

What is government doing about these environment issues?

The State Government is seeking to encourage wider community interest in valuing our environment by promoting the benefits of regular reports on its condition.

- The report highlights successful measures taken by the community including government, at state, local and federal levels, to counter environmental degradation. Key examples in this respect include waste recycling, reduction of air pollution from motor vehicles, reduction of urban water consumption and landcare awareness.
- The report states that environmental issues are steadily being integrated into decisions concerning Queensland's economic growth. The recent formation of Queensland's own Environmental Protection Agency and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service with new functions and greater focus on community and industry partnerships reinforces these findings.
- Business, industry and the community are accepting and promoting the need for development to be responsible, cleaner and sustainable.

Some community and government initiatives aimed at improving environmental management and sustainable resource use are mentioned below.

Atmosphere

The report sites tighter controls on emissions from vehicles and industrial, urban and agricultural sources, combined with continuing monitoring and reporting as contributing to better air quality for Queenslanders. Regional transport planning and improvements to public transport aim to reduce dependence on private vehicles. The Queensland Conservation Council recently launched a public transport campaign with support from the Natural Heritage Trust under the banner of SmogBusters.

Some initiatives aimed at improving air quality include:

- Integrated Regional Transport Plan
- AirCare
- Smoky Vehicle Hotline
- On-Road Vehicle Emissions Random Testing (OVERT)
- TravelSmart
- Greenhouse Taskforce
- Queensland Centre for Climate Applications
- South-east Queensland Regional Air Quality Strategy (SEQRAQS)



Land

Land management initiatives include tree clearing controls, environmental management requirements for mining, wide adoption of soil conservation measures, better urban and regional planning, identification and repair of contaminated land and strategically targeted noxious species control. Community-based land management has also become a key mechanism for solving the problems identified in the report.

Some initiatives designed to improve land management include:

- Land for Wildlife
- Queensland Land Trust
- Landcare
- Bushcare
- NatureSearch
- Community Nature Conservation, e.g. field and extension services
- Statewide Landcover and Tree Study (SLATS)

Coastal zone/inland waters

Efforts to safeguard the quantity and quality of Queensland's inland waters include catchment-based planning and management of water use, consideration of environmental flow requirements, improved river management practices, bore capping programs and development of wetland protection strategies.

Regional planning, currently underway in several coastal areas, is a means of balancing economic development and environmental protection. Important coastal zone habitats are the subject of international agreements such as the Ramsar Convention and the World Heritage List.

Special initiatives protecting our coasts and inland waters include:

- Integrated Catchment Management Strategy
- State Coastal Management Strategy/regional coastal management plans
- Queensland Wetlands Strategy
- Water Watch
- DPI's Web Service and the Long Paddock Web Site — electronic information for producers
- Vegetation Management Advisory Committee
- WaterWise

Energy resources

Queensland has cut greenhouse gas emissions by more than 25 000 tonnes in the past 12 months.

Technological development, pricing reform, competitive markets and more accurate demand forecasting are helping improve energy efficiency. The Queensland Office of Sustainable Energy is promoting energy efficiency and renewable resources.

Some of the other initiatives supporting sustainable energy use include:

- Office of Sustainable Energy
- Queensland Greenhouse Response Strategy
- Cleaner Production Partnerships Program
- Solar Hot Water Rebate Scheme
- Remote Area Power System rebate scheme
- Green Energy accreditation scheme
- Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund
- Public Works sustainable energy trials



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

Biodiversity

Mechanisms in place to protect and manage biodiversity include legislation, national parks and conservation reserves, off-park strategies, plant and animal recovery programs and community conservation projects. Bioregional planning, yet to be fully implemented in Queensland and awaiting a statewide review of bioregional issues, is a means of balancing conservation priorities with socio-economic development.

Programs aimed at protecting Queensland's unique biodiversity include:

- NatureSearch
- Threatened species recovery programs
- Voluntary Nature Refuge Agreements
- Land for Wildlife
- Wildnet
- National Parks and protected area reserves
- South-east Queensland Regional Forestry Agreement
- Statewide Landcover and Tree Study (SLATS)

Human settlements

Major urban and integrated transport planning initiatives are aimed at managing the impacts of population growth. Industry, governments and the community are active in waste reduction through recycling and cleaner production.

- Initiatives aimed at improving quality of life are embedded in programs across all spheres of government.

Cultural heritage

Commonwealth and State legislation protects Queensland's cultural heritage places and objects. Heritage registers are important tools for promoting and protecting heritage places. Community involvement is increasing.

Special cultural heritage initiatives include:

- Queensland Heritage Trails Network
- Centenary of Federation Queensland
- Cape York Peninsula 2010 Action Plan

