

What is *State of the Environment Queensland 1999*?

The report is an overall assessment of the state of our natural and cultural environments. This is a four yearly reporting requirement of our environmental legislation.

The report describes the current state of Queensland's environment and the pressures facing our environment, and outlines various responses being made by government, industry and the community to address the pressures and improve the environment's condition.

Why is it significant?

It's the first comprehensive assessment of the condition of our environment completed on a statewide scale.

- It aims to provide information that will contribute to improved environmental management in Queensland, including sustainable patterns of development and resource use.
- It identifies the most significant environmental issues currently facing our community.
- Knowing the state of our environment is a valuable tool/resource for decision makers in government; business and industry; interest groups; environmental professionals; the community; and students.
- It's the first in a series which will provide trend information on environmental conditions in Queensland.
- State of the environment reporting is an internationally accepted method of assessing the pressures affecting the environment which was initiated by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in the mid '70s when the first state of the world environment report was published.

How did the authors structure their research?

The report examines environmental indicators to explain environmental conditions and pressures.

- Indicators can be physical, chemical, biological or socio-economic measurements that provide a numerical indication of some aspect of an environmental issue.
- The report evaluates the state of the environment in eight chapters using the 'pressure-state-response' model of environment reporting. Thus each chapter examines:
 - the pressures acting on the environment;
 - the state of the environment; and
 - the responses developed to reduce the pressures and improve the condition of the environment.