

Message from the Director-General

It is with pleasure that I present the first full-year Annual Report for the Department of Environment and Science (DES).

Throughout 2018–19, the department worked to enrich Queenslanders' lives now and into the future by leading efforts to achieve a better Queensland through healthy natural environments, science and innovation, and vibrant cultures and the arts.

The past year has been one of significant change and significant achievements for the department.

On 1 February 2019, the department's new organisational arrangements were put in place, better positioning DES to deliver to the community, its stakeholders and the government.

During the year, the department also achieved accreditation as a White Ribbon Workplace, recognition of our commitment to preventing domestic and family violence by promoting a respectful, safe and inclusive workplace culture.

While our work program is complex and diverse, at the heart of everything we do is an unwavering commitment to make a difference with and for the people of Queensland.

By developing and strengthening partnerships, particularly with First Nations peoples; using technology to transform the way we do business; and being responsive to the needs of the community we are catalysts for change.

In 2018–19, with our partners, we progressed a number of major initiatives including:

- Advance Queensland Research Infrastructure Co-investment Fund
- ban on use of PFAS in firefighting foam
- Climate Week QLD
- container refund scheme
- Odour Abatement Taskforce in Ipswich
- Regional Arts Services Network
- single-use lightweight plastic bag ban
- special wildlife reserves
- Queensland Citizen Science Strategy
- introduction of the waste levy and supporting programs.

Our staff's genuine commitment to service the people of Queensland included:

- conservation and management of 13 million hectares of protected areas and forests, including five world heritage areas, plus the Great Barrier Reef and other marine parks
- tirelessly working to help save lives, protect property and prevent or respond to environmental harm during natural disasters
- responding to environmental incidents and ensuring environmental compliance.

During 2018–19 we also focussed on developing and enhancing partnerships to help manage our protected areas including:

- dingo and land management on K'gari (Fraser Island) with the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation
- joint management of Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land with 16 Aboriginal landholding entities
- joint management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- joint management of Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) with the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation.

As we look toward an equally significant program of work in the coming year, I would like to express my thanks to all our employees across the State. Their ongoing commitment and dedication in delivering programs and services contributes to a better future for Queenslanders.



Jamie Merrick
Director-General