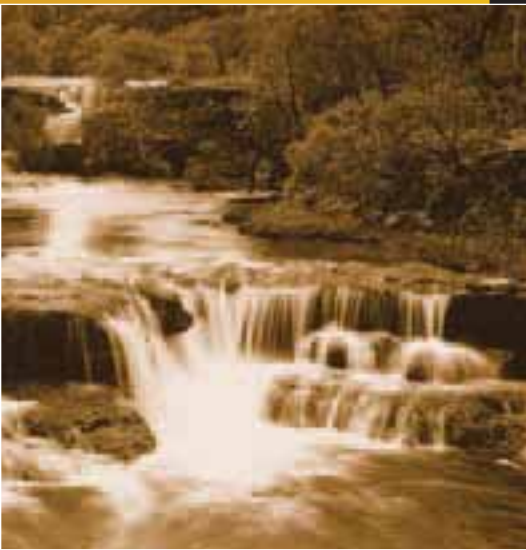


# Annual Report 2010–11



**Department of  
Environment and Resource Management**

## Purpose of the report

This annual report details the financial and non-financial performance of the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011. It highlights the work, achievements, activities and strategic initiatives of the department and satisfies the requirements of *Queensland's Financial Accountability Act 2009*.

## Your feedback

The annual report is an important document representing communication and accountability. The department values comments and welcomes feedback from readers. To provide feedback, please complete the electronic survey available at <[www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)>.

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September 2011  
#29837

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25 September 2011

The Honourable Stephen Robertson MP  
Minister for Energy and Water Utilities  
Level 17, 61 Mary Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

The Honourable Rachel Nolan MP  
Minister for Finance, Natural Resources  
and the Arts  
Level 5 Executive Building  
400 George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

The Honourable Vicky Darling MP  
Minister for Environment  
Level 13 400 George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Ministers

I am please to present the Annual Report for the Department of Environment and Resource Management for the period ending 30 June 2011.

I certify that this Annual Report complies with:

- the prescribed requirements of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* and the Financial and Performance Management Standard, and
- the detailed requirements set out in the annual Reporting Guidelines for Queensland Government Agencies.

A checklist outlining the annual reporting requirements can be assessed at <[www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)>.

Yours sincerely

Terry Wall  
Acting Director-General  
Department of Environment and Resource Management

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# Message from the Acting Director-General



The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) plays a significant role in protecting the environment and ensuring the state's long-term sustainability for future generations.

The work we do—from safeguarding the environment, managing water supply security, protecting valuable cropping land, species and habitat conservation to mitigating the outcomes of climate change—affects the lives of every Queenslanders.

But never have the complexity and challenges associated with managing the state's natural environment been more evident than during this past summer, when Queensland faced a series of unprecedented natural disasters.

The department's disaster response covered the breadth of the organisation's operations including water quality and stream flow monitoring, assessment and monitoring of marine impacts, waste management, damage assessments, infrastructure repair, wildlife recovery, dam safety, heritage assessment and providing vital mapping and spatial information services.

DERM was also tasked by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to lead the state's inquest into environmental recovery. In this role the department is responsible for coordinating key activities such as the recovery of water and sewerage infrastructure; monitoring of flood plumes in the Great Barrier Reef catchments and the Moreton Bay and Great Sandy Bay Marine Parks; working with the waste industry on the clean up and disposal of waste; and re-opening national parks that suffered damage to their infrastructure and visitor facilities.

In addition to the disaster recovery, DERM continued to implement a far-reaching and ambitious policy agenda across a range of program initiatives.

The department implemented a robust regulatory, legislative and compliance framework to protect and manage environmental and community impacts, from the expanding coal seam gas and liquefied natural gas industries.

As part of this framework DERM, in partnership with the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, established the LNG Enforcement Unit to provide a one-stop shop for environmental monitoring, information, compliance and resolution of landholders' issues relating to the coal seam gas industry.

Protecting the state's strategic cropping land has been another key priority for the department. The development of a policy framework—and legislation to be introduced later this year—will ensure valuable strategic cropping land is protected as an important resource for growing food and fibre and supporting economic growth for regional communities.

In April 2011 the department developed new legislation to enable delivery of the Government's commitment to ensure North Stradbroke Island is protected for generations to come with the eventual cessation of sand mining and the creation of the Naree Budjong Djara National Park. In 2010–11 one-fifth of the island, or more than 5000 hectares, was gazetted as national park. By 2021 the national park will increase to 75 per cent of the island and by 2026, 80 per cent will be protected for the future. The park is being jointly managed by the Quandamooka people, the traditional owners of the island, and the department's Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

To assist in the management of Queensland's growing national park estate, including the new national park on North Stradbroke Island, the department has employed additional park rangers. This strong workforce also played a vital role in re-opening of more than 130 national parks which were damaged by floods and cyclones this year.

The implementation of the Government's waste strategy will ensure a new direction for waste and resource management in Queensland. The strategy aims to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and create new opportunities for a strong recycling industry. A new Industry Waste Levy will apply from 1 December 2011 to industrial, commercial, construction, demolition and hazardous waste taken to landfill. Funding from the levy will be returned to projects dedicated to improving the environment and encouraging greater recycling.

While these achievements have been significant, there is still a great deal more to be done and the department is well placed to continue its vital work in conserving the state's biodiversity, improving water supply security programs, expanding the protected area estate and helping Queenslanders save energy and reduce their carbon footprint.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge former Director-General John Bradley who left DERM at the end of 2010–11 to take up the role of Director-General with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

John achieved many things during his tenure, including the establishment of DERM in 2009. His drive, leadership and organisational management skills saw him deliver key results for Queensland including the introduction of new laws to protect the Great Barrier Reef, the enactment of the *Land Valuation Act 2010*, regulation of the coal seam gas industry and integration and coordination of the department's frontline services.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the great support of the Executive Management Group and all departmental staff for their continued dedication to ensuring a more sustainable and economically prosperous future for Queensland.

Terry Wall  
Acting Director-General