



ABOUT THE SEQ REGION

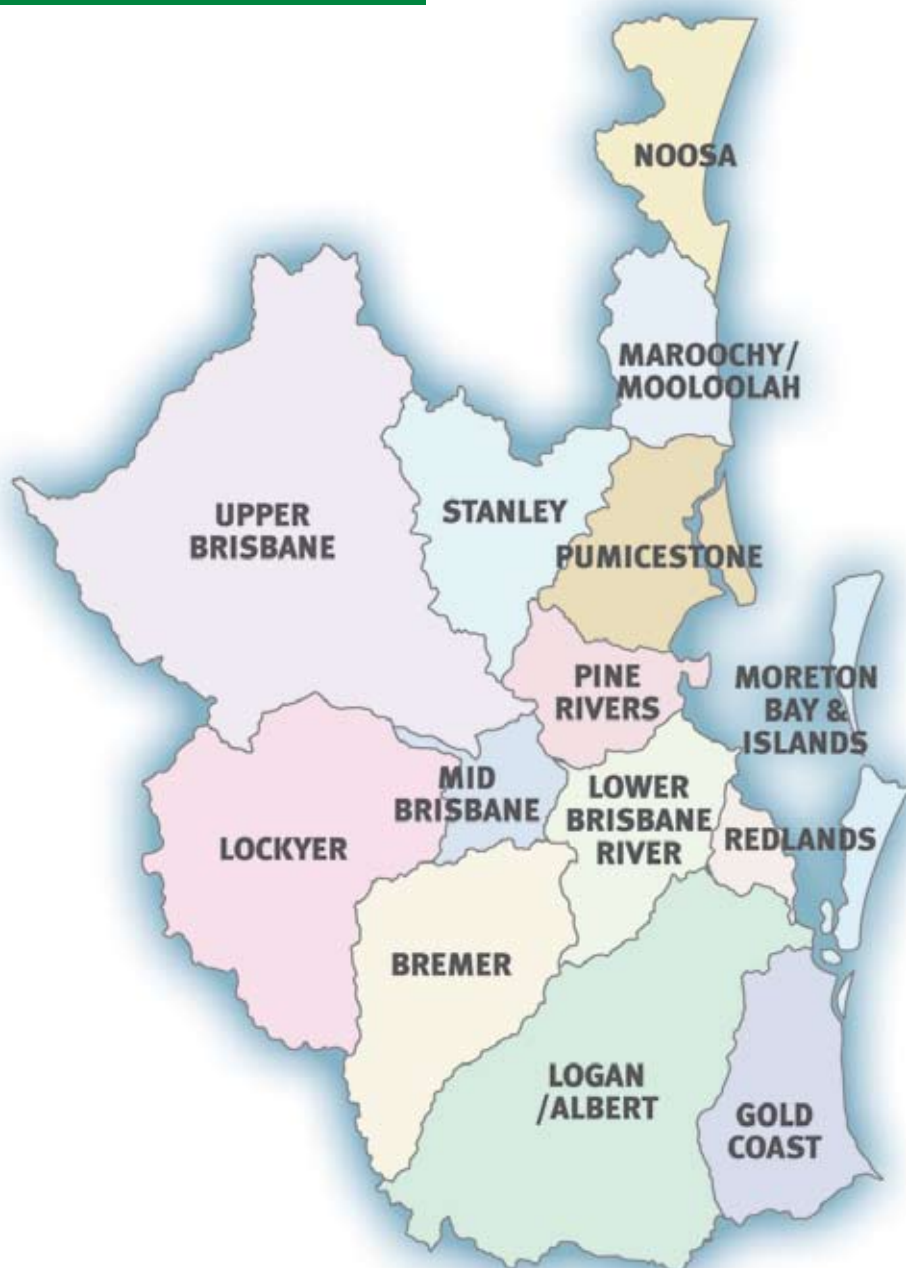
The SEQ region covers an area of approximately 23,000 km² and incorporates the Noosa, Maroochy/Mooloolah, Pumicestone, Pine Rivers, Moreton Bay and Islands, Redlands, Logan/Albert, Gold Coast, Bremer, Lockyer, Stanley, and the Upper, Mid and Lower Brisbane River catchment areas.

The region is the fastest growing metropolitan area in Australia and supports a population of around 2.6 million people (65 percent of Queensland's population). This is expected to grow to 3.5 million people by 2021.

The region's population is concentrated along the coast between Noosa and Coolangatta with around 90 per cent residing in the metropolitan areas of Brisbane and the Gold and Sunshine Coasts.

SEQ has a diverse economic base and generates 62 percent of Queensland's Gross State Product, 70 percent of Queensland's employment and manufacturing turnover, and 9 percent of the Gross National Product.

The Region





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Local Government Areas within the SEQ region:

- Brisbane City
- Gold Coast City
- Ipswich City
- Logan City
- Gympie Regional Council
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Moreton Bay Regional Council
- Redland City Council
- Scenic Rim Regional Council
- Somerset Regional Council
- South Burnett Regional Council
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- Toowoomba Regional Council

SEQ's Natural Assets

A rich diversity of natural resources both supports and competes with a wide range of land uses including agricultural, manufacturing, commercial and tourism enterprises. Careful planning and management is critical to ensure future generations will continue to benefit from and enjoy our natural environment.

SEQ Catchments has identified six priority assets for sustainable natural resource planning and management:

Our Coastal / Marine Areas

SEQ's coastline includes approximately 750 km of coastal shoreline and 467 km of estuarine foreshore. Eleven major river systems and their tributaries traverse the coastal plain and form estuaries to Moreton Bay and the open coast. The water quality of our rivers directly impacts our coastal and marine environment.

The coastline and marine environment supports a broad range of commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing, tourism and recreation, urban development, aquaculture and mariculture, shipping and transportation (including Queensland's largest port operation) coastal agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and trade activities.

The beautiful Moreton Bay is protected by the sand islands of Stradbroke, Moreton, Bribie and Fraser Island further north, with smaller islands more typical of the mainland inside the bay. The bay supports populations of dugong, turtles and other marine animals and is an internationally recognised site of significance to migratory wading birds.

Our Land

The SEQ landscape is a diverse mosaic of mountain ranges, hills, valleys, rivers, lakes, floodplains, coastal bays and islands. In addition to a wide range of enterprises our land also boasts extensive scenic amenity and supports outdoor recreation, nature conservation, ecosystem services and cultural heritage values. Soil erosion, weeds and pest animals, nutrient and sediment loaded run-off into waterways, loss of open space and soil contamination present significant problems for sustainable land use.

Our Biodiversity

SEQ communities live in one of the most species-rich and diverse parts of Australia and the world. The region is home to around 5,000 native plant species





and 900 native animal species (of which about 590 are forest dwellers). SEQ contains 149 classified and identified vegetation communities with unique characteristics known as Regional Ecosystems. These include 84 eucalypt forest ecosystems and 32 rainforest and vine thicket ecosystems. Sustainable land and water management plays an important role in sustaining our region's biodiversity.

Our Water

SEQ waterways include occasionally flowing creeks and trickling streams, permanent rivers and the open waters of Moreton Bay. Approximately 7,500 km of the total 16,000 km stream and river network in SEQ is made up of small gullies or 'first order streams'. The majority of water for urban and irrigation use is supplied from 53 surface storages with two major dams, Lake Wivenhoe and Lake Somerset, supplying water for an estimated 1.2 million people.

Availability of clean, fresh usable water will underpin SEQ's economic and social development. Water cannot be managed in isolation and improved land management practices will be vital for maintaining water quality. SEQ's current water supply is unlikely to be sufficient beyond 2035 and additional resources may need to be found, possibly including recycling and reuse systems.

Our Air /Atmosphere

The Brisbane metropolitan area, the Brisbane River mouth and the Brisbane-Ipswich corridor have been identified as major sources of air pollutants and there is an immediate need to maintain and improve air quality in these areas. Regional topography together with predicted population increases and changing weather conditions however have the potential to create an environment in which air quality across the entire region could decline rapidly.

Our Community

Across the SEQ region important on-ground NRM activities are made possible by hundreds of community NRM groups including Coastcare, Landcare, Integrated Catchment Management, Bushcare, Waterwatch, Wildlife Preservation, environment, coastal management, fisheries, farm forestry, farming, and youth groups. Traditional Owners also provide unique and highly valuable knowledge on land management and other NRM issues.

SEQ's community is an asset of significant importance for sustainable natural resource management. Raising awareness and providing improved access to information, skills, training and funding support will further build capacity for essential community input and involvement in NRM.

Rainbow Lorikeet



Maroochy Walk





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Threats

Threats that directly impact our natural assets

- Lack of information and awareness
- Climate change
- Land and landscape degradation
- Weeds and pest animals
- Loss of habitat
- Fragmentation of remnant vegetation
- Loss and degradation of aquatic biodiversity
- Fire
- Point source pollution
- Diffuse pollution and catchment loads
- Water use and management
- Degradation of air quality
- Upsetting the greenhouse gas balance
- Hazardous and nuisance algae
- Loss of social capital
- Loss of Traditional Owners cultural heritage values
- Loss of cultural heritage values



Weeder in action



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