



THE SEQ NRM PLAN



The South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Plan 2009 - 2031

The *South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Plan 2009 – 2031* (SEQ NRM Plan) is the key non-statutory environment and natural resource management plan for the region. It provides measurable targets for the condition and extent of the South East Queensland environment and its natural resources; and is aligned with desired outcomes and policies in the *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009 – 2031* (SEQ Regional Plan).

The SEQ NRM Plan is not a traditional natural resource management plan. Rather, it is designed to guide existing and future plans, strategies and actions to coordinate the management and use of natural resources to enhance community, economic and environmental values.

The SEQ region has a long history of community, Traditional Owner, scientific and government involvement in research, policy making, planning and on-ground activities that seek to rehabilitate, conserve and manage the region's natural resources. The SEQ NRM Plan builds on this existing work by establishing an agreed set of regional targets.

South East Queensland has the fastest urban growth rate in Australia. By 2031, the population is expected to grow from three million to around four million - that is nearly one thousand people moving to the region per week over the next two decades.

Balancing population growth with economic development and efforts to preserve our natural resources is a major challenge facing our region's environment and natural resources over the coming years. The SEQ NRM Plan was developed to address this challenge.

Who put it together?

The SEQ Regional Coordination Group, of which SEQ Catchments is a member, developed the SEQ NRM Plan through a collaborative approach where all stakeholders were given an opportunity to contribute.

The SEQ Regional Coordination Group consulted with a wide range of its members including:

- landowners
- traditional owners
- scientists
- planners
- State government
- local government officers
- community members



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How is SEQ Catchments making a difference?

SEQC has identified those SEQ NRM Plan targets that are a priority for SEQ Catchments and its stakeholders and has developed a Strategic Investment Program (SIP) which contains Intermediate Targets (2009-2014) that contribute towards the achievement of the longer-term Regional Targets within the SEQ Natural Resource Management Plan 2009-2031 (SEQ NRM Plan).

SEQC is one implementation partner for the achievement of the regional targets in the SEQ NRM Plan. Intermediate Targets in the SIP are SEQC's contribution alone and must be considered together with the contribution from other partners in the region to gain a full picture of the activity underway and planned to achieve the regional targets in the SEQ NRM Plan

SEQ Catchments has aligned its activities towards meeting the regional targets outlined in the SEQ NRM Plan.

Summary of Regional Targets to 2031



Air and atmosphere

Atmosphere, air and climate are natural resources that play a key role in the health of the natural system. Factors such as continued population growth, household energy use and an increasing reliance on motor vehicles pose a threat to future air quality. Maintaining and enhancing the region's air quality is a key element when considering future land-use options and transport modifications.

A 1 - Greenhouse gas emissions

By 2031, the region will make an equitable contribution to the national and regional targets for reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

A 2 - Air quality

By 2031, the levels of pollutants in the SEQ air will be at or below the quality objectives in the appropriate Schedule of the Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008.

A 3, A 4 and A 5 - Thermal, noise and light pollution

By 2031, SEQ thermal pollution will be at or below 2003 levels.

By 2031, SEQ noise pollution will be at or below 1998 levels.

By 2031, SEQ light pollution will be at or below 1998 levels.



Coastal and marine

People of the region are privileged to live near one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world.

The natural resources of coastal areas and marine waters are vital to our way of life and are the basis for a valuable international and domestic tourism industry along with commercial and recreational fishing.

CM 1 - Seagrass and mangroves

By 2031, the extent and condition of seagrass and mangrove ecosystems (including salt marsh) in bays and estuaries will be greater than or equal to that in 1988 and 2001 respectively.

CM 2 - Coral

By 2031, the condition and spatial distribution of soft and hard corals will be maintained at least at 2005 levels.

CM 3 - Beaches

By 2031, the condition of open coastlines (headlands, beaches and dunes) will be at or better than in 2006.

CM 4 - Fish stocks

By 2031, wild fishery stock condition will be sustained at sufficiently high levels to support commercial, recreational and Indigenous cultural fisheries, based on the 1995-2005 benchmark (ten-year rolling average).

CM 5 - Key species

By 2031, the extent and condition of the habitat of bottlenose and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, dugongs, sharks, turtles and wader birds will be equal to or greater than that in 2001 for each species.

CM 6 - Coastal algal blooms

By 2031, the extent and frequency of coastal algal blooms will be reduced from the 2002-05 benchmark (five-year rolling average).

CM 7 - Coastal wetlands

By 2031, the condition and extent of SEQ coastal wetlands, particularly those connecting fresh and estuarine/marine habitat (including fish passage), will be equal to or greater than that in 2007.



Community

Recognition of previous and existing natural resource managers is one of the guiding principles of the SEQ NRM Plan. The region has a history of voluntary community action supported by industry and government investment. Private landholders manage the majority of the region. A priority is to enhance and maintain the capacity and ability of the community to engage in planning, implementation and monitoring of local actions to achieve regional targets.

C 1 - Community

By 2031, natural resource managers, government and nongovernment organisations will be resourced and working together to implement the SEQ NRM Plan.



Land

The condition, area and extent of arable and grazing lands are important for the supply of food, fibre and other materials to support the society and economy of the region. The maintenance of healthy soils is important for wellfunctioning ecosystems and the production of food and fibre. Land resources support the habitats for plants and animals. Vegetation and grass-cover filters impurities, such as excess nutrients and sediments from runoff water, to reduce pollution and improve water quality.

L 1 - Salinity

By 2031, the area of secondary salinisation in SEQ will be 10% less than in 2008.

L 2 - Agricultural land

By 2031, >90% (>266 667 ha) of SEQ agricultural land at 2004 will be available for sustainable agriculture.

L 3 - Soil acidity

By 2031, the area of acidified agricultural soils within SEQ will be reduced by 50% from the 2008 baseline.

L 4 - Soil organic matter

By 2031, the level of soil organic matter (carbon in t/ha) in agricultural soils will be higher than in 2008 or baseline year.

L 5 - Acid sulfate soils

By 2031, the area of 'severe' acidification caused by the disturbance of acid sulfate soils will be lower than in 2008.

L 6 - Soil erosion

By 2031, the extent of erosion from hill slopes and gullies will be reduced by 50% from the 2008 baseline.

L 7 - Grazing land condition

By 2031, 75% of grazing land in SEQ will be in a 'good' condition.

L 8 - Land contamination

By 2031, existing contamination sites and off-site impacts will be reduced; and no new sites will be created over the 2008 baseline data.

L 9 - Extractive resources

By 2031, extractive resources within "key resource areas" in SEQ will be available for their highest use with no net loss of other environmental and landscape values.



Nature conservation

The region has one of the richest diversities of animal and plant species in Australia. About 4000 plant species and 800 freshwater and terrestrial vertebrate species are native and distributed across a wide range of vegetation types and environments. The provision of all ecosystem services relies on supporting these habitats.

NC 1 - Remnant and woody vegetation

By 2031, the 2001 extent of regional vegetation cover—including both remnant vegetation (35%) and additional non-remnant woody vegetation (22%)—will be maintained or increased.

NC 2 - Vegetation fragmentation and connectivity

By 2031, there will be no net fragmentation of larger tracts (greater than 5000 ha), and 20% of priority smaller tracts (less than 5000 ha) will be better connected than the 2003 baseline.

NC 3 - Wetlands

By 2031, the 2008 extent and condition of SEQ wetlands will be maintained or increased.

NC 4 - Vulnerable ecosystems

By 2031, at least 4% of the original pre-clearing extents of vulnerable regional ecosystems will be represented in protective measures.

NC 5 - Native species

In 2031, the 2008 conservation status of native species will be maintained or improved.

NC 6 - Habitat for priority species

By 2031, the 2001 extent and condition of habitat for priority taxa will be maintained or increased.



Regional landscape areas

The quality of life enjoyed by people in the region is supported by access to, and connection with, the unique landscapes of the region. These regional landscapes help to define the region's character and people's sense of belonging.

RLA 1 - Landscape heritage

By 2031, at least 90% of the 2011 area of regionally important landscape heritage will be retained within each local government area.

RLA 2 - Outdoor recreation settings

By 2031, the 2011 extent of regional outdoor recreation settings will be maintained or increased.

RLA 3 - Outdoor recreation demand

By 2031, 90% of the demand for outdoor recreation will be met through a mix of public land, waterways and the voluntary provision of opportunities on private land.

RLA 4 - Regionally high-scenic amenity

By 2031, the area of regionally high-scenic amenity will be maintained or improved from the 2004 baseline.

RLA 5 - Locally important scenic amenity

By 2031, at least 80% of the 2004 area of locally important scenic amenity within each local government area will be retained.



Traditional Owners

Recognition of Traditional Owners as natural resource managers is one of the guiding principles of the SEQ NRM Plan. Traditional Owner knowledge and values maintained the region for millennia. A key activity will be to achieve active involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in community planning and decision making.

TO 1 - Traditional Owners

By 2031, Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people will be resourced and working together with natural resource managers and government and non-government organisations to implement the SEQ Natural Resource Management Plan and the South East Queensland Aboriginal Traditional Owner Cultural Resource Management Plan.



Water

Water resources provide clean water for human consumption, environmental flows, and recreation, agricultural and industrial use. These resources supply food sources and habitat for many important plants and animals. Water-based ecosystems, particularly wetlands and their components, filter impurities such as excess nutrients and sediments. The filtering of water aids in controlling pollution and improving water quality.

W 1 - Environmental flows

By 2031, environmental flows will meet aquatic ecosystem health and ecological process requirements.

W 2 - Groundwater levels

By 2031, 75% of SEQ Groundwater Resource Units will have groundwater levels within identified acceptable annual ranges.

W 3 - Groundwater quality

By 2031, groundwater quality (nutrients and electrical conductivity measurements) in all SEQ Groundwater Resource Units will be within identified acceptable annual ranges.

W 4 - Groundwater dependent ecosystems

By 2031, the condition of groundwater ecosystems and groundwater dependent ecosystems will be within identified acceptable annual ranges.

W 5 - High Ecological Value waterways

In 2031, High Ecological Value waterways in SEQ will maintain their 2008 classification.

W 6 - Waterways maintenance and enhancement

In 2031, scheduled water-quality objectives for all SEQ waterways will be achieved or exceeded.

W 7 - Waterway restoration

By 2031, waterways classified as ranging from slightly to moderately disturbed and/or highly disturbed will have ecosystem health and ecological processes restored.

The content in this information sheet was sourced from: State of Queensland (Department of Environment and Resource Management) 2009, *South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Plan 2009 - 2031* (SEQ NRM Plan).



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