of South East Queensland receiving waters.

In 2015–16, the department also supported regional waterway health report cards in the Mackay-Whitsunday, Gladstone, Wet Tropics and Burdekin regions. Using locally relevant water quality benchmarks and data from a range of sources, these report cards will provide greater understanding of ecosystem health.

A pilot report card for the Mackay-Whitsunday region was released in October 2015.

In the 2015 Gladstone report card (Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership) environmental health and social health of Gladstone Harbour received a ‘C’ grade and cultural health and economic health received a ‘B’ grade.

In the Fitzroy report card (Fitzroy partnership for River Health) aquatic ecosystems received a ‘B’ grade, water quality for drinking water received an ‘A’ grade and water quality for agricultural use received a ‘B’ grade.

During the reporting period, the department and Healthy Waterways and Catchments Ltd, in collaboration with Master Builders Queensland and the Housing Industry Association (Qld), launched new online resources to assist the building and construction sectors meet erosion and sediment control requirements. The resources include fact sheets, a checklist and compliance guidelines, which are designed to help prevent sediment leaving building and construction sites and reaching local waterways, Moreton Bay and the Great Barrier Reef.

The information is also available through iAuditor, a mobile app, allowing builders, contractors and local government officers to easily access information while on-site.

The department is also developing new guidelines for High Efficiency Sediment basins to inform best management practice on construction and land development sites and delivering on ground capacity building.

In rural South East Queensland, the department is working with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) to produce new research on nutrient and soil management and is also working with Healthy Waterways and Catchments to implement on-ground restoration works in waterways and properties previously affected by floods.

The department continues to work with regional partners on Healthy Waters Management Plans, which is a key planning mechanism to improve the quality of Queensland waters. In 2015–16, the department submitted the Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine healthy waters management plans to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority for approval, and continued to develop other plans in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin. It also provided support to water quality improvement plans prepared by regional partners in reef catchments including the East Cape York, Burdekin and Fitzroy plans.

Healthy wetlands and improved biodiversity

Wetlands are areas that are permanently or periodically inundated with water that is static or flowing. They support Queensland’s primary industries for seafood, protect people and property from the effects of climate events like storm surges and floods, and are habitats for a diverse range of plants and animals. Some wetlands have become less healthy because they have lost animals or plants that once lived there, or because human activity has changed the way water flows in or out of them.

Interactive catchment stories were developed after extensive consultation with stakeholders, through a Walking the Landscape process. The stories provide information about the key features of each catchment including the flow of water in and out of the catchment. Users can interrogate the information, which integrates spatial information with photos and animations to assist with catchment level management decisions.

During the reporting period, the department released Aquatic Conservation Assessments for South East Queensland and the Lake Eyre and Bulloo basins and Biodiversity Planning Assessments for the Gulf Plains bioregion. In addition, the department facilitated expert panels for the South East Queensland Biodiversity Planning Assessment. These assessments provide key information about relative terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity values for a range of planning and policy initiatives such as regional plans, Essential Habitat and the Flora Survey Trigger Map.
Cane and grazing best management practice (BMP) programs

Cane farmers and graziers in reef catchments are encouraged to adopt best management practices through the voluntary industry-led Smartcane BMP and Grazing BMP. These programs provide a system for improving productivity, profitability and sustainability by meeting the industry standards. Producers self-assess their farm practices and benchmark against the BMP standards (‘below’ industry standard, ‘at’ industry standard or ‘above’ industry standard). To achieve accreditation in the BMP, producers need to achieve ‘at’ or ‘above’ industry standards and provide evidence and “proof of practice”. For accreditation, Smartcane BMP assesses against the three core modules (Soil Health and Nutrient Management, Irrigation and Drainage Management and Weed Pest and Disease Management) and Grazing BMP assesses against all five modules (Grazing Land Management, Soil Health, Animal Production, Animal Health and Welfare and People and Business). As at 30 June 2016, 1376 cane growing businesses and 1090 grazing businesses had completed a BMP self-assessment. As at 30 June 2016, the number of accredited growers in the Cane BMP program was 118. As at 30 June 2016, there were 52 accredited graziers in the Grazing BMP program, an increase of 14 from 2014–15.

During 2015–16, the Cane and Grazing BMP modules were reviewed. The Smartcane modules review was led by Sugar Research Australia (SRA), in consultation with the Queensland Departments of Environment and Heritage Protection; Agriculture and Fisheries; Natural Resources and Mines and Science, Information Technology and Innovation. The review examined four of the seven Smartcane BMP modules (Soil Health and Nutrient Management, Irrigation and Drainage Management, Weed Pest and Disease Management and Crop Production and Harvesting Management), and updated relevant management practices to reflect latest science and the accepted industry standard. This supported the sugar industry’s obligation to promote continuous improvement among growers.

The review of the Grazing BMP module aimed to ensure the program would continue to support improved business profitability, whilst ensuring high standards of environmental and ethical stewardship. The review, strongly supported by the Producer Reference Group, raised the bar for graziers already at ‘industry standard’, and clarified ‘above industry standard’ as an aspirational goal to demonstrate management improvement and progression. Feedback received from the Cattle Council, RSPCA and supply chain enterprises indicated interest in including relevant production and market outcomes in BMP modules.

The Horticultural best management practice program (Hort360)

Hort360 is a best management practice program delivered by EHP in partnership with Growcom. Since the program was launched in South East Queensland in August 2015, more than 80 fruit and vegetable growers in key production areas such as the Pumicestone and Lockyer catchments have completed the water quality or sediment modules to improve farm management of fertiliser, pesticides and soil management.

The program also provides growers with access to additional material and capacity building events including farm property maps, demonstration sites, workshops, factsheets and videos.

Increasing Queensland’s protected area estates

In 2015–16, EHP, in conjunction with the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (NPSR), commenced the first phase of development of a Protected Area Strategy. The strategy guides the expansion and improved management of the protected area estate to achieve the long-term goal to have 17 per cent of the state’s land mass declared as protected areas. The departments are preparing a draft Protected Area Strategy, which will be released for public consultation in 2016–17.

In 2015–16, the protected area estate increased by 421,449 hectares. This included the dedication of:

- 379,759 hectares of national park, of which 29,310 hectares was declared as national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land).
- 11,303 hectares declared as forest reserve was upgraded to national park.
- 31,260 hectares was dedicated as regional park.

In addition, 10,430 hectares was declared as nature refuges.

World Heritage

Queensland has five World Heritage areas: Wet Tropics of Queensland, Great Barrier Reef, Fraser Island, Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh section) and Gondwana Rainforests of Australia.

These properties provide highly valuable environmental, recreation and economic services for Queenslanders and are managed to protect and present the values for which they were listed.

The Queensland and Australian governments cooperate in the management of Queensland’s World Heritage properties through an inter-governmental agreement which outlines the obligations and responsibilities in terms of funding and management.
The department has specific responsibilities for World Heritage areas including:

- statewide co-ordination of all World Heritage matters on the protected area estate and beyond.
- providing consistent inter-governmental and cross-jurisdictional advice on World Heritage matters.
- coordinating contractual and reporting responsibilities under current and future Commonwealth funding arrangements.
- providing secretariat support and advice to the advisory committees established for each World Heritage property and attendance at committee meetings.
- progressing the Queensland Government’s commitments for listing future World Heritage sites (currently Cape York Peninsula and the extensions to the Fraser Island World Heritage area).

In 2015–16, the department managed the administration, governance and strategic direction and policy development for Riversleigh, Gondwana Rainforests and Fraser Island Work Heritage properties. It also had input into the planning process for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area islands. The Great Barrier Reef marine areas are managed through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The Wet Tropics Management Authority oversees the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage area and works closely with EHP’s World Heritage unit to ensure consistent approach to issues across Queensland.

NPSR’s Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and EHP work collaboratively with the World Heritage advisory committees, which represent the Indigenous, scientific and community interests in each of the properties, on planning and implementing the strategic management and threat mitigation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties.

EHP also oversees the Queensland Government’s memberships to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Australian Committee for IUCN.

**Koala conservation**

In 2015–16, koala conservation was a major focus for the department with funding provided for a number of key programs.

In 2015, the government increased protection for Queensland’s iconic koalas by listing them statewide as vulnerable under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

During the reporting period, the department received an independent report prepared by the University of Queensland showing evidence of a decline in koala population densities in South East Queensland.

The results of the report indicated that government koala protection strategies have not slowed the decline in koala population numbers. A review of all koala programs and initiatives will be conducted in 2016–17 to inform any changes to current strategies.

**Everyone’s Environment grants**

Between 2012 and 2015 EHP allocated funding of almost $9.9 million for 229 environmental conservation projects and $220,000 for four research projects, under the Everyone’s Environment grants program ($1.7 million was also allocated for Heritage projects during this period). During the reporting period the department continued to deliver the required administrative oversight for the program.

**Threatened species management**

Of those species listed as endangered, vulnerable or extinct in the wild under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992, 96 species have national recovery plans.

In 2015–16, the conservation status of 92 of those species (or 96 per cent of the total) was maintained or improved. The conservation status of three frog species and one bird species changed to a more threatened category.

During the reporting period, EHP provided expert advice, management and research to assist the conservation and recovery of more than 30 threatened species in Queensland and also made a number of key funding commitments.

The elusive night parrot was ‘rediscovered’ in 2013 in remote western Queensland after having been thought to have been extinct for 75 years. In November 2015, EHP pledged $440,000 to Bush Heritage Australia for the management of its 56,000 hectare Pullen Pullen Reserve as a nature refuge to protect the only known population of the endangered parrot. In June 2016, EHP issued an interim conservation order over the endangered bird’s critical habitat to provide increased protection from the threats of illegal poaching and disturbance. Unauthorised trespassing on the land risks penalty of up to a $353,400 fine or two year’s imprisonment.

In March 2016, EHP and NPSR announced a joint commitment to invest $700,000 for the upgrade of a predator-proof bilby fence at Currawinya National Park. Once completed, the fenced enclosure will provide a long-term safe haven from predators for the endangered marsupial. EHP and NPSR have partnered with the Save the Bilby Fund and Dreamworld to progress a bilby captive breeding program, which will enable bilbies to once again be released back into the enclosure following removal of the remaining feral cats.
Flying-fox management

In 2015–16, EHP managed 97 notifications for 45 flying-fox roosts by issuing flying-fox roost management permits or ‘as-of-right’ authorities to local councils. This increased from 38 notifications for 25 flying-fox roosts in 2014–15.

Crocodile management

The department is committed to maintaining a crocodile management program that delivers appropriate public safety while enabling the ongoing survival of crocodiles in the wild.

In 2015–16, EHP officers removed 61 crocodiles that were deemed to pose a clear threat to people from populated areas, compared to 50 crocodiles in 2014–15. This includes crocodiles removed under EHP’s contracted capture and removal service for the Cairns Crocodile Management Plan Proactive Zone 2 area.

The department is developing a comprehensive scientific crocodile monitoring program to run for at least three years. It will produce scientifically sound information on crocodile numbers and population trends and will form the cornerstone of crocodile management in the future. This research will be complemented by appropriate capture and removal arrangements and public education about Croc-Wise behaviour in crocodile habitat areas. In 2015–16, the department conducted a survey to gather community views about crocodile management and undertook stakeholder consultation in north Queensland to inform the preferred approach for crocodile management in urban areas.

Macropod management program

EHP administers the commercial harvest of macropods (kangaroos and wallaroos) in Queensland as part of the Macropod Management Program, which aims to provide for the sustainable use and conservation of the species. Annual quotas are set for the number of macropods that can be taken.

For the 2015 harvest period, 1045 commercial wildlife harvesting licences for macropods were issued. There were 93 commercial wildlife licences for dead macropods (commonly known as dealer’s licences), five commercial wildlife licences for dead macropods (meat processing) and three commercial wildlife licences for dead macropods (tanning) issued.

Data from dealer returns indicated that there were 1,061,009 macropods commercially harvested, representing 25.9 per cent of the overall quota. The harvest was predominantly for carcasses used for both human consumption and pet food.

No quota was exceeded for any species in any zone for the 2015–16 harvest period. The highest quota was 32.8 per cent for eastern grey kangaroos in the central zone. In all harvest zones, the percentage of the population used for each species was less than five per cent.

A compliance program ensures the industry is accountable for its performance. During the 2015 harvest period, the department issued five infringement notices and 63 warning notices for offences relating to the commercial macropod harvest.

Environmental Offsets Framework

The Environmental Offsets Framework streamlines environmental offsets by providing an outcome-based approach to offsets, removing the complexities and duplication associated with the former offsets framework and aligning offsets across all three levels of government.

In 2015–16, EHP continued to implement the Offsets Framework including registering an advanced offset for koala habitat at Miller Park in Logan City Council and finalising the Western Bioregions Strategic Offset Investment Corridor (SOIC).

Strategic Offset Investment Corridors

At times, areas of high environmental value (for example a habitat for vulnerable or endangered species) coincide with sites of particular value to industry (for example the presence of natural resources or proximity to infrastructure).

Environmental offsets (offsets) provide the flexibility to approve development in one place on the basis of a requirement to make an equivalent environmental gain in another place where there is not the same value to industry. Strategic Offset Investment Corridors (SOICs) identify the best places in the landscape to locate environmental offsets. In 2015–16, SOICs were prepared for the Western Bioregions, to accompany the existing Galilee Basin and the Southern Brigalow Belt and New England Tableland SOICs.

1 The environmental offsets framework seeks to prevent further harm to the environment rather than mitigate existing environmental impacts. It is now recognised that this strategy, which was originally published as being in Goal 4 in the EHP Strategic Plan 2015–2019, is better placed here in Goal 1.
Offsets Financial Settlement Committee

In March 2016, EHP established an Offset Project Management Committee to effectively manage funds derived from financial settlement offsets and provide recommendations for outsourcing strategic on-ground offset projects.

The committee members come from a range of sectors including science, land management, government, academia and finance and have a range of skills and experience across key portfolio areas. It met three times during the reporting period and is developing governance protocols and decision-making procedures to enable it to identify and assess options for the delivery of offset projects.

EHP and the Offset Project Management Committee are committed to best practice governance and oversight to ensure that financial settlement offset funds are acquitted to benefit the environmental matter that was impacted.

EHP’s Offsets Account has received $2,275,263 from proponents for 24 separate offset payments since the framework began.

Consultation with industry bodies

In 2015–16, the department worked with peak industry bodies to revise the model conditions for mining and petroleum activities to include model offset conditions. The new model offset conditions provide applicants with an indication of the type of offset conditions that may be placed on a site specific environmental authority in response to a significant residual impact on a matter of state environmental significance as a result of a resource activity. The new conditions were published in May 2016.

Managing erosion and sediment

Queensland’s growing population increases the demand on housing and land development, which may put pressure on the quality of water entering local waterways, Moreton Bay and the Great Barrier Reef.

EHP is meeting the needs of the community and industry by producing resources to improve onsite management practices and minimise sediment runoff from building and construction sites.

In April 2016, the Hon. Dr Steven Miles Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef—launched the erosion and sediment control online tool kit. This was supported by a series of capacity building workshops and field days for industry and local governments along the Queensland coast.

As at 30 June 2016, more than 300 practitioners had participated in the erosion and sediment control program and more than 6000 people had accessed the online toolkit.

Springvale Station

Springvale Station was purchased by EHP for $7 million to help protect critical habitat for Queensland’s unique fauna and flora. The 56,000 hectare property is one of the biggest contributors of gully sediment run-off to the northern Great Barrier Reef in the Normanby catchment.

Now part of the protected area estate, this investment will also have a positive impact on reef water quality over time, boosting the Queensland Government’s efforts to protect the Great Barrier Reef.
Goal 2—Protect the Great Barrier Reef

EHP hosts the Office of the Great Barrier Reef which implements and coordinates the Queensland Government’s reef strategies and programs to improve the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

Our key performance indicators

Based on the 2009 baseline continued progress towards targets of:

- Up to 80% reduction in nitrogen run-off from key catchments such as the Wet Tropics and the Burdekin by 2025.
- Up to 50% reduction in sediment run-off from key catchments such as the Wet Tropics and the Burdekin by 2025.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance measure</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2015–16 target/estimate</th>
<th>2015–16 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Queensland’s contribution to a reduction in the annual loads of nitrogen, sediment and pesticides to the Great Barrier Reef of at least 1%</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>Not yet Available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. This is not an EHP 2015–16 SDS service standard. This is a whole-of-government performance measure which will be included as an EHP 2016–17 service standard.

Our program of work

Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan)

The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan is the overarching framework for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef from 2015 to 2050. It outlines actions that the Australian and Queensland governments and partners will take to contribute to achieving the vision of ensuring the Great Barrier Reef continues to improve on its Outstanding Universal Value every decade between now and 2050 to be a natural wonder for each successive generation to come.

The Office of the Great Barrier Reef coordinates the Queensland Government’s actions under the Reef 2050 Plan, which incorporates the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013, as well as other Queensland Government specific reef-related commitments.

The Queensland Government has completed 10 of the 56 actions under its responsibility, with significant progress underway on another 35 actions.

Major achievements in 2015–16 include the introduction of three new net-free fishing zones in Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton and the introduction of the Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015, which restricts new port development to within current port limits, minimises dredging and bans the dumping of dredge spoil in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.


In March 2016, the Office of the Great Barrier Reef released the Queensland Government Annual Investment Plan 2015–16—Reef Water Quality Protection Plan. This plan outlines how the Queensland Government’s investment of $35 million per year contributes to activities that support the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and its goal of improving water quality for the Great Barrier Reef. The plan includes a target to achieve at least a one per cent reduction of annual loads of nitrogen, sediment and pesticides in 2015–16 as a result of Queensland investment.

As part of this investment, Queensland Government has continued to fund the Reef Water Quality Science Program and industry partnerships beyond the Best Management Practice programs. This investment is continuing to inform our actions and prioritisation in Reef catchments.
**Great Barrier Reef on show at World Science Festival Brisbane**

The Queensland Government’s actions to protect the Great Barrier Reef were showcased at the inaugural World Science Festival Brisbane in March 2016. The Office of the Great Barrier Reef participated in a number of events including a Can We Save Our Precious Reefs in Time? panel discussion and a Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce breakfast with internationally renowned National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, Dr Sylvia Earle.

The festival attracted 110,000 people and worldwide media attention with coverage across the United Kingdom, United States, Asia Pacific and translations into French, Spanish, Italian, Turkish and Finnish.

**Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce**

The Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce was established to provide advice to the Queensland Government on the best approach to achieve its target of reducing nitrogen by up to 80 per cent and sediment by up to 50 per cent by 2025 in key catchments, such as the Wet Tropics and Burdekin, to ensure that clean water flows to the Great Barrier Reef. It was also tasked with identifying the priority areas for investing an additional $90 million in Queensland Government funding.

The Taskforce’s Interim Report was released for stakeholder feedback in December 2015, with 103 responses received, helping to inform the final report, which was delivered in May 2016. It included 10 recommendations focusing on enhanced communication, increased levels of agricultural extension, a greater focus on innovation, expanded monitoring, financial and other incentives, and staged and targeted regulations.

The Queensland Government is preparing a formal response to the Taskforce’s Final Report and will agree, or agree in principle, with all 10 recommendations. It has committed $21.7 million in 2016–17 for implementing the recommendations in addition to the existing $35 million investment in reef water quality programs—brining the total investment to $56.7 million in 2016–17.

Progress towards the nutrient and sediment reduction targets in 2015-16 will be reported in the Great Barrier Reef Report Card 2016 to be released in 2017.

**Great Barrier Reef Report Card and regional waterway health report cards**

The Office of the Great Barrier Reef coordinates the annual Great Barrier Reef Report Card as well as regional waterway health report cards as part of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan.

During the reporting period, the Great Barrier Reef Report Card 2014 was released, a new Wet Tropics Healthy Waterways Partnership was launched, the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership produced its first full report card and the Mackay Whitsunday partnership produced its pilot report card.

**Taskforce’s Final Report sets a bold new era for reef water quality improvement**

The Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce handed down its final report on how to deliver clean water for a healthy Great Barrier Reef, with 10 key recommendations. The report provided advice on the best approach to meet the Queensland Government’s ambitious reef water quality targets (to reduce nitrogen run-off by up to 80 per cent and sediment run-off by up to 50 per cent by 2025 in key catchments) and the priority areas for investing an additional $90 million.

The final report made 10 recommendations which focus on enhanced communication, increased levels of agricultural extension and innovation, expanded monitoring, financial and other incentives, and staged and targeted regulations. The Queensland Government is currently preparing a response to the Taskforce report.
Goal 3—Protect significant heritage places

Queensland’s heritage includes places of cultural significance that need to be identified, kept, respected and passed on to future generations. By protecting our heritage places we are maintaining our sense of place, reinforcing our identity and continuing to define what it means to be a Queenslander.

Our key performance indicators

- The most significant places in Queensland accurately captured in the state’s heritage registers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service standard</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2015–16 target/estimate</th>
<th>2015–16 actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of departmental heritage recommendations, for inclusion in or removal from the Heritage Register, accepted by the Queensland Heritage Council.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average cost per heritage register entry reviewed and updated.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$235</td>
<td>$235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. The department is responsible for researching, consulting relevant parties and making recommendations to the Queensland Heritage Council (QHC) for places nominated for inclusion in or removal from the Queensland Heritage Register (Register). As an independent statutory body the QHC is responsible for making the decision about which places are added to or removed from the Register. In making this decision the QHC must consider the department’s recommendations, public submissions, oral representations, the physical condition or structural integrity of the place and any other information it considers relevant. During 2015-16, the QHC accepted 26 of 27 recommendations.
2. The Register contains more than 1700 places. Some of the information dates from 1992 when it was transitioned from other registers. These entries are being updated to improve the accuracy of information about places in the Register. This service standard measures the full-time equivalent staff cost involved in reviewing and updating each entry in the Register. Actual performance slightly exceeded the target due to the complexity of some of the reviews undertaken.

Our program of work

Open house events

In 2015–16, the department continued to support Open House events throughout Queensland. These free events allow the community to explore Queensland’s built environment of both heritage and modern design. EHP was part of the Open House organising committees and contributed to the marketing of these events and training of volunteers. Open House events included:

- Maryborough Open House—26 September 2015. Thirty-three buildings were opened to the public attracting 11,526 visitors. The event was extended to Sunday 27 September with an open gardens day involving some of Maryborough’s most interesting and beautiful private gardens, many in the grounds of historic homes.
- Brisbane Open House—10–11 October 2015. The event was launched at the heritage-listed Roma Street Railway Station. Ninety places, including 52 State heritage listed places, participated in the event, attracting 65,818 visitors. A survey revealed that visiting heritage buildings was one of the main reasons the community participated in Brisbane Open House.
- Toowoomba Open House—17–18 October 2015. Featuring 20 heritage places, the event attracted 5310 visitors. A second mini Open House Toowoomba was held on 20 May 2016 with a small selection of seven buildings attracting 2700 visits.
- Cairns Open House (part of the Festival of Architecture)—11 October 2015. Ten buildings participated including the award winning heritage listed Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal.
- Gold Coast Open House—Saturday 17 October 2015. The inaugural Gold Coast event attracted 3000 visitors with six State heritage listed places involved, including the popular art deco former Southport Town Hall.
Heritage trails

In 2015–16, the department released two heritage trails on the www.queensland.com website, which tell the stories of the sites and events that have shaped Queensland’s history.

The Chinese Heritage Trail showcases some of the important historical Chinese sites in Far North Queensland including Cairns, Cooktown, Atherton Tablelands and Innisfail.

The historic shipwrecks trail links historic shipwrecks in the Townsville region. This trail includes the wreck of the Yongala (1911); the Gothenburg (1875); and the Lady Bowen (1894). It is further supported by a series of dive guides for each shipwreck included in the trail. The dive guides aim to educate divers on how to appropriately dive on a wreck without interfering or damaging it.

The Queensland Heritage Council

The Queensland Heritage Council (QHC) is an independent statutory authority and is comprised of 12 members who represent a wide range of professional and community sector interests. It is Queensland’s peak body on heritage matters and is responsible for providing advice to the Minister on heritage matters. It decides whether to add a place to, or remove a place from, the Queensland Heritage Register. The department provides professional advice and administrative support to the QHC.

In 2015–16, the QHC met 11 times in Brisbane.

Queensland Heritage Register

The Queensland Heritage Register is a list of places that have cultural heritage significance to the people of Queensland. Places entered in the register illustrate the key human endeavours that have determined Queensland’s economic development, as well as the fundamental political, social and cultural forces that have shaped society.

The QHC undertakes a rigorous assessment process for entry applications, ensuring that places entered in the register have state significance. In 2015–16, 17 new State Heritage Places were added to the register.

As at 30 June 2016, the number of places in the register was 1725, an increase of one per cent from 2014–15.

Planning Act

In May 2016, legislation was passed, to establish a new state planning and development assessment system.

The Planning Act 2016 and Planning and Environment Court Act 2016 will replace the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 in mid–2017. The Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016 aligns 68 other Acts, including the Queensland Heritage Act 1992, with the new system.

The Planning Act requires that the Queensland Heritage Council’s view be sought before approvals are given to development proposals that are likely to destroy or substantially reduce the cultural heritage significance of a place on the Queensland Heritage Register.

Properties listed on the Queensland Heritage Register require an application to change or develop it. In 2015–16, the department assessed 534 applications, compared with 555 applications in 2014–15. Of the 534 applications assessed, 57 were for works with more than a minor impact on heritage significance, requiring the submission of a development application.

On at least four occasions, the proposed development was referred to the Queensland Heritage Council (QHC) because it had the potential to destroy or substantially reduce the heritage significance of the place. One of these development proposals was referred to the QHC at the request of the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) within the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

The majority of development applications (429) involved works that were considered to have no more than a minor impact on heritage significance. Approval was given via an exemption certificate. In 2015–16, the number of pre-lodgement meetings increased to 15, up from 10 in 2014–15.

The department’s heritage assessment team manages approximately 2600 queries each year via phone and email. These queries range from questions about whether a place is on the heritage register and the extent of the state heritage boundary, to more detailed discussions about the sort of work that can and cannot be undertaken on a heritage place.

In 2015–16, the heritage assessment team also provided support to the department’s compliance teams on more than 20 occasions, where a compliance matter involved a state heritage place.
Punks on Petrie
As part of Australian Heritage Week, EHP and Brisbane Open House held the Punks on Petrie event at Lefty’s Old Time Music Hall on Petrie Terrace in Brisbane.

The event explored how places like the heritage-listed Baroona Hall (now Lefty’s) played an important role for new music emerging out of Brisbane in the late 1970s, such as The Saints and the Go-Betweens.

Speakers included award winning Australian musician and sound designer John Willsteed, and Ritchie Yorke, renowned rock journalist and author.

The Queensland Schools Heritage Strategy
Since 1860, public schools have played an important role not just in the education of generations of Queenslanders but in the daily life of local communities.

An initiative between the Department of Education and Training (DET) and EHP aims to celebrate this role by having some of Queensland’s most important schools heritage listed.

Stage one of the strategy involved a heritage study of DET’s property portfolio, comprising more than 1200 schools and 16,000 buildings.

This was followed by a heritage survey, involving individual assessments, to determine which schools would potentially meet the criteria for heritage listing.

Under stage three of the program, 107 schools will be progressively nominated for entry in the Queensland Heritage Register between 2014–18. In 2015–16, 12 schools were entered in the Queensland Heritage Register.
Goal 4—Avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts on the environment

EHP delivers targeted, consistent and transparent regulation that facilitates sustainable development in Queensland. The department also manages and monitors environmental risks proactively through modern and innovative assessment, compliance investigation and enforcement programs, to ensure Queensland’s high environmental standards are maintained.

Our key performance indicators

- Improved environmental results for air quality and waste as shown through State of the Environment reporting and the annual State of Waste report.
- 80% of environmental problem-solving projects completed and outcomes reported.
- 80% of Queensland coastal councils with Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategies in place by 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service standard</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2015–16 target/estimate</th>
<th>2015–16 actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of identified unlicensed operators who have become licensed or enforcement action taken within 60 days.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of sites that show a reduction in overall risk to the environment as a result of site inspections.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average cost per environmental complaint resolution as a consequence of effective prioritisation of complaints.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$2500</td>
<td>$1603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of monitored licensed operators returned to compliance with their environmental obligations.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average cost per formal investigation into serious non-compliance.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$2500</td>
<td>$2582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average cost per permit/licence assessed.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$8500</td>
<td>$7631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of matters finalised with a finding of guilt or a successful application.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of potential prosecutions reviewed and decision made, within 12 weeks of receiving a brief of evidence, on whether charges can be laid.</td>
<td></td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. To ensure data is a true reflection of the timely manner in which unlicensed operators are dealt with, more comprehensive exception reporting will occur in 2016–17. Meeting this target is challenging due to allowing the operator time to obtain a licence and operate lawfully before enforcement action is considered, and the time involved in working cooperatively with other regulators that may also have responsibility for the unlicensed activity.
2. A system realignment in quarter three resulted in a wholesale increase in operator site risk scores, meaning any compliance work undertaken at that time to reduce site risk would have been overshadowed by the wholesale increase.
3. This service standard measures the efficiency of the department’s complaint resolution effort from lodgement to resolution (deciding on actions to be taken). The purpose is to monitor the cost effectiveness of the new business model being used to address environmental complaints where all complaints are channelled through the Customer Response Team and ‘triaged’ to ensure effective management of complaints.
4. There were a high number of operators assessed in the third and fourth quarters. These operators may not return to compliance until early 2016–17. It is expected the level of compliance for all the assessed operators of these high-risk activities will increase as the department educates or takes stronger enforcement action where required to achieve compliance.
5. This service standard measures the efficiency of the Investigations team’s effort from Formal Investigation Requests—including those referred from NPSR and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Cultural Heritage)—to the point where a decision is made to take action.
6. This service standard measures the efficiency of the Business Centre Assessment teams in making permit/licence application decisions. It measures the cost of each permit/licence assessed by the service area. The purpose is to monitor the efficiency of the assessment teams, including their ability to increase efficiency through continuous improvement and to focus on their core business of assessing permit/licence applications.
Our program of work

National Clean Air Agreement
The department performed preparatory work for the meeting of Australia’s environment ministers in December 2015 where the National Clean Air Agreement was agreed to. The agreement focuses on actions to reduce air pollution and improve air quality, including reviewing and strengthening air quality monitoring and reporting standards, targeted measures to reduce emissions from key sources of air pollution, improving access to air quality information for communities, and fostering partnerships with industry.

The agreement also covers the introduction of emission standards for new non-road spark ignition engines and equipment (such as garden equipment and marine outboard motors), measures to reduce air pollution from wood heaters, including the adoption of new emission and efficiency standards for new wood heaters and sharing best management practices across jurisdictions, and strengthens ambient air quality reporting standards for particle pollution. State and territory governments will work towards adopting the relevant standards appropriately. Queensland will monitor air quality against the new standards and report to the National Environment Protection Council accordingly.

National Standard for environmental risk management of industrial chemicals
The department is a member of the Chemical Management and Standards Group, which has representatives from Australian, state and territory governments. The group has the responsibility to establish a National Standard for the environmental risk management of industrial chemicals to provide a more consistent, efficient and effective approach on this issue. The National Standard will prescribe mandatory environmental risk management measures for industrial chemicals. A Discussion Paper was released for consultation between March and May 2016. The National Standard is expected to be finalised in October 2016 and submitted to Australia’s environment ministers for approval by February 2017. Full national implementation of the Standard is expected in 2018.

Biofuels and Biofutures

Biofutures
As a member of the Biofutures Interdepartmental Committee, the department contributed to the development of the Queensland Biofutures 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan, which was released in June 2016.

EHP is the lead agency responsible for delivering three actions under Strategy 1 of the roadmap:

- Work with the Australian Government to address fuel quality standards and excise treatment of advanced biofuels including aviation and maritime fuels.
- Undertake a review of wastes in Queensland that may be suitable for diversion from disposal to higher order and more sustainable use.
- Investigate policy and market-based approaches to encourage the reuse of waste currently going to landfill.

The Queensland Government has allocated $270,000 to enable the department to complete the two waste-related projects.

Biofuels Sustainability Criteria
Queensland’s biofuel mandates will commence on 1 January 2017.

In 2015–16, the department led a consultative process to develop biofuels sustainability criteria for prescription by regulation under the Liquid Fuel Supply Act 1984. This criteria clarifies which biofuels are eligible to be counted towards the mandate by articulating an environmental standard for their sustainable production on a life-cycle basis.

The purpose of the sustainability criteria is to reduce the likelihood of unintended environmental impacts from a growing biofuels industry. The most immediate risks relate to the potential for increased use of fertiliser and runoff entering the Great Barrier Reef resulting from an expansion or increase in intensity of sugarcane production.

Baseline standards will apply to all biofuels together with specific measures for industries where environmental risks need to be addressed.
Sand mining on North Stradbroke Island

During 2015–16, the department led the development and passage of the *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Act 2016* (the NSI Act).

The NSI Act commenced on 14 June 2016 to support the protection of the island’s environment. The legislation was developed in close consultation with the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC), as representatives of the Quandamooka people and Sibelco Pty Ltd, the mining operator on the island.

The NSI Act has three main features. It:

- substantially ends sand mining on North Stradbroke Island by 2019
- reinstates a restricted mine path at Enterprise mine and the ability to amend it under strict conditions
- establishes a new rehabilitation authorisation under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* to support rehabilitation.

The NSI Act is part of a $28 million package of measures by the government to prepare North Stradbroke Island for a sustainable future. This package includes a $20 million Economic Transition Development) and a $5 million Sand Mining Workers Assistance Scheme (administered by Queensland Treasury).

Chain of responsibility

During the reporting period, the department led the development and supported passage of the *Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Act 2016*.

The Act amended the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to give the department additional powers to ensure related parties with a significant interest or influence in a company could be held accountable for environmental responsibilities.

Before the amendments, an environmental protection order could be issued to a person undertaking environmentally relevant activities to require compliance with environmental obligations. The Act broadens the range of persons and companies who may be issued with an environmental protection order to related persons of the company undertaking the activity and related persons of ‘high risk’ companies.

The Act also allows the department to impose financial assurance conditions on the transfer of an environmental authority. It also extends cost recovery, investigation and enforcement powers under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

The department continues to work with stakeholders to develop a statutory guideline that will complement the amendments and give business and the community confidence that the additional powers will be used in a consistent and transparent manner to achieve the best outcomes for Queensland.

Environmental standards and guidelines

In 2015–16, the department revised a number of standards and guidelines.

- Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERA) standards for mining activities—to ensure any new lower risk mining activity application would not need to go through the same detailed site specific assessment process as a large scale mine.
- Structures which are dams or levees constructed as part of environmentally relevant activities guideline and Manual for assessing consequence categories and hydraulic performance of structures—to clarify regulatory requirements for hazardous dams.
- Streamlined model conditions for petroleum activities and model mining condition guidelines for mining activities—amended to include new environmental offset model conditions. The new environmental offset model conditions (protecting Biodiversity values) are the same for all resource activities and they are to be considered as part of the assessment process for applications for new, amendment and variation environmental authorities.
- Financial Assurance (FA) guideline—amended to exclude GST from FA calculations; introduce contracted rates; and clarify requirements for suitable infrastructure, prescribed ERAs and industry calculators.

Compliance and enforcement

The department has a proactive compliance methodology and framework that targets those activities that pose the greatest risk to the environment, monitors performance of customers and improves utilisation of compliance resources.

The *Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Act 2016* commenced on 27 April 2016. It gives EHP greater powers to enforce compliance with existing environmental obligations and ensures that related parties with a significant interest or influence in a company are held accountable for environmental obligations.

During 2015–16, the department worked with industry to develop a renewed reef regulation compliance program in key reef catchments. It aims to inform industry about their regulatory obligations drive a faster uptake of the regulated methods for soil testing and optimum nutrient calculation.

During the reporting period, EHP undertook the following activities to support the compliance program:
• Invested $23,000 to identify training needs and train nine departmental officers in the reef protection provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, and the regulated methods for soil testing and optimum nutrient calculation and farming practices.

• Allocated $690,000 to increase the compliance workforce, adding an additional eight compliance officers in North Queensland who are responsible for leading the on-farm compliance inspections.

• Expended $310,000 to develop a reef-specific compliance and risk evaluation system. Reef CaRE is an interactive, online system that allows frontline officers to collect consistent and comprehensive risk and compliance activity information, ensuring that compliance resources are directed to high priority areas.

The field component of the reef compliance program commenced in February 2016 with a focus on improved record keeping, nutrient and sediment management practices and providing avenues for where farmers can get assistance with complying with their legislative obligations.

Since it began departmental officers have:

• delivered presentations about the program at 23 industry stakeholder meetings

• undertaken 15 on-farm compliance inspections.

These inspections revealed some non-compliance with the legislation and departmental officers are providing support to those farmers to adopt the necessary reef protection measures.

In 2015–16, the department undertook significant enforcement action. This included:

• 521 warnings issued

• 2346 penalty infringement notices (PIN) issued (the majority of these were issued through the Littering and Illegal Dumping Online Reporting System for vehicle and vessel related littering incidents)

• seven transitional environmental programs

• 65 statutory orders issued

• 39 formal investigations have been undertaken leading to, the finalisation of 23 prosecutions, from which fines totalling $1,146,197 have been handed down. Legal and investigative costs of $203,321 were awarded

• 9 formal investigations have been undertaken on behalf of NPSR, and there have been 5 prosecutions finalised by Litigation, of which fines totalling $12,500 have been handed down and legal and investigative costs of $500 awarded to the EHP.

The Duty to notify and Enforceable undertakings provisions of the *Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014* commenced on 30 September 2015.

Enforceable undertakings (EUs) are binding agreements between the administering authority and an alleged offender, which require that person to take specified actions to ‘make good’ an identified non-compliance. As an enforcement response, EUs are considered an alternative to prosecution and are appropriate for major or serious contraventions (excluding indictable offences). In introducing the provisions, there was a requirement for the department to draft a statutory guideline, in conjunction with a targeted external consultation process.

In 2015–16, the compliance framework was reviewed to ensure a continuous targeted approach to proactive inspection activities.

**Litter and illegal dumping**

**Programs**

EHP takes a multi-faceted approach to reducing littering and illegal dumping incidents ranging from compliance and enforcement to community engagement and behaviour change campaigns. The community is encouraged to report illegal activities using the Litter and Illegal Dumping Online Reporting System (LIDORS) and to dispose of their waste responsibly as well as encouraging others to do the same.

In 2015–16, EHP collaborated with government, industry and the community on a range of projects to reduce littering and illegal dumping. These included:

• developing a citizen science approach to collecting information on littering behaviours to inform campaigns to engage the public and change behaviours. A prototype being developed by the University of Queensland is scheduled for testing by the end of 2016

• partnering with the Cape York Natural Resource Management Ltd to provide education to local communities about littering and illegal dumping through a focus on cultural and community activities

• working with the Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management to reinvigorate a successful local stormwater litter program to help raise awareness and engage the community about proper waste disposal

• collaborating with Healthy Waterways (in conjunction with the Oxley Creek Catchment Association) to help reduce litter and illegal dumping in industrial areas of Brisbane adjacent to Oxley Creek

• working with Crime Stoppers to educate the Beerburrum community about reporting littering and illegal matters using the LIDORS system

• finalising the pilot project targeting roadside litter in South-West Queensland in partnership with local governments, industry and community groups. As part of the project, the “Love Queensland.
Let’s keep it clean” campaign was launched. The pilot learnings will be developed into a roadside litter toolkit promoting the take up of roadside anti-litter programs across the state

• completing research projects into the behaviours and attitudes associated with dumping at kerbsides and charities
• partnering with HQ Plantations to test the effectiveness of different messaging in preventing illegal dumping in natural areas
• working with the Garage Sale Trail to promote appropriate community behaviours and attitudes towards reuse, recycling, littering and illegal dumping.

Compliance

The department manages investigations into reports of littering and illegal dumping offences (except for vehicle based littering offences).

In 2015–16, EHP received approximately 1000 reports and enquiries. Of these, approximately:

• 32 per cent related to illegal dumping
• 10 per cent related to littering
• 47 per cent related to unsolicited advertising material and newspapers
• 11 per cent related to other issues.

Of the 1000 reports and enquiries received approximately:

• 26 per cent were referred directly to local government, other parts of Queensland Government agencies for appropriate action
• 26 per cent were enquiries of a general nature seeking advice or provided information of a general nature, or did not provide enough information to proceed.

Of the remaining 48 per cent of cases, the department undertook some form of compliance and/or enforcement action including verbal and written warnings, compliance notices and penalty infringement notices (issued in 79 per cent of cases). The majority of compliance/enforcement action involved sending warning letters to those delivering unsolicited advertising material.

Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy

The Queensland Government recognises the effect of human activity on the climate and has made a number of commitments to revitalise the state’s climate change agenda.

The department is developing the Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy (Q-CAS) in collaboration with Q-CAS Partners funded from departmental resources and a special adaptation fund of $3 million over three years announced in the 2015–16 budget.

Q-CAS aims to identify opportunities for adaptation actions and reduce risks to the economy, environment and communities from current and future climate impacts. It has three components—Government Action Plan, Local Government Actions and Sector Plans—supported by regional adaptation plans. Sectors include: human health; biodiversity and ecosystems; tourism; business and industry; agriculture; human settlements and infrastructure; emergency services.

As Q-CAS is a ‘living’ program, its plans and actions may change in response to new knowledge and partner involvement. A Climate Adaptation Directions Statement is due to be released for public review in late 2016.

During the reporting period, significant projects undertaken included the development of an online application showing climate change projections for 13 Queensland regions. Based on the CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology’s Climate Change in Australia data, the regional projections will provide information about future climate for the years 2030, 2050, 2070 based on a low and ‘business-as-usual’ greenhouse gas emissions profile.

In conjunction with the Department of Science, Information, Technology and Innovation, downscaled climate change projections (10km² grids) are also being prepared to improve the accuracy of the application.

The department also engaged consultants to undertake a desktop analysis (based on publicly available information) examining the preparedness of local governments to adapt to climate change and the impact on their governance and operational business areas. This included an advice on optimum governance arrangement for Q-CAS, based on interstate experiences.

Advancing Climate Action in Queensland

The department released the Advancing Climate Action in Queensland: Making the transition to a low carbon future discussion paper in May 2016. It provided examples of work being done throughout Australia on the issue of climate change and sought input from the public on developing the right strategies to achieve a low carbon future. Community feedback will inform the development of a whole-of-government strategy for managing the transition to a low carbon future.

Coastal hazards adaptation program

The coastal hazards adaptation program (QCoast2100) was launched in June 2016 to assist local governments develop coastal hazard adaptation strategies.
The department established an agreement with the Local Government Association of Queensland to fund $4 million per annum over three years to support coastal councils in their progression from identifying coastal hazards including climate change impacts through to the adaptation option assessment and implementation phases.

Public consultation on how to deal with waste
In October 2015, the department hosted a stakeholder workshop to discuss options for reduce plastic bag pollution including the introduction of a ban on single-use, light weight plastic bags, the supply of free single-use plastic bags, voluntary retail action, better litter management and improved litter infrastructure education and awareness. A discussion paper for public consultation is due for release in late 2016.

The department also established an advisory group to investigate a state-based container deposit scheme where specific beverage containers can be returned for a refund of a deposit paid at the point of sale. The scheme operates in South Australia and the Northern Territory and has proven to be an effective litter reduction measure and help improve recycling rates.

Recommendations from the advisory group will assist in the preparation of a container deposit scheme discussion paper to be released before the end of 2016 for public consultation. A decision on the implementation of a container deposit scheme and plastic bag reduction option for Queensland is expected in 2017.

Review of waste related Environmentally Relevant Activities
In 2015–16, the department commenced a review of the waste related Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERAs) listed in schedule 2 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008. The ERA framework and activity descriptions for the existing 12 waste-related ERAs have remained largely unchanged since their introduction in 1995. However, substantial changes have occurred in waste industry practices and new technologies have emerged that are not addressed within the current waste ERA framework.

The review aims to develop an ERA framework that better reflects current waste management practices and the environmental risks associated with each activity. It also seeks to identify opportunities for improved waste management and resource recovery, industry growth and, where appropriate, facilitate the use of new and innovative technologies. Consultation on the proposed ERA framework closed in September 2015. Consultation on a Regulatory Impact Statement providing detail of the changes will be undertaken in the second half of 2016 and changes to regulations made are expected to be made by June 2017.

Operation TORA
In 2015–16, the Queensland Government and the waste management industry, including the Waste Recycling Industry Association Queensland, established the Waste Industry Compliance Investigation Taskforce.

The two key objectives of the taskforce are to:

- increase the priority of EHP’s compliance response towards alleged unlicensed waste management operators
- analyse the compliance framework to ensure that industry compliance is being achieved and the regulatory tools are appropriate.

During the reporting period, the taskforce conducted Operation Tora, a coordinated compliance program to stamp out unlicensed waste management operators in Queensland.

As at 30 June 2016, 104 investigations had been finalised (resulting in 12 warning notices, 12 penalty infringement notices, four directions notices and one clean-up notice) and 81 investigations remained active. An additional 12 devolved activities were referred to local government.

Power tool battery recycling pilot
In 2015–16, the department funded a pilot program to recycle power tool batteries to help inform the development of a national rechargeable handheld battery program.

Delivery of this pilot is managed by the Australian Battery Recycling Initiative (ABRI). Under the program any power tool battery weighing less than 500 grams could be returned to participating hardware stores in the Brisbane City Council area between 6 September 2015 and 30 June 2016.

It is estimated that approximately three million used power tool batteries reach the end of their life in Australian every year and less than three per cent of these are recycled. If disposed of inappropriately, these batteries pose a risk to human health and the environment.

At the end of the pilot program approximately 500kg of batteries returned by households and tradespeople were collected for recycling. An additional 1000kg of stockpiled batteries were collected for recycling from the service centre of one of the participating hardware stores.
Recycling scheme for used sugarcane fertiliser bags

A trial recycling program for sugarcane fertiliser bags was conducted in North Queensland between September 2015 and February 2016. The trial was managed by Farm Waste Recovery, with support from the department, regional councils, fertiliser manufacturers Incitec Pivot Limited and Impact Fertilisers and CANEGROWERS. More than 275,000 one-tonne bags and two million 25kg bags are used by the sugarcane industry each year. One of the key objectives of the trial was to demonstrate the feasibility of the program and to build support for it on an ongoing basis.

During the trial, 247 tonnes of plastic (82,333 bags) was collected for recycling from 23 sites from Mossman to Sarina. This would be enough plastic to make more than 1300 park benches. The program provided local employment opportunities for seven staff. Impact and Incitec Pivot fertilisers have agreed to continue the program for a three-year period, with an option to extend for an additional three years. They have also agreed to continue the collection of other types of fertiliser bags in one tonne, 0.5 tonne and 25kg size in across all their products in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

QCoast2100

The QCoast2100 program was launched in June 2016 to support coastal councils to prepare plans and strategies to address climate change related coastal hazard risks over the long-term.

QCoast2100 is a Queensland Government commitment to a $12 million fund over three years to assist councils prepare coastal hazard adaptation strategies. An allocation of $4 million is available per annum over three years, starting from the 2015–16 financial year.
Goal 5—Work collaboratively and productively with industry, business and community

The department recognises the need to actively engage industry, businesses and the community for the development and implementation of the policies and programs to protect Queensland’s environment and heritage. EHP reaches out to its stakeholders through many means, including community and industry education, forums, collaborative committee and working groups, and strategic alliances and exchanges.

Our key performance indicators

- 85% customer satisfaction with EHP’s performance by 2019.
- 80% of EHP services and transactions available online by 2019.
- Five-year rolling science and research program developed by December 2015.

Our program of work

Queensland State of the Environment Report 2015

State of the Environment reporting is the internationally accepted method for assessing environmental performance. Like many other jurisdictions, Queensland adopts the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) pressure-state-response approach.

A State of the Environment report is produced every four years. The Queensland State of the Environment Report 2015 (SoE 2015) is the sixth report and the first to be prepared in a web-based format. The new format allows users to interact within a web-based environment, interrogating spatial data and maps with regionally-specific interpretive text, tables, graphs and charts. The data is harvested from a range of thematic sources, and compiled, interpreted and published through the Queensland Government open data portal.

The SoE 2015 website will feature five videos explaining the thematic structure and content of the report. It features simple, intuitive architecture and the content is presented in a visually engaging manner and is linked to multiple social media platforms.

The report covers the period 2012–15 and incorporates the legislative requirements of both the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and the Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995. The new web-based format will enable Queensland to move to more frequent biennial State of the Environment updates.

SoE 2015 is structured around four themes—biodiversity, heritage, pollution and climate. Each theme is divided into sub-themes, against which indicators mainly relating to extent and condition (state), and pressures, are reported on.

State of the Environment 2015 In Brief will provide a high-level summary, with key findings presented as infographics, and includes an assessment of the actions or initiatives undertaken to protect, maintain and restore environmental assets, as well as those that prevent, mitigate or adapt to changes in the environment. The SoE 2015 website is due to be published in 2016.


In 2015–16, the department released the State of Waste and Recycling in Queensland report. It includes data and information about the amount of waste generated in 2014–15, trends of key waste streams, waste recovery activities, and cross-border movements of waste, to assist decision makers in the public and private sectors of the waste industry.

Mount Isa smart phone app to monitor air quality

In 2015, an amendment was approved to Mount Isa Mines (MIM) environmental authority allowing it to continue copper smelting operations on the condition it developed a real-time health risk indication of sulphur dioxide in the Mount Isa community.

In March 2016, MIM released the Air Quality Mount Isa smart phone app showing data from its air quality monitoring systems to provide greater community awareness about Mount Isa’s air quality and weather conditions. EHP continues to maintain its own air quality monitoring equipment in the Mount Isa community.
Compliance Review Program

In 2013–14, the department embarked on a three-year Compliance Review Program, which implemented a new proactive compliance methodology, and introduced simplified processes and systems for compliance and assessment activities.

The program delivers standardised, integrated and cost-effective services to industry and the general public, including a new Information and Communication Technology system to replace at-risk systems and take advantage of new technologies (such as cloud hosting and smartphone integration), allowing customers the ability to lodge permit applications and make annual returns and fees via a digital platform called Connect.

In 2015–16, the department developed and tested various components of Connect, and piloted components of Connect with industry groups. The roll-out of Connect to the public will assist EHP to meet its commitment to make services and transactions available online, which will occur in 2016-17.

Three services are now available online including:

- applications for Suitable Operator Registration through My Mines Online (via One Window)
- submission of standard mining EA approvals back to MMOL (via One Window)
- applications for a Recreational Wildlife Licence (via Smart Service Queensland).

Healthy wetlands and improved biodiversity

In 2015–16, the department delivered nine Walking the Landscape workshops for areas in South East Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef. These workshops brought together experts from a range of disciplines in order to gain a better understanding about how to improve planning and decision making for wetlands and rivers. Information from the workshops was used to create Map Journals, which describe the ecological features and hydrological processes to assist with effective catchment management.

The WetlandInfo website provides a range of tools and resources to assist with the sustainable management of wetlands. In 2015–16, the department released new information to the website on topics such as sewage treatment facilities mapping and monitoring point location in Queensland, potential groundwater dependent ecosystem mapping; landscape hazard assessment for the Great Barrier Reef catchment; wetlands birds information and information on the Ramsar Convention in Queensland.

Science Priority Framework

In 2015–16, the department developed a science priority framework, including a five-year plan to identify current and proposed investment at the project level to inform and support departmental policy and regulatory performance.

The department’s strategic science needs include:

- influencing behaviour change to reduce adverse impacts on the reef and other areas
- climate change adaptation and carbon mitigation.
- new and emerging technology for more timely and cost effective data collection
- habitat suitability models for threatened species.
- problem species management (crocodiles and flying-foxes)
- emergence of biofuel and industrial biotechnology sector.

The department’s new Science Leadership Committee will provide advice to the Executive Management Team about the department’s science planning and coordination activities and engage with the science community. Information on the department’s strategic science needs and related activities is available at: http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/management/science-priorities/

Catchment Conservation Alliance

The department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Green Collar Group (GCG), known as the Catchment Conservation Alliance (CCA), to facilitate carbon sequestration projects that will deliver environmental co-benefits to the state. Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing carbon to mitigate global warming.

The Commonwealth’s Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) is an auction mechanism that provides incentives for carbon sequestration activities. GCG was remarkably successful at securing two significant contracts equivalent to 41 per cent of the total carbon abatement contracts during the third ERF auction held in April 2016. It is estimated that these contracts will reduce 5.5 and 15 million tonnes of carbon in southern rivers and the Great Barrier Reef catchments, respectively. The latter is the largest contract in ERF history.

The CCA seeks to maximise contract benefits to deliver not only carbon sequestration but also gains in water quality improvement, soil stabilisation, and High Conservation Value areas through the implementation of ERF eligible activities such as reforestation, revegetation or protecting native forest and vegetation from clearing.
Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program

The Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program cares for land and sea country and increases Indigenous participation in environmental management. The rangers are employed through local Indigenous host organisations, with funding provided by the Queensland Government, in addition to significant support to increase capacity within ranger groups.

Rangers undertake a wide range of activities including weed and feral animal control, fire management, fencing of wetlands, land restoration, erosion mitigation, wildlife management and recovery, community education and visitor management. These activities have widespread benefits including preventing wildfires, reducing carbon emissions and maintaining biodiversity.

In 2015–16, the department released a program prospectus inviting private sector support to help expand the program. A range of investment opportunities are outlined including sponsorship for a ranger team, or on-ground projects to the supply of equipment and materials. EHP reviews investment opportunities with a view to matching to a suitable Indigenous community or to specific outcomes, and provides training and mentoring support for participating Indigenous organisations to manage contractual arrangements and project reporting requirements.

Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers program partners with corporate sector

EHP’s Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program has invited corporate sponsors to help expand the highly successful program, provide more jobs and expand conservation outcomes in Indigenous communities.

Glencore provided $130,000 to secure the purchase of a new 6.2m purpose built boat to enable Gudjuda rangers to undertake marine turtle tagging and monitoring activities. It also provided $100,000 to deliver a Junior Ranger educational package associated with marine conservation targeted at primary and high school students.
Everyone's Environment grants

The Everyone's Environment grants program provided funding to eligible individuals and community groups—including Landcare groups, service organisation, school parents and friends groups, research institutions and owners of heritage-listed properties—to conserve their local environment and restore and conserve Queensland’s heritage-listed sites.

The program provided funding of $12 million to 306 projects, 213 of which were completed by 30 June 2016. These projects engaged 25,500 volunteers to plant 272,300 plants, weed 354,000 hectares of land, collect more than 223,000 kilograms of litter/marine debris, and control 23,600 pest animals.

With a focus on funding locally-based hands-on projects, the program enabled some organisations to significantly increase the number of volunteers involved in their conservation activities. West Moreton Landcare, which received a $72,600 grant, collaborated with the University of Queensland, to undertake revegetation activities on the banks of Lockyer Creek, Gatton. As at 30 June 2016, 60 volunteers, including university staff and students and the wider community, were involved in planting 5000 native trees along 1.5km of the creek’s banks.

Assessing customer satisfaction

In 2015, a Mystery Shopping Research Report was conducted to examine the overall performance of the department across four key customer interactions channels: telephone calls, emails, online enquiries and mailed letters. The primary objective was to establish the extent to which staff were delivering customer satisfaction and value for money to customers. Overall performance across each customer interaction channel was high—92 per cent for emails, 89 per cent for online enquiries and 85 per cent for telephone calls. In addition, all mailed letters received responses within 20 days.

Customer satisfaction survey

In November 2015, EHP’s Environmental Services and Regulation Division conducted a customer satisfaction survey. A total of 304 customers completed the survey.

The survey found that, while the respondents may not have agreed with departmental policy or government direction, they were appreciative of the time and effort put in by staff to resolve their enquiries.

Environmental Reports Online

In 2015–16, the department collaborated with the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation to release Environmental Reports Online. This provides greater public access to information about environmental matters, allowing users to specify particular environmental matters and location of interest, and receive customised reports.

Report are available in three types: regional ecosystems; terrestrial biodiversity and aquatic conservation values; and Matters of State Environmental Significance. Since the service was launched in July 2015, 10,733 reports across all three types have been supplied—38 per cent of reports were supplied to government, 51 per cent to businesses, 1 per cent to education organisations and 10 per cent to the general public. Reports can be requested through https://environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/report-request/environment/
Goal 6—Invest in our people to deliver quality and innovative services

In 2015–16, EHP undertook a number of initiatives directed towards developing its staff so they can meet the department’s priorities both now and in the future.

Our key performance indicators

- 85% of employees are positive about the department’s engagement and job satisfaction, as measured by the Working for Queensland Opinion Survey, by 2019.
- All divisions have current workforce plans in place.

Our program of work

Investing in our staff

The Department is committed to building the capability of its staff with resources dedicated to delivering the department’s Training and Education Plan.

The Training and Education Plan ensures high priority and essential training is coordinated and effectively delivered across the state. Divisions also develop or access their own training and development activities to meet their local needs.

In 2015–16, some of these initiatives included:

- An online training package to deliver specific training requirements for Environmental Services and Regulation Division staff. Training products include training videos, policies, guidelines and a video reference library. The project is scheduled for delivery in 2016–17.
- Senior managers maintain a schedule of regular one-on-one catch-ups and Senior Leadership Team meetings to review, analyse and discuss a range of current projects and programs as well as emerging issues. Regular meetings also allow for management to monitor trends and realign resources where necessary to ensure the department’s and divisions’ obligations and targets are achieved.
- The Environmental Policy and Planning Division convenes twice a year for whole-of-division presentations by the Deputy Director-General on strategic priorities for the department and to celebrate and recognise achievements and outcomes. The Deputy Director-General also meets twice a year with each branch for a candid discussion on achievements, and to explore opportunities for innovations and improvement.
- The Environmental Services and Regulation Division hosted a ‘Compliance Officers Workshop’ which enabled representatives from across the state to network and workshop ideas in a group forum earlier in the year.
- Individual teams conduct Staff Excellence awards at a Divisional or Branch level to acknowledge the successes of their staff and to share information about the division’s program of work.
- Specialised development opportunities occur over and above the department’s training plan. This includes knowledge sharing through the Lunch and Learn information series.
- Actively encouraging the rollout of Appropriate Behaviour training in conjunction with Human Resources, initially delivering over 10 training session across the state, from Brisbane to Cairns and Rockhampton to Emerald.

Strategic workforce plans

The department ensures that its workforce will continue to meet current and future objectives by examining its needs through workforce planning. Workforce planning takes into account operational workforce requirements such as number and location of employees as well as longer term workforce capability, mobility and attributes required to delivery organisational priorities.

The EHP Strategic Workforce Plan 2016–21 details the department’s workforce priorities and its commitment to continue to provide development opportunities to employees, with a focus on leadership and other skills identified as key to the department’s future success, such as digital literacy, data analytics, social media and marketing and behavioural economics.

To attract and retain an inclusive, diverse and capable workforce, the department will enhance its employer brand and further develop recruitment and selection practices that will attract highly capable and diverse talent to the department.

In 2015–16, each division undertook a workforce planning process to outline its vision, priorities, workforce composition, challenges and opportunities. Progress against these plans was reported quarterly with annual reviews planned for 2016–17.
Employee opinion survey

The annual employee opinion survey administered by the Public Service Commission (PSC), offers staff the opportunity to highlight areas of high performance and existing challenges. In 2015, 81 per cent of the departmental staff participated in the annual employee opinion survey.

Based on the responses, an action plan was developed that addressed three key themes arising from the feedback:

- Leadership
- Learning and development
- Workload, health and workplace fairness.

The department identified 11 major actions across three focus areas with 24 implementation components. As at 30 June 2016, 10 actions were completed, or were on track, with one to be implemented after July 2016.

Action plans were also developed for each division with a total of 32 major actions across the three focus areas. Some of these actions will continue to be implemented after 30 June 2016. Senior Executives were assigned as champions to help drive the implementation of the plan.

During April and May 2016, the fourth consecutive annual employee opinion survey was conducted by the PSC. There was a 7.5 per cent increase in the response rate for the 2016 survey, compared to 2015. Results will be available in July 2016.

The following graph shows the response rates for the past four surveys.

Celebrating achievements

The department values its employees and recognises that it is their successes and achievements which underpin the organisation’s high performance. The department’s Reward and Recognition Framework acknowledges these successes and achievements, and congratulates those employees who have achieved milestone employment anniversaries. More information about how EHP celebrates its staff achievements can be found in the Our People section.

Our people

EHP employs a diverse range of talented people who work together to protect our environment and built heritage. It aims to create workplaces where business outcomes are achieved, diversity is encouraged, health and safety are valued, the wellbeing of employees is supported and career development is championed.

In 2015–16, the department continued to implement initiatives that promoted health and safety and a better work-life balance and increased leadership and management capabilities with its employees.

Workforce profile

As at 24 June 2016, EHP employed 1,118.44 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, of which approximately 76 per cent were employed on a permanent basis.

The following tables show a summary of the department’s workforce profile (excluding staff on leave without pay) as at 24 June 2016.

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<td>3.81</td>
<td>6.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SES</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>13.00</td>
<td>18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>672.01</td>
<td>446.43</td>
<td>1,118.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment type</th>
<th>FTE</th>
<th>FTE%</th>
<th>Total FTE</th>
<th>Total FTE %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent</td>
<td>503.11</td>
<td>346.32</td>
<td>59.2%</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary</td>
<td>163.75</td>
<td>86.00</td>
<td>65.6%</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>77.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>91.6%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>672.01</td>
<td>446.43</td>
<td>60.1%</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Permanent separation rate

As at 30 June 2016, the department’s permanent separation rate was 6.19 per cent. This was an increase of 1.11 per cent compared with the same period last year.

Absenteeism

The following graph shows the quarterly rates for unscheduled absences as at 30 June 2016. Unscheduled absences include sick, carers and special leave as well as leave for workers’ compensation and industrial disputes. The average quarterly unscheduled absence rate for 2015–16 was 5.38 per cent. This is slightly higher than the 2014–15 rate of 5.31 per cent.
WorkCover

Employees who suffer from a work-related injury or illness are entitled to apply for workers’ compensation. EHP is committed to ensuring that all workers’ compensation claims are appropriately managed. The number of accepted workers’ compensation claims for 2015–16 was 24.

In 2015–16, the department's accepted claims increased by one from the previous reporting period. The average amount paid per claim also increased to $4436, an increase of $1247 per claim. This can be attributed to a greater number of claims and employees requiring longer periods away from work due to surgical complications and psychological impacts.

Of the 24 claims accepted for 2015–16, 10 were ‘journey claims’ that occurred while an employee was travelling to or from work and nine of these were accepted. Journey claims do not impact on the department’s claims history or influence the following year’s premiums.

Absences related to workers’ compensation claims—average days paid.

The average paid days is calculated using the total number of paid days (partial or total) on statutory claims divided by the number of statutory claims that have had paid days, in a given period. During the 12 month period ending 30 June 2016, the department paid an average of 13.5 days per accepted workers’ compensation claim which is less than the previous year at 20.86 days.

Lost time injury rate

Lost time injuries occur when an employee sustains a work-related injury, which results in lost time from work after the day of the accident. EHP’s lost time injury rate (LTIR) is calculated using workers’ compensation claims data as at 30 June 2016. In 2015–16, the department’s LTIR was 0.26 per cent, which increased from 0.18 per cent in 2014–15.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting period</th>
<th>Lost time injury</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013–14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014–15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015–16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Workforce attraction and retention

EHP ensures that its workforce will continue to meet current and future objectives by examining its needs through workforce planning.

The EHP Strategic Workforce Plan 2016–21 details the department’s workforce priorities and its commitment to continue to provide development opportunities to employees, with a focus on leadership and other skills identified as key to the department’s future success, such as digital literacy, data analytics, social media and marketing and behavioural economics.

To attract and retain an inclusive, diverse and capable workforce, the department will enhance its employer brand and further develop recruitment and selection practices that will attract highly capable and diverse talent to the department.

More information about the EHP Workforce Strategic plan can be found in Goal 6–Invest in our people to deliver quality and innovative services.

Workforce diversity

EHP values the significant contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples, and sees their participation as a key factor in achieving the department’s vision. In 2015–16, the department launched its first Cultural Capability Action Plan which demonstrates its commitment to embedding culturally inclusive practices within the agency.

To celebrate Queensland Women’s Week, a special Women in the Environment panel discussion was held. A number of women working in the department shared stories about various aspects of their careers with attendees.

The department is committed to building the capability of its female employees by offering a range of training, learning and professional development opportunities.

In 2015–16, they participated in a number of leadership programs including:

- Emerging Leaders Program.
- LEAD Program.
- Mentoring Matters Program for Women.

The department launched its annual Mentoring Matters program in June 2016, which aims to encourage more experienced employees to share their experiences and professional knowledge with staff in a mentoring arrangement. The program offers 20 mentoring partnerships across the Business and Corporate Partnership.

During the reporting period, the department commenced development of a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy with specific actions relating to target areas such as increasing the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and improving the opportunities for women in leadership roles.

Ethical education and training

In 2015–16, a new Code of Conduct training package was released and all employees are required to complete it annually.

Graduate programs

EHP recruited six graduates from a range of disciplines into the 2016 graduate program. This program develops leadership and business capabilities and was recognised by the Australian Association of Graduate Employers (AAGE) as one of the Top 10 Graduate Employers in Australia.
Employee performance management

Employee induction

All new employees undertake an induction process which is designed to:

- ensure a smooth transition into EHP and work environment.
- provide information on employment conditions and entitlements.
- help new starters understand the responsibilities and behaviours expected of them by the Queensland Government and the department.
- provide an understanding of the function and operations of the department as well as the business group/work unit.

New employees are required to take a number of online courses as part of the induction process including:

- welcome to EHP
- Code of Conduct
- emergency safety
- work health and safety
- fraud and corruption awareness
- privacy awareness.

In December 2015 the department held a workshop-style corporate induction session for new employees. Opened by the Director-General, the workshop showcased the work of all divisions and included information about employee benefits, union membership, superannuation and career development.

Employee performance excellence

All employees are encouraged to have a Performance and Development Plan (PDP) in place by 1 October each year and undertake a review of development plans by 31 March each year. As at 30 June 2016, 57 per cent per cent of all employees had a PDP in place.

In 2015–16, the department replaced its existing learning management system with the iLearn online system, which allows users to enrol in both online and face-to-face training courses.

As at 30 June 2016, 5233 individual enrolments had been made for training (3429 enrolments for online training courses and 1804 enrolments for face-to-face training), an increase of 118 per cent from 2014–15.

Employee reward and recognition

The department values its employees and recognises that their achievements contribute to the department’s success. A Reward and Recognition Framework provides mechanisms to motivate and reward behaviours through the acknowledgement of successes, achievements and employment milestones. Initiatives supported under this framework include:

- EHP Excellence Awards.
- Australia Day Achievement Awards.
- Public Service Medal.
- Premier’s Awards for Excellence in Public Service Delivery.
- Certificate of Service.
- DG’s Safety Behaviour Awards.

Leadership and management development

EHP continues to ensure that succession needs are met through developing the leadership capabilities of its employees and in 2015–16 offered two key leadership programs.

The LEAD Program is designed for employees with or without team responsibilities to build foundational leadership knowledge and skills. The program uses a combination of face-to-face training, online learning, coaching and on-the-job activities to help employees build knowledge and skills in working with people, self-awareness and driving outcomes in the workplace. In 2015–16, 25 employees participated in the LEAD program.

The Emerging Leaders Program aims to further develop leadership capability at a more senior level. The 2015–16 program provided the 18 participants with a range of learning opportunities where they could develop and test these new behaviours.

During the reporting period, the department’s senior executives were provided with an opportunity to participate in various programs developed by the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, and the Public Service Commission.

In 2015–16, all Senior Executive Service (SES) officers had performance agreements and assessments in place and participated in the Public Service Commission’s Executive Capability Assessment and Development, which evaluates their strengths and development priorities. Eight SES officers were nominated to undertake an Executive Capability Assessment and Development refresh. Fifteen officers took advantage of the Public Service Commission development offerings.

Health and wellbeing

EHP promotes a range of activities that enables employees to make informed decisions regarding their personal health and wellbeing. The working safe working well organisational health and safety strategy aims to boost employee involvement, decrease exposure to harm, achieve excellence in organisational health management and facilitate the
notion of zero harm.

In 2015–16, the department continued to provide employees with a range of health and wellbeing initiatives such as a personal counselling service, flu vaccinations, skin checks, health awareness sessions and access to the 10,000 Steps Workplace Challenge. The working safe working well Safety Behaviour Awards were launched in October 2015 to recognise outstanding individual and team behaviours demonstrated by employees.

Promotion of work-life balance

EHP recognises the need to remain flexible in how workplaces are organised in order to attract and retain the best people. In 2015–16, the department continued to maintain policies to supporting flexible working arrangements. Options available to employees include compressed working hours, flexible start and finish times, use of long service leave, job sharing, leave without pay, part time work and telecommuting.

Industrial and Employee Relations Framework

EHP engages with employees and their representatives through an Agency Consultative Committee which meets four times a year. The Workforce Relations and Safety unit has responsibility for overall management of industrial relations in consultation with business units. The unit is also responsible for liaising with central agency departments such as the Public Service Commission (PSC) in relation to whole-of-government matters including enterprise bargaining, PSC directives and award modernisation.

The State Government Entities Certified Agreement 2015 (Core) was certified on 2 June 2016 and applies to all award-based employees within the department. The agreement provides wage increases of 2.5 per cent per annum until 1 September 2017.

As part of the agreement:

- Queensland Public Service Officers and Other Employees Award – State 2015, replaces the Queensland Public Service Award State – 2012
- General Employees (Queensland Government Departments) and Other Employees Award – State 2015, replaces the Employees of Queensland Government Departments (other than Public Servants) Award – State 2012
- Parks and Wildlife Employees Award – State 2016, replaces the Conservation, Parks and Wildlife Employees Award – State 2012.

Early retirement, redundancy and retrenchment

In 2015–16, one employee accepted an offer of redundancy at a cost of $54,831.93. In addition, one employee who had previously rejected an offer of voluntary redundancy was provided with an alternative permanent placement within the department.
Managing our business

EHP has established a governance structure to set its direction and oversee performance. The structure is in line with the department’s Corporate Governance Framework, which has its foundations in the Australian National Audit Office and Australian Standard AS 8000-2003 Good Governance Principles, and has strong alignment with the Queensland Government Department of the Premier and Cabinet Performance Management Framework and the Queensland Audit Office Leading Accountability–Governance.

The department obtains information about its operational and financial performance through its performance management framework, governance structure and financial systems.

Governance committees

EHP’s governance groups and committees oversee all major activities and areas of decision making and ensure the department has a clear direction, operates efficiently and fulfils its legislative responsibilities. These groups are:

- Executive Management Team.
- Finance Committee.
- Audit and Risk Committee.
- ICT Investment and Strategy Committee.
- working safe working well Steering Committee.
- Human Resources Committee.

Executive Management Team

The Executive Management Team (EMT) ensures the effective management and administration of EHP, working together to ensure optimal outcomes in line with the department’s strategic priorities.

EMT’s role is to:

- prioritise resources and capabilities to facilitate outcomes and delivery of key priorities
- provide strong leadership, direction and guidance to the department.

In supporting the Director-General to comply with corporate governance responsibilities, EMT’s responsibilities also include:

- strategic planning, policy development and resource allocation
- ensuring the department is responsive to changing community needs and government responsibilities
- responding to strategic and/or critical issues and challenges facing the department
- budget oversight, including allocation, expenditure and revenue management
- oversight of the department’s performance management and reporting
- championing corporate governance and risk management, including through strategic investment decisions and audit controls
- service improvement through staff capability and identifying productivity and/or efficiency gains
- reviewing and considering recommendations made by EMT subcommittees
- role-modelling the values and behaviours expected of all employees.

Finance Committee

During 2015–16, financial matters were considered by EMT, which met three time to consider special financial agendas.

From 12 May 2016, the Finance Committee was reinstated as a separate body as part of the department’s corporate governance framework and its Terms of Reference were reviewed and expanded.

The committee’s role is to make decisions on a range of financial matters including fund allocations and regularly monitor the department’s financial position.
Committee members (as at 30 June 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Jim Reeves, Director-General</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Griffin, Deputy Director-General, Corporate Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean Ellwood, Deputy Director-General, Environmental Services and Regulation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Roberts, Deputy Director-General, Environmental Policy and Planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>María Mohr, Deputy Director-General, Conservation and Sustainability Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elisa Nichols, Executive Director, Office of the Great Barrier Reef</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brad Lang, Executive Director, Finance and Asset Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Finance Committee met three times since 12 May 2016, principally to determine the 2016–17 operating and capital budget allocations.

Audit and Risk Committee

EHP’s Audit and Risk Committee (the ARC) was established by the Director-General, the accountable officer for the department, as required by section 35(1) of the Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009 (the standard).

The ARC Charter 2015 was endorsed by the committee on 20 January 2015, constituting a terms of reference document as required by section 35(2) of the standard. The ARC Charter 2016 is due to be endorsed in August 2016.

Role of the committee

The role of the ARC is to provide independent assurance and assistance to the Director-General on the:

- risk, control and compliance frameworks.
- external accountability responsibilities as prescribed in the relevant legislation and standards.
- EHP’s integrity framework.

Committee responsibilities

The ARC is directly responsible and accountable to the Director-General. In discharging its responsibilities, the committee has the authority to:

- conduct or authorise investigations into matters within its scope of responsibility.
- access information, records and personnel of the department for such purpose.
- request the attendance of any employee, including executive staff, at committee meetings.
- conduct meetings with the department’s internal auditors and external auditors, as necessary.
- seek advice from external parties, as necessary.

The committee has additional duties and responsibilities in relation to financial statements, integrity oversight and misconduct prevention, risk management, internal control, performance management, internal audit, external audit, compliance and reporting.

Relationship with internal and external bodies

ARC meetings constitute a forum for discussion between members, the Director-General, senior management, the Queensland Government Internal Audit Service and the Queensland Audit Office (QAO). The functions and role of the committee do not impact upon the statutory and regulatory duties and responsibilities of the Director-General, nor do they detract from management’s responsibilities in relation to corporate governance, internal control, fraud prevention and risk management.
Committee performance and achievements

The ARC provides governance oversight and advice to the Director-General in relation to its Charter responsibilities and assurance in relation to the department’s financial statements. It actively contributed to the improvement of the department’s management of risks and the development of a risk appetite statement.

Meetings

The ARC convened five times during 2015–16, including a special meeting to review the department’s annual financial statements.

Membership

During 2015–16, the ARC comprised the following members as appointed by the Director-General. They were remunerated for their services as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Substantive position</th>
<th>Committee role</th>
<th>Period of membership</th>
<th>Remuneration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marita Corbett</td>
<td>Partner, BDO</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>1 September 2013–present</td>
<td>$3000 (GST exclusive) per meeting to prepare for and attend, up to five meetings per annum. Subject to a maximum of $15,000 (GST exclusive) per calendar year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Garner</td>
<td>Partner, Ernst and Young</td>
<td>External member</td>
<td>17 July 2012–24 August 2015</td>
<td>$600 (GST exclusive) per meeting to prepare for, and attend, up to five meetings per annum. Subject to a maximum of $3000 (GST exclusive) per calendar year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Dowling</td>
<td>Independent external member</td>
<td>External member</td>
<td>4 December 2013–present</td>
<td>$600 (GST exclusive) per meeting to prepare for, and attend, up to five meetings per annum. Subject to a maximum of $3000 (GST exclusive) per calendar year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Prentis</td>
<td>Independent external member</td>
<td>External member</td>
<td>1 September 2015–present</td>
<td>$600 (GST exclusive) per meeting to prepare for, and attend, up to five meetings per annum. Subject to a maximum of $3000 (GST exclusive) per calendar year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ARC observed the terms of the 2015 and 2016 Charters and had due regard to Queensland Treasury’s Audit Committee Guidelines.

The ARC gave consideration to all audit recommendations by the Queensland Audit Office (QAO) including performance audit recommendations, reviewed the implementation of external audit recommendations accepted by management and ensured that satisfactory progression was made to mitigate the risk associated with audit’s findings.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Investment and Strategy Committee

The ICT Investment and Strategy committee’s role is to:

- ensure the ICT investment and assets remain aligned with business priorities and plans and support whole-of-government ICT directions.
- provide leadership, strategic direction and oversight in the planning and delivery of the portfolio of ICT-related initiatives.
- provide assurance to the Director-General that information management and ICT is appropriately governed to ensure return on investment through effective delivery of approved initiatives, and meets government priorities.
Responsibilities
The ICT Investment and Strategy committee has established reporting requirements to ensure that it receives information relevant to its role. It:

- reviews and monitors investments in information management systems and technologies to ensure they are managed through appropriate governance processes and deliver stated outcomes and benefits.
- monitors the health of ICT assets to address areas of risk.
- authorises and directs the development of strategic and operational plans for ICT-enabled business.
- prioritises investments in information management systems and technologies consistent with strategic direction and government priorities.
- scrutinises the delivery of approved and funded project and program allocations and approves the reallocation of unused funds.
- escalates significant risks to the EMT.
- monitors information management and ICT service provider arrangements under the Corporate Partnership, including performance.
- develops information management capability.

Committee members (as at 30 June 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Peter Griffin, Deputy Director-General, Corporate Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td>Glen Brown, Executive Director, Regulatory Capability and Customer Service, Environmental Services and Regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brad Lang, Executive Director, Finance and Asset Management, and Chief Finance Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fiona Gardiner, Director, Heritage, Environmental Policy and Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Andrea Leverington, Acting Executive Director, Conservation and Sustainability Policy, Conservation and Sustainability Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anne Lenz, Executive Director, Petroleum and Gas Compliance, Environmental Services and Regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Susan Wright, Manager, Web Services, Corporate Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tony Grant, Chief Information Officer, Information and Technology Partners, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

workingsafe workingwell Steering Committee
The workingsafe workingwell Steering Committee ensures that EHP’s workplace health and safety obligations are met. It leads the department’s commitment to zero harm, promotes a culture for safety, health and wellbeing and monitors performance against key workplace health and safety performance indicators.

Committee members (as at 30 June 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Jim Reeves, Director-General</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td>Peter Griffin, Deputy Director-General, Corporate Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dean Ellwood, Deputy Director-General, Environmental Services and Regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tony Roberts, Deputy Director-General, Environmental Policy and Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maria Mohr, Deputy Director-General, Conservation and Sustainability Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ken Dagley, Executive Director, Human Resources, Corporate Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Randall Swain, Manager, Workforce Relations and Safety, Corporate Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tanya McAndrew, Principal Human Resource Officer, Workforce Relations and Safety, Corporate Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2015–16, the committee met four times. It endorsed a range of health and wellbeing initiatives including access to the employee assistance counselling service, flu vaccinations, skin checks, mental health awareness sessions, online Drug and Alcohol Awareness training and the 10,000 Steps Workplace Challenge. The workingsafe workingwell Safety Behaviour Awards recognise outstanding individual and team safety behaviours demonstrated by employees.

The committee supported the Conservation and Sustainability Services Division in its review of the use of quad bikes for service delivery and operational requirements. The review determined that all quad bikes will be replaced with alternative fit-for-purpose vehicles.

**Human Resources Committee**

The Human Resources Committee provides strategic direction on human resource and workforce management issues to assist in maximising the capability of the workforce to achieve the goals of the department. It also oversees the implementation of human resource and workforce management strategies, policies and procedures.

**Committee members (as at 30 June 2016)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Peter Griffin, Deputy Director-General, Corporate Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Dagley, Executive Director, Human Resources, Corporate Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Armstrong, Executive Officer, Office of the Director-General</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reuben Carlos, Executive Director, Central Region, Environmental Services and Regulation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Leverington, Acting Executive Director, Conservation and Sustainability Policy, Conservation and Sustainability Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geoff Robson, Executive Director, Strategic Environment and Waste Policy, Environmental Policy and Planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2015–16, the committee met for the first time on 30 May 2016. At that meeting the Terms of Reference were confirmed and an overview of human resources strategic projects was provided.
Governance processes

EHP has internal accountability mechanisms in place to ensure it operates effectively and transparently. It has established systems and processes to audit its programs, reduce risks and safeguard against fraudulent activity and ensure business continuity.

Strategic Plan 2015–2019

The strategic plan sets the EHP’s direction for the next four years and guides the prioritisation of resources. Through achieving its corporate goals, the department contributes to the Queensland Government’s objectives for the community.

The strategic plan is reviewed annually to assess progress against specified goals and to identify whether changes in the external environment require any adjustments to be made to the plan.

Managing our performance

The department’s strategic goals and performance indicators are delivered through its service areas: Environmental Protection Services, Species and Ecosystem Protection Services and Heritage Protection Services. To support the strategic plan, business plans identify service priorities each year. Quarterly performance reports enable the department to monitor its progress against achieving its stated objectives. Ongoing processes are in place to evaluate and manage current and future risks.

Managing our risk

EHP continues to enhance and strengthen its risk management practices. Its risk management framework aligns with the AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management Principles and Guidelines and includes appropriate governance arrangements, policy and procedures, and quarterly risk reporting and analysis.

The department’s challenges are highlighted in the Strategic Plan and are maintained in a strategic risk register, which is reviewed regularly to monitor the progress of risk treatments. The department’s divisions identify and manage risks at the operational level and maintain their own risk registers.

Internal Audit

The Queensland Government Internal Audit Service (QGIAS) provides an independent, objective assurance function to the Director-General in discharging responsibilities under section 78 of the Financial Accountability Act 2009.

Its functions include:
- development of an internal audit charter.
- planning the internal audit program.
- reporting of internal audit issues.
- managing the relationship with external audit.
- supporting the Queensland Audit Office with its annual external audit of agency financial statements.

These functions are provided to EHP and four other Queensland Government departments under the Business and Corporate Partnership.

QGIAS operates in accordance with the Internal Audit Annual Plan, a risk-based plan endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee and approved by the Director-General. During 2015–16, it delivered its role and responsibilities in line with the Internal Audit Charter and conformed with the Audit Committee Guidelines issued by Queensland Treasury.

QGIAS assists the Audit and Risk Committee to obtain independent assurance on its responsibilities including risk management, internal controls, financial statements, internal and external audit matters, improved governance and operational effectiveness and efficiency, and other audit processes. The internal audit function is independent of management and the external auditors.

In 2015–16, QGIAS:
- completed the following reviews in line with the EHP Strategic Internal Audit Plan—July 2015 to June 2016:
  - contaminated land reform and auditor framework.
  - Conservation and Sustainability Services’ procurement.
  - management audit process.
  - risk assurance mapping review.
  - controls supporting the revenue and receivables cycle.
  - regional office reviews: Rockhampton, Charleville and Cairns.
- completed the following fee-for-service (user pays) reviews:
  - acquittal signoff for the Raine Island Recovery Project.
Administrative and professional services
The department has established administrative processes to direct, manage and control its business and ensure the delivery of services is undertaken in an efficient and effective manner.

Information systems
In 2015–16, the department continued to operate, maintain and develop a range of information systems to support its services including:

- Connect—a new online workflow solution to streamline licensing, permitting and authorities processing. This system will replace a number of legacy information systems that have been in operation for more than a decade and improve customer service and engagement.
- Living Heritage Information System—a system containing heritage information and images which is available to the public, consultants and researchers.
- Corporate systems for managing correspondence, finances and human resources.
- Departmental website—provides access to information and services.

Recordkeeping

The Recordkeeping Digital Transition Program supports and facilitates the move from a paper to digital recordkeeping paradigm—Born Digital, Stay Digital. A new Digitisation Disposal Policy was implemented to support the new digital recordkeeping paradigm.

The Records Management unit has responsibility for providing a compliant recordkeeping framework for the department. Increasing numbers of records are being received, captured and managed electronically. Recordkeeping considerations are being formally addressed in the decommissioning of business systems.

The department continues to maintain its electronic recordkeeping system—eDOCS. A regular training program is available for staff, including eLearning and YouTube training options. An extensive array of recordkeeping toolkits and quick reference guides have also been developed to support departmental recordkeeping practices. eDOCS has been configured to provide a reliable and secure recordkeeping platform which is compliant with the Public Records Act 2002, Information Standard 40—Recordkeeping, Information Standard 31—Retention and Disposal of Public Records, Information Standard 34—Metadata and Information Standard 18—Information Security.

A comprehensive retention and disposal schedule for departmental records was developed. During 2015–16, time-expired records were identified for disposal, with 162 boxes of hard copy files securely disposed of. Permanent records were also identified and were transferred to Queensland State Archives.

Management audits
EHP uses management audits to monitor and assess the effectiveness of internal controls and identify potential business risks.

Management audits are scheduled according to the level and risk and are conducted on topics including:

- employee attendance, including reconciliation between timesheets and leave records.
- corporate card usage.
- travel expenses including Go Card usage.
- cash handling and petty cash.
- mobile and satellite phone usage.

Officers have responsibility for choosing topics and scheduling audits relevant to business risks. The program is designed to improve governance in EHP through assisting teams to check and assess the effectiveness of their internal controls and to provide the Director-General with assurance that internal controls are effective and being continually monitored.

Legislative compliance framework
In 2015–16, EHP continued to further strengthen its governance arrangements by monitoring compliance with applicable requirements of all legislative acts and regulations. In April 2016, the Legislative Compliance Framework was amended, requiring a system to be established to record and monitor the department’s legislative requirements. That system incorporates a process under which those Departmental officers who are responsible for legislative compliance provide the Director-General with annual statements of assurance in relation to their areas of responsibility.

Ethical behaviour
The department’s strategic plan includes integrity as one of the key business principles that all employees must adhere to when making decisions. In daily practice this means that all employees must act ethically, honestly and in the best interests of the community.
Ethical education and training

During the reporting period employees were informed of their ethical obligations either during induction or by completing the revised Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service (the Code) training module. Ethical obligations were also reinforced through Performance and Development Plans which outline what is expected of employees in terms of behaviour and performance.

The Integrity Framework seeks to ingrain a culture of integrity within the department. During the reporting period a number of key initiatives were implemented to promote the importance of integrity including: a refresher of the Fraud Awareness training for all employees; regular communication from the Director-General, as the department’s Integrity Champion, about ethical behaviour expectations; a dedicated ethics intranet page with resources highlighting ethical behaviour scenarios, suitable for managers and staff to use in team meeting discussions.

The department also conducted its Bi-Annual Fraud and Corruption Risk Assessment. This assessment helps to identify any areas for improvement as well as best practices that can be shared across business areas. In addition, the Code of Conduct training was completely released through the department’s online learning system (iLearn) in May 2016. All employees are required to complete this training every 12 months.

In 2015–16, Human Resources conducted Appropriate Behaviour Awareness sessions across the state, involving a large proportion of the workforce. These sessions will continue in 2016–17.

Accountability

EHP is committed to delivering quality services through good governance processes and the ethical conduct of all employees. Through a range of integrity initiatives, the department aims to ensure employee actions and decisions are accountable, honest and impartial, and promote public confidence in the department.

The department’s Audit and Risk Committee is responsible for overseeing integrity related matters through quarterly reporting. The Code of Conduct, and information on how to report alleged wrongdoing by employees continues to be made available to the public on the department’s website.

Other accountability mechanisms were included in training and communication initiatives including: Right to Information, Complaints Handling, the role of the Queensland Ombudsman and Judicial Review.

Alignment of agency planning, strategies, objectives and actions

Integrity and ethics are integrated into the department’s key plans, frameworks, policies and processes including:

- Strategic plan—key strategies include continuing to invest in an ethical and accountable workforce.
- Audit and Risk Committee—integrity matters are monitored for effectiveness and recommendations made if gaps are identified.
- Strategic workforce plan—including ethical and effective decision making as a key focus.
- Disability service plan—integrity and accountability are two of the plan’s key principles.
- Corporate governance framework—integrity and ethics form part of the internal control structure for the department.
- Integrity framework—defines how the department promotes, monitors and enhances an ethical culture.
- Fraud and corruption control plan—was updated within the reporting period and includes additional controls that focus on further integration of ethics into workforce management and practices.
- Fraud and corruption prevention policy and procedure—details the fraud prevention framework.
- Risk management framework—details how to identify and minimise risks to service delivery.
- Performance management process—adherence to the Code of Conduct is included in individual staff performance plans.
- Human resource management policies and procedures.

Procurement

Procurement Services manages and delivers a range of acquisition activities and procurement advice for the department. It seeks to maximise value for money from expenditure on supplies, services and capital works. It ensures strategic and tactical procurement activities are undertaken in accordance with the Queensland Procurement Policy and the Financial Management and Performance Standard 2009. Procurement Services supports six Queensland Government agencies through the Business and Corporate Partnership.
Right to Information Services

The department is committed to transparent and accountable government by giving the community greater access to information under the Right to Information Act 2009 (RTI Act) and the Information Privacy Act 2009 (IP Act). The department provides the community with equal access to the information it holds, unless on balance, it is contrary to the public interest.

A publication scheme and disclosure log is available on the department’s website. The publication scheme describes and categorises information routinely made available from the department, and the disclosure log publishes information which has been released in response to RTI access requests.

Further information about how to access information held by the department can be found on the department’s website.

Business and Professional Services

The Business and Professional Services (BPS) unit performs a diverse range of functions, which include supporting the Crime and Corruption Commission Liaison Officer and the Public Interest Disclosure Coordinator, providing privacy compliance advice, maintaining disclosure logs under the Right to Information Act 2009, and acting as the liaison with the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman. The unit also oversees business continuity, disaster management, energy efficiency and waste management activities, and is responsible for misconduct prevention and integrity initiatives, such as fraud and corruption risk assessments.

The majority of BPS’ services are provided to both EHP and NPSR. Information Privacy and Publication Scheme support is provided to six Queensland Government agencies through the Business and Corporate Partnership model and disclosure log decisions are made on behalf of all the Business and Corporate Partnerships agencies and their responsible ministers.

Business and Corporate Partnership Board

The Business and Corporate Partnership (BCP) delivers corporate services and business programs to support six partnering Queensland Government departments to deliver on their government priorities. Under this model the focus is on ensuring economies of scale, service integration, consistent service delivery, scalability, flexibility and responsiveness.

The BCP operates through three Corporate Hubs embedded in the departments of Agriculture and Fisheries; Natural Resources and Mines; and Environment and Heritage Protection. Each hub is managed by a Head of Corporate who is responsible for delivering a set of core services (to the host agency and one adjunct agency) and a selection of cooperative services (to all six partnering agencies).

As at 30 June 2016, the BCP Board was comprised of the Directors-General of the departments of Agriculture and Fisheries; Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games; Natural Resources and Mines; Energy and Water Supply; Environment and Heritage Protection; and National Parks, Sport and Racing; as well the three Heads of the Corporate Hubs.

The board is collectively responsible for the long-term performance, business success and timely delivery of departmental key priorities. Its role is to provide leadership and set the strategic direction of the partnership to enable its goals and objectives to be met.
How to contact us

You can contact EHP at:

**Head office**
Level 3, 400 George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

**Post**
GPO Box 2454
Brisbane Qld 4001

**Website**
www.ehp.qld.gov.au

**Email**
info@ehp.qld.gov.au

**Office locations**
EHP has a network of regional offices and business centres located throughout Queensland. A full list of these locations and the services they provide can be found on the department's website.

**Permits and approvals**
Enquiries about permits and approvals for environmental management, wildlife, coastal and heritage matters can be directed to Permit and Licence Management (1300 130 372, option 4) or contact your local contact officer using the details provided with your approval.

To confirm that the services or products that you require are available from your local business centre, please telephone 13 QGOV (13 7468).
Appendix 1—Legislation

Administered by EHP as at 30 June 2016

_Biodiscovery Act 2004_ (to the extent that it is relevant to the compliance code, collection protocols and authorisation of collection authorities other than as they affect, or are relevant to, management of the protected area estate and forest reserves, not including nature refuges) (jointly administered with the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business)

_Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007_ (except to the extent administered by the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines)

_Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995_

_Environmental Offsets Act 2014_

_Environmental Protection Act 1994_

_Gurulmundi Secure Landfill Agreement Act 1992_

_Lake Eyre Basin Agreement Act 2001_ (to the extent that it is relevant to environmental matters)

_National Environment Protection Council (Queensland) Act 1994_

_Nature Conservation Act 1992_ (except to the extent that it is relevant to demonstrated and exhibited native animals and to the extent that it is relevant to the management of the protected area estate and forest reserves, not including nature refuges) (jointly administered with the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries)

_Newstead House Trust Act 1939_

_North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011_

_Queensland Heritage Act 1992_

_Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011_

_Water Act 2000_ (Chapter 3, and to the extent relevant to Chapter 3, Chapters 5, 6 and 7); (Chapter 8, Part 5, jointly administered with the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines; and the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply)

_Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993_.

Legislation repealed 2015–16

Nil.

Legislation passed 2015–16

Nil.
Appendix 2—Government bodies

Remuneration of government bodies

There are 11 government bodies in the scope of the department. The remuneration paid to members is summarised below. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet's annual report requirements for Queensland Government agencies requires that the remuneration details of members be published on the department’s website. This requirement is fulfilled as the EHP Annual Report is available from the EHP website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board of Trustees of Newstead House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Act or instrument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ensure the conservation and preservation of Newstead House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Investigate and secure opportunities for alternative income streams for Newstead House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Identify and pursue relationships with potential heritage and cultural partners to raise the awareness, understanding and use of Newstead House more broadly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Perform other functions given to the Board under the Newstead House Trust Act 1939.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Commenced the implementation of key recommendations from the Newstead House Interpretation Management Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Changed house opening hours to align and better respond to visitor demands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conducted a full review and assessment of the House collection including the consolidation of digital records into a single database.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Continued to develop the public events program offering four new major participation events in the year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Board does not control substantial State revenue allocations and audited financials are included in the organisation’s annual report.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remuneration: Chairperson and Board members are not remunerated for their associated work as appointed Board members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Meetings/sessions attendance</th>
<th>Approved annual, sessional or daily fee</th>
<th>Approved sub-committee fees if applicable</th>
<th>Actual fees received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Daniel Morgan</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr Ian Hadwen</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Cr David McLachlan</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of scheduled meetings/sessions</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total out of pocket expenses</td>
<td>Neither the Chair nor other Board members received payments for out of pocket expenses.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fraser Island World Heritage Community Advisory Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act or instrument</th>
<th>The body is not established under an Act.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Functions</td>
<td>To provide advice to the Australian and Queensland governments on matters relating to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of the Fraser Island World Heritage Area from the viewpoint of the community. This includes advice on the review and implementation of Fraser Island World Heritage area plans, strategies or management issues which impact on communities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Achievements      | • Produced a Legacy of Efforts and Contributions report to provide advice and corporate knowledge to subsequent committees.  
• The Chair of the Community Advisory Committee was elected Chair of the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC), which considers national and cross-cutting issues relevant to all World Heritage properties in Australia. |
| Financial reporting | Included in the financial statements of this report. |
| Remuneration      |                                           |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Meetings/sessions attendance</th>
<th>Approved annual, sessional or daily fee</th>
<th>Approved sub-committee fees if applicable</th>
<th>Actual fees received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Sue Sargent</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$215 daily fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Matthew Organ</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>David Anderson</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Damien Massingham</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>John Sinclair AO</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>David Hay</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Martin Bellert</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>David Robertson</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>George Seymour</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Emma-Kate Currie</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Mike West</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The terms of these committee members ended on 31 December 2015. No further appointments have been made. No meetings were held between January–June 2016.
Fraser Island World Heritage Area Indigenous Advisory Committee

Act or instrument
The body is not established under an Act.

Functions
To provide advice to the Australian and Queensland governments on matters relating to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of the Fraser Island World Heritage Area from the viewpoint of the Indigenous community.

This includes advice on the review and implementation of Fraser Island World Heritage area plans, strategies or management issues which impact on communities.

Achievements
- Won the prestigious Queensland Landcare Award for Indigenous Land Management for their Indigenous Heritage Program project. The project automatically qualifies for entry into the 2016 National Landcare Awards.
- Liaised with the Butchulla Prescribed Body Corporate to facilitate the nomination of four Butchulla appointees for the next term of the Community Advisory Committee.
- Participated in a University of Queensland research project on traditional owner involvement and benefits resulting from World Heritage listing.
- Delivered presentation at the annual Australian Wildlife Management Society (AWMS) 2015 symposium held in Brisbane.

Financial reporting
Included in the financial statements of this report.

Remuneration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Meetings/sessions attendance</th>
<th>Approved annual, sessional or daily fee</th>
<th>Approved sub-committee fees if applicable</th>
<th>Actual fees received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Sandra Page</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$107.50 daily</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>107.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Malcolm Burns</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$107.50 daily</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>107.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Lillian Burke</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Glen Miller</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Jan Williams</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Kate Doolan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of scheduled meetings/sessions</td>
<td>One</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total out of pocket expenses</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The terms of these committee members ended on 31 December 2015. No further appointments have been made. No meetings were held between January–June 2016.
Fraser Island World Heritage Area Scientific Advisory Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act or instrument</th>
<th>The body is not established under an Act.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Functions</td>
<td>To provide advice to the Australian and Queensland governments on matters relating to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of the Fraser Island World Heritage Area from the scientific viewpoint. This includes advice on the review and implementation of Fraser Island World Heritage Area plans, strategies or management issues which impact on communities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Achievements      | - Monitored the water quality and health of the lakes including markers for sunscreens and insect repellents.  
- Engaged appropriate scientists in relation to ‘ruling-out’ bio-accumulation in fresh water ‘perched lakes’ habitats.  
- Developed a Table of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) about the island to inform management agencies, identify attributes, prioritise threats and provide advice and corporate knowledge to subsequent committees.  
- Collaborated with the University of the Sunshine Coast to investigate developing a web page within the EHP website as part of the broader Dilli Village promotion and lease arrangement with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS).  
- Continue to liaise with QPWS and universities in relation to improved monitoring of cane toads and myrtle rust on Fraser Island. |
| Financial reporting | Included in the financial statements of this report. |

Remuneration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Meetings/sessions attendance</th>
<th>Approved annual, sessional or daily fee</th>
<th>Approved sub-committee fees if applicable</th>
<th>Actual fees received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Dr Sandra Brizga</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$215 Daily fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr Peter Davie</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr Terry Brown</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr Greg Baxter</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr Merike Johnson</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr Annie Ross</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Simon Gall</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr James Shulmeister</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr Desmond Boyland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr Neil Tindale</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of scheduled meetings/sessions</td>
<td>One</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total out of pocket expenses</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The terms of these committee members ended on 31 December 2015. No further appointments have been made. No meetings were held between January–June 2016.*
## Gondwana Rainforests of Australia Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act or instrument</th>
<th>Intergovernmental Agreement on World Heritage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Functions</strong></td>
<td>To provide advice on matters relating to the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and management of the Gondwana Rainforests from the viewpoint of the community. The Chair of the Community Advisory Committee may also represent the Gondwana Rainforests on the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC), which will consider national and cross-cutting issues relevant to all World Heritage properties in Australia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Achievements**  | • Provided advice about the need for greater awareness about the significance and value of the Gondwana Rainforests amongst staff in managing agencies in Queensland and New South Wales.  
• Provided advice on opportunities to increase community and visitor awareness of the Gondwana Rainforests and the function of the Gondwana Rainforests in the life of the community. Managing agencies are working to implement key aspects of this advice.  
• Provided support for an Aboriginal community to obtain a Community Heritage and Icons Grant to develop an Aboriginal seasonal calendar which covers part of the Gondwana Rainforests.  
• Promoted citizen science and the involvement of volunteers in monitoring threatened species within the Gondwana Rainforests. |
| **Financial reporting** | Annual financial report to the Australian Government for World Heritage Grant A000001074G. External audit of financial transactions required prior to sending financial report. |

### Remuneration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Meetings/sessions attendance</th>
<th>Approved annual, sessional or daily fee</th>
<th>Approved sub-committee fees if applicable</th>
<th>Actual fees received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Dr Mahri Koch</td>
<td>4 (including TSAC)*</td>
<td>$350 daily fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$1400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland Member</td>
<td>Cathie Duffy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland Member</td>
<td>Richard Zoomers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland Member</td>
<td>Innes Larkin</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland Member</td>
<td>Nadia O’Carroll</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales member</td>
<td>Jeanette Olley</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales member</td>
<td>Roderick McKelvey</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales member</td>
<td>Brian Johnston</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales member</td>
<td>Terry Tibbett</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of scheduled meetings/sessions</th>
<th>Two, including a Community Advisory Committee session and a joint session with the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*The Community Advisory Committee Chair also attends the separate meetings of the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total out of pocket expenses</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The World Heritage Advisory Committee and its Executive Officer are funded by the Australian Government. The Queensland Government does not contribute to its operational cost.

*Note: The terms of these committee members ended on 31 December 2015. No further appointments have been made. No meetings were held between January–June 2016.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act or instrument</th>
<th>Intergovernmental Agreement on World Heritage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Functions</td>
<td>To provide advice on matters relating to the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the outstanding universal value (OUV) of the Gondwana Rainforests. The Chair represents the Gondwana Rainforests on the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC), which considers national and cross-cutting issues relevant to all World Heritage properties in Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievements</td>
<td>• Finalised advice to the Queensland, New South Wales and Australian governments on monitoring requirements for the OUV of the Gondwana Rainforests. This advice is will be used to integrate Gondwana Rainforests into existing monitoring frameworks. • Identified research needs for the Gondwana Rainforests for input into the National Environmental Science Program (NESP). Options are under further investigation in consultation with the AWHAC and the Commonwealth Department of Environment. • Identified key priorities for threatened species management within the World Heritage Area. This has been used by New South Wales’ Office of the Environment in prioritising projects and work in cooperation with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial reporting</td>
<td>Annual financial report to the Australian Government for World Heritage Grant A000001074G. External audit of financial transactions required prior to sending financial report.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Remuneration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Meetings/sessions attendance</th>
<th>Approved annual, sessional or daily fee</th>
<th>Approved sub-committee fees if applicable</th>
<th>Actual fees received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Professor Nick Reid</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$350/day</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$1400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr Aila Keto AO</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Professor Michael Mahony</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr William McDonald</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr Ross Peacock</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Professor Ralf Buckley</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr David Newell</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr Erica Wilson</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr David Lamb</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**No. scheduled meetings/sessions**: Two, including a Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee session and a joint session with the Community Advisory Committee. *The Chair also attends the separate meetings of the Community Advisory Committee (hence the extra meetings).*

**Total out of pocket expenses**: The World Heritage Advisory Committee and the Executive Officer are funded by the Australian Government. The Queensland Government does not contribute to its operational cost.

**Note**: The terms of these committee members ended on 31 December 2015. No further appointments have been made. No meetings were held between January–June 2016.
Queensland Heritage Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act or instrument</th>
<th>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Functions
- Provide strategic advice to the Minister about matters relating to Queensland’s cultural heritage, including, for example, measures necessary to conserve Queensland’s cultural heritage.
- Provide information to the community to encourage interest in, and understanding of, Queensland’s cultural heritage.
- Advise entities about conserving Queensland’s cultural heritage, including, for example, government entities and community organisations.
- Encourage the appropriate management of places of cultural heritage significance.
- Perform other functions given to the Council under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992.

### Achievements
- Developed a successful submission to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee regarding proposed changes to The Planning Act 2016 to ensure better protection of Queensland’s heritage.
- Entered 17 places of state significance in the Queensland Heritage Register.
- Participated in the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand meeting held in Brisbane.
- Participated in and sponsorship of the annual Brisbane Open House, Maryborough, Gold Coast and Cairns events in 2015.

### Financial reporting
All operating and administration costs associated with Queensland Heritage Council are paid for by EHP core funding. This includes all meeting costs, sitting fees, travel and accommodation. The department's financial statements are audited by the Queensland Audit Office annually.

### Remuneration
The Queensland Heritage Council members are remunerated at the category Regulation, Administration and Advice Level 1 of the Procedures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Meetings/sessions attendance</th>
<th>Approved annual, sessional or daily fee</th>
<th>Approved sub-committee fees if applicable</th>
<th>Actual fees received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Peter Coaldrape</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$650 x 4</td>
<td>1 additional meeting ($325 x 1)</td>
<td>$4550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$325 x 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Chair</td>
<td>Debra-Lee Best</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$500 x 1</td>
<td>1 additional meeting ($250 x 1)</td>
<td>$2150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(from 1/01/16)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$250 x 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Barry Merrick</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$500 x 5</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$3250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$250 x 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Ivan McDonald</td>
<td>Does not get paid</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Marcus Ford</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>$500 x 7</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$4500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$250 x 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Anthony Ross</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$500 x 5</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$3250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$250 x 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>William Marklew</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>$500 x 3</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$250 x 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Carol Cashman</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$500 x 5</td>
<td>1 additional meeting ($250 x 1)</td>
<td>$3750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$250 x 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Stuart Lummis</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$500 x 6</td>
<td>4 additional meetings ($250 x 4)</td>
<td>$5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$250 x 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Judith McKay</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>$500 x 7</td>
<td>$250 x 4</td>
<td>2 additional meetings ($250 x 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member (from 1/01/16)</td>
<td>Valerie Dennis</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$500 x 3</td>
<td>$250 x 3</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Chair (1/07/15 to 31/12/15)</td>
<td>John Cotter</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$500 x 3</td>
<td>$250 x 1</td>
<td>As Chair $650 x 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member (1/07/15 to 31/12/15)</td>
<td>Leanne O’Brien</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$500 x 4</td>
<td>$250 x 1</td>
<td>4 additional meetings ($250 x 3; $500 x 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member (1/07/15 to 31/12/15)</td>
<td>Glenda Sheaffe</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$500 x 3</td>
<td>$250 x 1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of scheduled meetings/sessions: Eight scheduled and three additional meetings.

Total out of pocket expenses: N/A (see financial reporting above).
## Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act or instrument</th>
<th>The body is not established under an Act.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Functions
- To provide advice to the Australian and Queensland governments, on matters relating to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of the Riversleigh component of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh) World Heritage property from the viewpoint of the community and scientists.
- The committee also provides information to the community to encourage interest in, and understanding of, the Riversleigh section of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites.

### Achievements
- Provided advice regarding the priorities for the management and research of the property.
- Provided support for a grant seeking funds to progress the installation of interpretation at D-site.
- Secured Department of Transport and Main Roads support for the installation of directional road signage on the main access roads to the Riversleigh World Heritage property.
- Provided feedback initiatives that promote outback Queensland as a leading palaeo-tourism experience destination.

### Financial reporting
- Included in the financial statements of this report.

**Remuneration** Included in the financial statements of this report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Meetings/sessions attendance</th>
<th>Approved annual, sessional or daily fee</th>
<th>Approved sub-committee fees if applicable</th>
<th>Actual fees received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Dr Graeme Potter</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$215 daily</td>
<td></td>
<td>$430.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Henk Godthelp</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Andrew Rozefelds</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Cr Ernie Camp</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Jan Bimrose</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Rodney Low Mow</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Shirley Chong</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr Jon Luly</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Bobby George</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Eunice O'Keefe</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Cr Joyce McCulloch</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr Michael Slack</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Number of scheduled | Two. |
meetings/sessions | 
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total out of pocket expenses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The terms of these committee members ended on 31 December 2015. No further appointments have been made. No meetings were held between January–June 2016.

### Wet Tropics Community Consultative Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act or instrument</th>
<th>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Functions</td>
<td>To advise the Wet Tropics Management Authority on the views of the community on the authority’s policies and programs in relation to the wet tropics area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievements</td>
<td>Nil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial reporting</td>
<td>The Wet Tropics Management Authority provides audited financial statements as required as per the Financial Accountability Act (QLD) 2009.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Remuneration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Meetings/sessions attendance</th>
<th>Approved annual, sessional or daily fee</th>
<th>Approved sub-committee fees if applicable</th>
<th>Actual fees received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: No meetings were held in 2015–16. The membership of the previous committee expired in May 2014. The Wet Tropics Management Authority Board of Directors is in the process of re-establishing the committee.

### Board of the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act or instrument</th>
<th>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Functions</td>
<td>The functions of the Board are to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) develop and implement policies and programs in relation to the management of the wet tropics area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) formulate performance indicators for the implementation of policies and programs approved by the Ministerial Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) advise and make recommendations to the Minister and the Ministerial Council in relation to—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(i) the management of the wet tropics area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) Australia’s obligation under the World Heritage Convention in relation to the wet tropics area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(d) prepare, and ensure the implementation of, management plans for the wet tropics area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(e) administer funding arrangements in relation to the wet tropics area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(f) enter into, and facilitate the entering into, of, cooperative management agreements (including joint management agreements) with land-holders, Aboriginal people particularly concerned with land in the wet tropics area and other persons.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


(g) enter into arrangements for the provision of rehabilitation and restoration works in relation to any land in the wet tropics area.
(h) gather, research, analyse and disseminate information on the wet tropics area.
(i) develop public and community education programs in relation to the wet tropics area.
(j) promote the wet tropics area locally, nationally and internationally; liaise with the governments and authorities of the State, the Commonwealth, other States and the Territories, and international and foreign organisations and agencies.
(k) monitor the state of the wet tropics area.
(l) advise and report to the Minister and the Ministerial Council.

Achievements
The Board was re-established in November 2015 after being inquorate since February 2013. The directors agreed to strategic priorities and key performance indicators for the 2016–18 period.

Financial reporting
The Authority provides audited financial statements as required as per the Financial Accountability Act (QLD) 2009.

### Remuneration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Meetings/sessions attendance *</th>
<th>Approved annual, sessional or daily fee</th>
<th>Approved sub-committee fees if applicable</th>
<th>Actual fees received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Leslie Shirreffs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$520 daily fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$11,700 as Chair for seven months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>John Courtenay</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$400 daily fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Anne Clarke</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$400 daily fee</td>
<td>$600 **</td>
<td>$3200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Iain Gordon</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$400 daily fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$2600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Leah Talbot</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$400 daily fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>NIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Phillip Rist</td>
<td>0 **</td>
<td>$400 daily fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>NIL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of scheduled meetings/sessions: 3

Total out of pocket expenses: $2974.63. This includes out of pocket expenses for: Leslie Shirreffs $1845.15; John Courtney $464.08; Ann Clarke $418.40 and Iain Gordon $247.00.

* Meetings were held in November 2015, February 2016 and May 2016.
** 2015–16 Student Research Grant Scheme sub-committee/panel.
*** Mr Phil Rist was not appointed to the WTMA Board until June 2016.
Wet Tropics Scientific Advisory Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act or instrument</th>
<th>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Functions</td>
<td>To advise the Wet Tropics Management Authority on:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) scientific research that will contribute to the protection and conservation of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) scientific developments relevant to the protection or conservation of the Area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievements</td>
<td>Nil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial reporting</td>
<td>The Wet Tropics Management Authority provides audited financial statements as required as per the Financial Accountability Act (QLD) 2009.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remuneration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Meetings/sessions attendance</th>
<th>Approved annual, sessional or daily fee</th>
<th>Approved sub-committee fees if applicable</th>
<th>Actual fees received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of scheduled meetings/sessions</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total out of pocket expenses</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: No meetings for the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) were held in 2015–16. The membership of the previous SAC expired in May 2014. The Wet Tropics Management Authority Board of Directors is in the process of re-establishing the committee.
## Appendix 3—Litigation 2015–16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Matter</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Charge</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| LIT998 | 17 July 2015 | One charge of failing to include complete and accurate information in a record under section 127(1)(a) of the Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006.  
One charge of failing to record particulars on the prescribed day under section 125 of the Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006.  
One charge of failing to produce a movement advice to a conservation officer under section 329(3) of the Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006.  
One charge of failing to keep a movement advice in a secure place under section 329(2) of the Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006.  
One charge of failing to give part 3 of a movement advice to the chief executive within seven days after receiving the wildlife under section 328(3) of the Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006.  
One charge of keeping a protected animal that was unlawfully taken under section 88(5) of the Nature Conservation Act 1992.  
One charge of attempting to use a protected animal that was unlawfully taken under section 88(5) of the Nature Conservation Act 1992.  
One charge of taking a natural resource of a protected area without authority under section 62(1) of the Nature Conservation Act 1992. | $4500 fine  
No conviction recorded                                                                 |
| LIT986 | 23 July 2015 | One charge of failing to record and provide prescribed information when giving trackable waste to a receiver under section 24(2) of the Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000.                                                                                       | $3000 fine  
$1250 legal costs  
$4598 investigation costs  
No conviction recorded                                                                 |
| LIT986 | 23 July 2015 | One charge of failing to record and provide prescribed information when giving trackable waste to a receiver under section 24(2) of the Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000.                                                                                       | $2,000 fine  
$750 legal costs  
No conviction recorded                                                                 |
| LIT999 | 25 August 2015 | One charge of contravening an environmental protection order under section 361 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.                                                                                                                                                                 | $4000 fine  
$1250 legal costs  
$1585 investigation costs                                                                 |
| LIT036 | 26 August 2015 | One charge of keeping or using a lawfully taken protected animal under section 88A of the Nature Conservation Act 1992.                                                                                                                                                                | $5700 fine  
$250 legal costs  
No conviction recorded                                                                 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Matter</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Charge</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| LIT977  | 4 September 2015    | One charge of causing wilful serious environmental harm under section 437(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Ten charges of contravening a condition of a development approval/environmental authority under section 435(1)/430(2) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Two charges of providing false and misleading documents under section 480 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. | $250,000 fine  
$33,000 legal costs  
$100,000 investigation costs  
No conviction recorded  
(Three public orders for $25,000, $30,000 and $20,000 to be deducted from fine). |
| LIT1517 | 10 September 2015   | One charge of causing material environmental harm under section 438(2) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. One charge of removing and disposing of contaminated soil from land, for which particulars are recorded in the environmental management register, without a disposal permit, under section 424(1)(a) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. | $5000 fine  
$2000 legal costs  
$750 investigation costs  
No conviction recorded |
| LIT018  | 1 October 2015      | Four charges of failing to ensure that a record is kept on the prescribed day under section 125(b)(ii) of the *Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006*. | $7000 fine  
$250 legal costs  
No conviction recorded |
| LIT956  | 26 April 2016       | One charge of wilfully contravening an environmental protection order under section 361 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Seven charges of wilfully contravening a condition of an environmental authority under section 430 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Two charges of wilfully contravening a transitional environmental program under section 432A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. One charge of wilfully causing serious environmental harm under section 437(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. | $250,000 fine  
$1500 legal costs  
$35,590 investigation costs  
No conviction recorded  
(Two $35,000 public benefit orders to be deducted from fine). |
| LIT956  | 26 April 2016       | One charge of wilfully contravening an environmental protection order under section 361 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Seven charges of wilfully contravening a condition of an environmental authority under section 430 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Two charges of wilfully contravening a transitional environmental program under section 432A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*; One charge of wilfully causing serious environmental harm under section 437(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. | $50,000 fine  
($10,000 public benefit order to be deducted from fine)  
No conviction recorded |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Matter</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Charge</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIT992</td>
<td>16 October 2015</td>
<td>One charge of carrying out an environmentally relevant activity without an environmental authority under section 426(1) of the <em>Environmental Protection Act 1994</em>. Two charges of giving a document containing false or misleading information under section 480(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.</td>
<td>$240,000 fine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No conviction recorded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIT022</td>
<td>26 October 2015</td>
<td>One charge of taking a protected plant under section 89 of the <em>Nature Conservation Act 1992</em>. Two charges of giving a document containing false or misleading information under section 480(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.</td>
<td>$8000 fine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$500 legal costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No conviction recorded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIT1501</td>
<td>11 November 2015</td>
<td>One charge of depositing litter under section 103(1) of the <em>Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011</em>. Two charges of giving a document containing false or misleading information under section 480(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.</td>
<td>$50 fine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No conviction recorded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIT056</td>
<td>20 November 2015</td>
<td>Eleven charges of failing to produce a movement advice to a conservation officer under section 329(3) of the <em>Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006</em>. Four charges of failing to notify the chief executive of a change of address and ask for amendment under section 63(2) of the <em>Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006</em>. Four charges of failing to notify the chief executive of a change of address and ask for amendment under section 63(2) of the <em>Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006</em>. Four charges of failing to notify the chief executive of a change of address and ask for amendment under section 63(2) of the <em>Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006</em>. Four charges of failing to notify the chief executive of a change of address and ask for amendment under section 63(2) of the <em>Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006</em>.</td>
<td>$1500 fine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No conviction recorded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIT010</td>
<td>26 November 2015</td>
<td>One charge of contravening a condition of an environmental authority under section 430(3) of the <em>Environmental Protection Act 1994</em>. Two charges of failing to give prescribed information under section 23 of the <em>Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000</em>.</td>
<td>$20,000 fine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1000 legal costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$7652 investigation costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No conviction recorded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIT986</td>
<td>26 November 2015</td>
<td>Two charges of contravening a condition of a development approval under section 435(1) of the <em>Environmental Protection Act 1994</em>. Two charges of failing to give prescribed information under section 23 of the <em>Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000</em>.</td>
<td>$40,000 fine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No conviction recorded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matter</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Charge</td>
<td>Penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| LIT011 | 27 November 2015 | One charge of taking a protected plant under section 89 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.                                                                                                           | $50,000 fine  
$2,260 legal costs  
No conviction recorded |
| LIT1519| 27 November 2015 | One offence of failing to ensure the company complied with the Act under section 162 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.                                                                                 | $10,000 fine  
No conviction recorded |
| LIT005 | 14 December 2015 | Two charges of failing to comply with a condition of a Temporary Emissions Licence under section 3571 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.                                                          | $65,000 fine  
$1,500 legal costs  
$1,823.75 investigation costs  
No conviction were recorded |
| LIT054 | 14 December 2015 | Two charges of taking a natural resource of a protected area under section 62(1) of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.                                                                                  | $4,546.58 fine  
$250 legal costs  
$1,568.58 investigation costs  
No conviction recorded |
|         |              | Two charges of unlawfully conducting a commercial activity under section 111(1) of the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*.                                                                            |                                                                   |
|         |              | Two charges of using a motor vehicle in a Recreation Area under section 109(1) of the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*.                                                                              |                                                                   |
| LIT1516 | 18 December 2015 | One charge of carrying out an environmentally relevant activity without an environmental authority under section 426(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.                                      | $120,000 fine  
$1,500 legal costs  
$1,191.25 investigation costs  
No conviction recorded |
|         |              | Two charges of giving a document containing false or misleading information under section 480(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.                                                             |                                                                   |
| LIT1537 | 9 February 2016 | One charge of wilfully using a marine park for a prohibited purpose, which involved the taking of natural resources without authority, in contravention of section 43(1)(a) of the *Marine Parks Act 2004*.                     | $3,000 fine  
No conviction recorded |
| LIT1537 | 9 February 2016 | One charge of wilfully using a marine park for a prohibited purpose, which involved the taking of natural resources without authority, in contravention of section 43(1)(a) of the *Marine Parks Act 2004*.                     | $2,000 fine  
No conviction recorded |
| LIT1513 | 24 March 2016 | One charge of feeding an animal that is dangerous, venomous or capable of injuring a person in a recreation area under section 118(1) of the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*.                           | $500 fine  
$250 legal costs  
No conviction recorded |
| LIT1549 | 23 March 2016 | One charge of depositing litter under section 103(1) of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.                                                                                            | $300 fine  
$250 legal costs  
$242.35 investigation costs  
No conviction recorded |
### Matter | Date | Charge | Penalty |
---|---|---|---|
LIT1533 | 20 May 2016 | One charge of depositing litter under section 103(1) of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*. | $100 fine  
$260 legal costs  
No conviction recorded |
LIT1550 | 30 May 2016 | One charge of depositing litter under section 103(1) of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*. | $0 fine  
No conviction recorded |

**Total sum of fines ordered: $1,146,197**

**Total sum of costs ordered: $203,321**
Appendix 4—Annual report on the administration of the Environmental Protection Act 1994

The Environmental Protection Act 1994 (the EP Act) provides for ecologically sustainable development. It allows development that improves the total quality of life—now and in the future—in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.

Section 546A of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (the EP Act) requires the chief executive of EHP to give the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection a report on the administration of the Act for each financial year.

Section 546A(4) of the EP Act requires the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection to include a statement in the report about requests received by the Minister to prepare environmental protection policies. The Minister received no such requests in 2015–16.

The EP Act is jointly administered by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) as the chief executive, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) and local governments as relevant administering authorities who have either delegated or devolved powers. Table 1 summarises the major EP Act activities and identifies the administering authority and its areas of responsibility.

Table 1: Administration of activities under the EP Act by relevant administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities under the EP Act</th>
<th>EHP</th>
<th>DAF</th>
<th>DNRM</th>
<th>Local governments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Changes to the EP Act and subordinate legislation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration of ERAs</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contaminated land management</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaints about contraventions of the EP Act</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actions taken to enforce the EP Act</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In previous years local government provided information to include in this report. The director-general, as chief executive, has decided to remove this administrative burden from local governments for the 2015–16. However, individual local governments collate this information and make it available to their ratepayers.

Local governments are an important administering authority under the EP Act and their contribution to the administration of the EP Act is appreciated. While this report does not include data from local government, general reference is made to their important contribution to the administration of the EP Act.

This report contains information on the following topics for each state administering authority:

1. Administration of environmentally relevant activities (ERAs).
2. Contaminated land management.
1. Administration of ERAs

The EP Act defines three types of ERAs:

a) agricultural ERAs involve the application of fertilisers on cane and cattle farms in certain catchments affecting the Great Barrier Reef.

b) resource activities include:
   - mining activities (exploration, extraction, rehabilitation and similar activities) authorised under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*
   - petroleum and gas activities authorised under the *Petroleum Act 1923*, the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* and the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982*
   - greenhouse gas storage activities authorised under the *Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009*.

c) prescribed ERAs are other industrial or commercial activities that may release contaminants with the potential to cause environmental harm (excluding those which are part of a mining, petroleum or gas project).

Both DAF and local governments undertake tasks in relation to the administration and enforcement of those prescribed ERAs delegated or devolved to them. These include:

- assessing, deciding, conditioning, amending, transferring, suspending and cancelling environmental authorities and the issuing of temporary emissions licences (TELs).
- requiring and assessing environmental evaluations to assess environmental compliance.
- issuing environmental enforcement notices or directions.
- invoicing and collecting annual fees, application fees and outstanding debts.

DNRM handles the initial processing of some applications for ERAs that are resource activities.

The number and type of environmental authorities administered by EHP and other state administering authorities are summarised in this report.

1.1 Agricultural ERAs

Under section 75 of the EP Act, an activity is classed as an agricultural ERA if it is commercial sugar cane growing or cattle grazing carried out on an agricultural property of more than 2000 hectares (ha); and is in one or more of the following catchments:

- Wet Tropics catchment.
- Mackay–Whitsunday catchment.
- Burdekin Dry Tropics catchment.

An environmental risk management plan (ERMP) is required for agricultural ERAs where there is sugar cane growing on more than 70ha in the Wet Tropics catchment or cattle grazing on more than 2000ha in the Burdekin Dry Tropics catchment.

An ERMP may also be required by ministerial direction where it is considered necessary or desirable to improve the quality of water being released from the relevant agricultural property or because the agricultural ERA is causing or may cause unlawful environmental harm.
1.2 Resource activities

Resource activities are: geothermal, greenhouse gas storage, mining and petroleum activities.

All resource activities require an environmental authority under the EP Act to operate, with some higher risk activities also requiring an environmental impact statement (EIS) as part of the approval process.

Both EHP and DNRM (under powers delegated by the EP Act) administer resource activities. DNRM administers small scale mining activities. Prospecting and small scale mining claims do not require environmental authorities.

Figure 2 shows the number of new and existing environmental authorities for 2015–16 by the relevant state administering authority. Existing environmental authorities were those current at 30 June 2015 that are still current at 30 June 2016. The total number of environmental authorities current at 30 June 2016 is 3245 for EHP and 1624 for DNRM.
1.3 Prescribed environmentally relevant activities

Prescribed ERAs are activities—other than resource or agricultural ERAs—that have the potential to cause harm to the environment. They are listed in schedule 2 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008. A list of prescribed ERAs, by state administering authority, is available at [https://data.qld.gov.au/](https://data.qld.gov.au/).

To operate an ERA an environmental authority issued under the EP Act is required. Figure 3 gives the number of new and existing EAs for 2015–16 by the relevant state administering authority. Existing environmental authorities were those current at 30 June 2015 that are still current at 30 June 2016. The total number of environmental authorities current at 30 June 2016 is 3017 for EHP and 615 for DAF.

![Figure 3: Environmental authorities for prescribed ERAs for 2015–16](image)

1.4 Environmental impact statements

The EIS process is set out in Chapter 3 of the EP Act. An EIS may be required by legislation, requested by the administering authority or submitted as a voluntary proposal by the applicant.

The purpose of an EIS is to assess the potential adverse and beneficial environmental, economic and social impacts of the project; and management, monitoring, planning and other measures proposed to minimise any adverse environmental impacts of the project.

The EIS assessments completed in 2015–16 and those still in progress at 30 June 2016 are shown in Figure 4, with further information provided in Tables 2 and 3.
Figure 4: Total number and status of EIS assessments in 2015–16

Table 2: EIS assessments completed in 2015–16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Type of project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baralaba South Coal Project</td>
<td>Open cut coal mine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skardon River Bauxite Mine</td>
<td>Open cut bauxite mine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3: EIS assessments in progress in 2015–16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Type of project</th>
<th>Status as at 30 June 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bauxite Hills Mining and Barging Project</td>
<td>Open cut Bauxite Mine and Barge Facility</td>
<td>Response to submissions in preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broughton Project</td>
<td>Open cut coal mine</td>
<td>EIS in preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gladstone New Fuels Development</td>
<td>Oil shale mine and processing</td>
<td>EIS in preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grosvenor West Project</td>
<td>Underground coal mine</td>
<td>Lapsed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillalong Project</td>
<td>Open cut coal mine</td>
<td>Response to submissions in preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Lenton Coal Project</td>
<td>Open cut coal mine</td>
<td>EIS in preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive Downs North</td>
<td>Open cut and Underground Coal Mine</td>
<td>Submit a draft TOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sconi Project</td>
<td>Nickel, cobalt and scandium laterite mine</td>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa Coal Project</td>
<td>Black coal mine</td>
<td>Lapsed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Surat Gas Project</td>
<td>Coal Seam Gas wells</td>
<td>EIS in preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilton Project</td>
<td>Open cut coal mine</td>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.5 Suitable operator registration

It is a requirement of the EP Act that a person carrying out an ERA be registered as a suitable operator. An environmental authority cannot be approved unless all of the proposed environmental authority holders are registered suitable operators. EHP is responsible for approving suitable operators and adding their details to the online register of suitable operators. Table 4 shows the total number of suitable operators registered as at the 30 June 2016 and the number of various application outcomes for 2015–16.

Table 4: Suitable operator registration 2015–16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>2015–16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current as at 30 June 2016</td>
<td>8703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received</td>
<td>588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancelled</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Contaminated land**

EHP manages two registers for contaminated land, the Environmental Management Register (EMR) and the Contaminated Land Register (CLR):

- The EMR is a land-use planning and management register which provides information on historic and current land use. It records sites where a notifiable activity is (or has been) conducted or sites which are contaminated and are being managed under a site management plan.
- The CLR is a register of sites with proven contamination of the land that is causing, or may cause, serious environmental harm. Land is recorded on the CLR when scientific investigation shows it is contaminated and action needs to be taken to remediate or manage the land.

Site investigation and validation reports may be prepared to assess the presence and extent of contamination on a site. If necessary, a site management plan may be prepared that states the way in which contamination will be managed to prevent environmental harm and to permit appropriate uses of the site. Searches to find out if a particular site is listed on the EMR or the CLR can be conducted online at [https://producest.ehp.qld.gov.au/shopping/home](https://producest.ehp.qld.gov.au/shopping/home). Table 5 shows the number of sites listed on the EMR and CLR registers and describes the type and number of contaminated land management activities for 2015–16.

**Table 5: Contaminated land sites and management activities undertaken for 2015–16**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminated land sites</th>
<th>2015–16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of sites on the EMR as at 30 June 2015</td>
<td>22,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sites on the CLR as at 30 June 2015</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminated land management activities</th>
<th>2015–16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site investigation and validation reports received</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site management plans approved</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suitability statements issued</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil disposal permits issued</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searches of the environmental management and contaminated land registers</td>
<td>74,587</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 Complaints and incidents

The responsibility for managing environmental complaints and incidents is shared between the Queensland Government and local governments. The Queensland Government responds to complaints regarding serious and material environmental harm and the ERAs it administers (including ERAs operated by local governments).

Where a complaint or environmental incident is received by EHP, it will respond directly or if necessary coordinate the response in conjunction with other Queensland Government agencies or local governments. Some incidents of environmental significance (such as oil spills from ships) may be covered by other legislation and be administered by other bodies. EHP provides a support role for these incidents.

3.1 Complaints

Local governments are generally responsible for the investigation of complaints about releases of prescribed water contaminants, nuisance (such as noise, odour and fumes) and ERAs administered by local government. Local governments can respond to the complaint and can take action against someone causing an environmental nuisance.

DNRM does not have delegated responsibility for complaints. DAF responds to complaints about the ERAs it administers (ERA 2 Intensive animal feedlotting, ERA 3 Pig keeping and ERA 4 Poultry farming), dairy farming, livestock holding facilities and intensive animal feeding. EHP responds to complaints about the remaining ERAs that are not devolved to local government and complaints of serious and material environmental harm that are not associated with an ERA.

Responses to complaints can include issuing orders requiring action to be taken, issuing a penalty infringement notice (PIN) or prosecution. Section 4 details the enforcement undertaken by the State in 2015–16.

Figure 5 shows the number of complaints received by the relevant state administering authorities. Figure 6 shows the complaints received by EHP by type and calls made to the pollution hotline.

Figure 5: Complaints received by the relevant administering authorities in 2015–16
### 3.2 Incidents

EHP responds to incidents involving serious and material environmental harm when the contaminant creates more than just a minor nuisance and is likely to result in widespread damage to ecosystems. It also responds to nuisance matters where they involve state government bodies or local governments.

**Figure 6: Complaints received by EHP in 2015–16**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total complaints</td>
<td>4304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidents</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major incidents</td>
<td>876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance complaint</td>
<td>2728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alleged compliance issue</td>
<td>692</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total complaints received 4304**

- No further action - not deemed an incident or risk of pollution
- Next day response required
- Escalated - potentially requires urgent response
- Attended - urgent response required

**After hours pollution hot line calls and responses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total calls</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total complaints</td>
<td>4304</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total calls 299**

*Note: categories are not exclusive. Some incidents may have two categories, (e.g. next day responses may also be escalated).*
3.3 Temporary emissions licence

The holder of an environmental authority may apply for a temporary emissions licence (TEL). This is a permit that temporarily (generally no longer than three months) relaxes or modifies specific conditions of an environmental authority. If approved, this allows the release of a contaminant into the environment in response to an emergency such as a cyclone or an unforeseen event or emergent issues such as flood waters or bushfires.

No TELs were issued by DAF in 2015–16. Figure 7 shows the TELs issued by EHP in 2015–16.

![Figure 7: Temporary emissions licences for 2015-16](image)

4. Enforcement

EHP and DAF can issue a range of statutory notices that require a person or organisation to start or stop an activity in order to reduce the risk of environmental harm or to remedy harm done to the environment.

An environmental evaluation of an activity or event is undertaken to decide the source, cause or extent of environmental harm being caused; or the extent of environmental harm likely to be caused by the activity or event; and the need for a transitional environmental program for the activity or event.

A transitional environmental program is a specific program that, when complied with, achieves compliance with the EP Act for the activity to which it relates.

Environmental protection orders are issued to ensure a person or organisation complies with the EP Act. The order may require the recipient to stop or start a stated activity for a stated period or duration.

Penalty infringement notices can be issued for minor breaches of the EP Act or a condition of an approval, and require the recipient to pay a fine.

Direction notices can be issued to a person or organisation if contravention of a prescribed provision has occurred, or is likely to occur, and requires the recipient to remedy the contravention.

Clean-up and cost recovery notices are often used together. The administering authority may issue a clean-up notice to a person or organisation it believes to be responsible for a contamination incident. The notice will require various actions to be undertaken to restore or rehabilitate the environment. If the recipient does not comply with the notice, the administering authority can conduct the clean-up and use a cost recovery notice to recover the costs from the responsible person.

Local government can use the same statutory notices (other than the clean-up and cost recovery notices) as well as prosecutions, restraint orders and warrants.

Figure 8 summarises compliance actions under the EP Act for 2014–15 by relevant state administering authority.
Figure 8: Statutory compliance and infringement notices issued by the relevant administering authorities for 2015–16

Table 6: Breakdown of the number of infringement notices issued by relevant state administering authority based on the offence type for 2015–16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of PINs</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EHP issued penalty infringement notices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Carry out environmentally relevant activity without an environmental authority (corporation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Carry out environmentally relevant activity without an environmental authority (individual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Carry out or allow the carrying out of activities before plan of operations given (corporation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Contravene a condition of an approval of a transitional environmental program (corporation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>Contravention of a condition of an environmental authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Contravention of a condition of an environmental protection order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Contravention of development condition of a development authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Contravention of a transitional environmental program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Depositing prescribed water contaminants in waters etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Failure to comply with direction notice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Environmental evaluations
- Environmental protection orders
- Transitional environmental programs
- Penalty infringement notices
- Direction notices
- Emergency directions
- Clean up notice
- Abatement notice
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of PINs</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Holder contravenes an environmental authority even if another person acting under the authority commits an offence (corporation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Unlawfully cause an environmental nuisance (corporation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DAF issued penalty infringement notices**

| 0             | Penalty infringement notices                                                |
| 0             | Total                                                                       |

### 4.1 Prosecutions

Prosecutions may be progressed in the courts where an environmental offence is believed to have been committed and EHP considers that such action is warranted and is consistent with its enforcement guidelines.

A brief summary of prosecutions under the EP Act by state administering authority is provided in Table 7.

**Table 7: Prosecutions by relevant state administering authority for 2015–16**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prosecutions commenced</th>
<th>Prosecution completed</th>
<th>Penalties imposed (totals)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EHP</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Total sum of fines ordered: $1,146,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total sum of costs ordered: $203,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAF</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4.2 Planning and environment court orders

Where a continuing or potential environmental threat exists, the court may make a restraint order. Restraint orders may be issued for a threatened or anticipated offence.

Figure 9 shows the number of restraint orders made in 2015–16, and the state administering authority that applied for them.
4.3 Warrants

Entry of premises is a sensitive issue that requires a balance between people's rights to privacy and the needs of an investigation. Authorised persons have powers of entry in a range of circumstances. When entry of premises is necessary, but not possible through the authorised person's powers, an authorised person may obtain a warrant from a magistrate to gain entry. A warrant allows an authorised person, with necessary and reasonable help and force, to enter a place and exercise the authorised person's powers.

In 2015–16, four warrants were executed under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and two warrants were executed under the Environment Protect Act 1994 by relevant state administering authority.
Appendix 5—Queensland Heritage Council

Background

The object of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 (the Act) is to provide for the conservation of the State’s cultural heritage for the benefit of the community and future generations. The Act also establishes the Queensland Heritage Council (QHC), which is comprised of 12 members.

The Queensland Heritage Council has as its principal functions:

- provision of strategic advice to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection about matters relating to Queensland’s cultural heritage.
- provision of information to the community to encourage interest in and understanding of Queensland’s cultural heritage.
- advice to government entities and community organisations about conserving Queensland’s cultural heritage.
- encouragement of the appropriate management of places of cultural heritage significance.
- other functions delegated to the Heritage Council by the Minister.

In performing its functions, the Queensland Heritage Council must act independently, impartially and in the public interest.

EHP supports and funds the operations of the Heritage Council. The Department’s Heritage Branch provides professional, administrative and technical assistance for meetings, communications, projects, applications related to the Queensland Heritage Register and applications for development proposed by the Queensland Government on State-registered places.

Strategic direction

A key strategic activity involving the Heritage Council has been the passing of three pieces of legislation on 11 May 2016 set to transform the State’s planning and development assessment system. The Planning Act 2016 and Planning and Environment Court Act 2016 will replace the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 in 2017, while the Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016 aligns the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 with the new system.

As a result of the Queensland Heritage Council voicing its concern, the Planning Act will now require that the Queensland Heritage Council’s view is sought before approvals are given to development proposals that are likely to destroy or substantially reduce the cultural heritage significance of a place on the Queensland Heritage Register. This is a positive outcome in ensuring the significance of Queensland’s most important heritage places is taken properly into account when development occurs.

The Queensland Heritage Strategy: protecting, investing in and connecting Queensland’s story sets out the strategic framework for managing the State’s heritage. The strategy sets out the directions, supported by priority actions to help achieve a sustainable future for the State’s heritage:

- leadership: strengthen and streamline heritage protection.
- investing in Queensland’s heritage: a collaborative effort.
- our State – our heritage: connecting Queenslanders with their heritage.

In July 2015 the Heritage Council held a Strategic Planning Workshop, featuring guest speakers and facilitated by Professor Richard Mackay AM, to further explore the priority actions of the Heritage Strategy. Outcomes of this workshop include a commitment to collaborate with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) through heritage training, forums and workshops, and engage with heritage owners to highlight world-class adaptive reuse projects in Queensland.

The Heritage Council remains committed to attracting a greater level of private and philanthropic investment in heritage conservation and is exploring opportunities.

The Queensland Heritage Council supports the Government’s commitment to conserving Queensland’s heritage, reflected in the retention of the Heritage function in the portfolio’s nomenclature. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Honourable Dr Steven Miles, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, in conserving Queensland’s historic places.
Highlights
During 2015–16 the Queensland Heritage Council:

- made decisions on 100 per cent of applications to the Queensland Heritage Register within the statutory timeframes.
- entered 17 State heritage places in the Heritage Register and decided not to enter 6 places nominated for entry in the register.
- part-removed 3 State heritage places.
- consented, with the support of place owners, to changes in 3 existing State heritage place entries.
- provided 6 recommendations to the responsible Ministers in respect of the development of heritage places proposed by the Queensland Government.
- hosted the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand (HCOANZ) meeting and forum in April 2016.
- published Time & Place, the official publication of the Queensland Heritage Council.
- provided representatives to the Queen's Wharf Project Control Group, and to the Anzac Square restoration and enhancement project.
- supported 2015 Open House events in Brisbane, Toowoomba and Maryborough, and new regional 2015 participants Cairns Open House and Gold Coast Open House.
- participated on the judging panel and presented at the 2015 National Trust Queensland Heritage Awards, including the John Herbert Memorial Award to the Department of Education and Training for their Queensland Schools Heritage Strategy and the gold award for conservation works during Stage 2 of the ANZAC Square restoration.
- sponsored and participated on the judging panel for the Premier's Sustainability awards, with the extensive restoration of Hanworth House, East Brisbane winning the Sustainable Heritage Award.

The Queensland Heritage Register
The Queensland Heritage Register is the primary mechanism in the Act for the protection of Queensland's heritage. A key role of the Heritage Council is to decide applications in relation to the Queensland Heritage Register. Each application is carefully considered by the Heritage Council to ensure the Heritage Register is a representative, State-wide record of Queensland's heritage. Close engagement with owners and custodians of heritage places, local government and local communities is a particular priority in this endeavour.

Applications from the community and sometimes record numbers of community submissions for various applications demonstrate the sustained interest in protecting Queensland's heritage and the diverse range of historic places valued by the community across the State. The number of places in the Queensland Heritage Register at 30 June 2016 totalled 1709.

Notable entries this year include:

- the Charters Towers Ambulance Building (1903) – the earliest surviving example of its kind in Queensland built during the peak period of gold mining in Charters Towers;
- West's Furniture Showroom (1953) – a modernist exemplar designed by influential architect, Dr Karl Langer. Award-winning reconstruction and conservation works in 2008 revealed and reinstated the original design intent of the building; and
- the Atherton Performing Arts Theatre (WWII Igloo) (1943), a rare surviving building important in demonstrating the role of the Atherton Tablelands as the principal Australian base for all three Australian Imperial Force (AIF) infantry divisions during the Pacific Campaign of World War II (WWII).

Across Queensland, a number of State Schools have been entered in the register, including Marburg (1879), Murgon (1880), and Mount Morgan State High School (1908). These schools are important in demonstrating the evolution in Queensland of State education and its associated architecture. The Queensland Heritage Council congratulates the Department of Education and Training (DET) on its ongoing proactive approach in identifying and protecting its heritage assets through the Queensland Schools Heritage Strategy.

Meetings

The Heritage Council took the opportunity to hold the final meeting of 2015 at Newstead House. The diverse range of events and initiatives that occur at Newstead House showcase how a heritage place can thrive and be creatively adapted for sympathetic uses.

Heritage Council members are remunerated in accordance with the Remuneration of Part-Time Chairs and Members of Government Boards, Committees and Statutory Authorities as approved by the Governor in Council.
Membership

The Queensland Heritage Council comprises 12 members, including a Chair and Deputy Chair, appointed by the Governor in Council. Five members must be appointed to represent specific organisations, while the remaining seven members are appointed for their knowledge, expertise and interest in heritage conservation. Terms of appointment are up to three years and total continuous service by any individual on the Heritage Council must not exceed six years.

At 30 June 2016 membership of the Heritage Council comprised:

- Professor Peter Coaldrake AO, Chair
- Debbie Best, Deputy Chair
- Dr Val Dennis (National Trust of Australia Queensland representative)
- Carol Cashman (Local Government Association of Queensland representative)
- Bill Marklew (Queensland Council of Unions representative)
- Stuart Lummis (property owners and managers representative)
- Anthony Ross (rural industries representative)
- Ivan McDonald
- Marcus Ford
- Barry Merrick
- Dr Judith McKay.

This year we welcomed two new members, Deputy Chair Debbie Best and National Trust of Australia representative Dr Val Dennis. We also warmly acknowledge the contributions of former members John Cotter (Deputy Chair), Leanne O’Brien and Glenda Sheaffe (National Trust), who completed their service on 31 December 2015.

It has been a great privilege and a most rewarding experience to chair the Queensland Heritage Council over the last six years. We appreciate the value which the Queensland Government attaches to heritage protection and, in that context, also acknowledge the significant measure of bipartisan support which has been accorded the role and work of the Heritage Council since its establishment in 1992. Finally, I would like to thank my colleague Councillors, past and present, for the passion and expertise they have brought to the table.

Professor Peter Coaldrake AO
Chair, Queensland Heritage Council
Appendix 6—Board of Trustees of Newstead House

The Board of Trustees of Newstead House is constituted under the *Newstead House Trust Act 1939* (the Act). The Board is established to govern, manage and control Newstead House, Brisbane. Responsibility for the Act falls within the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection’s portfolio. The 2015–16 Newstead House Board annual report and financial statement will be submitted separately to this report.
Appendix 7—Additional published information

In addition to the information contained in this annual report, the department has also published a range of administrative functions which can be found on the Queensland Government’s Open Data portal at https://data.qld.gov.au

Topics included in this additional report are:
- consultancies
- overseas travel
- Queensland Language Services Policy.
Appendix 8—External scrutiny

This section provides information about significant external audits and reviewed undertaken during the 2015–16.

Auditor-General of Queensland Report 15: Environmental Regulation of the resources and waste industries

The Queensland Audit Office (QAO) Report to Parliament 15: 2013–14 Environmental regulation of the resources and waste industries evaluated whether the supervision, monitoring and enforcement of environmental conditions for resource and waste management activities was effective and protected the state from liability for rehabilitation and the environment from unnecessary harm.

As at 30 June 2016, all recommendations had been implemented or were on track for implementation.

Recommendation 7 from the report recommended that EHP assume responsibility for administering all financial assurances, including those currently collected and held by the DNRM. Given the complexity of this task and the amount of financial assurance involved, the departments continue to work to resolve a number of issues and complete a handover as soon as practical.

Auditor-General of Queensland Report 1: Internal Control Systems

The QAO Report 1: 2015–16 Results of audit: Internal control systems 2014–15 evaluated systems of financial control with specific emphasis on the effectiveness of internal financial management reporting, as well as disaster recovery planning in relation to computer systems after disruptive events such as floods and power outages. QAO recommended that all departments should:

1. update and approve disaster recovery plans based on business impact, providing oversight and co-ordination for all business areas
2. define disaster recovery targets for all business units
3. increase the frequency of disaster recovery testing to twice yearly
4. obtain and monitor periodic reports on disaster recovery testing (including those from service providers where applicable)
5. use emerging technology to expand their options in providing cost-effective backup and disaster recovery testing
6. develop a plan to improve the maturity of the disaster recovery program, and manage to that plan.

The business continuity planning certification process for 2015 had been completed and the department is taking action to implement the remaining recommendations.

Crime and Corruption Commission: Public sector corrupt conduct compliance

The Crime and Corruption Commission carried out an audit of the appropriateness of systems and procedures adopted by the department for assessing and categorising corrupt conduct matters. The results of this audit were published in a Crime and Corruption Commission report entitled Public sector corrupt conduct compliance. The associated recommendations were implemented through the improvement and enhancement of the department’s policies and procedures.

Performance Audit of Strategic Procurement—Queensland Audit Office

In 2015–16, the Queensland Audit Office (QAO) conducted an audit to determine whether state government departments were achieving and enabling value for money procurement outcomes through effective strategic procurement. All state government departments were included in the scope of this audit.

The End of Conduct Brief was provided to departments for comment. The brief, which will form the basis of the QAO’s final report to Parliament, summaries the material facts and findings of the audit and includes the finalised audit objectives and lines of inquiry.

Representatives from the departments of National Parks, Sport and Racing; Environment and Heritage Protection; Energy and Water Supply; and Natural Resources and Mines will provide a consolidated response to QAO in the latter half of 2016.

QAO’s final report is scheduled to be tabled in Parliament in October 2016.
## Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABRI</td>
<td>Australian Battery Recycling Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC</td>
<td>Audit and Risk Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS/NZS</td>
<td>Australian Standard/New Zealand Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AO</td>
<td>Officer of the Order of Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWHAC</td>
<td>Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCP</td>
<td>Business and Corporate Partnership Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMP</td>
<td>best management practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPS</td>
<td>Business and Professional Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCA</td>
<td>Catchment Conservation Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCC</td>
<td>Community Consultative Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>chief executive officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO</td>
<td>Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAF</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET</td>
<td>Department of Education and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DILGP</td>
<td>Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNRM</td>
<td>Department of Natural Resources and Mines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIS</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHP</td>
<td>Department of Environment and Heritage Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFR</td>
<td>Emissions Reduction Fund (Commonwealth)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMT</td>
<td>Executive Management Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERA</td>
<td>environmentally relevant activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTE</td>
<td>Full-time equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCG</td>
<td>Green Collar Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GST</td>
<td>Goods and Services Tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communication Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP Act</td>
<td><em>Information Privacy Act 2009</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUCN</td>
<td>International Union for the Conservation of Nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGAQ</td>
<td>Local Government Association of Queensland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Explanation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIDORS</td>
<td>Litter and Illegal Dumping Online Reporting System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LHIS</td>
<td>Living Heritage Information System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTIR</td>
<td>Lost Time Injury and Illness Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIM</td>
<td>Mount Isa Mines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMOL</td>
<td>MyMinesOnline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPSR</td>
<td>Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRM</td>
<td>natural resource management groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS</td>
<td>National Reserve System program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSI Act</td>
<td><em>North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Act 2016</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGBR</td>
<td>Office of the Great Barrier Reef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIN</td>
<td>Penalty infringement notices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC</td>
<td>Public Service Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QAO</td>
<td>Queensland Audit Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q-CAS</td>
<td>Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QHC</td>
<td>Queensland Heritage Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QHR</td>
<td>Queensland Heritage Register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPWS</td>
<td>Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QYAC</td>
<td>Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSPCA</td>
<td>Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTI Act</td>
<td><em>Right to Information Act 2009</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARA</td>
<td>State Assessment and Referral Agency, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDS</td>
<td>Service Delivery Statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SES</td>
<td>Senior Executive Service officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEQ</td>
<td>South East Queensland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOIC</td>
<td>Strategic Offset Investment Corridor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRA</td>
<td>Sugar Research Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEL</td>
<td>Temporary emissions licence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOR</td>
<td>Terms of reference</td>
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</table>
## Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>best management practice</td>
<td>Methods or techniques found to be the most effective and practical means in achieving an objective while making optimum use of the department’s resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biodiversity</td>
<td>Life in all its forms—different plants, animals and micro-organisms; the genes they contain and the ecosystems they form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>catchment</td>
<td>An area of land on which runoff from a rainfall is collected and transferred to a waterway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contaminated land register</td>
<td>A register of sites with proven contamination of the land that is causing, or may cause, serious environmental harm. Land is recorded on the register when scientific investigation shows it is contaminated and action needs to be taken to remediate or manage the land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ecosystem</td>
<td>A community of organisms interacting with one another and their environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>environmental authority</td>
<td>Authorisation provided by the department which allows an environmentally relevant activity to be performed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>environmental management register</td>
<td>A land-use planning and management register which provides information on historic and current land use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heritage</td>
<td>Places of cultural and natural significance that we want to keep, respect and pass on to future generations. Heritage places include buildings, structures, cemeteries, archaeological sites, gardens, urban precincts and natural and landscape features.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Heritage Information System</td>
<td>A web-based enterprise database that makes important heritage information, including a collection of digital images, available through a single portal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>macropod</td>
<td>Refers to the three macropod species that can be commercially harvested in Queensland: red kangaroo Macropus rufus; grey kangaroo Macropus giganteus; wallaroo Macropus robustus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MyMinesOnline</td>
<td>An online system developed by the DNRM that allows clients to apply and manage resource authorities online. Clients can monitor the progress of applications or dealings and view details of existing authorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nature refuge</td>
<td>An area of land voluntarily dedicated and protected for conservation purposes while allowing compatible and sustainable land uses to continue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Great Barrier Reef</td>
<td>The Office of the Great Barrier Reef is responsible for implementing and coordinating reef management strategies and programs including the Queensland Government’s actions under the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan), reef election commitments and the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order of Australia</td>
<td>In the Australian Honours system, appointments to the Order of Australia confer recognition for outstanding achievement and service. The Officer of the Order (AO) is awarded for distinguished service of a high degree to Australia or humanity at large.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland Heritage Register</td>
<td>A list of places of cultural heritage significance to Queensland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory strategy</td>
<td>Outlines the long-term vision for the department’s regulatory, compliance and enforcement activities. It describes the department’s approach across the four stages of regulation—setting standards, applying standards, monitoring performance and responding to performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>senior executive service</td>
<td>An employee on a fixed term contract for up to five years between the employee and the Director-General. Their employment conditions are defined by a Directive of the Public Service Commission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholders</td>
<td>Individuals, groups or organisations with specific interest in and/or influence on the work of the department.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sustainable development</td>
<td>Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>traditional owners</td>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a particular connection and relationship to land or water and who have cultural and traditional obligations and custodial responsibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wetlands</td>
<td>Areas of permanent or periodic/intermittent inundation, whether natural or artificial, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Heritage Area</td>
<td>World Heritage Areas are examples of the world’s most outstanding natural or cultural heritage that it is agreed should be protected for all humanity. They are identified and listed under an international treaty administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Compliance checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of requirement</th>
<th>Basis for requirement</th>
<th>Annual report reference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Letter of compliance</strong></td>
<td>A letter of compliance from the accountable officer or statutory body to the relevant Minister/s</td>
<td>ARRs – section 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Table of contents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Glossary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Public availability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Interpreter service statement</td>
<td>Queensland Government Language Services Policy</td>
<td>ARRs – section 10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Copyright notice</td>
<td>Copyright Act 1968</td>
<td>ARRs – section 10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Information Licensing</td>
<td>QGEA – Information Licensing</td>
<td>ARRs – section 10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General information</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Introductory Information</td>
<td>ARRs – section 11.1</td>
<td>Pages 2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Agency role and main functions</td>
<td>ARRs – section 11.2</td>
<td>Pages 4, 58, 59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Operating environment</td>
<td>ARRs – section 11.3</td>
<td>Pages 4-6, 12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-financial performance</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Government’s objectives for the community</td>
<td>ARRs – section 12.1</td>
<td>Page 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other whole-of-government plans / specific initiatives</td>
<td>ARRs – section 12.2</td>
<td>Pages 5, 12, 19-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Agency objectives and performance indicators</td>
<td>ARRs – section 12.3</td>
<td>Pages 19-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Agency service areas and service standards</td>
<td>ARRs – section 12.4</td>
<td>Pages 5, 19-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial performance</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Summary of financial performance</td>
<td>ARRs – section 13.1</td>
<td>Pages 14-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Governance – management and structure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Organisational structure</td>
<td>ARRs – section 14.1</td>
<td>Page 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Executive management</td>
<td>ARRs – section 14.2</td>
<td>Pages 7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Government bodies (statutory bodies and other entities)</td>
<td>ARRs – section 14.3</td>
<td>Pages 60-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Public Sector Ethics Act 1994</td>
<td>Public Sector Ethics Act 1994</td>
<td>Pages 46, 47, 55-56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Queensland public service values</td>
<td>ARRs – section 14.5</td>
<td>Page 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Governance – risk management and accountability</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Risk management</td>
<td>ARRs – section 15.1</td>
<td>Pages 31, 49-51, 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Audit committee</td>
<td>ARRs – section 15.2</td>
<td>Pages 50-51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Page 102
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of requirement</th>
<th>Basis for requirement</th>
<th>Annual report reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Internal audit</td>
<td>ARRs – section 15.3</td>
<td>Page 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• External scrutiny</td>
<td>ARRs – section 15.4</td>
<td>Page 97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Information systems and recordkeeping</td>
<td>ARRs – section 15.5</td>
<td>Page 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance – human resources</td>
<td>• Workforce planning and performance</td>
<td>Pages 41-48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Early retirement, redundancy and retrenchment</td>
<td>Page 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Data</td>
<td>• Consultancies</td>
<td>Page 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Overseas travel</td>
<td>Page 96 Datasets available on Open Data website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Queensland Language Services Policy</td>
<td>Page 96 Datasets available on Open Data website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial statements</td>
<td>• Certification of financial statements</td>
<td>Provided electronically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Independent Auditor’s Report</td>
<td>Provided electronically</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FAA  Financial Accountability Act 2009  
FPMS  Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009  
ARRs  Annual report requirements for Queensland Government agencies
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Financial statements

- EHP Financial Statements 2015–16 is provided electronically.
- The Board of Trustees of Newstead House Financial Statements 2015–16 to be submitted separately.