

## **ERRATUM**

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection – Annual Report 2016-17

(Tabled 22 September 2017)

**Title:** Department of Environment and Heritage Protection – Annual Report 2016-17

**Minister:** Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and The Great Barrier Reef

**Action:** Please replace pages 11 and 87.

Page 11 contains amendments to the words in the third dot point. The words “up to \$43.75 million” are removed and replaced by “\$3.746 million”.

On page 87 in Table 4 under the heading of “Actions” the first action item has been changed from “Current as at 30 June 2016” to “Current as at 30 June 2017”.

- Released the four-yearly (2012–15) State of the Environment report. This report was the first of its kind in Australia to be developed in an interactive, web-based format.
- Released Connect, a digital platform for online services and transactions, allowing customers to interact with the department in real time. Connect also improves how departmental officers update and manage customer accounts and information.
- Allocated \$3.746 million in funding for the first round of the Community Sustainability Action grants. The program aims to support community engagement, encourage innovation and enable eligible groups and individuals to improve wildlife protection, environmental rehabilitation and conservation of local heritage sites.
- Undertook biodiversity assessment work in Queensland's Gulf regions to better understand the environmental values and help manage potential development pressures in this environmentally sensitive region.
- Continued the statewide biodiversity assessments program, including an updated terrestrial assessment for South East Queensland, to support the South East Queensland Regional Plan.
- Commenced a systematic review of the Queensland Heritage Register to update data content and identify representational gaps, both geographically and by historic theme.
- Continued the review of the Nature Conservation Regulations to strengthen conservation outcomes and modernise the system for keeping and trading wildlife.
- Commenced a comprehensive crocodile population monitoring program to monitor local crocodile numbers and population trends in rivers and estuaries from Cape York to Gladstone.
- Participated in Operation Hawkfish, a multi-agency compliance program focussed on environmental activities in the Whitsunday region.
- Conducted Operation Tora, a coordinated compliance program to stamp out unlicensed waste management operators in Queensland.
- Commenced the final phase of criminal proceedings against Linc, the largest indictment of its kind undertaken by the department.
- Developed the Queensland Environmental Management of Firefighting Foam Operational Policy, which involves phasing out existing stocks of unsuitable legacy foams and replacing them with more sustainable alternatives and management practices.
- Responded to environmental incidents caused by Tropical Cyclone Debbie and associated extreme weather events and led statewide environmental recovery activities under Operation Queensland Recovery and the Queensland Government's Interim Queensland Recovery Plan.

## 1.5 Suitable operator registration

It is a requirement of the EP Act that a person carrying out an ERA be registered as a suitable operator. An environmental authority cannot be approved unless all of the proposed environmental authority holders are registered suitable operators. EHP is responsible for approving suitable operators and adding their details to the online register of suitable operators. Table 4 provides the total number of suitable operators registered as at the 30 June 2017 and the number of various application outcomes for 2016–17.

**Table 4: Suitable operator registration 2016–17**

Action	2016–17
Current as at 30 June 2017	8,707
Received	575
Approved	572
Withdrawn	1
Refused	0
Cancelled	0

## 2. Contaminated land

EHP manages two registers for contaminated land, the Environmental Management Register (EMR) and the Contaminated Land Register (CLR):

- The EMR is a land-use planning and management register which provides information on historic and current land use. It records sites where a notifiable activity is (or has been) conducted or sites which are contaminated and are being managed under a site management plan.
- The CLR is a register of sites with proven contamination of the land that is causing, or may cause, serious environmental harm. Land is recorded on the CLR when scientific investigation shows it is contaminated and action needs to be taken to remediate or manage the land.

Site investigation and validation reports may be prepared to assess the presence and extent of contamination on a site. If necessary, a site management plan may be prepared that states the way in which contamination will be managed to prevent environmental harm and to permit appropriate uses of the site. Searches to find out if a particular site is listed on the EMR or the CLR can be conducted online at <https://products.ehp.qld.gov.au/shopping/home>. Table 5 provides both a count of sites listed on the EMR and CLR registers and describes the type and number of contaminated land management activities for 2016–17.

**Table 5: Contaminated land sites and management activities undertaken for 2016–17**

Contaminated land sites	2016–17
Number of sites on the EMR as at 30 June 2017	22,669
Number of sites on the CLR as at 30 June 2017	9
Contaminated land management activities	2016–17
Site investigation and validation reports received	50
Site management plans approved	10