

ANNUAL REPORT 2016–2017



Purpose of the report

This annual report provides information about the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's financial and non-financial performance for 2016-17. It has been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* and records the significant achievements against the strategies and services detailed in the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and 2016-17 Service Delivery Statement.

Public availability

This report is available from the department's website <http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/about/corporatedocs> or by phoning Tel: 13 QGOV (13 74 68). Alternatively, hard copies of this publication can be obtained by emailing info@ehp.qld.gov.au. Readers are invited to comment on this report at www.qld.gov.au/annualreportfeedback.

Interpreter service statement

The Queensland Government is committed to providing accessible services to Queenslanders from all culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. If you have difficulty understanding this report, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service via www.qld.gov.au/languages or by phoning 13 14 50 and ask them to telephone Library Services on +61 7 3224 8412 to arrange for an interpreter to effectively communicate the report to you.



Copyright

© The State of Queensland (Department of Environment and Heritage Protection) 2017.

Licence

This annual report is licensed by the State of Queensland (Department of Environment and Heritage Protection) under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) 4.0 International licence.



In essence, you are free to copy, communicate and adapt this annual report, as long as you attribute the work to the State of Queensland (Department of Environment and Heritage Protection) annual report 2016-17. To review a copy of this licence visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

ISSN

ISSN: 2202-2295 (Print).

ISSN: 2203-8019 (Online).

Disclaimer

This document has been prepared with all due diligence and care, based on the best available information at the time of publication. The department holds no responsibility for any errors or omissions within this document. Any decisions made by other parties based on this document are solely the responsibility of those parties.

September 2017

Contents

Message from the Director-General	2
Our organisation	4
Who we are	4
Our structure	5
Our operating environment	6
Our contribution to Queensland Government objectives	7
Our executive management team	8
Organisational structure	9
The year at a glance	10
Looking ahead to 2017–18.....	12
Financial summary	13
Our performance.....	18
Goal 1—Conserve nature at both the species and landscape levels	18
Our key performance indicators	18
Our program of work.....	19
Goal 2—Protect the Great Barrier Reef	27
Our key performance indicators	27
Our program of work.....	27
Goal 3—Protect significant heritage places	30
Our key performance indicators	30
Our program of work.....	30
Goal 4—Avoid, minimise or mitigate negative impacts on the environment.....	33
Our key performance indicators	33
Our program of work.....	34
Goal 5—Provide efficient, responsive and integrated services	41
Our key performance indicators	41
Our program of work.....	41
Our people	45
Workforce profile	45
Building our Workforce	48
Diversity and Inclusion	48
Employee development.....	49
Employee conduct and performance management	50
Employee wellbeing	50
Industrial and Employee Relations Framework	51
Managing our business.....	52
Governance committees	52
Governance processes	57
Administrative and professional services.....	58

How to contact us	61
Appendix 1—Legislation	62
Appendix 2—Government bodies	63
Appendix 3—Litigation 2016–17	78
Appendix 4—Annual report on the administration of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	82
1. Administration of ERAs	83
1.1 Agricultural ERAs	83
1.2 Resource activities	84
1.3 Prescribed environmentally relevant activities	85
1.4 Environmental impact statements	85
1.5 Suitable operator registration	87
2. Contaminated land	87
3. Environmental incidents	88
3.1 Community Reports	88
3.2 Incidents	89
3.3 Temporary emissions licence	89
4. Enforcement	90
4.1 Prosecutions	92
4.2 Planning and environment court orders	92
4.3 Warrants	93
Appendix 5—Queensland Heritage Council	94
Appendix 6—Board of Trustees of Newstead House	97
Appendix 7—Additional published information	98
Appendix 8—External scrutiny	99
Acronyms	101
Glossary	104
Compliance checklist	106
Financial statements	109

8 September 2017

The Honourable Dr Steven Miles MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef
1 William Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Minister

I am pleased to submit for presentation to the Parliament the Annual Report 2016–17 and financial statements for the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and the financial statements for the Board of Trustees of Newstead House. This report also includes the following annual reports:

- Administration of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- Queensland Heritage Council
- Board of Trustees, Newstead House.

I certify that this Annual Report complies with the:

- prescribed requirements of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* and the Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009, and
- detailed requirements set out in the Annual report requirements for Queensland Government Agencies.

A checklist outlining the annual report requirements can be found at pages 106-107 of this annual report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Reeves', with a large loop at the end.

Jim Reeves
Director-General

Message from the Director-General

I am pleased to present the 2016-17 annual report for the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP).

The report outlines the important work delivered to achieve a healthy and resilient environment for a sustainable and prosperous Queensland. This includes protecting the Great Barrier Reef, enhancing Queensland's ecosystems, protecting our significant heritage places and safeguarding our environment from harm.

Like in past years, the health and management of the Great Barrier Reef remains a key priority for the department. In 2016–17, EHP's Office of the Great Barrier Reef continued to coordinate the state's commitments under the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan—the Australian and Queensland governments' blueprint for protecting and managing the reef. In an important milestone, a progress update on the implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan was submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Implementation of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce recommendations was also a strong focus in 2016-17. Thanks to this work, new major projects got off the ground in partnership with the agricultural industry, with the end goal of helping to improve the quality of water flowing into reef catchments.

In other updates, the department committed to the acquisition of 4,676 hectares of high conservation value land for addition to the protected area estate in 2016-17. Six new nature refuges were also declared, bringing the total coverage of land protected under nature refuge to 3.8 million hectares. A notable achievement was the execution of a Nature Refuge Agreement for Springvale Station—a 56,000 hectare property owned and managed by the department on Cape York Peninsula. The public were also consulted on a draft Protected Area Strategy developed with the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing.

As Queensland's environmental regulator, the department works closely with industry to ensure environmental standards are met to help protect our land, air and water from harm.

In 2016-17, a proposed framework for improved mine rehabilitation was released for public consultation as part of a significant reform proposal for the state's financial assurance framework for the resources sector.

In the area of environmental management, a new operational policy was developed and released to manage the use of fire-fighting foam products in Queensland containing perfluorinated chemicals.

And in the largest indictment of its kind undertaken by the department, the final phase of criminal proceedings against Linc Energy also commenced.

One of the department's most significant programs of work is in the area of climate change. This issue remained high on the agenda throughout 2016-17, with a number of key initiatives taking shape.

For example, the department led a whole-of-government climate adaptation strategy and launched the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils program in partnership with the Local Government Association of Queensland. The Queensland Government's climate change transition strategy was also developed, which outlines how the state will begin the transition to a low carbon economy.

Reducing waste is another of Queensland's significant environmental issues for which the department is responsible. Developments in this area include the progression of a container refund scheme and a plastic shopping bag ban—the public were consulted on these waste reduction initiatives in 2016-17, and they are set to commence in July 2018.

In wildlife conservation and management, the department provided support to a new koala expert panel and completed the review of the Queensland crocodile management plan to ensure the correct balance between crocodile conservation and public safety.

Identifying and conserving the state's built heritage places remains one of the department's principal roles, and in this area, a systematic review to update the Queensland Heritage Register commenced in 2016-17.

In summary, there has been a great range of achievements in 2016-17 to support the department's long-term vision for Queensland—and we intend to continue this momentum over coming months.

I look forward to the department continuing its significant program of work already underway in the climate change space, to develop and implement climate adaptation, mitigation and coastal hazards strategies, aimed at ensuring Queensland is ready for the future.

Similarly, the department's significant Great Barrier Reef protection initiatives will continue to be implemented with the Australian Government and other partners. This includes the Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Program, and initiatives that contribute to water quality targets including Best Practice Management programs, the Paddock to Reef program, and more.

Progressing Queensland's waste reform agenda is hugely important over the next 12 months, in particular, finalising Queensland's Container Refund Scheme and lightweight plastic shopping bag ban.

Enhanced environmental regulatory services and public engagement is on the agenda to improve how the department works as a regulator; while the department will also continue to address the issue of toxic fire-fighting foam and work to improve rehabilitation standards of mined land across the state.

The Community Sustainability Action Grants program will continue to be delivered to assist with projects that address climate change and conserve our natural and built environment, while a planned expansion of the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program will bring great benefits to communities and the environment.

Queensland's built heritage places are greatly valued all over Queensland, and looking forward, protecting and promoting sites of significance will continue to be a focus for the department.

In conclusion I would like to thank the department's Executive Management Team and all employees for helping to deliver the government's vision and priorities towards achieving a healthy and resilient environment for future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Reeves', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Jim Reeves
Director-General

Our organisation

Who we are

EHP is responsible for managing the health of the environment to protect Queensland's unique ecosystems, including its landscapes and waterways, as well as its native plants and animals and biodiversity.

The department's role is to act as a strong environmental regulator which supports the sustainable long-term economic development of Queensland.

It does this by developing and implementing policy and administering a range of environmental regulations and laws, providing timely assessment and approvals and ensuring compliance with them.

In addition to protecting Queensland's natural environment, the department is also responsible for identifying and conserving the state's built heritage places. These places contribute to our identity and help define who we are as Queenslanders. They include buildings, structures, cemeteries, archaeological sites, gardens, urban precincts and natural and landscape features.

The department was established in April 2012 under the *Public Service Act 2008*, Part 2, Division 2 – Administrative Arrangements Order (No.3) 2012 and Public Service Departmental Arrangements Notice (No.1) 2012.

Our vision and mission

EHP is committed to the vision of a healthy and resilient environment for a sustainable and prosperous Queensland. The department's mission is to lead environment and heritage protection and sustainability in Queensland.

Our values

EHP's service delivery, decision making and organisational management are governed by the following values:

- **Customers first**—know your customers; deliver what matters; make decisions with empathy; strive to ensure the safety of our customers.
- **Ideas into action**—challenge the norm and suggest solutions; encourage and embrace new ideas; work across boundaries.
- **Unleash potential**—expect greatness; lead and set clear expectations; seek, provide and act on feedback.
- **Be courageous**—own your actions; successes and mistakes; take calculated risks; act with transparency.
- **Empower people**—lead, empower and trust our staff; play to everyone's strengths; develop yourself and those around you.

Our strategic direction

EHP is focused on achieving the following goals.

- Conserve nature at both the species and landscape level.
- Protect the Great Barrier Reef.
- Protect significant heritage places.
- Avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts on the environment.
- Provide efficient, responsive and integrated services.

Our challenges and opportunities

Key factors for EHP include:

- preserving the ecological integrity of the Great Barrier Reef
- enhancing ecosystems and habitats
- mitigating the environmental impacts of urbanisation, rural and urban development
- keeping pace with trends in empowerment, social networking and technology
- transitioning to a business model built on collaboration and interdependence
- addressing the causes and consequences of climate change.

Our stakeholders

In order to achieve its objectives, the department works collaboratively with other organisations that have an interest or role in protecting the environment. This includes all levels of government, regional natural resource management groups, environmental authorities, industry, conservation and special interest groups, landholders and the general community. The department engages with its stakeholders through a range of communication channels to receive feedback about its activities and direction.

Our structure

EHP has three service areas.

Environmental Protection Services

Environmental protection focuses on avoiding, minimising or mitigating impacts to the environment through the design, application and monitoring of strategic direction, standards and regulations that guide the operation and control the activities of business and individuals that have or can have significant environmental impacts. This is achieved through:

- the delivery of the Queensland Government's environmental legislation and policy priorities
- providing targeted, consistent and transparent regulation that facilitates sustainable development in Queensland
- managing and monitoring environmental risks proactively through modern and innovative assessment, compliance, investigation and enforcement programs
- delivering programs to improve water quality in the Great Barrier Reef.

Species and Ecosystem Protection Services

Species and ecosystem protection focuses on protecting Queensland's ecosystems by ensuring the diversity and integrity of Queensland's natural ecosystems are preserved and conservation status of native species are maintained or enhanced. This is achieved through:

- protecting Queensland's flora and fauna and high value ecosystems and managing the negative interactions between humans and wildlife
- promoting sustainable management of Queensland's terrestrial and marine biodiversity values and wetlands, and employing additional Indigenous rangers through the Land and Sea Rangers Program
- working with key stakeholders including local government, environment and conservation groups, businesses and communities to achieve a sustainable environment for the future by reducing our environmental footprint and communicating the health of our ecosystems.

Heritage Protection Services

Heritage protection focuses on protecting Queensland's heritage by recognising its value and ensuring it is conserved, adaptively re-used and its value is promoted for present and future generations. This is achieved through:

- supporting the operations of the Queensland Heritage Council, identifying and registering places with State heritage value and assisting in their management
- communicating with, and educating Queenslanders on, their historic heritage and working with local governments to incorporate heritage requirements in their planning arrangements
- promoting opportunities for corporate investment in Queensland's built heritage
- supporting adaptive reuse of heritage places.

This structure is our means of achieving our vision, purpose and delivery of our services.

Our operating environment

EHP is a leading contributor to achieving the government's objective to protect the environment, with its priorities of protecting the Great Barrier Reef, conserving nature and heritage, ensuring sustainable management of natural resources and enabling responsible development.

In order to progress this objective, it is imperative for the department to respond positively to social, economic and environmental trends in the broader community.

A key challenge is responding to, and managing the impacts of, climate change, which has a significant impact on the health of the reef and the viability of Queensland's coastal settlements. The department has a lead role in developing whole-of-government climate change transition and adaptation strategies, including working with other agencies, industry and the community.

The water quality of the Great Barrier Reef catchment is affected by agricultural and mining activities, and the department is fostering the adoption of best management practices to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff to the reef.

Many Queensland ecosystems and habitats are under threat because of climate change and urbanisation, so it is vital for the department to develop and implement a long-term strategy to increase the protected area estate. Expansion of the existing 'report card' system will allow the department to monitor the health and status of ecosystems against environmental standards.

The department will continue to regulate environmentally relevant activities and promote a comprehensive strategic approach to waste management and resource recovery in Queensland. This will enhance recycling and waste diversion leading to reduced landfill and the increased reuse of valuable resources. Achieving better waste management will also reduce the impact of development and urbanisation on the state's coasts and catchments.

Mining companies have an obligation under their environmental authorities to rehabilitate the land post-mining. To ensure that the State has funds available for rehabilitation in the event of a company collapse, mining companies provide financial assurance to the State as a guarantee. Holding inadequate financial assurance poses a risk to the State's balance sheet and therefore requires careful management. In May, the Queensland Government released the Financial Assurance Framework Reform discussion paper for public consultation, which proposes a tailored solution to better protect the State's financial interest.

Simultaneously, the Better Mine Rehabilitation for Queensland discussion paper was released, which proposes a new policy to improve rehabilitation performance and reduce the State's reliance on the financial assurance system.

EHP leads the environmental recovery effort on behalf of the Queensland Government following natural disasters such as Tropical Cyclone Debbie which crossed the coast in late March. The challenge is to deliver short-term actions in response to such events as well as longer-term actions and strategies that build a more resilient Queensland.

Meeting Queensland's environmental challenges will require a greater focus on sustainable development by public, private and non-government partners. The department can encourage this by providing more timely and comprehensive environmental information and analysis at a state and local level.

Broader societal trends such as empowerment, social networking and new technologies provide both challenges and opportunities. The department has responded to the increasing expectation that its services and information be available online.

The department's social media channels provide an opportunity to disseminate news and information in real time and communicate with stakeholders and the community by developing engaging, useful and shareable content.

Our contribution to Queensland Government objectives

EHP's direction and service delivery initiatives help contribute strongly to the Queensland Government's objectives for the community which focus on four key areas:

Protecting the environment

- protecting the Great Barrier Reef
- conserving nature and heritage
- ensuring sustainable management of natural resources
- enabling responsible development.

Creating jobs and a diverse economy

- increasing workforce participation
- ensuring safe, productive and fair workplaces
- stimulating economic growth and innovation
- delivering new infrastructure and investment.

Delivering quality frontline services

- achieving better education and training outcomes
- strengthening our public health system
- providing responsive and integrated government services.

Building safe, caring and connected communities

- ensuring an accessible and effective justice system
- providing an integrated and reliable transport network
- encouraging safer and inclusive communities
- building regions.

The department's strategic plan focusses primarily on contributions to the government's objective of protecting the environment. Through implementing its environmental and heritage initiatives the department in turn contributes to creating jobs, delivering quality frontline services and building regions and communities.

More information about our policies, programs and services and what the department delivered in 2016-17 can be found in the *Our performance* section of this report.

Our executive management team

The Executive Management Team (EMT) is EHP's peak decision and advisory body and provides the Director-General with advice on issues in relation to corporate governance, strategic policy, strategic planning and alignment, performance management, service delivery, culture, values and environment.

As at 30 June 2017, membership of the EMT was as follows.

Jim Reeves **Director-General**

As Director-General, Jim is responsible for the efficient, effective and economic administration of EHP. He sets the strategic direction and priorities for the department ensuring they are aligned with the priorities and objectives of the Queensland Government. He holds primary responsibility for strategic planning activities, resource allocation decisions, policy and legislative reform, continuous service improvement and strategic risk management. As the department's chief executive, Jim also leads departmental collaboration between EHP and other government departments and liaison and engagement with the department's key customers and stakeholders.

Tony Roberts **Deputy Director-General, Environmental Policy and Planning**

Tony is responsible for the development and review of policy and legislation to support the Queensland Government's environment and heritage agenda. Tony leads EHP's portfolio strategy on environmental legislation and policy priorities in relation to: climate change; water quality; the Great Barrier Reef; waste management; delivery of the Container Refund Scheme and ban on lightweight plastic bags in Queensland; planning and development; coastal management; built heritage; air and chemicals; environment protection and state of environment reporting. Tony supports the Minister and Director-General in representing Queensland's environmental and heritage interests at the national level.

Tony also leads the Office of the Great Barrier Reef which is responsible for coordinating the implementation of Great Barrier Reef programs and investment across the Queensland Government.

Nick Weinert **Acting Deputy Director-General, Conservation and Sustainability Services**

Nick is responsible for the implementation of programs to conserve and enhance the health of the

state's natural environment. This includes managing the interaction between people and protected species,

including the delivery of programs associated with wildlife management, threatened species and protected areas. Nick is also responsible for promoting the sustainable management of Queensland's terrestrial and marine biodiversity values and wetlands, oversight of World Heritage management (with the exception of the Wet Tropics of Queensland and Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Areas), litter and illegal dumping programs, conservation and environment grants and the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers Programs.

Nick also has corporate responsibility for the Wet Tropics Management Authority which, through strong partnerships, facilitates the management and presentation of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area.

Dean Ellwood **Deputy Director-General, Environmental Services and Regulation**

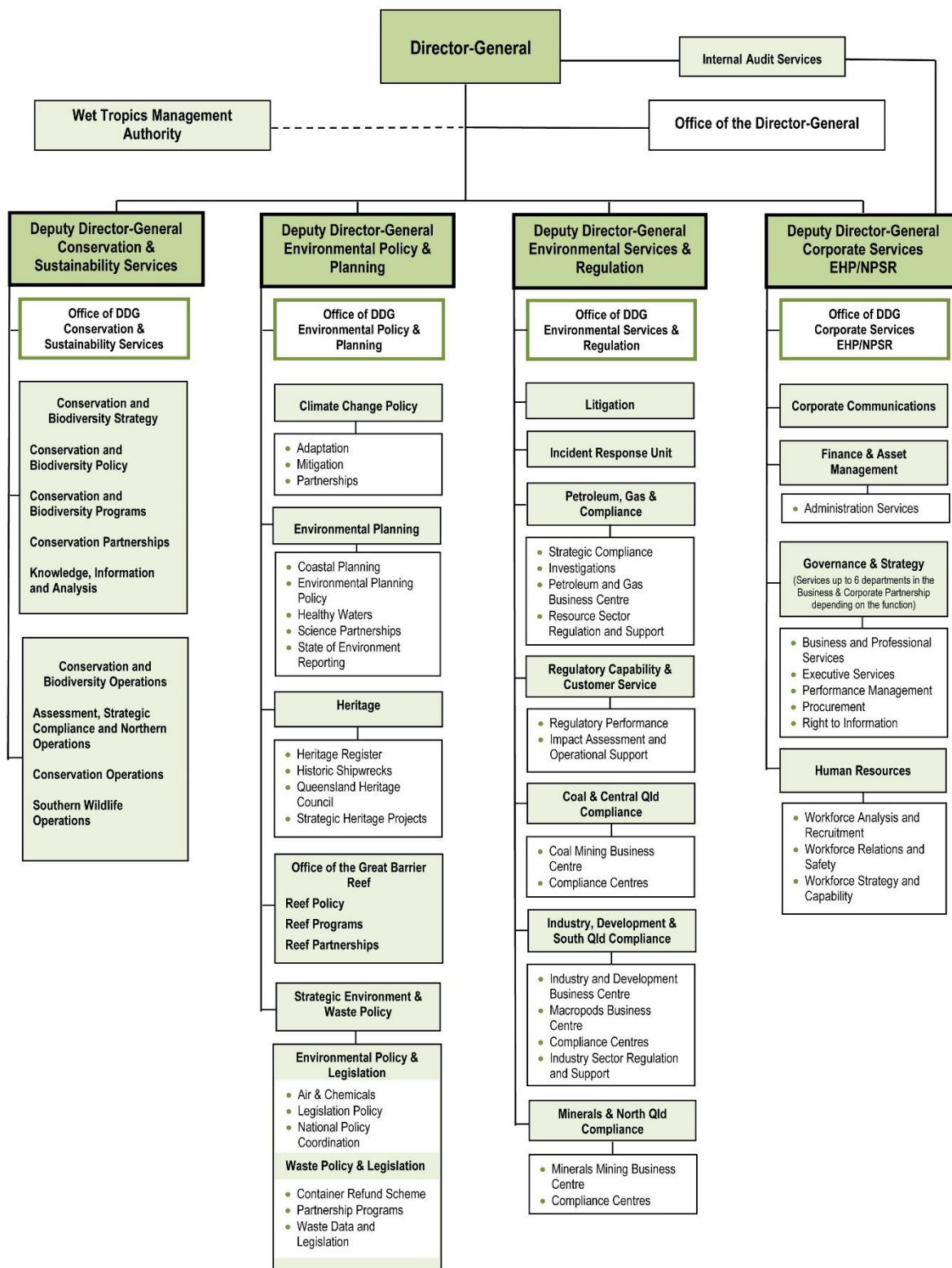
Dean leads EHP's regulatory program, ensuring that it is targeted, consistent and transparent in its facilitation of sustainable development and strong environmental performance. Dean ensures that relevant frameworks and service delivery mechanisms are in place to support both the implementation of legislation and policy and environmental assessments for development and resource projects across the state. Dean is also responsible for managing environmental risks through a proactive compliance and enforcement program which includes 24–7 issues reporting mechanisms and incident response networks and strong litigation capabilities to respond to serious breaches.

Rob Lawrence **Deputy Director-General, Corporate Services**

Rob is responsible for leading the delivery of corporate services within EHP under the Business and Corporate Partnership model. These services include finance, asset management, human resources, corporate communications and governance and strategy including the delivery and performance of procurement services, Right to Information, privacy and internal audit functions across multiple departments.

This also involves leading the delivery of corporate performance and reporting, integrity and governance frameworks and Cabinet and Parliamentary Services including executive correspondence and ministerial liaison. These services enable the six government departments to embed good governance and meet their legislative obligations.

Organisational structure



The year at a glance

- Continued implementation of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce's recommendations for improving reef water quality through the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program. Priority projects included the development of two major integrated projects in the Wet Tropics and Burdekin catchments, the establishment of an Innovation Fund to support new technologies and approaches, increased reef-wide and finer-scale monitoring and consultation on new regulatory approaches.
- Expanded the protected area estate by purchasing key strategic properties and through continued implementation of the NatureAssist program to secure nature refuges over land of significant conservation value and high climate change resilience.
- Undertook public consultation on a Protected Area Strategy to guide the expansion and improved management of the protected area estate and worked towards the long-term goal of having 17% of the state's land mass designated as protected area.
- Drafted the Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 which proposes legislative amendments to create a new class of private protected area with protection equivalent to that of national parks.
- Released a proposed framework for improved mine rehabilitation for public consultation as part of a significant reform proposal for the state's financial assurance framework for the resources sector.
- Progressed the *Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016*, to create enhanced environmental protections for groundwater take by the mining sector and improvements to the rights and protections of the owners of bores impaired by mining and coal seam gas production.
- Drafted regulations under the *Liquid Fuel Supply Act 1984* to enshrine sustainability criteria for the biofuels supplied under the Queensland Government's biofuel mandate, which commenced on 1 January 2017.
- Continued to investigate options for World Heritage nominations for areas of Cape York Peninsula and the extension of the Fraser Island World Heritage area to prepare for consultation with Traditional Owners, key stakeholders and the community.
- Drafted the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017 which proposes legislative amendments to enable the implementation of a container refund scheme and a plastic shopping bag ban by 1 July 2018.
- Developed a statutory guideline to complement the amendments to the *Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Act 2016* and give business and the community confidence that the additional powers would be used in a consistent and transparent manner to achieve the best outcomes for Queensland.
- Expanded the online environmental authority (EA) register to provide increased transparency and availability of licensing information. Approximately 7,000 EAs are now publicly available online including those for Prescribed Environmentally Relevant Activities.
- Provided ongoing support for a newly established koala expert panel, responsible for providing evidence-based recommendations to the government on the most appropriate and realistic actions to reverse the decline of koala populations in Queensland.
- Completed the review of the Queensland crocodile management plan to ensure the correct balance between crocodile conservation and human safety.
- Continued delivering a \$2.7 million, three-year program researching the behaviour and movement of little red flying-foxes throughout the landscape. The program is designed to create transferrable knowledge to assist local governments manage flying-fox roosts in urban areas. The department signed a three-year agreement for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to conduct further research into the species.
- Commenced a review of the legislative and regulatory framework related to river protection including the commencement of public consultation.
- Led the development and delivery of the whole-of-government climate adaptation strategy (QCAS) which outlines how the government will work with community, industry and local government to integrate climate change risk into planning and build resilience to a changing climate.
- Launched the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils program in partnership with the Local Government Association of Queensland.
- Led the development and delivery of whole-of-government climate change transition strategy which establishes a zero net emissions target for 2050 and an interim target. This strategy outlines how Queensland will begin the transition to a low carbon economy.

- 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 up to \$43.75 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.

Looking ahead to 2017–18

In 2017–18, EHP's focus will include the following priorities.

- Continue to prosecute allegations of serious environmental harm and commence rehabilitation of land affected by underground coal gasification contamination.
- Lead the implementation of Queensland's Container Refund Scheme and lightweight plastic shopping bag ban.
- Lead the development of the government's climate change strategies.
- Identify sites and provide advice in relation to land impacted by fire-fighting foam contamination.
- Implement enhanced environmental regulatory services and public engagement channels.
- Continue to implement the Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Program to support programs that contribute to water quality targets including Best Practice Management programs, the Paddock to Reef program and the Natural Resource Management Program for Reef Water Quality.
- Continue to manage the NatureAssist program to secure and maintain existing protected areas on private land in Queensland.
- Implement crocodile management under the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan and continue to roll-out refreshed Crocwise public safety messaging.
- Continue to progress options for World Heritage nominations for areas of Cape York Peninsula and the extension of the Fraser Island World Heritage area in consultation with Traditional Owners, key stakeholders and the community.
- Deliver the Community Sustainability Action Grants program, to support community groups to be more active in their local environment and increase their volunteer base and encourage innovative environmental conservation activities.
- Expand the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program to 100 positions to help support skilled jobs in Indigenous communities and protect Queensland's most sensitive and iconic landscapes and ecosystems.
- Provide additional funding for a sustainable business partnership program that supports small and medium businesses achieve resource efficiencies and environmental innovation.
- Continue to support the Junior Ranger Program to help promote career pathways in conservation and land management.
- Establish a Carbon Offset Fund and develop the capacity of Indigenous communities to participate in commercial carbon offset markets.
- Lead the development of a national Carbon Farming Industry Roadmap.
- Deliver enhanced policies and procedures designed to protect the state's built heritage.
- Continue to promote the value and increase community understanding of Queensland's heritage.
- Continue to implement the Environmental Offsets Framework.
- Continue to review and update the Queensland Heritage Register.
- Continue to lead environment recovery following Tropical Cyclone Debbie, including the dissemination of Category D assistance funding to priority areas, under the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.
- Deliver a redesigned financial assurance framework to improve environmental outcomes by providing the ability to lodge and capture information online and share information between government departments through enhancing Connect.

Financial summary

This summary provides an overview of EHP's financial performance for the 2016–17 financial year. A more detailed view can be found in the financial statements included with this report.

The department reported a net surplus for the year of \$2.483 million, compared to a deficit of \$5.941 million in 2015–16. The surplus position for 2016–17 is primarily related to an increase in user charges, fees and fines as well as movements in external grant funding. The department also reported a decrease in equity due mainly to the transfer of protected area estate land and buildings to the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing.

As the department is funded through appropriation, a surplus or deficit is not necessarily indicative of an operational profit or loss but is primarily related to either the timing of receipted external grant revenues compared to the expenditure they fund, or the impact of revaluation of the department's property, plant and equipment.

During 2016–17 new external grant revenue was received, which will be utilised to fund future expenditure. As at 30 June 2017 the department holds \$13.262 million in unspent external grant funding. Total income increased by 13% (\$27.656 million). Total expenditure increased by 9% (\$19.682 million) from 2015–16, primarily as a result of additional funding for programs.

The following table summarises the financial results of controlled operations.

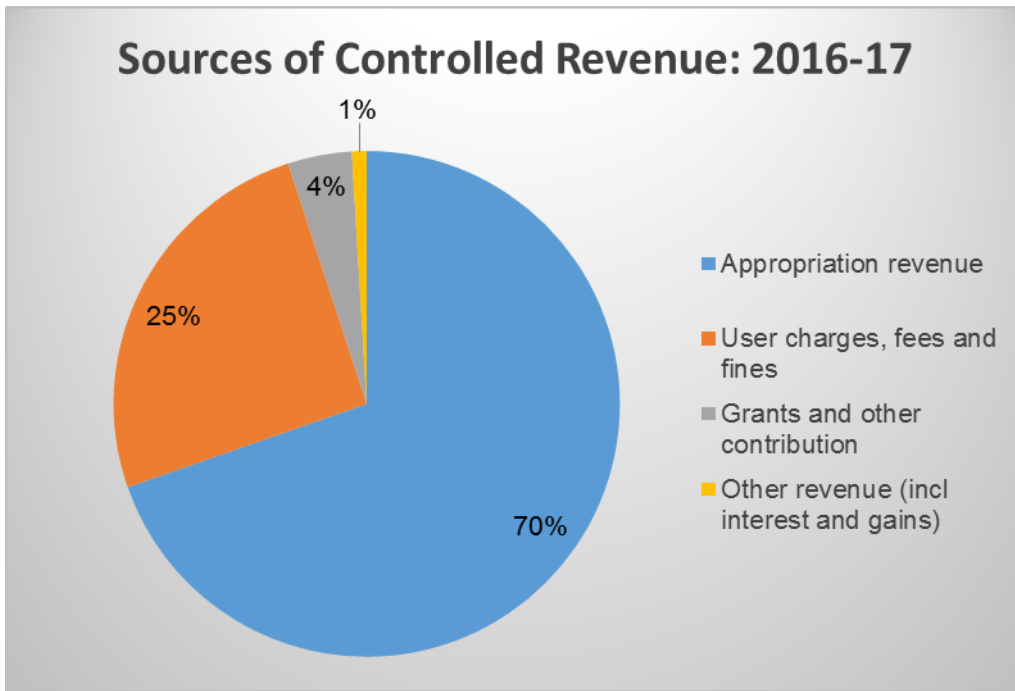
	2016–17	2015–16	Variance	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Statement of comprehensive income				
Total income from continuing operations	233,850	206,194	27,656	13%
Total expenses from continuing operations	231,367	211,685	19,682	9%
Surplus / (Deficit)	2,483	(5,491)	7,974	145%
Statement of financial position				
Total assets	77,520	90,981	(13,461)	-15%
Total liabilities	26,918	25,096	1,822	7%
Total equity	50,602	65,885	(15,283)	-23%

Statement of comprehensive income

	2017	2016	Variance	Variance
Statement of comprehensive income	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Revenue				
Appropriation revenue	162,901	148,124	14,777	10%
User charges, fees and fines	59,198	49,248	9,950	20%
Grants and other contribution	9,556	7,078	2,478	35%
Interest	138	91	47	52%
Other revenue	1,922	1,650	272	16%
Total revenue	233,715	206,191	27,524	13%
Gains				
Gains on sale of property plant and equipment	135	3	132	4400%
Total income from continuing operations	233,850	206,194	27,656	13%
Expenses from continuing operations				
Employee expenses	116,143	108,090	8,053	7%
Supplies and services	68,380	60,495	7,885	13%
Grants and subsidies	32,494	26,243	6,251	24%
Depreciation and amortisation	2,305	2,712	(407)	-15%
Revaluations	-	4,642	(4,642)	-100%
Losses	1,220	316	904	286%
Other expenses	10,825	9,187	1,638	18%
Total expenses from continuing operations	231,367	211,685	19,682	9%
Total comprehensive income (Surplus / (Deficit))	2,483	(5,491)	7,974	145%

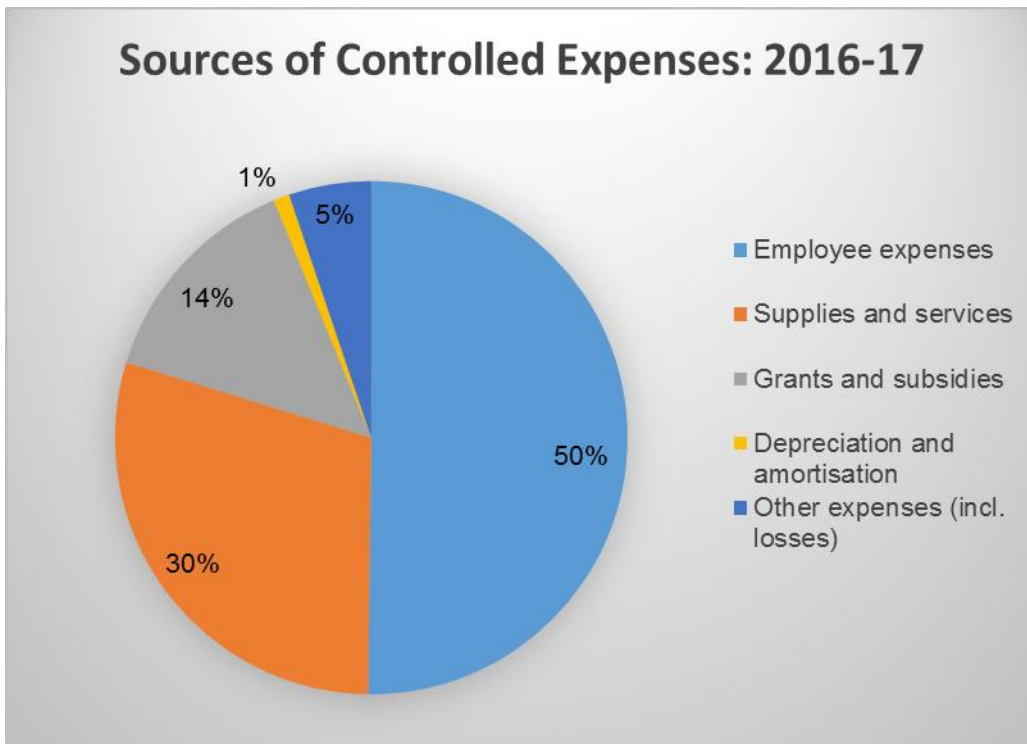
Income

Appropriation funding provided by the Queensland Government was EHP's main source of revenue, totalling \$162.901 million. Other sources of revenue included \$59.198 million from user charges and fees (which include environmental licensing and permitting activity), grants and other contributions of \$9.556 million and \$2.06 million from interest and other revenues.



Expenses

In 2016–17, total expenses were \$231.367 million, which was \$19.682 million higher than expenses in 2015–16. Employee expenses, including wages, salaries, related taxes (FBT) and superannuation contributions for 2016–17 totalled \$116.143 million and represented 50% of the department’s total expenditure.



Supplies and services make up the second largest category of expenditure, representing 30% (\$68.38 million) of EHP’s expenditure. Key items within supplies and services included consultants and contractors (\$12.928 million), operating leases (\$12.82 million) and outsourced service delivery (\$16.269 million). Overall, supplies and services increased by 13%. Within this the largest increases included consultants and contractors which increased by \$4.228 million, computer expenses increased by \$1.161 million and office accommodation and operating leases by \$1.908 million. These costs were partially offset by savings in shared service costs of \$0.816 million and repairs and maintenance \$0.262 million.

Grants and subsidies increased by 24%, primarily as a result of new or increased grant programs including new grants for Reef Protection – \$4.8 million and Pilot Agricultural Capacity Building – \$1.4 million.

Statement of financial position

EHP continues to maintain a sound net asset position of \$50.602 million, illustrating the net worth of the departmental entity. The department's assets, valued at \$77.52 million, consist primarily of cash, receivables, property plant and equipment and intangibles (software assets). Property, plant and equipment makes up a large portion of our total assets valued at \$26.09 million.

The department's liabilities primarily relate to operating payables to external vendors and staff entitlements, as well as unearned revenue relating to forfeited financial assurances.

	2017	2016	Variance	Variance
Statement of Financial Position		\$'000	\$'000	%
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	25,177	23,932	1,245	5%
Receivables	15,243	11,863	3,380	28%
Other assets	1,398	1,377	21	2%
Total current assets	41,818	37,172	4,646	12%
Non-current assets				
PPE	26,090	45,555	(19,465)	-43%
Intangible assets	9,612	8,254	1,358	16%
Total non-current assets	35,702	53,809	(18,107)	-34%
Total assets	77,520	90,981	(13,461)	-15%
Current liabilities				
Payables	16,117	17,108	(991)	-6%
Accrued employee benefits	5,042	4,448	594	13%
Forfeited security deposits	5,282	2,851	2,431	85%
Provisions - onerous contract	212	212	0	0%
Total current liabilities	26,653	24,619	2,034	8%
Non-current liabilities				
Provisions - onerous contract	265	477	(212)	-44%
Total non-current liabilities	265	477	(212)	-44%
Total liabilities	26,918	25,096	1,822	7%
Net assets	50,602	65,885	(15,283)	-23%
Equity				
Contributed equity	67,449	85,215	(17,766)	-21%
Accumulated surplus / (Deficit)	(16,847)	(19,330)	2,483	-13%
Total equity	50,602	65,885	(15,283)	-23%

Budget versus actual commentary

The 2016–17 financial statements include a budget versus actual comparison as required by AASB 1055 Budgetary Reporting. Included in note E1 of the financial statements, the comparison provides an explanation of key variances between the original budget (as per the 2016–17 Service Delivery Statements) and the final year-end result with regard to the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Cashflows.

	2016–17 budget	2016–17 actual	Variance	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Statement of comprehensive income				
Total income from continuing operations	228,873	233,850	4,977	2%
Total expenses from continuing operations	231,160	231,367	207	0%
Surplus / (Deficit)	(2,287)	2,483	4,770	-209%
Statement of financial position				
Total assets	59,639	77,520	17,881	30%
Total liabilities	11,549	26,918	15,369	133%
Total equity	48,090	50,602	2,512	5%

Whilst there were offsetting movements within each category, overall revenues and expenses were close to budget. Significant movements to note within revenue include a decrease in appropriation revenue of \$6.14 million offset by an increase in both user charges and grants revenue of \$4.193 million and \$5.51 million respectively. Expenses were impacted by a decrease in grants and subsidies of \$16.994 million offset by an increase in other expenses of \$8.207 million which primarily relates to deferrals of appropriation.

Total equity has remained in line with budget with significant movement with both assets and liabilities. An increase in both cash and receivables primarily relating to grants and regulatory fees are offset by an increase in liabilities which are attributable to the appropriation payable and forfeited financial assurances for mine site rehabilitation.

Administered activities

Administered activities are those undertaken by departments on behalf of the Queensland Government. EHP administers funds on behalf of the State which include the collection of a range of regulatory fees associated with contaminated land searches, development applications and sand dredging royalties; permits for the keeping of wildlife; and licensing of the recreational and commercial harvesting of wildlife.

All administered revenue received is ultimately transferred to the Consolidated Fund.

Our performance

To support the achievement of the government's objectives for the community, and address the state's environmental challenges, EHP identified five key goals and two complementary goals in its 2016–20 Strategic Plan. These are:

1. Conserve nature at both the species and landscape levels.
2. Protect the Great Barrier Reef.
3. Protect significant heritage places.
4. Avoid, minimise or mitigate negative impacts on the environment.
5. Provide efficient, responsive and integrated services.

The department's performance—either achievement of performance targets or implementation of strategies—is assessed against these goals.

Goal 1—Conserve nature at both the species and landscape levels

EHP seeks to ensure the diversity and integrity of Queensland's natural ecosystems are preserved and the conservation status of native species is maintained or enhanced. The department promotes safe interactions between people and wildlife, and facilitates tenure arrangements to provide species and habitat conservation.

Our key performance indicators

- Manage the NatureAssist program to secure and maintain existing protected areas on private land.
- Commence community consultation on the Cape York and extension to the Fraser Island World Heritage Area proposals, and the Pristine Rivers program.¹
- Commence a long-term crocodile survey and monitoring program.
- Implement alternative management strategies for problem urban flying-fox roosts in North Queensland.
- Encourage and support community groups through a new Community Sustainability Action Grants program.
- Form community partnerships to expand the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program.
- Support koala conservation through developing two urban refuges, expanding existing koala surveys and supporting the Daisy Hill Koala Centre and Moggill Koala Hospital.

Service standard	Notes	2016–17 target / estimate	2016–17 actual
Protecting environments, ecosystems, habitats and species			
Percentage of Queensland's land area that is protected	1	7.9%	7.86%
Percentage of threatened species, targeted under recovery plans, which maintain or improve their classification	2	95%	98%
Cost per session for the Queensland wetland information system (WetlandInfo)	3	<\$4	\$1.40
Controlling and/or allowing the use of native species			
Percentage of declared crocodiles of concern removed within three months of declaration	4	75%	97%
Average cost per wildlife permit or licence issued	5	<\$100	\$90

¹ The department continues to consider options to deliver on this election commitment. Once a way forward is determined and agreed, consultation with Traditional Owners and other key stakeholders will occur.

Notes:

1. This service standard measures the percentage of Queensland land that is dedicated as national park, conservation park, resources reserve, or declared as a nature refuge. The variance between target/estimate and the estimated actual is mainly due to the revocation of a significant nature refuge in the December 2016 quarter. It is expected that this reduction in the protected area estate will be offset by expected additions in the first half of 2017-18.
2. This service standard measures the percentage of Queensland's threatened species targeted under recovery plans that have 'recovered' or improved to a point where they are no longer listed as threatened or near threatened.
3. This service standard measures the number of user sessions for WetlandInfo compared with the total staff and other costs involved in managing the system. The positive variance between the target/estimate and the actual result is attributed to increased usage of the website. Reasons for this include the continued updating of the website with new information and training sessions which were provided to stakeholders.
4. If the department determines that a crocodile poses an unacceptable risk, it is dealt with as a 'crocodile of concern'. The positive result in 2016-17 was achieved through the improved targeting of animals.
5. This service standard measures the cost of each wildlife permit or licence approved, refused or withdrawn by the department. This service standard measures the cost of each wildlife permit or licence approved, refused or withdrawn by the department.

Our program of work

Healthy wetlands and improved biodiversity

Wetlands are areas that are permanently or periodically inundated with water that is static or flowing. They support Queensland's primary industries for seafood, protect people and property from the effects of climate events like storm surges and floods, and are habitats for a diverse range of plants and animals. Some wetlands have become less healthy because they have lost fauna or flora that once lived there, or because human activity has changed the way water flows in or out of them. The following projects were successfully undertaken during 2016–17 to support healthy wetlands and improve biodiversity.

- The Wetlands in the Great Barrier Reef Catchments Management Strategy 2016–21 was released to support the Reef 2050 Long term Sustainability Plan and the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013. The strategy provides a framework for the improved management of the wetlands of the Great Barrier Reef catchments. It recognises that wetlands, catchments and the reef are interconnected and a healthy reef is dependent on effective management and the wise use of wetlands and their catchments.
- Nine interactive Catchment Stories were developed after extensive consultation with hundreds of stakeholders, through a 'Walking the Landscape' process. The stories provide information about the key features of each catchment including the flow of water and how this supports the values derived from the catchments. Users can interrogate the information, which integrates spatial information with photos and animations, to assist with catchment level management decisions.

- A new site, Nijinda Durlga (Terrant) in the southern Gulf was added to the East Asian–Australasian Flyway. The nomination of this site to the international flyway network helps conserve critically threatened shorebirds that migrate to Australia from as far away as Siberia. The southern Gulf is Queensland's most important site for shorebirds and the nomination was prepared in partnership between the Department, the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (with the support of Traditional Owners), local government and the Queensland Wader Study Group.

South East Queensland Healthy Catchments program

The Queensland Government invested \$2 million in 2016-17 in the South East Queensland (SEQ) Healthy Catchments Program to reduce pollution to waterways from rural and urban areas in the region.

Investment in water quality monitoring and reporting on the health of SEQ's waterways and ecosystems through the annual report card continued to emphasise the major issue of sediments from both rural and urban diffuse sources and nutrients from urban point sources as the focus for on-ground works and mitigation programs.

Riverine restoration works were undertaken in the Lockyer, Bremer and Logan catchments to reduce sediment, nutrients and toxicant loads to local waterways and Moreton Bay. Most of these projects withstood the impacts of extreme weather events generated by Tropical Cyclone Debbie in March 2017, and stopped the loss of thousands of tons of sediment.

Horticultural land is a major source of sediment, nutrients and toxicants entering our waterways. The Hort360 Horticultural Best Management Practice (BMP) program provides a focus on grower uptake of water quality and sediment modules and online support tools to help landholders evaluate their farms' management practices to improve productivity and reduce sediment, pesticide and fertiliser runoff to waterways.

Since the Hort360 program commenced in 2015, the program has been delivered to 100 properties covering 8,000 hectares of land. This equates to 40% of properties in the Bremer catchment, 20% of properties in the Lockyer catchment and 46% in the Pumicestone catchment.

The erosion and sediment control and urban stormwater management project is building the capacity of local governments and industry. Changes to penalties for the release of earth from small building sites is also facilitating local government compliance efforts.

In partnership with local governments, industry and Healthy Land and Water Ltd, the program continues to deliver co-benefits for: water quality; ecosystems health; flood resilience; water sensitive designed cities; recreation; and agricultural land by keeping soil on farms and preventing it from entering waterways.

Increasing and improving Queensland's protected area system

In 2016–17, EHP, in conjunction with the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (NPSR) developed a draft Queensland Protected Area Strategy. The draft strategy aims to expand and improve management of the protected area estate and work to achieve the long-term goal of having 17% of the state's land mass declared as protected areas. The draft strategy was released for public consultation in January 2017 and results of the consultation will help inform the development of the final Queensland Protected Area Strategy.

Some protected area initiatives have commenced including the drafting of amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* to create special wildlife reserves, a new class of protected area that will afford the highest levels of protection to private lands of outstanding natural and cultural value. Protection levels will be on par with those afforded to national parks, including exclusion of mining and forestry activities.

In 2016–17, six new perpetual nature refuges were established, two of them under the NatureAssist program. NatureAssist provides funding to landholders for on-ground conservation projects on new nature refuges to protect and manage conservation values. These new nature refuges include Pullen Pullen Reserve Nature Refuge (56,398 hectares) which is home to the endangered night parrot.

Protected area acquisitions focus on key strategic and priority operational properties, which expand and enhance the existing protected area estate. Key benefits include high value conservation gains, climate change resilience, threatened species protection, the improvement of landscape connectivity and protecting regional ecosystems that have low or no representation in the existing protected area estate.

In 2016–17, one property was purchased for inclusion in the protected area estate – a 0.718 hectare parcel adjacent to the Great Sandy National Park near Noosa. This property enhances landscape connectivity, improves management efficiency and consolidates an existing state-owned protected area. Advanced negotiations are also underway for a number of properties that will provide valuable additions to the protected area estate.

Springvale Station, a 56,000 hectare property on Cape York, was purchased in May 2016 to add to the protected area estate and to contribute to improving the water quality within the Normanby River catchment.

In 2016–17, the nature refuge agreement to establish Springvale Station as a nature refuge was executed by the Minister. The longer-term intent is to dedicate the property as a higher class of protected area (e.g. conservation park) subject to a negotiated native title outcome through the Cape York Tenure Resolution Program. The property has been actively managed for its conservation values by EHP throughout 2016–17 and a process to completely de-stock the property by October 2017 is well advanced. A program of works focused upon reducing erosion on the property, guided by a comprehensive Erosion Management Plan developed by Cape York Natural Resource Management Ltd, in consultation with key stakeholders, commenced in May 2017.

Notwithstanding this, in 2016–17, Queensland’s protected areas decreased by 152,120 hectares. This reduction was predominantly due to the revocation of the Strathburn Cattle Station Nature Refuge, a 246,048 hectare property.

World Heritage

Queensland has five World Heritage areas: Wet Tropics of Queensland; Great Barrier Reef; Fraser Island; Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh section); and Gondwana Rainforests of Australia.

These properties provide highly valuable environment, recreation and economic services for Queenslanders and are managed to protect and present the values for which they were listed.

The Queensland and Australian governments cooperate in the management of Queensland’s World Heritage properties through an inter-governmental agreement which outlines obligations and responsibilities in terms of funding and management.

In 2016–17, the department managed the administration, governance and strategic direction and policy development for the Riversleigh, Gondwana Rainforests and Fraser Island World Heritage properties. The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area is managed through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The Wet Tropics Management Authority oversees the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage area and works closely with EHP’s World Heritage unit to support a consistent approach across Queensland.

The department’s specific responsibilities for World Heritage areas include:

- statewide co-ordination of World Heritage matters
- undertaking meaningful engagement with Traditional Owners, key stakeholders and the community on current and potential future World Heritage properties
- providing consistent inter-governmental and cross-jurisdictional advice on World Heritage matters
- coordinating contractual and reporting responsibilities under current and future Commonwealth funding arrangements
- providing secretariat support and setting strategic direction for the Advisory Committees established for each World

Heritage property, attending committee meetings, and ensuring committee input is coordinated and feedback is provided to both State and Australian governments to support future management of World Heritage properties

- progressing the Queensland Government’s commitments for listing future World Heritage sites (currently Cape York Peninsula and the extensions to the Fraser Island World Heritage area) with Traditional Owner consent and stakeholder and community support.

NPSR’s Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and EHP work collaboratively with the World Heritage Advisory Committees, which represent Aboriginal, scientific and community interests, on planning and implementing the strategic management and threat mitigation of the Outstanding Universal Value of each of the properties.

EHP also oversees the Queensland Government’s memberships to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Australian Committee for IUCN.

Koala conservation

In 2016–17, koala conservation was a major focus for the department with funding provided for a number of key programs including spatial modelling, monitoring and support for koala hospitals.

In response to an independent report prepared by the University of Queensland showing evidence of a decline in koala population densities in South East Queensland, a koala expert panel was appointed. The panel has commenced its review of all koala policies and programs to inform any changes to current strategies.

During the reporting period, the department updated koala habitat mapping in southern South East Queensland based on a review of the ecological and environmental requirements of koalas and vegetation mapping and species records data. The results will be an important consideration for regional planning.

In addition to this work, the Department established a Koala Hospital network in South East Queensland along with a working group to oversee the network. This network was established to facilitate the emergency care of koalas and to support the Daisy Hill Koala Centre and the Moggill Koala Hospital.

Community Sustainability Action Grants

The Community Sustainability Action grant program allocated \$3.746 million in funding in 2016–17 for projects that address climate change and conserve Queensland's natural and built environment.

Grants were made available in tranches with the three rounds of funding—Koala research; Conservation; and Heritage released during the reporting period.

In November 2016, the Heritage round provided \$702,000 in funding to 18 projects that aim to restore and conserve Queensland's heritage-listed buildings.

In April 2017, the Conservation round provided \$1.76 million in funding to 102 recipients for projects that aim to improve the sustainability of community facilities and the climate resilience of Queensland's natural landscapes.

These projects will assist Queensland's community groups to improve their energy and water efficiency and conserve natural resources through activities such as weeding and revegetation, and debris collection.

In addition to this, \$1.279 million was allocated to projects that make a critical contribution to Queensland's built and natural environment but fall outside the grant rounds due to timing or project scope.

Threatened species management

In 2016–17, the conservation status of 94 threatened species was maintained or improved. The department provided expert advice, management and research to assist the conservation and recovery of more than 27 threatened species in Queensland and also made a number of key funding commitments.

In October 2016, the department granted funding of \$440,000 to Bush Heritage Australia for the management of its 56,398 hectare Pullen Pullen Reserve Nature Refuge and to protect the only known population of the endangered night parrot. In June 2016, the department issued an interim conservation order (ICO) over the endangered bird's critical habitat to provide increased protection from the threats of illegal poaching and disturbance. Unauthorised trespassing under an ICO risks penalties of up to a \$65,700 fine or two year's imprisonment.

An endangered northern-hairy nosed wombat joey was born in September at Richard Underwood Nature Refuge (RUNR) near St

George. The birth follows the successful trapping and translocation of a healthy 31 kilogram adult male wombat from Epping Forest National Park (Scientific) in June 2016 to RUNR. The new joey was conceived within three months of the male arriving at RUNR and is the first new joey to be born at the refuge in five years. The department, in partnership with landowners Ed and Gabriele Underwood and northern hairy-nosed wombat program sponsor Glencore, established the second northern hairy-nosed wombat colony in 2009 to attempt to bring the wombat population back from the brink of extinction. Since the establishment of this second colony and good conditions across both wombat sites over the past year, the total population of northern hairy-nosed wombats in Queensland has increased to more than 250.

In 2016–17, as part of a \$700,000 Queensland Government commitment, the department provided \$400,000 to NPSR to upgrade the predator-proof bilby fence at Currawinya National Park. Work is continuing on the fence which will provide a long-term safe haven from predators for the endangered marsupial. The department and NPSR have partnered with the Save the Bilby Fund and Dreamworld to progress a bilby captive breeding program, which will enable bilbies to once again be released back into the enclosure following removal of the feral cats.

Flying-fox management

In 2016–17, the department received 158 flying-fox roost management notifications, for 44 flying-fox roosts, from local councils and flying-fox roost management permit holders. This compares with 111 notifications for 47 flying-fox roosts in 2015–16.

The department will review the current flying-fox management frameworks for both urban roosts and fruit crop protection, and propose for government consideration any changes required to make it more effective and scientifically sound so that flying-fox populations will not be put at risk.

Crocodile management

The department's crocodile management program aims to protect public safety while conserving estuarine crocodile populations in the wild.

In March 2017, a new Queensland Crocodile Management Plan (QCMP) was released to

balance the conservation of populations of estuarine crocodiles in the wild with the protection of humans from problem crocodiles in 'crocodile country'.

The QCMP replaces the old arrangements of four Crocodile Management Plans (for the local government areas of: Douglas; Cairns; Cassowary Coast; Hinchinbrook and Townsville) and three Crocodile Urban Management areas (Mackay; Rockhampton; and Gladstone), as well as other arrangements across the state.

Under the QCMP, there are six crocodile management zones across the state, based on the level of risk posed. For each zone, the QCMP outlines the information on the risks posed by crocodiles, the approach EHP uses to manage crocodiles (including removal criteria), and key CrocWise behaviours community members can practise to minimise the risk of crocodile attacks.

In 2016–17, 662 crocodile sightings were reported to the department, with 71 estuarine crocodiles removed from the wild—31 from Cairns, five from Douglas Shire, 17 from the Cassowary Coast, two from Townsville, two from Hinchinbrook Shire, and 14 from other parts of the state.

During the reporting period, 10 permanent wildlife positions in northern Queensland were funded to provide enhanced day-to-day management of crocodiles in the region.

In December 2016, the department held the first of its quarterly CrocWise roundtable meetings with local stakeholders in North and Far North Queensland. The second roundtable was held on 30 March 2017.

The purpose of the roundtable meetings is for the department to work with community leaders, councils, crocodile experts, the tourism sector and recreational fishers, to improve the effectiveness of EHP's CrocWise education program.

The meetings are used to discuss the most effective ways of communicating CrocWise messages, to discuss options for better signage, and to explore new ways of reaching target audiences in order to promote safe behaviour in crocodile country.

The meetings also explore how to encourage people to report all crocodile sightings immediately, so that important warnings can be given to the public in a timely manner, and the department's wildlife officers can be informed of, and remove, problem crocodiles as soon as practicable.

The department extended its contract with the Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation, until the end of October 2017, for the proactive removal of crocodiles from streams and estuaries in the northern suburbs of Cairns. The department will re-tender for the delivery of this contract during the 2017–18 financial year.

Crocodile monitoring project

In April 2017, the department commenced its three-year crocodile monitoring program to survey and monitor waterways from Cape York Peninsula to Gladstone. The program will allow the department to assess population trends over time and provide information and data to support ongoing program and policy implementation.

Monitoring involves systematic vessel-based spotlight surveys along river systems and estuaries from Gladstone through to the Northern Territory border. Each spotlight survey involves a team of three people (spotter, recorder, driver) motoring in vessels along rivers at night (at a speed of around six knots) using a 100W spotlight, at or near the low tide. Crocodiles are located by the reflected red in their eyes from the spotlight and are then approached to estimate their size.

Wildlife officers participating in the surveys have been trained in spotlighting and recording crocodile sizes from a moving vessel using purpose-built, floating replica crocodiles.

Using consistent techniques along the same sections of river, during the same phases of tide, allows the department to compare current survey data with data from earlier spotlight surveys conducted in 1979, 1984–1989, and 1994–2003.

The monitoring program has been reviewed and refined based on feedback provided by members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Crocodile Specialist Group. This group includes some of the leading experts in crocodilian monitoring in the world. All departmental staff involved in the program have undergone rigorous training in survey methods, technique and data collection. The monitoring program commenced in streams around Townsville and Cairns in April 2017.

Macropod management program

The department administers the commercial harvest of macropods (kangaroos and

wallaroos) in Queensland as part of the Macropod Management Program, which aims to provide for the sustainable use and conservation of the species. Annual quotas are set for the number of macropods that can be taken.

For the 2016 harvest period, 1,055 commercial wildlife harvesting licences for macropods were issued. There were 93 commercial wildlife licences for dead macropods, commonly known as dealer's licences (including seven commercial wildlife licences for meat processing and three commercial wildlife licences for tanning).

Data from dealer returns indicated that there were 899,377 macropods commercially harvested representing 23% of the overall quota. The harvest was predominantly for carcasses used for both human consumption and pet food.

No quota was exceeded for any species in any zone for the 2016–17 harvest period. The highest percentage use of quota was 31.2% for eastern grey kangaroos in the central zone. In all harvest zones, the percentage of the population used for each species was less than 4%.

A compliance program ensures the industry is accountable for its performance. During the 2016 harvest period, the department issued five infringement notices and 52 warning notices for offences relating to the commercial macropod harvest.

Cassowary rescue and rehabilitation

Cassowaries are an essential native species in Far North Queensland, helping to protect the biodiversity of World Heritage wet tropical rainforests through widespread seed dispersal, and being the sole seed disperser for some native rainforest plants.

In the reporting period, the Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre (GBCRC) and the new Atherton Tablelands Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre (ATCRC) at Lake Barrine, operated by the department and Rainforest Reserves Australia, provided support to cassowary populations.

The GBCRC is a smaller facility designed to receive sick, injured and orphaned cassowaries that require intense treatment for a relatively short time before being released back into the rainforest.

The ATCRC is a much bigger facility and has a large area of natural forest where the birds can

hone their foraging skills prior to release to increase their chances of fending for themselves successfully in the wild. It caters to animals who require longer periods in rehabilitation and is ideal for cassowaries that have become habituated to being fed by humans.

In addition, the department's mobile 'cassowary recovery unit' provides a ready-made cassowary ambulance that can be placed on the back of a utility vehicle and sent into the field at short notice.

As part of its cassowary management program, the department continued to provide staff in the Innisfail office with training in cassowary biology, rehabilitation, field-handling and husbandry.

In 2016-17, the department continued to provide a public contact phone service (1300 130 372) and frontline response for the rescue and transport of sick, injured, orphaned and aggressive cassowaries. During the reporting period there were 241 calls which resulted in six cassowaries being admitted to the GBCRC, four of which were re-released with two euthanised. The service also provides a public education and compliance role.

In 2016-17, the department secured cassowary habitat, with approximately 90% of remaining essential cassowary habitat in the Wet Tropics Region protected in the National Park and/or World Heritage Area.

Summer of turtles

The 2016–17 marine turtle breeding season saw a moderate-sized annual nesting by green turtles, consistent with El Nino southern oscillation climate conditions in 2015. Green turtle nesting was monitored at four southern rookeries, including Heron Island which has a 53 year monitoring history.

Population recovery of nesting loggerhead turtles continued at the four primary index beaches – Woongarra Coast; Wreck Rock beaches; Wreck Island; and Heron Island. The population recovery began with the mandatory use of Turtle Excluder Devices in prawn trawl fisheries in eastern and northern Australia in 2001.

In 2016-17, heat wave impacts caused substantial death of eggs and hatchlings on the mainland nesting beaches, but predator controls on the Woongarra Coast resulted in negligible loss of eggs from this threat. Overall, the very low recruitment of young loggerheads

from their oceanic plankton feeding stage into adults in coastal foraging areas continues.

Supported by funding from Gladstone Port Corporation's Environmental Risk Management Plan, flatback turtle nesting was monitored at the four primary index beaches, which showed indications of a declining nesting population at Curtis Island but not at Avoid Island or Woongarra Coast.

Monitoring of hawksbill turtles nesting at Milman Island, in collaboration with Apudthama rangers and the World Wildlife Fund, supported concerns about long term declines in the species within the Great Barrier Reef with this species now listed as endangered.

Eighteen nesting female turtles were successfully tracked by satellite telemetry this summer from Raine Island, Milman Island and Mon Repos in collaboration with NPSR, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and World Wide Fund for Nature.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie had little impact on marine turtle breeding, arriving after the completion of flatback hatching and towards the end of hatching for the loggerhead and green turtles in central and south Queensland.

South East Queensland Wildlife Hospital Network

The South East Queensland (SEQ) Wildlife Hospital Network is a partnership between the department, Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors, Currumbin Wildlife Hospital Trust and RSPCA Queensland. The network aims to improve the response, rescue, care and rehabilitation of sick and injured wildlife throughout SEQ.

In 2016-17, a Memorandum of Understanding for the network was signed by all parties with associated grant deeds between the department and each of the wildlife hospitals also completed. Steering committee Terms of Reference have been agreed and Oil Spill Response Plans have been finalised.

The network's steering committee will be responsible for coordinating improvements to how sick and injured wildlife are rescued, cared for, and rehabilitated in SEQ and will also coordinate and promote improved incident notification capacity to minimise response time for wildlife incidents.

Funding of \$6 million over four years has been committed for the development and operation of the network which is planned for launch in July 2017.

Environmental Offsets Framework²

The Environmental Offsets Framework (EO Framework) outlines how offsets can be used to reduce impacts to the environment. An environmental offset compensates for the loss of important biodiversity values by providing an equivalent outcome elsewhere.

In 2016–17, the department continued to implement the EO Framework by integrating the framework into new and revised statutory instruments. This included translating offset requirements into the new *Planning Act 2016* and associated planning and assessment instruments. Revised protected area categories and reclassified wildlife species under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and subordinate regulations were also incorporated into the EO Framework to enable offsets to be delivered. These amendments are necessary to ensure that, by law, highly threatened species and ecosystems are not lost to the impacts of development.

A key focus for 2016–17 was identifying strategic approaches to offset delivery through advanced offsets, direct benefit management plans and the delivery of financial settlement offsets.

During the reporting period two additional advanced offsets were registered—one for marine plants (mangroves) at the Port of Brisbane, Pinkenba in Brisbane City Council and another for marine plants (saltmarsh, casuarina and mangroves) at North East Business Park, Morayfield in Moreton Bay Regional Council. As at 30 June 2017, there were four advanced offsets.

Strategic Offset Investment Corridors

At times, areas of high environmental value (for example a habitat for vulnerable or endangered species) coincide with sites of particular value to industry (for example the presence of natural resources or proximity to infrastructure).

Environmental offsets provide the flexibility to approve development in one place on the basis of a requirement to make an equivalent environmental gain in another place where there is not the same value to industry. Strategic Offset Investment Corridors (SOICs)

² The Environmental Offsets Framework seeks to prevent further harm to the environment rather than mitigate existing environmental impacts.

identify the best places in the landscape to locate environmental offsets. SOICs have been prepared for the Western Bioregions, Galilee Basin and the Southern Brigalow Belt and New England Tablelands. In 2016–17, the department identified potential offset areas in the Draft SEQ Regional Plan and continued to work with stakeholders to register their interest in providing offsets on their land to support the strategic delivery of offsets in identified corridors.

Financial Settlement Offsets

EHP's Offset Project Management Committee is responsible for managing the funds derived from financial settlement offsets and for providing recommendations for outsourcing strategic on-ground offset projects.

The committee members come from a range of sectors including science, land management, government, academia and finance and have a range of skills and experience across key portfolio areas. The committee met five times during the reporting period and has been developing governance protocols and decision-making procedures to identify and assess options for the delivery of offset projects. The committee has approved three procurement processes during the reporting period and offset project contracts are currently being negotiated with providers.

The department and the committee are committed to best practice governance and oversight to ensure that financial settlement offset funds are acquitted to benefit the environmental matter that was impacted.

Since it was established in 2014, EHP's Offsets Account had received \$5,064,087 from proponents for 58 separate offset payments. During the reporting period, \$2,788,824 was received into the account for 34 separate offsets payments.

Consultation on Direct Benefit Management Plans

In 2016–17, the department worked with stakeholders, including natural resource management bodies, to develop draft Direct Benefit Management Plans (DBMPs), particularly relating to seagrass, mangroves and saltmarsh offsets. Work is continuing to ensure a conservation outcome can be delivered for marine plants from actions contained within DBMPs. Once finalised, they will be listed on the environmental offsets public register.

Goal 2—Protect the Great Barrier Reef

EHP hosts the Office of the Great Barrier Reef which implements and coordinates the Queensland Government's reef strategies and programs to improve the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

Our key performance indicators

- Demonstrate a contribution to at least a 1% reduction in annual loads of nitrogen, sediment and pesticides. This reduction will be measured against the 2009 baseline and reported annually through the Reef Report Card (developed collaboratively with the Australian Government).
- Coordinate the implementation of a program of work including on-ground remediation, monitoring, innovation, extension, incentives and regulation in response to the GBR Water Science Taskforce recommendations.
- 90% of Queensland's actions in Reef 2050 Plan and Reef Water Quality Protection Plan are to be on track or complete.
- Coordinate the GBR Queensland Government Investment Plan.
- Continue to expand the water quality report card system to cover all GBR catchments.
- Continue to deliver the \$10 million per year Reef Water Quality Science Program to review and improve minimum standards for agricultural industries and the delivery of research, extension, best management practice and legislative programs.

Performance measure	Notes	2016–17 target/ estimate	2016–17 actual
Queensland's contribution to a reduction in the annual loads of nitrogen, sediment and pesticides to the Great Barrier Reef	1, 2	≥ 1%	Not available
Notes: 1. This is a whole-of-government measure, included as part of the department's role in coordinating reef reporting across government. Performance for this service standard is reported annually (including through the Great Barrier Reef Report Card which reports on Queensland and Australian Government investment). 2. Due to a 12-month time lag for reporting, the 2016-17 actual will be reported in the Reef Report Card in September 2018. The 2015-16 actual will be reported in the Reef Report Card in September 2017. The 2014-15 actual as reported in the Reef Report Card 2015 in October 2016 was 1.1% reduction in annual loads of dissolved inorganic nitrogen, 0.3% reduction in sediment and 3.2% reduction in pesticides to the Great Barrier Reef.			

Our program of work

Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan)

The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan) is the Australian and Queensland governments' blueprint for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef. It outlines actions to ensure the Great Barrier Reef continues to improve on its Outstanding Universal Value.

In 2016–17, the Office of the Great Barrier Reef continued to coordinate the Queensland Government's commitments under the plan and actions in the aftermath of two mass coral bleaching events which occurred in 2016 and 2017.

In December 2016 the Reef 2050 Plan Update on Progress and Investment Framework was submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Key actions delivered in 2016–17 included the Ports Maintenance Dredging Strategy and the guideline for Master Planning for Priority Ports. Public consultation was undertaken on the Queensland fisheries reform green paper and a strategic policy for Queensland's fisheries management was also considered in early 2017. Advisory bodies for the plan, the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee and Independent Expert Panel, continued to meet during the reporting period and will be integral in advising governments on a response to coral bleaching and the 2018 Reef 2050 Plan mid-term review.

Great Barrier Reef Report Card and regional waterway health report cards

The annual Great Barrier Reef Report Card, released in October 2016, showed some positive progress towards the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan targets but also highlighted areas where more effort is needed. The department led the production of the joint Queensland and Australian Government Great Barrier Reef Report Card with input from stakeholders. The report card draws on the best available science produced through the Paddock to Reef program coordinated by the department. It showed that almost half the horticulture and grains land across the Great Barrier Reef catchments is already managed using best management practice systems, however, more work is needed in the sugarcane and grazing industries.

The Queensland Government is supporting the establishment of regional waterway health report card partnerships along the Great Barrier Reef as part of its commitment to the Reef 2050 Plan. The partnerships bring together all levels of government, industry, research bodies and the community to develop a shared vision for the health of their waterways and to prepare an annual report card. During 2016–17, the Queensland Government provided \$1.5 million to support regional partnerships established for Gladstone Harbour, Mackay Whitsundays and the Wet Tropics to deliver their annual regional report cards, and to establish a new partnership in the Townsville area.

Burdekin nitrogen trials

The department continued its successful reef science program, which has funded demonstration projects, local monitoring and other trials with a strong focus on demonstrating evidence for practice change, and working with landholders to achieve water quality outcomes.

Working with landholders, researchers and extension staff, the Reef Project 20 Burdekin Nitrogen Trials clearly demonstrated that practice change can be profitable.

This project evaluated different nitrogen fertiliser rates on all major soil types in the Burdekin with 23 trials conducted.

The project results have proven that the industry nutrient management standard, SIX EASY STEPS™, maximises grower profitability and reduces fertiliser amounts compared to historically higher rates. Across the 12,700 hectares of cane involved in the project, in the past two years alone, 1,000 less tonnes of nitrogen has been applied, at a cost effective rate of \$2.80 per kilogram. Reducing the amount of nitrogen applied on farms by 500 tonnes each year is an enduring change—one the local waterways and the reef will see benefits from in the future.

The success of this project was recognised with the project team winning the 2016 Premier's Award for Excellence.

The learnings from this project are now being offered to up to 90 farms across the Burdekin through the Reef Project 161 Complete Nutrient Management Planning for Cane Farming project.

Industry Best Management Practice programs

The department continues to support Best Management Practice (BMP) programs in Great Barrier Reef catchments for the cane, grazing and banana industries. These programs assist producers to benchmark their practices, implement actions to improve water quality and profitability, and voluntarily achieve independent accreditation.

As at 30 June 2017, 12.4 million hectares had been benchmarked as part of the Grazing BMP program, representing 1,297 businesses. Of these, 87 businesses achieved accreditation across all five modules of the Grazing Land Management module (a priority for the reef).

As at 30 June 2017, 0.275 million hectares (69% of the total cane area) had been benchmarked as part of the Smartcane BMP, representing 1,588 farms, with 206 of these achieving accreditation. In January 2017, Smartcane BMP accreditation was also deemed to meet the sustainability criteria for biofuels feedstock production under the Liquid Supply Regulation 2016.

As at 30 June 2017, 8,630 hectares (73% of the production area) had been benchmarked as part of the Banana BMP program.

With support from the department, the banana industry developed the BetterBunch record-keeping app, with 28 growers across 39 farms trained in, and using, the app as at 30 June 2017.

During the reporting period, the department also worked with the Grains BMP partnership to support roll out of the Grains BMP program in priority reef catchments.

Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce report implementation

Significant progress was made in 2016–17 toward implementing the recommendations of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce (GBRWST). Major projects are underway in partnership with key agricultural industry stakeholders to promote land practice change and build advisory service capacity across reef catchments.

Two major integrated projects in the Wet Tropics and Burdekin regions were established, providing investment of up to \$33 million to reduce nutrient, sediment and pesticide loads into waterways. The projects focus on nutrient run-off in the Tully/Johnstone catchments and sediment run-off in the Bowen-Broken-Bogie catchment.

The department established collaborations with other investors to investigate innovative responses to water quality issues including trialling gully remediation techniques in the Burdekin, trialling more efficient fertilisers for sugarcane and the development of low-cost monitoring sensors.

The “Enhancing regulations to ensure clean water for a healthy Great Barrier Reef and a prosperous Queensland” discussion paper was released for consultation, seeking feedback on the regulatory proposals being considered to complement other initiatives.

The existing Paddock to Reef integrated monitoring and modelling program was expanded with further investment provided for additional monitoring sites to increase the understanding of water quality entering the reef.

The investment supports the recommendations of the GBRWST and aligns and complements the existing ongoing annual Queensland Government \$35 million investment in reef water quality initiatives.

Reef compliance

In 2016–17, the department’s Reef Compliance Program officers conducted site visits to sugar cane farms in the Wet Tropics and Burdekin Dry Tropics priority catchments to ensure that individual growers were complying with their legal obligations in relation to fertiliser.

The program uses industry engagement to facilitate a collaborative approach to practice change and industry compliance. During 2016–17, 15 industry stakeholder meetings were attended by compliance officers to promote legislative requirements, to provide advice, and to support sugar cane growers to adopt necessary reef protection measures as required by the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

In response to the industry specific regulatory requirements, compliance officers collated and analysed data to develop a model for prioritisation, planning and delivery, and reporting compliance activities with 12 on-farm inspections undertaken during 2016–17. Where initial non-compliance is identified, engagement commences with an emphasis on education. Where follow-up inspections revealed legislative non-compliance, departmental officers provided further support to farmers to help them adopt the necessary reef protection measures.

The compliance program is consistent with the department’s enforcement guidelines and an escalating enforcement approach is applied. While two formal warnings were issued during the reporting period to sugar cane growers for continued non-compliance, the industry has been willing to address identified issues without requiring formal compliance action.

Access to support programs, such as Smartcane, Best Management Practice and nutrient management planning, has played a significant role in supporting voluntary compliance.

Goal 3—Protect significant heritage places

Queensland's heritage includes places of cultural significance that need to be identified, kept, respected and passed on to future generations. By protecting our heritage places we are maintaining our sense of place, reinforcing our identity and continuing to define what it means to be a Queenslanders.

Our key performance indicators

- Enhance the policies and procedures designed to protect the state's historic heritage.
- Continue the ongoing review of the state's heritage register to ensure that significant places in Queensland are accurately captured.
- Continue to promote the value, and increase community understanding, of Queensland's heritage.

Service standard	Notes	2016–17 target/ estimate	2016–17 actual
Percentage of departmental heritage recommendations, for inclusion in, or removal from, the Heritage Register, accepted by the Queensland Heritage Council	1	90%	92%
Average cost per heritage register entry reviewed and updated	2	\$235	\$88
Notes:			
<p>1. The department is responsible for researching, consulting relevant parties and making recommendations to the Queensland Heritage Council (QHC) for places nominated for inclusion in or removal from the Queensland Heritage Register (the Register). As an independent statutory body the QHC is responsible for making the decision about which places are added to or removed from the Register. In making this decision the QHC must consider the department's recommendations, public submissions, oral representations, the physical condition or structural integrity of the place and any other information it considers relevant.</p> <p>2. Some of the information in the Heritage Register dates from 1992 when it was transitioned from other registers. This service standard measures the average cost of updating these entries to improve the accuracy of information. The smaller actual average cost was a result of the Heritage Explorer tourism project which significantly increased the number of audits.</p>			

Our program of work

Open house events

In 2016–17, the department continued to support Open House events throughout Queensland. These free events allow the community to explore Queensland's built environment of both heritage and modern design. The department was part of the Open House organising committees and contributed to marketing these events and to volunteer training. The following Open House events were held during the reporting period.

- Bundaberg Open House—3–4 September 2016. This inaugural event was hosted and supported by the Bundaberg Regional Council with 10 heritage-listed buildings showcased.
- Maryborough Open House—24 September 2016. Twenty-eight sites/buildings were opened to the public along with guided walking and bus tours, concerts, speaking events and historic photographic displays. These events were followed by an open gardens day on Sunday 27 September which provided access to some of Maryborough's beautiful private gardens.
- Brisbane Open House—8-9 October 2016. The Brisbane event featured 101 buildings, of which 54 are state heritage places, and attracted 68,600 visitors. A series of talks, hosted in the lead up to the weekend, provided additional opportunities to explore the ideas that shaped our city.

- Cairns Open House—9 October 2016. The event was held in conjunction with the 'Festival of Architecture' and included a free walk through the CBD along with a bus tour of award winning buildings.
- Gold Coast Open House—5 November 2016. Thirty buildings were open during the event, providing a great opportunity to learn more about the Gold Coast's history.
- Toowoomba Open House—28 May 2017. Nineteen fascinating new and historic buildings and spaces opened to the public.

The Queensland Heritage Council

The Queensland Heritage Council (QHC) is an independent statutory authority and is comprised of 12 members who represent a wide range of professional and community sector interests. The QHC is Queensland's peak body on heritage matters and is responsible for providing advice to the Minister. It decides whether to add a place to, or remove a place from, the Queensland Heritage Register. The department provides professional advice and administrative support to the QHC.

In 2016–17, the QHC met nine times in Brisbane and once in Rockhampton, as part of a regional visit in May 2017.

Queensland Heritage Register

The Queensland Heritage Register is a list of places that have cultural heritage significance to the people of Queensland. Places entered in the register illustrate the key human endeavours that have determined Queensland's economic development, as well as the fundamental political, social and cultural forces that have shaped society.

The QHC undertakes a rigorous assessment process for entry applications, ensuring that places entered in the register have state significance. In 2016–17, there were 16 new State Heritage Places added to the register.

As at 30 June 2017, there were 1,741 places listed on the register, an increase of 1% from 2015–16.

Development Assessment and Compliance

The new *Planning Act 2016* will commence on 3 July 2017 and require that the Queensland Heritage Council's (QHC) view be sought before approvals are given for development applications that are likely to destroy or substantially reduce the cultural heritage significance of a place on the Queensland Heritage Register (QHR).

Properties entered on the QHR require an approval before being changed or developed. In 2016–17, the department assessed 668 applications, compared with 534 applications in 2015–16. Of the 668 applications assessed, 130 were for works having more than a minimal detrimental impact on heritage significance, requiring the submission of a development application.

On at least two occasions, proposed development was referred to the QHC because it had the potential to have a substantial detrimental impact on the heritage significance of a heritage place.

The majority of development applications (538) involved works that were considered to have no more than a minimal detrimental impact on the heritage significance of the heritage places involved. Approval was via an exemption certificate given under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. In 2016–17, the number of pre-lodgement meetings increased to 31, up from 15 in 2015–16.

The department manages approximately 3,000 queries each year via phone and email. These queries range from questions about whether a place is on the heritage register and the extent of the state heritage boundary, to more detailed discussions about the sort of work that can and cannot be undertaken on a heritage place.

In 2016–17, the department's heritage teams also provided support to the department's compliance teams in relation to more than 70 state heritage places.

Community Sustainability Action grant program

The Community Sustainability Action grant program is allocating \$12 million in grant funding over three years (2016-17 to 2018-19) for projects which seek to conserve Queensland's natural environment and built heritage and protect Queensland's threatened species.

In November 2016, 18 projects were successful in receiving a total of \$702,000 in grant funding to undertake urgent conservation works on sites listed on either the Queensland or a local government heritage register, or to prepare/update conservation management plans for these sites. Recipients included owners of heritage-listed buildings and organisations such as 'friends of' groups.

As at 30 June 2017, two projects have been completed with the remaining projects due for completion by December 2017.

In May 2017, a second round of heritage conservation funding was announced to provide up to \$1 million for heritage conservation projects or to prepare/update conservation management plans. Successful applicants for this funding are expected to be announced in September 2017.

Goal 4—Avoid, minimise or mitigate negative impacts on the environment

EHP delivers targeted, consistent and transparent regulation that facilitates sustainable development in Queensland. The department also manages and monitors environmental risks proactively through modern and innovative assessment, compliance investigation and enforcement programs, to ensure Queensland's high environmental standards are maintained.

Our key performance indicators

- Identify solutions to measurably improve mine rehabilitation performance.
- Enhance the sustainable use of groundwater by the resource industry.
- Reduce the rate of environmental authority holders recommitting the same offence.
- Facilitate improved waste management and resource recovery to help grow the waste management industry and improve associated employment opportunities.
- Lead the development of the Government's climate change strategies, including climate change adaptation, climate change mitigation and adapting to coastal hazards.
- Publish The State of the Environment report by September 2016.
- Continue catchment planning including for Queensland Murray Darling Basin, implement ongoing catchment improvement programs and legislate water quality standards for priority catchments.
- Develop the sustainability criteria for the implementation framework for Queensland's biofuels mandate.

Service standard	Notes	2016–17 target/ estimate	2016–17 actual
Monitoring legislative and regulatory compliance relating to the impact of industrial or commercial activity on the environment			
Percentage of identified unlicensed operators who have become licensed or enforcement action taken within 60 days.	1	70%	66%
Percentage of sites that show a reduction in overall risk to the environment as a result of site inspections.	2	70%	71%
Average cost per environmental complaint resolution as a consequence of effective prioritisation of complaints.	3	\$2,500	\$2,688
Identifying, monitoring and taking action in relation to unlawful activity			
Proportion of monitored licensed operators returned to compliance with their environmental obligations.	4	70%	77%
Average cost per formal investigation into serious non-compliance.	5	\$3,500	\$4,997
Controlling and/or allowing actions that will impact on the State's environment			
Average cost per permit/licence assessed.	6	\$8,500	\$9,015
Litigation			
Percentage of matters finalised with a finding of guilt or a successful application.	7	85%	91%
Percentage of potential prosecutions reviewed and decision made, within 12 weeks of receiving a brief of evidence, on whether charges can be laid.	8	90%	80%

Notes:

1. This service standard measures the effectiveness of the Compliance Centre Teams in addressing unauthorised environmentally relevant activities and enabling corrective action to be taken within what is regarded as an acceptable timeframe. The target was not met due to the complexity of ongoing unlicensed matters and the time operators took to provide further information, which would allow operators to become licensed or the department to take enforcement action.
2. This service standard measures the effectiveness of regulatory compliance activities to reduce the overall risk to the environment.
3. This service standard measures the efficiency of the department's resolution of public reports from lodgement to finalisation (deciding on actions to be taken). While the target was not met in 2016-17, efficiencies are expected to be achieved through changes in the operating model, resulting in the target being reduced by \$250 for 2017-18.
4. This service standard measures the instances where non-compliance has been identified and corrective action taken to both assist customers to better understand their environmental obligations and to deal with non-compliance through proportionate and consistent enforcement action.
5. This service standard measures the efficiency of the Investigations Team's effort in investigating Formal Investigation Requests, including those referred from the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Cultural Heritage), to the point that a decision has been made to take action. The target was not met because of the level of complexity and an unexpected increase in hours required to investigate a number of matters.
6. This service standard measures the efficiency of the Business Centre Assessment Teams in making permit/licence application decisions. The number of permits/licence assessments declined during the first two quarters of the 2016/17 financial year, however the number of applications increased in Quarters 3 & 4 which meant the actual average cost per permit/licence assessed was \$9,015 compared to the estimated \$13,300. The department will continue to review management options and move resources in line with shifts in workload, enabling achievement of the target in future.
7. This service standard measures the effectiveness of the Litigation Branch in successfully finalising litigation matters in order to support best practice environmental management.
8. This service standard measures the efficiency of the Litigation Branch in reviewing all potential prosecutions and making timely decisions on whether charges can be laid against the offender or offenders. The unit undertakes litigation on behalf of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing. This is not a regulatory timeframe as it is set by the service area. The target was not met because of the complexity of cases and the number of requests for further information.

Our program of work

Environmental standards and guidelines

In 2016–17, the department revised a number of standards and guidelines to assist industry to understand and comply with their environmental obligations including:

- the Financial Assurance Calculator and User Guide for mining, petroleum and gas activities that helps industry calculate the amount of financial assurance required to be paid to the state to cover any rehabilitation liability
- guidelines to support the amendments to chapter 3 of the *Water Act 2000* that introduce the requirement for certain mining activities to develop underground water impact reports, undertake bore assessment and enter into make good agreements
- a guideline to support amendments introduced to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* that require certain resource activities to identify their impacts to groundwater environmental values as a result of taking the groundwater
- updated pre-lodgement documentation to assist applicants in applying for an environmental authority
- information sheets outlining changes to legislation.

Compliance and enforcement

The department has a proactive compliance methodology and framework that targets those activities that pose the greatest risk to the environment, monitors performance of customers and improves utilisation of compliance resources.

The *Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Act 2016* gives the department greater powers to enforce compliance with existing environmental obligations and ensures that related parties with a significant interest or influence in a company are held accountable for environmental obligations.

During 2016–17, the department undertook the following activities to support the compliance program.

- Invested approximately \$13,000 for training 24 departmental officers across both North and Central regions in the chapter 4A reef protection provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (the EP Act), and the regulated methods for soil testing and optimum nutrient calculation and farming practices.
- Delivered eight courses to staff to support compliance activities through the EP Act authorised officer training.
- Allocated \$969,652 to the compliance workforce, funding approximately 9.85 full

time equivalent staff over the year to deliver the compliance activities for fertiliser application requirements under chapter 4A of the EP Act. This included funding four positions in the Mackay office to allow recruitment and training to occur in preparation for the commencement of compliance activities in the Mackay-Whitsunday area.

In 2016–17, the department undertook significant enforcement action. This included:

- 615 warnings issued
- 2,411 penalty infringement notices issued (the majority of these were issued through the Littering and Illegal Dumping Online Reporting System for vehicle and vessel related littering incidents)
- three transitional environmental programs
- 103 statutory orders issued
- 33 formal investigations undertaken which have led to the finalisation of 21 prosecutions, from which fines totalling \$1,220,385 have been handed down. Legal and investigative costs of \$141,698.32 were awarded
- nine formal investigations undertaken on behalf of NPSR, with eight prosecutions finalised by the department's litigation team.

Prosecutions

The department promotes voluntary compliance with its environmental legislation by working in consultation with industry and individuals and has a strong record of enforcement and prosecution.

In 2016–17, the department prosecuted 29 people which included fines of \$1,225,885. For prosecution details please see Appendix 3.

Several companies were prosecuted for breaching their environmental authorities and environmental orders, including Queensland Alumina Limited which released caustic vapour into the atmosphere. A conviction was recorded and a fine of \$400,000 was imposed, which included a \$150,000 Public Benefit Order. Wirralie Mines Proprietary Limited and its director were fined \$55,000, with a conviction recorded against the company, for breaching conditions of an environmental protection order and for failing to pay a financial assurance.

A District Court indictment was presented against Linc Energy on 7 September 2016, commencing the final phase of the criminal proceedings against the company, the largest of its kind undertaken by the department's Litigation Branch.

It is expected that these charges (five counts of wilfully causing serious environmental harm) will be heard later in 2017. Between September and November 2016, the department also commenced proceedings against a number of individuals formerly associated with the company. Five individual defendants are facing a total of 11 charges (presently before the Dalby Magistrates Court).

Operation Tora

In 2016–17, the Queensland Government and the waste management industry, including the Waste Recycling Industry Association Queensland, continued to implement the Waste Industry Compliance Investigation Taskforce.

The two key objectives of the taskforce are to:

- increase the priority of EHP's compliance response towards alleged unlicensed waste management operators
- analyse the compliance framework to ensure that industry compliance is being achieved and the regulatory tools are appropriate.

During the reporting period, the taskforce conducted Operation Tora, a coordinated compliance program to stamp out unlicensed waste management operators in Queensland.

As at 30 June 2017, a total of 207 waste management operations had been investigated since the commencement of the operation in August 2015 (resulting in 40 warning notices, 22 penalty infringement notices, five directions notices, one clean-up notice and one prosecution) with 22 investigations remaining active. An additional 13 devolved activities were referred to local government.

Operation Hawkfish

In 2016–17, the department undertook a multi-agency compliance program – Operation Hawkfish – which targeted activities in the Whitsunday region between 11–17 October 2016.

Operation Hawkfish was a joint operation with other state and federal agencies including Queensland Police Service, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Maritime Safety Queensland, Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks Authority and Australian Border Force. It created opportunities to share intelligence, communications and resources leading to improved regulatory performance. The department's role in the operation was to assess compliance against environmental authorities, development approvals and coastal approvals

authorising environmentally relevant activities, and coastal activities on Whitsunday Islands.

During the seven-day operation, the department ran a social media pilot campaign – Active Regulator – which resulted in more than 8,000 Twitter views.

Operation Hawkfish was well received by Island operators, who welcomed the whole-of-government approach to education and compliance in the Whitsundays. Key outcomes of the operation were:

- 30% of operators were in compliance
- 70% of inspections identified non-compliance under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

Responses to the incidents of non-compliance were managed in accordance with the department's published Enforcement Guidelines. Due to the success of the operation, it will now be run annually.

Fire-fighting foam per-and poly-fluorinated alkyl substances contamination

In 2016–17, the Queensland Government formed an Interdepartmental Committee to address the issue of state-wide contamination from the historic use of fire-fighting foams containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) chemicals. The department has established a dedicated project team to coordinate a response to the issue.

The project team will:

- provide a centralised, co-ordinated departmental approach
- identify the extent of PFAS contamination state-wide
- complete a risk assessment of identified sites
- contribute to the department's regulatory response
- identify the location of fire-fighting foam stocks in Queensland
- assist with the implementation of the department's foam policy
- contribute to, and lead, the formulation of internal and external PFAS guidance and technical material regarding management of PFAS contamination.

Due to the complexity of the issues involved, it is anticipated that this will be a long-term project.

PFAS contamination is an emerging problem world-wide and the Queensland Government is at the forefront nationally of managing the response.

Administration of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (the EP Act) provides for ecologically sustainable development. It allows development that improves the total quality of life now and in the future in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.

The EP Act is jointly administered by the department (as chief executive), the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, and local governments (as relevant administering authorities) who have either delegated or devolved powers. The annual report on the administration of the EP Act can be found in Appendix 4 of this report.

Pollution and incident response

During the reporting period, the department responded to pollution incidents and other critical environmental matters reported to it by phone or email.

In 2016–17, the department received 12,235 notifications ranging from minor incident notifications and reporting under Environmental Authority requirements to chemical spills, industrial fires, sewage spills and biological disease incidents.

When responding to significant incidents, the department's role is to assess the potential environmental impacts and advise the relevant responding agencies in order to mitigate the impacts.

In 2016–17, the department increased the capability of its community response team to respond to pollution notifications by managing them from first contact through to close-out via formal correspondence. This has resulted in better environmental outcomes through faster resolution of notifications and incident response.

Litter and illegal dumping

Programs

The department takes a multi-faceted approach to reducing littering and illegal dumping incidents ranging from compliance and enforcement action to community engagement and behaviour change campaigns. The community is encouraged to report illegal activities using the Litter and Illegal Dumping Online Reporting System (LIDORS) and to dispose of their waste responsibly and encourage others to do the same.

In 2016–17, the department collaborated with government, industry and the community on a

range of projects to reduce littering and illegal dumping. These included:

- partnering with Healthy Land and Water to address litter in the lower Brisbane waterway catchment
- supporting Sports2Clean which combines sporting activities and clean-ups to educate youth about litter and our environment
- working with Griffith University to develop a statistical analysis approach for quantitative data analysis of the Beerburrum Forestry signage campaign addressing illegal dumping in natural areas
- collaborating with other jurisdictions to share information and resources to support anti-littering initiatives
- partnering with Ipswich City Council to address roadside littering, kerbside dumping, illegal dumping in urban and forested areas, and recycling contamination within the region
- engaging with the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Organising Committee to identify ways to investigate littering behaviour at large scale stadium events.

Compliance

The department manages investigations into reports of littering and illegal dumping offences (except for vehicle based littering offences).

In 2016–17, the department received 1,188 enquiries. Of these, approximately:

- 30.3% related to illegal dumping
- 14.6% related to littering
- 43.4% related to unsolicited advertising material and newspapers
- 11.6% related to other issues.

Of the 1,188 reports and enquiries received approximately:

- 26% were referred directly to local government or other Queensland government agencies for appropriate action
- 24.4% were general enquiries seeking advice or giving information or they did not provide enough information to proceed.

Of the remaining 49.6% of cases, the department undertook some form of compliance and/or enforcement action including verbal and written warnings, compliance notices and penalty infringement notices (issued in 37.5% of cases). The majority of compliance/enforcement action involved sending warning letters to those delivering unsolicited advertising material.

National Standard for environmental risk management of industrial chemicals

Industrial chemicals can enter the environment at any stage during their lifecycle. Recognising that there are insufficient mechanisms to manage environmental risks, all Australian jurisdictions have agreed to develop a national standard, which will provide a framework for managing the risks that industrial chemicals may pose to the environment. The standard aims to achieve better protection for the environment while providing a consistent, transparent, predictable and streamlined approach for governments, industry and the community.

The outcome-based risk management measures under the standard will encourage continued innovation in environmental protection and allow industry to keep costs related to risk management as low as possible. Each jurisdiction will be responsible for compliance activities and enforcement of the scheduled risk management approaches within the areas pertaining to their responsibilities. The department has been working with the Australian Government and the other states and territories to finalise the details of the scheme and ensure implementation arrangements are incorporated into existing regulatory frameworks as efficiently as possible.

The draft standard was released for public consultation and it is expected that it will be finalised and implemented in 2018.

Advance Queensland Biofutures 10-Year Biofutures Roadmap and Action Plan

Biofutures Roadmap

During 2016–17, the department worked collaboratively with the Department of State Development (DSD) to deliver the Biofutures Roadmap. This included assisting DSD to facilitate private sector projects that have the potential to contribute to roadmap goals and deliver environmental benefits. The department has responsibility for delivering three actions under strategy 1 of the roadmap:

- Undertake a review of wastes in Queensland that may be suitable for diversion from disposal to higher order and more sustainable use.
- Investigate policy and market-based approaches to encourage the re-use of waste currently going to landfill.
- Work with the Australian Government to address fuel quality standards and excise treatment of advanced biofuels including aviation and maritime fuels.

Biofuels mandate sustainability criteria

During 2016–17, the department developed sustainability criteria for biofuels as part of the new Liquid Fuel Supply Regulation 2016, which supports Queensland's biofuels mandate.

During the reporting period, the department worked to increase industry understanding of the sustainability criteria and to implement transitional provisions for existing biofuel producers. The regulation's transitional provisions ensure existing producers can still sell fuels to the mandated market, while transitioning their operations to comply with the sustainability requirements over time.

Chain of responsibility guideline

The *Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Act 2016* created new powers enabling the department to enforce companies and their related parties to meet their environmental obligations in instances where they are experiencing financial difficulty.

This ensures that the costs associated with managing and rehabilitating sites are met by the companies and not by taxpayers.

In January 2017, a statutory guideline was released, which provides departmental officers and stakeholders with clear guidance about the use of these new powers. The guideline was developed through a process of engagement with a broad range of industry and community stakeholders.

Underground water management legislation

During 2016–17, new legislation was introduced to enhance the management of groundwater take by resource projects.

The *Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016* (EPOLA Act) strengthens the effectiveness of the environmental assessment and ongoing management of underground water extraction by resource projects.

Groundwater-related environmental impacts must be assessed both before a mine is approved, and throughout the life of the mine as part of the environmental authority and underground water impact report processes.

The EPOLA Act also makes improvements to the process for negotiating make-good agreements under the *Water Act 2000* and creates transitional arrangements to ensure that projects which were within their approvals process when the EPOLA Act commenced, will complete that process by

securing an associated water licence.

Financial assurance review/rehabilitation policy

In 2016–17, the department undertook a review of the rehabilitation framework for large mining activities. Concurrently, it also contributed to a Queensland Government review into the effectiveness of the current financial assurance framework for the resources sector in response to industry, stakeholder and government concerns. The financial assurance review found that the current arrangements did not protect the state's financial interests, were expensive for industry and did not promote good environmental outcomes.

A redesigned financial assurance framework was developed and released for public consultation. It aims to minimise the risk to the state of having to cover the costs associated with rehabilitation, without imposing a significant financial burden on resource companies.

The review also highlighted the importance of good quality, timely rehabilitation in managing the community's exposure to financial and environmental costs. The department led the development of a draft rehabilitation policy and delivery framework that integrates all stages of mines from environmental authority application, to post-relinquishment management. It is proposed that the policy is applied initially to the largest 'site-specific' mines that have the biggest areas of disturbance. Clarifying rehabilitation expectations and enhancing the current framework will help improve rehabilitation outcomes and support regional employment opportunities.

Store and release Code of Practice for the Queensland Murray–Darling Basin

In December 2016, the department released the Store and Release Code of Practice which provides for the release of stored water from privately owned farm storages to receiving waters in the Queensland Murray–Darling. The code describes practical measures to assist farmers to protect both the quality and health of the aquatic environment when conducting releases from storages. The store and release of water is a key alternative water recovery measure under the Basin Plan 2012 to improve river flows in the Murray–Darling Basin. The department is committed to catchment planning in this region to protect instream water quality, benefiting local and downstream environments including the Narran Lake Ramsar site.

The department worked closely with Cotton Australia, irrigators and industry partners to

ensure local, innovative solutions were incorporated into the code. A range of organisations were consulted including the Australian Government's Environmental Water Office, the Queensland Farmers' Federation, Smartdrivers, Border Rivers Food and Fibre, Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations, Queensland Murray-Darling Committee, Lower Balonne Working Group, Darling Downs Environment Council Inc. and the Australian Floodplain Association.

Waste reduction initiatives

In July 2016 the Queensland Government announced that a Container Refund Scheme and a plastic shopping bag ban would commence in Queensland on 1 July 2018.

The plastic bag ban applies to all lightweight plastic shopping bags and includes biodegradable shopping bags. A discussion paper on the topic was released for public consultation in November 2016. It received more than 26,000 responses, with 96% of respondents in favour of the ban.

A discussion paper on the Container Refund Scheme was released for public consultation in February 2017, with submissions closing in March 2017. More than 2,600 responses were received with the majority generally supportive of the scheme.

Under the scheme, a 10 cent refund will be provided for eligible containers that are returned to a participating container refund point.

The scheme will help reduce beverage container litter and improve recycling, as well as providing job and recycling opportunities for social enterprise, community groups and regional local governments.

In February 2017, the department commenced a trial of Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) technology at 400 George Street, Brisbane. RVMs play an important role in delivering accessibility and convenience to people wishing to return their containers. The RVM may provide a direct 10 cent refund to the person returning the container or may allow the person to donate their 10 cents. The RVM trialled at 400 George Street provided people with a choice of donation to one of three charities – Endeavour Foundation; Clean Up Australia; and the RSPCA. As at 30 June 2017, more than 5,000 plastic and aluminium drink containers had been returned through the RVM.

Queensland's Waste Infrastructure Map and Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Report

In 2016–17, the department released on its website an online mapping tool which identifies the location of waste and recycling facilities throughout Queensland. This allows the community to search by location or facility type to find their nearest facility quickly and easily.

The tool can also assist waste facility operators to make informed decisions about infrastructure expansion and investment. It provides valuable information to help target waste programs that deliver better environmental and social outcomes, particularly for regional areas.

Waste related environmentally relevant activities and regulated waste framework reviews

Some wastes such as 'regulated waste' and 'hazardous waste' pose a significant risk to the environment and to human health. To manage these risks effectively a higher level of regulation is required to ensure that all wastes are appropriately classified, transported, stored, treated or disposed of.

In Queensland there are two key frameworks for classifying and regulating wastes and their management activities. These are commonly referred to as the regulated waste classification and waste-related Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) frameworks. Together, these frameworks ensure that the risks associated with various wastes and their management activities are identified and appropriately managed.

Since the frameworks were developed in the 1990s there have been significant changes in national and international waste management standards and practices. In recognition of these changes a review was undertaken in consultation with industry and a new contemporary waste management framework has been developed.

A regulatory impact statement was released for consultation on 30 June 2017. Submissions close on 25 August 2017 and feedback will help refine the proposed risk-based approach to managing waste-related activities and regulated waste in Queensland.

Climate Change Policy

The department is leading the development of the Queensland Government's climate change policy framework, which will ensure Queenslanders can manage the risks and harness the opportunities of a changing climate.

The Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy will help guide Queenslanders in preparing for the changes to the climate that are already occurring, and the unavoidable changes that are expected to occur over the coming decades. The Queensland Climate Transition Strategy will guide the state's transition towards a zero net emissions economy that supports jobs, industries, communities and our environment.

Both strategies were informed by detailed public consultation, which attracted more than 6,000 submissions. The Queensland Climate Change Response will be released in July 2017.

In addition, the Queensland Government has established an \$8.4 million CarbonPlus Fund administered by the department. The fund will enable greater participation by Aboriginal landholders in carbon markets, offset carbon emissions from the Queensland Government's car fleet for two years, and incentivise carbon farming projects in Queensland by valuing environmental, social and cultural co-benefits.

QCoast₂₁₀₀ coastal hazards adaptation program

Coastal erosion, storm tide inundation and future sea level rise from climate change are significant risks to communities in Queensland's coastal areas.

The QCoast₂₁₀₀ coastal hazard adaptation program, provides financial assistance to coastal councils to help them prepare coastal hazard adaptation strategies. The Queensland Government has committed \$12 million over three years to the implementation of this program. Forty-one Queensland councils are eligible for assistance under the QCoast₂₁₀₀ program.

The department is working in partnership with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to support coastal councils in identifying coastal hazards, undertaking risk assessments, evaluating adaptation options, preparing adaptation strategies and defining implementation pathways.

Through the partnership with the LGAQ funding of \$3.5 million was provided for projects from 17 councils during 2016–17. Most projects have been for the initial stages of identifying consultation and communication needs and undertaking a broad assessment of hazard areas and assets at risk.

Goal 5—Provide efficient, responsive and integrated services

The department recognises the need to actively engage industry, businesses and the community for the development and implementation of the policies and programs to protect Queensland's environment and heritage. EHP reaches out to its stakeholders through many means, including community and industry education, forums, collaborative committee and working groups, and strategic alliances and exchanges.

Our key performance indicators

- Promote greater involvement of 'citizen science' and other contributions the community can make to enhance the environment. Increase the level of funding provided by industry and the community to protect the environment.
- Continue to increase the proportion of departmental transactions which can be conducted online and provide public information on the performance of the environmental regulator and industry.
- Set clear expectations for the quality of assessments conducted by third party agents and submitted for departmental authorisation.
- Embrace the diversity of our workforce and make the best use of their skills and experience. Increase the proportion of women in senior roles and achieve a 3% improvement in agency engagement measured by the Employee Opinion Survey.

Our program of work

Connect digital platform

During the reporting period the department 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 customer records, access customer provided information and manage customer accounts.

The first release in September 2016 allowed the waste transport industry to submit waste transport certificates and bulk uploads online.

The second release in December 2016 introduced a fully automated standard environmental authority application, payment and permit generation process. It also allowed the generation of annual returns and annual fee invoices with submission and payment online.

The third release in March 2017 improved the management of customer accounts and deployed functionality allowing new and amendment applications for environmental authorities under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (the EP Act) to be applied for, paid and assessed, with the permit then directly generated. Customers can also submit applications for allocation of quarry materials applications for coastal authorities via Connect.

The fourth release in May 2017 introduced functionality for new and amendment applications for mining leases under the EP Act to be applied for, paid and assessed in Connect.

Public submissions are now captured in Connect for mining related applications that are required to go through the public notification process.

Further releases in June 2017 introduced functionality for wildlife customers to apply and pay for permits and licenses under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and regulations to be generated within Connect.

The department also migrated approximately 6,500 customer account records of environmental authority holders into Connect.

Public Register

In 2016–17, the department expanded its online environmental authority (EA) register providing increased transparency and availability of licensing information. Approximately 7,000 EAs are now available online including those for Prescribed Environmentally Relevant Activities, accessible by the public for the first time.

The revised public register is a result of the department's move to the Connect digital platform which is designed to streamline business services and provide easier access and more economical business interactions for customers and members of the public. Connect has changed the way the department stores required information and has created an opportunity to build an online register that will give the community access to more information than ever before.

As at 30 June 2017, enforcement actions, including Environmental Protection Orders, Transitional Environmental Programs and Environmental Evaluations were available online.

Strategic Initiatives

In 2016–17, the department's Environmental Services and Regulation division began work on a number of strategic projects and programs to identify, reduce and mitigate environmental risk in Queensland through improved innovation and technology. The focus is on reviewing and aligning the strategic program, policy direction and priorities of the division, in accordance with the strategic service delivery vision of the division and department.

A series of consultative processes have commenced within the division, and with community, industry and other Queensland Government agencies. Information gathered will inform service delivery improvements and establish consultation pathways for future engagement.

Carbon Sequestration

Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing carbon to mitigate global warming. The Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) is an auction mechanism that provides incentives for carbon sequestration activities.

During 2016–17, the department continued to facilitate carbon sequestration projects that will deliver environmental co-benefits to the state.

In addition to its existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Catchment Conservation Alliance (CCA), the department developed a second MoU with the Connectivity Group, comprised of Forest Alive, Corporate Carbon and the Regional Natural Resource Management Groups Collective.

The MoUs seek to deliver carbon sequestration in High Conservation Value areas and improvements in water quality and soil stabilisation through the implementation of ERF eligible activities such as re-forestation, revegetation or protecting native forest and vegetation from clearing.

The CCA secured significant contracts in previous auctions in 2015 and 2016, including in the Great Barrier Reef catchments. In the fourth and fifth ERF auctions, held in November 2016 and April 2017, an additional 428,000 tonnes of emissions reduction was contracted in Queensland through the CCA.

Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program

The Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program cares for land and sea country

and increases Indigenous participation in environmental management. The rangers are employed through local Indigenous host organisations with funding provided by the Queensland Government.

Rangers undertake a wide range of activities including weed and feral animal control, fire management, fencing of wetlands, land restoration, erosion mitigation, wildlife management and recovery, community education and visitor management. These activities have widespread benefits including preventing wildfires, reducing carbon emissions and maintaining biodiversity.

In 2016–17, the department expanded the program across three communities in Queensland.

- A new Indigenous ranger team was established in Gladstone as a result of a sponsorship agreement with ConocoPhillips. The three additional rangers are now employed by Gidarjil Development Corporation.
- A new Ranger career pathway project was established in Aurukun to engage children at the local school and provide meaningful career opportunities. Over five years, \$2.9 million will provide junior ranger camps, ranger traineeships and full-time employment opportunities for a further three rangers.
- A team of five new Indigenous rangers was established, via the North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy, and are now employed by the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation.

Queensland State of the Environment Report 2015

The Queensland State of the Environment Report 2015 website was released in October 2016.

State of the Environment reporting is the internationally accepted method for assessing environmental performance.

The report provides a comprehensive assessment of the extent and condition of Queensland's environmental assets and the pressures facing them.

It is structured around four themes—biodiversity, heritage, pollution and climate—with each theme divided into sub-themes.

The State of the Environment Report 2015 is Queensland's sixth report and was the first in Australia to be prepared in a web-based format.

The website represents a significant innovation in environmental performance reporting.

It includes more than 1,200 tables, graphs and charts, over 100 data sets, 119 indicators and 119 key findings. The data is harvested from a range of thematic sources, and compiled, interpreted and published through the Queensland Government open data portal.

The new web-based format will enable Queensland to move to more frequent biennial State of the Environment Report updates, providing greater transparency about the condition of Queensland's environment and helping to support better environmental management and outcomes.

State of Recycling and Waste in Queensland 2016 report

During the reporting period, the department released the State of Recycling and Waste in Queensland 2016 report. It includes data and information about waste generation and resource recovery at a state and regional level including trends in key waste streams, waste recovery activities and cross-border movement of waste.

The report showed that Queensland increased recycling for headline waste by more than 370,000 tonnes, resulting in more than 4 million tonnes of materials being diverted away from landfill.

Employee opinion survey

Since 2013 agency engagement has been measured annually in the whole-of-government Working for Queensland Survey. Employee engagement with their work and with the department has increased by 3.5% per annum. This positive shift has resulted in an improvement in the department's overall position.

Women in senior leadership roles

As at 23 June 2017, women comprised 61.09% of the department's workforce with 35.48% of senior officer and 38.89% of senior executive service positions held by women. This was an increase of 9.16% in the senior officer cohort and an increase of 4.27% in the senior executive service since June 2015-16.

The department also collaborated with employees to develop a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. The strategy includes a focus on gender equity with a number of targeted actions to increase the number of women in senior leadership roles.

More information about diversity and inclusion is under the 'Our people' section of this report.

Disaster and Incident Response - Tropical Cyclone Debbie

In March 2017, Tropical Cyclone Debbie (TC Debbie) made landfall as a Category 4 system near Airlie Beach north of Proserpine causing significant destruction to coastal communities and tourism centres, particularly the Whitsunday Islands and Whitehaven Beach. The system weakened to become a tropical low which then travelled south along the Queensland coast and into New South Wales and continued to generate destructive winds and extreme flooding. South East Queensland (SEQ) experienced extreme rainfall up to 890mm over two days (in early April) and localised flooding with large volumes of eroded riparian sediment entering the region's marine wetlands and Moreton Bay.

In response to the cyclone, the department's employees participated in community recovery efforts across the state and provided approximately 3,000 hours of support.

The department is also the lead Queensland Government agency with responsibility for environmental recovery. The Director-General chairs the Environment Functional Recovery Group (EFRG), whose role is to reduce impacts on the natural environment, in both urban and rural landscapes, and to focus on preparedness and long-term resilience and sustainability.

Following the cyclone, the EFRG worked with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and recovery coordinators at the district and local level to support the planning and implementation of environmental recovery activities. This included providing advice to industry and local government operated facilities on the measures required to achieve environmental recovery and monitoring and advice on current and potential environmental and cultural heritage issues.

The department (and EFRG members) continue to support ongoing recovery activities under Operation Queensland Recovery and the Queensland Government's Interim Queensland Recovery Plan.

Queensland's regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies and River Improvement Trusts also play an important role in the immediate recovery and longer-term resilience building activities needed after major cyclone and rain events.

In SEQ, in-stream works to stabilise riparian ecosystems such as engineered log-jams, log pile fields, gully remediation structures and streambank revetments, which were undertaken as part of pilot projects following 2011 natural disasters, performed well in the aftermath of TC Debbie flooding.

TC Debbie caused considerable erosion on a number of beaches in the Mackay and Whitsunday regions. During the reporting period, the department assisted Mackay Regional Council and the Midge Point community in their development of a Shoreline Erosion Management Plan and also provided ongoing technical advice to assist the council with coastal erosion recovery.

While erosion at most locations is expected to be restored naturally over time, some beaches in the Mackay region have experienced long-term erosion impacts.

With the activation of Category D assistance under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements for those affected by TC Debbie, the EFRG and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority are working on project prioritisation and distribution of the environment recovery package of this funding.

Our people

The department employs a diverse range of talented people who work together to protect our environment and built heritage. It aims to create workplaces where diversity is celebrated, health and safety is important, the wellbeing of employees is our priority and career development is encouraged.

In 2016–17, the department continued to implement initiatives that promoted health and safety and a better work-life balance by focussing on increased leadership and management capabilities with its employees.

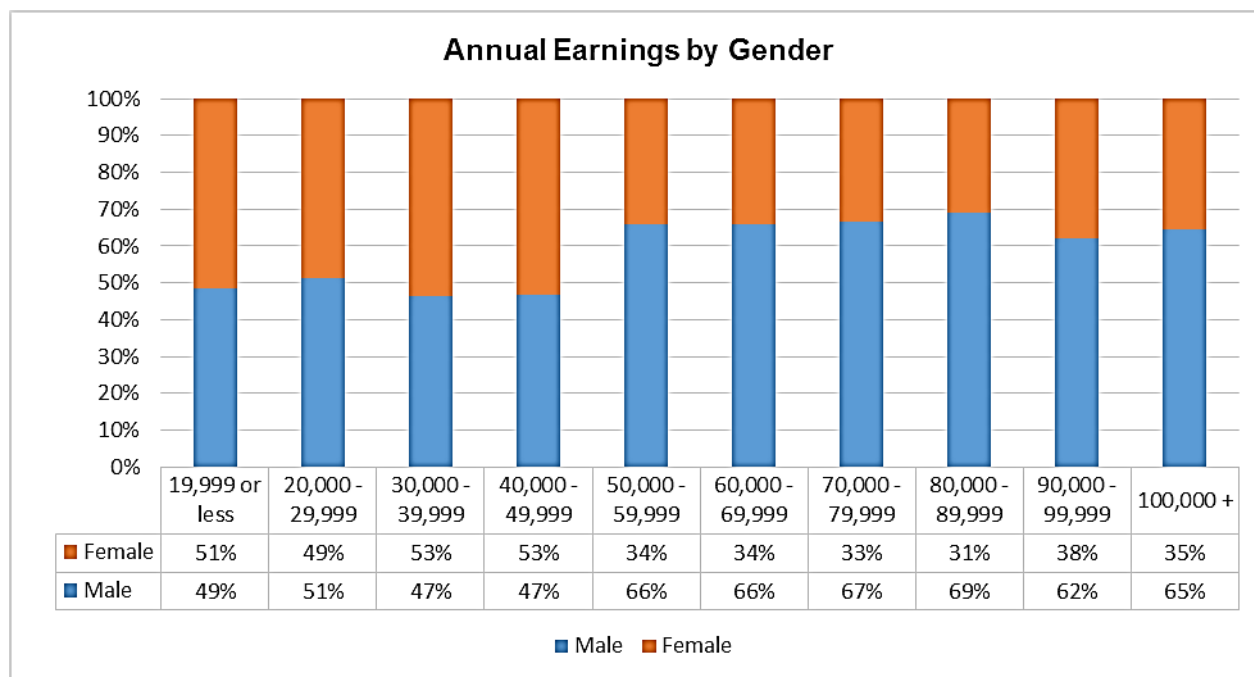
Workforce profile

As at 23 June 2017, EHP employed 1,143.91 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, of which 76% were employed on a permanent basis.

The following tables show a summary of the department's workforce profile (excluding staff on leave without pay) as at 23 June 2017.

Staffing full-time equivalent (FTE) by occupation type and gender (as at 23 June 2017)			
Occupational stream	Female	Male	Total
Administration	441.10	245.51	686.61
Operational	29.63	40.80	70.43
Professional	185.66	134.60	320.26
Technical	3.00	2.81	5.81
SO	16.80	22.00	38.80
SES	7.00	14.00	21.00
CEO	0	1.00	1.00
Total	683.19	460.72	1,143.91

Staffing full-time equivalent (FTE) by employment type and gender (as at 23 June 2017)						
Employment type	FTE		FTE%		Total FTE	Total FTE %
	Female	Male	Female	Male		
Permanent	507.41	358.22	58.6%	41.4%	865.63	75.7%
Temporary	168.05	91.50	64.7%	35.3%	259.55	22.7%
Contract	7	11	38.9%	61.1%	18	1.6%
Casual	0.73	0	100%	0%	0.73	0.1%
Total	683.19	460.72	59.7%	40.3%	1143.91	100%

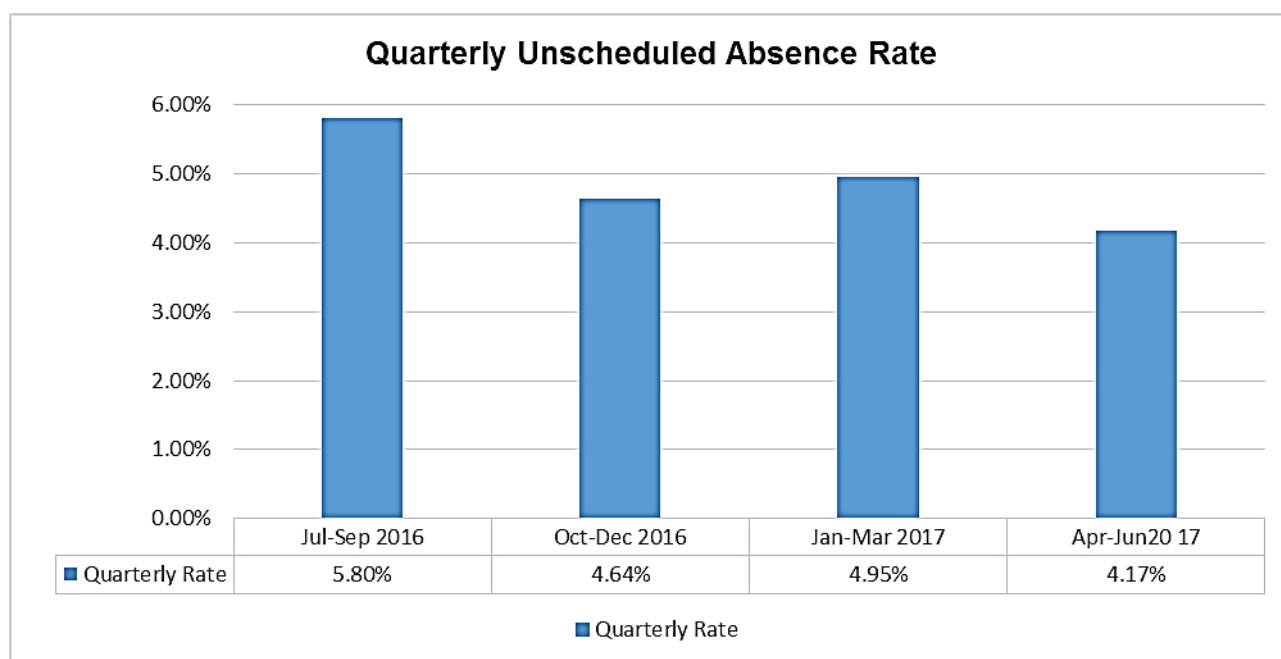


Permanent separation rate

As at 30 June 2017, the department's permanent separation rate was 7.86%. This was an increase of 1.67% compared with the same period last year.

Absenteeism

The following graph shows the quarterly rates for unscheduled absences as at 30 June 2017. Unscheduled absences include sick, carers and special leave as well as leave for workers' compensation and industrial disputes. The average quarterly unscheduled absence rate for 2016–17 was 4.9%. This is slightly lower than the 2015–16 rate of 5.38%.

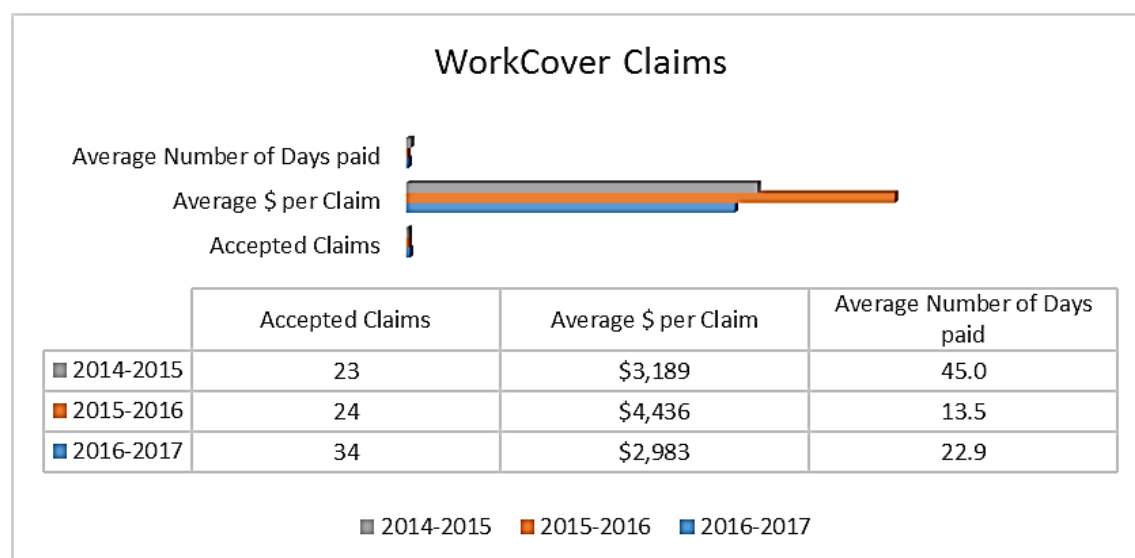


WorkCover

Employees who suffer from a work-related injury or illness are entitled to apply for workers' compensation. The department is committed to ensuring that all workers' compensation claims are appropriately managed. The number of accepted workers' compensation claims for 2016–17 was 32.

In 2016–17, the departments accepted claims increased by eight from the previous reporting period. However, the average amount paid per claim decreased to \$2,175, a decrease of \$2,260 per claim. Twenty-seven of the claims are for musculoskeletal injuries or sprain and strains, resulting from incidents occurring in relation to manual handling or reduced focus on individual safety behaviours. This has prompted increased attention towards the human contribution to safety behaviour and reducing harm.

Of the 32 claims accepted for 2016–17, 15 were 'journey claims' that occurred while an employee was travelling to or from work. Journey claims do not impact on the department's claims history or influence the following year's premiums.



Absences related to workers' compensation claims—average days paid.

The average days paid is calculated using the total number of paid days (partial or total) on statutory claims divided by the number of statutory claims that have had paid days, in a given period. During the 12 month period ending 30 June 2017, the department paid an average of 22.9 days per accepted workers' compensation claim which is more than the previous year at 13.5 days.

Lost time injury rate

Lost time injuries occur when an employee sustains a work-related injury, which results in lost time from work after the day of the accident. The department's lost time injury rate (LTIR) is calculated using workers' compensation claims data as at 30 June 2017. In 2016–17, the department's LTIR was 0.52%, which increased from 0.26% in 2015–16.

Reporting period	Lost time injury	Rate
2014–15	2	0.18%
2015–16	3	0.26%
2016-17	5	0.44%

Building our Workforce

Strategic workforce planning

The department ensures that its workforce will continue to meet current and future objectives by examining its needs through strategic workforce planning.

During 2016–17, the department continued to engage in workforce planning to ensure its workforce strategies reflected shifting trends and strategic priorities. The EHP Strategic Workforce Plan 2017–2022 details the department's commitment to ensuring an inclusive, engaged and talented workforce that is empowered to respond effectively to current and emerging departmental needs.

The plan has a strong focus on attracting and retaining a high performing workforce, and building capability and agility to ensure the future success of the department.

Career pathway programs

The department supports a range of career pathway programs which are critical to ensuring the department has the right people with the right skills into the future.

The department recruited 13 graduates from a range of disciplines into the 2017 graduate program. This program develops leadership and business capabilities as well as being recognised by the Australian Association of Graduate Employers as one of the Top 10 Graduate Employers in Australia.

Work placement opportunities were also provided for 11 university students as part of their degree requirements. These students came from a range of disciplines including environmental management and law. The placements provided students with opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills, gain valuable workplace experience, and highlight the challenging careers available in the department.

In 2016, the department implemented a pilot Gap Year student program to support the ongoing career goals of Indigenous high school graduates. Two students were provided with positions in the Cairns office and will have the opportunity to participate and gain experience in a wide range of work tasks including assessment, compliance and regulation activities, corporate and administrative functions, and field trips with experienced professionals in the conservation and environmental management fields.

Employee opinion survey

In response to the 2016 survey the department developed a high-level action plan with two aims: providing innovative solutions to workplace stressors and reducing red tape and bureaucratic processes. Action plans were developed and implemented in each division to respond to the survey findings and work through specific workplace challenges.

Diversity and Inclusion

Workforce diversity

The department has diversity targets to be achieved by 2022 that include increasing the percentage of:

- women in Senior Executive Service and Senior Officer roles to 50%
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples to 3%
- people with disability to 8% of the workforce
- people from a non-English speaking background to 10%.

A strategy for diversity and inclusion was developed through employee consultation. The strategy targets six themes including: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples; Accessibility; Gender Equity; Generational, Cultural Diversity and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ+).

The strategy has specific actions relating to target areas such as increasing the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and improving the opportunities for women in leadership roles and supporting our LGBTIQ+ community.

Employee Resource Groups have been formed to work with a member of the executive management team to progress activities and initiatives that increase awareness and understanding of diversity and enable the department to become more inclusive.

The department values the significant contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and sees their participation as a key factor in achieving the department's vision. In 2016–17, the department implemented its second Cultural Capability Action Plan demonstrating its commitment to embedding culturally inclusive practices within the agency.

To celebrate Queensland Women's Week, a panel discussion on gender equity and the future of work was held on International Women's Day. A number of employees and two Brisbane State High School students shared their thoughts and ideas with approximately 200 attendees.

The department is committed to building the capability of its female employees by offering a range of training, learning and professional development opportunities.

In 2016–17, they participated in a number of leadership programs including:

- Emerging Leaders Program.
- LEAD Program.

The department's Mentoring Matters program, launched in June 2016, encouraged more experienced employees to share their experiences and professional knowledge with staff in a formal mentoring arrangement. The initial program offered 20 mentoring partnerships to senior women across the Business and Corporate Partnership.

Employee development

Employee induction

All new employees undertake an induction process which is designed to:

- ensure a smooth transition into EHP and the work environment
- provide information on employment conditions and entitlements
- help new starters understand the responsibilities and behaviours expected of them by the Queensland Government and the department
- provide an understanding of the function and operations of the department as well as the business group/work unit.

New employees are required to take a number of online courses as part of the induction process including:

- welcome to EHP
- Code of Conduct
- emergency safety
- work health and safety
- fraud and corruption awareness
- privacy awareness.

During the reporting period the department held six workshop-style corporate induction sessions for 102 new employees across the state. Opened

by the Director-General, the workshop showcased the work of all divisions and included information about employee benefits, union membership, superannuation and career development.

Training and education

During the reporting period the department coordinated and delivered a broad range of training and development opportunities for staff.

The Department delivered 182 programs covering technical training, leadership and management development as well as a range of interpersonal and business skills.

As at 30 June 2017, 7,974 individual enrolments had been made for training (4,798 enrolments for online training courses and 3,176 enrolments for face-to-face-training), an increase of 52% from 2015–16.

In addition to the centrally delivered programs, staff can access a range of other opportunities including further education, conferences and seminars.

Staff also have made use of a range of on the job development opportunities including coaching, special projects, self-directed learning and mentoring.

Leadership and management development

The department continues to ensure that succession needs are met through developing the leadership capabilities of its employees and in 2016–17 offered two key leadership programs.

The LEAD Program is designed for employees with or without team responsibilities to build foundational leadership knowledge and skills. The program uses a combination of face-to-face training, online learning, coaching and on-the-job activities to help employees build knowledge and skills in working with people, self-awareness and driving outcomes in the workplace. In 2016–17, 80 employees participated in the LEAD program.

The Emerging Leaders Program aims to further develop leadership capability at a more senior level. The 2016–17 program provided the 17 departmental participants with a range of learning opportunities where they could develop and test these new behaviours.

During the reporting period, the department's senior executives were provided with an opportunity to participate in various programs developed by the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, and the Public Service Commission.

In 2016–17, Senior Executive Service (SES) officers participated in the Public Service Commission's Executive Capability Assessment and Development, which evaluates their strengths and development priorities. Six SES officers were nominated to undertake an Executive Capability Assessment and Development or refresh. Twenty-eight officers took advantage of the Public Service Commission development offerings.

Employee conduct and performance management

Employee performance and development planning

All employees are encouraged to have a Performance and Development Plan (P&DP) in place by 1 October each year and undertake a review of development plans by 31 March each year. As at 30 June 2017, 65% of all employees had a P&DP in place.

In 2016 the department launched an enhancement to their learning management system, iLearn. The new functionality allows staff to record their Performance and Development plans on-line. Staff are able to undertake an online self-assessment against the capabilities required for their roles, record their P&DP's including development requirements and search for development opportunities in iLearn. This allows the department to undertake a robust training needs analysis and record all training and development activities.

110 staff across the state were trained in the new system and provided with the skills to undertake effective performance and development planning.

In 2016, the department adopted the use of e-Plan for SES staff and Senior Officers as part of the Public Service Commission's roll out of this system for senior Executives Performance Agreements.

Training for the system was provided, with all Senior Executives and Senior Officers participating in the process.

Ethical education and training

In May 2016, the department released a new Code of Conduct training package. This training has been completed by 97.75% of employees (excluding those on leave without pay).

Appropriate Workplace Behaviour Awareness sessions were delivered to assist in identifying, and discussing what is considered inappropriate behaviour in the workplace, and who is responsible for addressing behaviour. Group

discussions centre around the consequences of inappropriate behaviour, such as the effects on the team, recipient and the organisation. As at 30 June 2017, 870 employees had participated in the awareness sessions.

Employee reward and recognition

The department values its employees and recognises that their successes and achievements contribute to the department's high performance. A Reward and Recognition Framework supports a workplace culture that motivates and rewards behaviours through the acknowledgement of successes, achievements and employment milestones. Initiatives supported under this framework include:

- EHP Excellence Awards
- Australia Day Achievement Awards
- Public Service Medal
- Premier's Awards for Excellence in Public Service Delivery
- Certificate of Service
- DG's Safety Behaviour Awards.

EHP's Reef Water Quality team (in conjunction with colleagues in the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries) won the 2016 Premier's Awards for Excellence for their ground-breaking RP20 (Reef Plan 20) Burdekin Nitrogen Project.

The Greater Graduate Program, coordinated by the department for the Business and Corporate Partnership agencies, also received a Highly Commended Award in the Performance Category of the Premier's Awards for Excellence.

Employee wellbeing

Health and wellbeing

The department promotes a range of activities that enable employees to make informed decisions regarding their personal health and wellbeing. The *workingsafe workingwell* organisational health and safety strategy aims to boost employee involvement, decrease exposure to harm, achieve excellence in organisational health management and facilitate the notion of zero harm.

In 2016–17, the department continued to provide employees with a range of health and wellbeing initiatives such as a personal counselling service, flu vaccinations, skin checks, health awareness sessions and access to the 10,000 Steps Workplace Challenge. The Director General's

Safety Behaviour Awards recognise outstanding individual and team behaviours demonstrated by employees.

Promotion of work-life balance

The department recognises the need to remain flexible in how workplaces are organised in order to attract and retain the best people. In 2016–17, the department continued to maintain policies to supporting flexible working arrangements. Options available to employees include compressed working hours, flexible start and finish times, use of long service leave, job sharing, leave without pay, part time work and telecommuting.

Industrial and Employee Relations Framework

The department engages with employees and their representatives through an Agency Consultative Committee which meets every quarter. The Workforce Relations and Safety unit is responsible for overall management of industrial relations (IR) in consultation with business units. The unit is also responsible for liaising with central agency departments such as the Office of Industrial Relations in relation to whole-of-government matters including enterprise bargaining, industrial instruments and IR legislative changes.

On 1 March 2017 the *Industrial Relations Act 2016* (the IR Act) came into effect. It provides a framework for the conduct of industrial relations within the state's jurisdiction that is fair and balanced, and supports the delivery of high-quality services, economic prosperity and social justice for Queenslanders. The IR Act introduced Queensland Employment Standards, which are the minimum standards that apply to all employees, such as cashing out of annual leave, access to domestic and family violence leave, and the issuing of information statements.

In line with the new IR Act, all new departmental employees must be provided with a copy of the Employment Information Statement and details of the industrial instruments that apply to them.

Early retirement, redundancy and retrenchment

No redundancy, early retirement or retrenchment packages were paid during the period.

Managing our business

The department has established a governance structure to set its direction and oversee performance. The structure is in line with the department's Corporate Governance Framework, which has its foundations in the Australian National Audit Office and Australian Standard AS 8000-2003 Good Governance Principles. It also has strong alignment with the Queensland Government Performance Management Framework and the Queensland Audit Office Leading Accountability–Governance.

The department obtains information about its operational and financial performance through its performance management framework, governance structure and financial systems.

Governance committees

The department's governance groups and committees oversee all major activities and areas of decision making and ensure the department has a clear direction, operates efficiently and fulfils its legislative responsibilities. These groups are:

- Executive Management Team.
- Finance sub-committee.
- Audit and Risk Committee.
- ICT Investment and Strategy sub-committee.
- *workingsafe workingwell* Steering Committee.
- Human Resources sub-committee.

Executive Management Team

The Executive Management Team (EMT) ensures the effective management and administration of the department, working together to ensure optimal outcomes in line with the department's strategic priorities.

EMT's role is to:

- ensure departmental activities align with, and achieve, government priorities and strategic objectives
- prioritise resources and capabilities to facilitate outcomes and delivery of key programs and strategies
- provide strong leadership, direction and guidance to the department.

In supporting the Director-General to comply with corporate governance responsibilities, EMT's responsibilities also include:

- strategic planning, policy development and resource allocation
- ensuring the department is responsive to changing community needs and government responsibilities
- responding to strategic and/or critical issues and challenges facing the department
- budget oversight, including allocation, expenditure and revenue management
- oversight of the department's performance management and reporting
- championing corporate governance and risk management, including through strategic investment decisions and audit controls
- service improvement through staff capability and identifying productivity and/or efficiency gains
- reviewing and considering recommendations made by EMT sub-committees
- modelling the values and behaviours expected of all employees.

The EMT generally meets every week and in the reporting period met 46 times.

Finance Sub-committee

The Finance Sub-committee provides oversight of the department's financial resources and makes recommendations across a range of financial management issues. The sub-committee comprises the Executive Management Team and the Chief Finance Officer.

The role of the sub-committee is to:

- monitor and initiate appropriate action in relation to the nature and amount of funding available for future programs
- maintain a strong financial management culture within the department through the continuing development of communication, training, and information and reporting strategies for staff at all levels of the department
- ensure the department's financial resources are focused towards the achievement of the its priority business objectives
- ensure that the department's key financial risks are being effectively managed
- increase understanding within the department of the nexus between operational and financial performance through enhanced management reporting

Sub-committee members (as at 30 June 2017)

Chair	Jim Reeves, Director-General
Members	Dean Ellwood, Deputy Director-General, Environmental Services and Regulation Tony Roberts, Deputy Director-General, Environmental Policy and Planning Nick Weinert, Acting Deputy Director-General, Conservation and Sustainability Services Rob Lawrence, Deputy Director-General, Corporate Services Steward Saini, Acting Executive Director, Finance and Asset Management and Acting Chief Financial Officer

The Finance Sub-committee met seven times during the reporting period.

Audit and Risk Committee

The department's Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is a sub-committee of EMT and was established by the Director-General, the accountable officer for the department, as required by section 35(1) of the Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009 (the standard).

The ARC Charter 2016 was endorsed by the sub-committee on 22 August 2016, constituting a terms of reference document as required by section 35(2) of the standard. The ARC Charter for 2017 was endorsed in June 2017.

Role of the ARC

The role of the ARC is to provide independent assurance and assistance to the Director-General on the:

- risk, control and compliance frameworks
- external accountability responsibilities as prescribed in the relevant legislation and standards
- the department's integrity framework.

ARC responsibilities

The ARC is directly responsible and accountable to the Director-General. In discharging its responsibilities, the ARC has the authority to:

- conduct or authorise investigations into matters within its scope of responsibility
- access information, records and personnel of the department for such purpose
- request the attendance of any employee, including executive staff, at committee meetings
- conduct meetings with the department's internal auditors and external auditors, as necessary
- seek advice from external parties, as necessary.

The ARC has responsibilities in relation to departmental financial statements, integrity oversight and misconduct prevention, risk management, internal control, performance management, internal audit, external audit, compliance and reporting.

Relationship with internal and external bodies

ARC meetings constitute a forum for discussion between members, the Director-General, senior management, Internal Audit Services (IAS) and the Queensland Audit Office (QAO). The functions and role of the sub-committee do not impact upon the statutory and regulatory duties and responsibilities of the Director-General, nor do they detract from management's responsibilities in relation to corporate governance, internal control, fraud prevention and risk management.

ARC performance and achievements

The ARC provides governance oversight and advice to the Director-General in relation to its Charter responsibilities. It actively contributed to the improvement of the department's management of risks and the development of a risk appetite statement.

Meetings

The ARC convened 6 times during 2016–17, including a special meeting to review the department's annual financial statements.

Membership

During 2016–17, the ARC comprised the following members as appointed by the Director-General. They were remunerated for their services as follows:

Name	Substantive position	Sub-committee role	Period of membership	Remuneration
Marita Corbett	Partner, BDO	Chair	1 September 2013–present	\$3,000 (GST exclusive) per meeting to prepare for and attend, up to 5 meetings per annum. Subject to a maximum of \$15,000 (GST exclusive) per calendar year.
Peter Dowling	Independent external member	External member	4 December 2013–present	\$600 (GST exclusive) per meeting to prepare for, and attend, up to 5 meetings per annum. Subject to a maximum of \$3,000 (GST exclusive) per calendar year.
Karen Prentis	Independent external member	External member	1 September 2015–present	\$600 (GST exclusive) per meeting to prepare for, and attend, up to 5 meetings per annum. Subject to a maximum of \$3,000 (GST exclusive) per calendar year.

The ARC observed the terms of the 2016 and 2017 Charters and had due regard to Queensland Treasury's Audit Committee Guidelines.

During the reporting period, the ARC gave consideration to all QAO recommendations including performance audit recommendations, reviewed the implementation of external audit recommendations accepted by management and ensured the department had made satisfactory progression to mitigate risk associated with audit's findings.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Investment and Strategy Sub-committee

The ICT Investment and Strategy Sub-committee's role is to:

- ensure the ICT investment and assets remain aligned with business priorities and plans and support whole-of-government ICT directions
- provide leadership, strategic direction and oversight in the planning and delivery of the portfolio of ICT-related initiatives
- provide assurance to the Director-General that information management and ICT is appropriately governed to ensure return on investment through effective delivery of approved initiatives, and meets government priorities.

Responsibilities

The sub-committee has established reporting requirements to ensure that it receives information relevant to its role which is to:

- review and monitor investments in information management systems and technologies to ensure they are managed through appropriate governance processes and deliver stated outcomes and benefits
- monitor the health of ICT assets to address areas of risk
- authorise and direct the development of strategic and operational plans for ICT-enabled business

- prioritise investments in information management systems and technologies consistent with strategic direction and government priorities
- scrutinise the delivery of approved and funded project and program allocations and approves the reallocation of unused funds
- escalate significant risks to the EMT
- monitor information management and ICT service provider arrangements under the Corporate Partnership, including performance
- develop information management capability.

Sub-committee members (as at 30 June 2017)

Chair	Rob Lawrence, Deputy Director-General, Corporate Services
Members	<p>Glen Brown, Executive Director, Regulatory Capability and Customer Service, Environmental Services and Regulation</p> <p>Steward Saini, Acting Executive Director, Finance and Asset Management, and Acting Chief Finance Officer</p> <p>Fiona Gardiner, Director, Heritage, Environmental Policy and Planning</p> <p>Nick Weinert, Acting Deputy Director-General, Conservation and Sustainability Services</p> <p>Anne Lenz, Executive Director, Petroleum and Gas Compliance, Environmental Services and Regulation</p> <p>Steve Hammill, Manager, Web Services, Corporate Services</p> <p>Tony Grant, Chief Information Officer, Information and Technology Partners, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</p>

Workingsafe workingwell Steering Committee

The *workingsafe workingwell* Steering Committee ensures that the department's workplace health and safety obligations are met. It also leads the department's commitment to zero harm, promotes a culture for safety, health and wellbeing and monitors performance against key workplace health and safety performance indicators.

Committee members (as at 30 June 2017)

Chair	Jim Reeves, Director-General
Members	<p>Rob Lawrence, Deputy Director-General, Corporate Services</p> <p>Dean Ellwood, Deputy Director-General, Environmental Services and Regulation</p> <p>Tony Roberts, Deputy Director-General, Environmental Policy and Planning</p> <p>Nick Weinert, Acting Deputy Director-General, Conservation and Sustainability Services</p> <p>Lisa Dynes, Executive Director, Human Resources, Corporate Services</p> <p>Nicole Stanton-Cook, Manager, Workforce Relations and Safety, Corporate Services</p> <p>Tanya McAndrew, Principal Human Resource Officer, Workforce Relations and Safety, Corporate Services</p>

During 2016-17, the committee met four times. It endorsed a range of health and wellbeing initiatives including access to the employee assistance counselling service, flu vaccinations, skin checks, mental health awareness sessions, online Drug and Alcohol Awareness training and the 10,000 Steps Workplace Challenge. The *workingsafe workingwell* Safety Behaviour Awards recognise outstanding individual and team safety behaviours demonstrated by employees.

Human Resources Sub-committee

The Human Resources Sub-committee provides strategic direction on human resource and workforce management issues to assist to maximise the capability of the workforce to achieve the department's goals. It also oversees the implementation of human resource and workforce management strategies, policies and procedures.

Sub-committee members (as at 30 June 2017)

Chair	Rob Lawrence, Deputy Director-General, Corporate Services
Members	<p>Lisa Dynes, Executive Director, Human Resources, Corporate Services</p> <p>Lisa McMain, Acting Executive Officer, Office of the Director-General</p> <p>Reuben Carlos, Executive Director, Central Region, Environmental Services and Regulation</p> <p>Angela Siggery, Director, Conservation and Biodiversity Programs, Conservation and Sustainability Services</p> <p>Geoff Robson, Executive Director, Strategic Environment and Waste Policy, Environmental Policy and Planning</p>

During 2016–17, the sub-committee met four times and dealt with a number of other matters, outside meetings, as needed. The sub-committee reviewed and updated its Terms of Reference and provided an overview of human resources strategic projects. The sub-committee also discussed new and updated human resources policies and procedures and made recommendations regarding their endorsement.

Governance processes

The department has internal accountability mechanisms in place to ensure it operates effectively and transparently. It has established systems and processes to audit its programs, reduce risks and safeguard against fraudulent activity and ensure business continuity.

Strategic Plan 2016–2020

The strategic plan sets the department's direction for the next four years and guides the prioritisation of resources. Through achieving its corporate goals, the department contributes to the Queensland Government's objectives for the community.

The strategic plan is reviewed annually to confirm and update objectives, strategies and specified goals, to assess progress as well as to identify whether changes in the external environment require any adjustments to be made to the plan.

Operational planning supports the department's strategic plan and describes the services and initiatives that contribute to the implementation of the department's strategic objectives. This consists of the annual Service Delivery Statement and maintaining the EHP Priority Work Program, the Enterprise Risk Register, and Quarterly Performance Reports.

Managing our performance

The department's strategic goals and performance indicators are delivered through its service areas: Environmental Protection Services, Species and Ecosystem Protection Services and Heritage Protection Services. To support the strategic plan, business plans identify service priorities each year. Quarterly performance reports enable the department to monitor its progress against achieving its stated objectives.

Managing our risk

The department continues to enhance and strengthen its risk management practices. Its risk management framework aligns with the AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management Principles and Guidelines and includes appropriate governance arrangements, policy and procedures, and quarterly risk reporting and analysis.

Its challenges are highlighted in the Strategic Plan and are maintained in an enterprise risk register covering both operational and strategic risks. Risks are reviewed regularly to monitor the progress of risk treatments and the efficiency of controls.

Internal Audit

The Internal Audit Service (IAS) provides an independent, objective assurance function to the Director-General in discharging responsibilities under section 78 of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*.

Its functions include:

- development of an internal audit charter
- planning the internal audit program
- reporting of internal audit issues
- managing the relationship with external audit
- supporting the Queensland Audit Office with its annual external audit of agency financial statements.

These functions are provided to the department and four other Queensland Government departments under the Business and Corporate Partnership.

IAS operates in accordance with the Internal Audit Annual Plan, a risk-based plan endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee and approved by the Director-General. During 2016–17, it delivered its role and responsibilities in line with the Internal Audit Charter and conformed with the Audit Committee Guidelines issued by Queensland Treasury.

IAS assists the Audit and Risk Committee to obtain independent assurance on its responsibilities including risk management, internal controls, financial statements, internal and external audit matters, improved governance and operational effectiveness and efficiency, and other audit processes. The internal audit function is independent of management and the external auditors.

In 2016–17, IAS completed the following reviews in line with the department's Strategic Internal Audit Plan—July 2016 to June 2017:

- Regulatory Decision Making—Assessment and Conditioning.
- Readiness Review—Administration of Financial Assurances regulated by EHP.
- Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement.
- Field Trip Operations Review.
- Contract Management—Critical Service Contracts.

Administrative and professional services

The department has established administrative processes to direct, manage and control its business and ensure the delivery of services is undertaken in an efficient and effective manner.

Information systems

In 2016–17, the department continued to operate, maintain and develop a number of critical information systems to support its services.

- Connect—an online workflow solution to streamline licensing, permitting and authorities processing. This system replaced a number of legacy information systems that have been in operation for more than a decade and improve customer service and engagement.
- Littering and Illegal Dumping Online Reporting System (LIDORS)—a web and mobile enabled web application that allows members of the public who have witnessed a littering incident from a vehicle or vessel, or discovered an illegal dumping incident to report it to the department.
- Corporate systems for managing correspondence, finances and human resources.
- The departmental intranet and internet provided information and services to employees (intranet) and external customers (internet).

Recordkeeping

The department continues to operate a recordkeeping strategy to ensure that the department is compliant with the *Public Records Act 2002*, *Public Service Act 1996*, Information Standard 40—Recordkeeping and Information Standard 31—Retention and Disposal of Public Records. Policies are in place for Recordkeeping, Email Management, Retention and Disposal of Records, Managing Information on Shared Network Drives, Information Security and Digitisation Disposal.

The department has a corporate electronic document and records management system (eDOCS) and staff are encouraged to maximise the use of digital records in business processes. During 2016–17, new integration technology was introduced to allow harvesting of documents into the corporate recordkeeping system from other user interfaces.

Recordkeeping and compliance requirements

were assessed and implemented for new and decommissioned business systems. Digital delivery was introduced for the scanning and delivery of hardcopy records for departmental staff. This increased the efficiency of delivery and protects the physical integrity of the records.

During 2016–17, two comprehensive retention and disposal schedules for Environment and Heritage Conservation records were approved by the State Archivist and documented processes for records disposal are in place across the department. Time-expired records were identified for disposal with 87 boxes of hardcopy files securely disposed. Permanent records were identified and 246 boxes of hardcopy records were transferred to Queensland State Archives.

Control Self-Assessments

The department uses Control Self-Assessments to monitor and assess the effectiveness of internal controls around frequently used systems, assets and processes, particularly those involving financial transactions. Control Self-Assessments are conducted on topics including:

- employee attendance, including reconciliation between timesheets and leave records
- corporate card usage
- travel expenses including Go Card usage
- cash handling and petty cash
- mobile and satellite phone usage.

The program is designed to improve governance by assisting business areas check and assess the effectiveness of their internal controls. It also provides the Director-General with assurance that internal controls are effective and being continually monitored.

Legislative Compliance Framework

In 2016–17, the department continued to strengthen its governance arrangements to comply with the Legislative Compliance Framework. It established a system to record and monitor the department's legislative and regulatory requirements and for annual statements of assurance to be provided to the Director-General by relevant departmental employees.

Ethical behaviour

The department's strategic plan includes integrity as one of the key business principles that all employees must adhere to when making

decisions. This requires all employees to act ethically, honestly and in the best interests of the community.

Ethical education and training

During the reporting period employees were informed of their ethical obligations either during induction or by completing the revised Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service (the Code) training module. Ethical obligations were also reinforced through Performance and Development Plans that outline behavioural and performance expectations for employees.

The Integrity Framework seeks to ingrain a culture of integrity within the department. During the reporting period a number of key initiatives were implemented to promote the importance of integrity. This included regular communication about ethical behaviour expectations from the Director-General, the department's Integrity Champion, and a dedicated ethics intranet page with resources highlighting ethical behaviour scenarios, suitable for managers and staff to use in team meeting discussions.

The department also conducted its Bi-Annual Fraud and Corruption Risk Assessment to identify areas for improvement and best practice examples that can be shared across business areas.

Appropriate Behaviour Awareness sessions across the state, involving a large proportion of the workforce. These sessions will continue in 2017–18.

Accountability

The department is committed to delivering quality services through good governance processes and the ethical conduct of all employees. Through a range of integrity initiatives, the department aims to ensure employee actions and decisions are accountable, honest and impartial, and promote public confidence in the department.

The department's Audit and Risk Committee is responsible for overseeing integrity related matters through quarterly reporting. The Code of Conduct, and information on how to report alleged wrongdoing by employees, continues to be available to the public on the department's website.

Other accountability mechanisms were included in training and communication initiatives including: Right to Information, Complaints Handling, the role of the Queensland Ombudsman and Judicial Review.

Alignment of agency planning, strategies, objectives and actions

The department integrated integrity and ethics into its plans, frameworks, policies and processes.

- Strategic plan—key strategies include continuing to invest in an ethical and accountable workforce.
- Audit and Risk Committee—integrity matters are monitored for effectiveness and recommendations made if gaps are identified.
- Strategic workforce plan—includes ethical and effective decision making as a key focus.
- Disability service plan—integrity and accountability are two of the plan's key principles.
- Corporate governance framework—integrity and ethics form part of the internal control structure for the department.
- Integrity framework—defines how the department promotes, monitors and enhances an ethical culture.
- Grants management framework—assists staff to implement best practice when managing grants programs.
- Fraud and corruption control plan – was updated within the reporting period and includes additional controls that focus on further integration of ethics into workforce management and practices.
- Fraud and corruption prevention policy and procedure—details the fraud prevention framework.
- Risk management framework—details how to identify and minimise risks to service delivery.
- Performance management process—adherence to the Code of Conduct is included in individual staff performance plans.
- Human resource management policies and procedures.

Procurement

Procurement Services manages and delivers a range of acquisition activities and procurement advice for the department. It seeks to maximise value for money from expenditure on supplies, services and capital works. It ensures strategic and tactical procurement activities are undertaken in accordance with the Queensland Procurement Policy and the Financial Management and Performance Standard 2009. Procurement Services provides support to six Queensland Government agencies through the Business and Corporate Partnership.

Right to Information Services

The department is committed to transparent and accountable government by giving the community greater access to information under the *Right to Information Act 2009* (RTI Act) and the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (IP Act). The department provides the community with equal access to the information it holds, unless on balance, it is contrary to the public interest.

A publication scheme and disclosure log is available on the department's website. The publication scheme describes and categorises information routinely made available from the department, and the disclosure log publishes information which has been released in response to RTI access requests.

Further information about how to access information held by the department can be found on its website.

Business and Professional Services

The Business and Professional Services unit provides a range of functions including support for the Crime and Corruption Commission Liaison Officer and the Public Interest Disclosure Coordinator, providing privacy compliance advice, maintaining disclosure logs under the *Right to Information Act 2009*, and acting as the liaison with the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman. It also oversees business continuity, disaster management, energy efficiency and waste management activities, and is responsible for misconduct prevention and integrity initiatives, such as fraud and corruption risk assessments.

The majority of these services are provided to the department and the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing. Information Privacy and Publication Scheme support is provided to six

Queensland Government agencies through the Business and Corporate Partnership model and disclosure log decisions are made on behalf of all the Business and Corporate Partnerships agencies and their responsible ministers.

Business and Corporate Partnership Board

The Business and Corporate Partnership (BCP) delivers corporate services and business programs to support six partnering Queensland Government departments to deliver on their government priorities. Under this model the focus is on ensuring economies of scale, service integration, consistent service delivery, scalability, flexibility and responsiveness.

The BCP operates through three Corporate Hubs embedded in the departments of Agriculture and Fisheries; Natural Resources and Mines; and Environment and Heritage Protection. Each hub is managed by a Head of Corporate who is responsible for delivering a set of core services (to the host agency and one adjunct agency) and a selection of cooperative services (to all six partnering agencies).

As at 30 June 2017, the BCP Board was comprised of the Directors-General of the departments of Agriculture and Fisheries; Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games; Natural Resources and Mines; Energy and Water Supply; Environment and Heritage Protection; and National Parks, Sport and Racing; as well the three Heads of the Corporate Hubs.

The board is collectively responsible for the long-term performance, business success and timely delivery of departmental key priorities. Its role is to provide leadership and set the strategic direction of the partnership to enable its goals and objectives to be met.

How to contact us

You can contact EHP at:

Head office

Level 3, 400 George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Post

GPO Box 2454
Brisbane Qld 4001

Websites

Environment and Heritage Protection

www.ehp.qld.gov.au

 www.facebook.com/QldEHP

 <https://www.twitter.com/QldEHP>

 www.youtube.com/user/QldEHP

Heritage

 www.instagram.com/qldheritage

Spot our Species

 www.facebook.com/spotourspecies

Great Barrier Reef

 www.facebook.com/GBRQLD

Email

info@ehp.qld.gov.au

Office locations

EHP has a network of regional offices and business centres located throughout Queensland. A full list of these locations and the services they provide can be found on the department's website.

Permits and approvals

Enquiries about permits and approvals for environmental management, wildlife, coastal and heritage matters can be directed to Permit and Licence Management (1300 130 372, option 4) or contact your local contact officer using the details provided with your approval.

To confirm that the services or products that you require are available from your local business centre, please telephone 13 QGOV (13 7468).

Appendix 1—Legislation

Administered by EHP as at 30 June 2017

Biodiscovery Act 2004 (to the extent that it is relevant to the compliance code, collection protocols and authorisation of collection authorities other than as they affect, or are relevant to, management of the protected area estate and forest reserves, not including nature refuges) (jointly administered with the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business)

Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007 (except to the extent administered by the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines)

Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995

Environmental Offsets Act 2014

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Gurumundi Secure Landfill Agreement Act 1992

Lake Eyre Basin Agreement Act 2001 (to the extent that it is relevant to environmental matters)

National Environment Protection Council (Queensland) Act 1994

Nature Conservation Act 1992 (except to the extent that it is relevant to demonstrated and exhibited native animals and to the extent that it is relevant to the management of the protected area estate and forest reserves, not including nature refuges) (jointly administered with the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development)

Newstead House Trust Act 1939

North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011

Queensland Heritage Act 1992

Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011

Water Act 2000 (Chapter 3, and to the extent relevant to Chapter 3, Chapters 5, 6 and 7); (Chapter 8, Part 5, jointly administered with the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines; and the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply)

Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993

Legislation repealed 2016–17

Nil.

Legislation passed 2016–17

Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016

Appendix 2—Government bodies

Remuneration of government bodies

There are 10 government bodies in the scope of the department. The remuneration paid to members is summarised below. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet's annual report requirements for Queensland Government agencies requires that the remuneration details of members be published on the department's website. This requirement is fulfilled as the EHP Annual Report is available from the EHP website.

Board of Trustees of Newstead House					
Act or instrument	<i>Newstead House Trust Act 1939</i>				
Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure the conservation and preservation of Newstead House. Investigate and secure opportunities for alternative income streams for Newstead House. Identify and pursue relationships with potential heritage and cultural partners to raise the awareness, understanding and use of Newstead House more broadly. To perform other functions given to the Board under the <i>Newstead House Trust Act 1939</i>. 				
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in Brisbane Open House programme. Hosted the 75th Commemoration of the Battle of the Coral Sea organised by the Australian-American Association. Continued to develop the House public events program offering a range of events in the year. Finalised the collection database. Reinstated Newstead sub-station it as an additional multi-purpose venue. 				
Financial reporting	The Board does not control substantial State revenue allocations and audited financial statements are tabled with EHP financial statements.				
Remuneration: Chairperson and Board members are not remunerated for their associated work as appointed Board members.					
Position	Name	Meetings/sessions attendance	Approved annual, sessional or daily fee	Approved sub-committee fees if applicable	Actual fees received
Chair	Daniel Morgan	12	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Dr Ian Hadwen	12	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Cr Vicki Howard	10	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member*	Cr David McLachlan	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of scheduled meetings/sessions	N/A				
Total out of pocket expenses	Neither the Chair nor other Board members received payments for out of pocket expenses.				

* Cr David McLachlan formally resigned from his position on the board mid-term and was replaced by Cr Vicki Howard.

Fraser Island World Heritage Community Advisory Committee					
Act or instrument	The body is not established under an Act.				
Functions	<p>The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the Australian and Queensland Governments on matters relating to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of the Fraser Island (K'gari) World Heritage Area from the viewpoint of the community.</p> <p>This includes advice on the review and implementation of Fraser Island (K'gari) World Heritage area plans, strategies or management issues which impact on communities.</p>				
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC supported the successful adoption of the Butchulla's claim to officially rename the Fraser Island World Heritage Property to K'gari. • Provided advice regarding engagement with the Butchulla and the PBC. • Provided recommendations to the Minister and relevant departments on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Great Sandy Management Plan ○ NPSR's Value Based Management Framework ○ Acquisition and incorporation into the Protected Area Estate of the three blocks of Freehold Land located near Moon Point. ○ Urgent review and resolution of the permit system for research and education activities on Fraser Island (K'gari) • CAC (along with SAC) agreed and provided advice on critical management issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removal of trail/motor-bikes as well as quad/all-terrain vehicles from Fraser Island ○ Recommending an additional charge to be added to visitor permits ○ Supporting QPWS's initiative to limit road access in the Moon Point area ○ Restricting site access to the historically significant Postan's Logging Camp ○ Hook Point Beach Closure (to protect shorebirds) ○ Review Fraser's Fire Management Strategy ○ Biosecurity review as a major issue that needs to be addressed to reduce impacts to Fraser Island's OUV. ○ Prioritising the following key areas during the 2016-2019 term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improvements and clarification in communication between the committees and across all levels of Government ▪ Development of a Strategic Interpretation Plan for communication, interpretation and re-branding of Fraser Island (K'gari) focusing on its OUVs ▪ Recognition and integration of social and cultural values in all considerations for matter relating to OUV for Fraser Island (K'gari) • Identify strategies to increase resourcing including the concept of User Pays 				
Financial reporting	Included in the financial statements of this report.				
Remuneration					
Position	Name	Meetings/sessions attendance	Approved annual, sessional or daily fee	Approved sub-committee fees if applicable	Actual fees received
Chair	Sue Sargent	2	2x \$390 daily fee	N/A	\$780
Member	David Anderson	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Luke Barrowcliffe	2	N/A	N/A	N/A

Member	Shirley Blake	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Gemma Cronin	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Emma-Kate Currie	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Paul Fishburn	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	David Hay	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Glen Miller	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Kim Moreland	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	George Seymour	2 – both via proxy	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	John Sinclair AO	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of scheduled meetings/sessions	Two				
Total out of pocket expenses	Nil. The World Heritage Advisory Committee and their Executive Officer are funded by the Australian Government and the Queensland Government does not contribute to their operational cost.				

Fraser Island World Heritage Area Scientific Advisory Committee					
Act or instrument	The body is not established under an Act.				
Functions	<p>The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the Australian and Queensland Governments on matters relating to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of the Fraser Island World Heritage Area from the scientific viewpoint.</p> <p>This includes advice on the review and implementation of Fraser Island (K'gari) World Heritage Area plans, strategies or management issues which impact on communities.</p>				
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed research on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and other natural and cultural values and threats on Fraser Island. • Provided advice regarding engagement with the Butchulla and the PBC. • Provide advice to the minister and relevant departments on : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Great Sandy World Heritage nomination ○ The Great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Plan ○ The Great Sandy Management Plan ○ Strategic Planning for Queensland World Heritage properties. • SAC, along with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), agreed and provided advice on critical management issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removal of trail/motor-bikes as well as quad/all-terrain vehicles from Fraser Island ○ Recommending an additional charge to be added to visitor permits ○ Supporting QPWS's initiative to limit road access in the Moon Point area ○ Restricting site access to the historically significant Postan's Logging Camp ○ Hook Point Beach Closure (to protect shorebirds). ○ Review Fraser's Fire Management Strategy ○ Biosecurity Review as a major issue that needs to be addressed to reduce impacts to Fraser Island's OUV. ○ Prioritising the following key areas during the 2016-2019 term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improvements and clarification in communication between the committees and all levels of Government ▪ Development of a Strategic Interpretation Plan for communication, interpretation and re-branding of Fraser Island (K'gari) focusing on its OUVs ▪ Recognition and integration of social and cultural values in all considerations for matter relating to OUV for Fraser Island (K'gari) • Identify strategies to increase resourcing including the concept of User Pays. 				
Financial reporting	Included in the financial statements of this report.				
Remuneration					
Position	Name	Meetings/sessions attendance	Approved annual, sessional or daily fee	Approved sub-committee fees if applicable	Actual fees received
Chair	Dr James Shulmeister	2	2 x \$390 daily fee	N/A	\$780
Member	Dr Sandra Brizga	2	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Dr Desmond Boyland	2	No fee	N/A	N/A

Member	Dr Ian McNiven	2	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Dr Patrick Moss	2	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Dr Andrew Olds	1	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Dr Annie Ross	2	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Dr Terry Brown	2	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Dr Neil Tindale	2	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Dr Angela Wardell-Johnson	1	No fee	N/A	N/A
Number of scheduled meetings/sessions	Two				
Total out of pocket expenses	Nil. The World Heritage Advisory Committee and their Executive Officer are funded by the Australian Government and the Queensland Government does not contribute to their operational cost.				

Gondwana Rainforests of Australia Community Advisory Committee (CAC)					
Act or instrument	Australian World Heritage Intergovernmental Agreement				
Functions	<p>The Gondwana Rainforests Community Advisory Committee provides advice on matters relating to the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and management of the Gondwana Rainforests from the viewpoint of the community.</p> <p>The Chair of the Community Advisory Committee may also represent the Gondwana Rainforests on the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC), which will consider national and cross-cutting issues relevant to all World Heritage properties in Australia.</p>				
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided advice and input into the Strategic Management Framework being prepared by the managing agencies • Provided advice to the Minister on <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> referrals and advice to the proponents on controlled action determined within the Gondwana Rainforests • Worked towards the development of a strategic agenda for the term of the committee to October 2019. Identifying opportunities for enhanced engagement with local government in the celebration and management of the Gondwana Rainforests Identifying opportunities for enhanced community participation in the promotion and management of the property. 				
Financial reporting	Annual financial report to the Australian Government for World Heritage Grant A000001074G.				
Remuneration					
Position	Name	Meetings/sessions attendance	Approved annual, sessional or daily fee	Approved sub-committee fees if applicable	Actual fees received
Chair	Dr Mahri Koch	1	No fee paid by QLD	N/A	Nil
Member	Paul Donatieu	1	No fee	N/A	Nil
Queensland Member	Innes Larkin	1	No fee	N/A	Nil
Member	Peter Ogilvie	1	No fee	N/A	Nil
Member	Carmel Peacock	1	No fee	N/A	Nil
Members (NSW)	Terry Tibbett Jan Olley Rod McKelvey Bryan Johnston	1	No fee paid by QLD	N/A	Nil
Number of scheduled meetings/sessions	One				
Total out of pocket expenses	Nil. The World Heritage Advisory Committee and their Executive Officer are funded by the Australian Government and the Queensland Government does not contribute to their operational cost.				

Gondwana Rainforests of Australia Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC)					
Act or instrument	Australian World Heritage Intergovernmental Agreement				
Functions	<p>The Gondwana Rainforests Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee provide advice on matters relating to the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Gondwana Rainforests.</p> <p>The Chair represents the Gondwana Rainforests on the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC), which considers national and cross-cutting issues relevant to all World Heritage properties in Australia.</p>				
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided advice and input into the Strategic Management Framework being prepared by the managing agencies • Provided advice to the Minister on <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> referrals and advice to the proponents on controlled action determined within the Gondwana Rainforests • Worked towards the development of a strategic agenda for the term of the committee to October 2019 including review and advice on monitoring and reporting frameworks for the property 				
Financial reporting	Annual financial report to the Australian Government for World Heritage Grant A000001074G.				
Remuneration					
Position	Name	Meetings/sessions attendance	Approved annual, sessional or daily fee	Approved sub-committee fees if applicable	Actual fees received
Chair	Prof Nick Reid	1	No fee paid by QLD	N/A	Nil
Member	Aila Keto	1	No fee	N/A	Nil
Member	Professor Michael Mahony	1	No fee	N/A	Nil
Member	Dr William McDonald	1	No fee	N/A	Nil
Member	Dr Ross Peacock	1	No fee	N/A	Nil
Member	Professor Stephen Gale	1	No fee	N/A	Nil
Member	Dr Liz Gould	1	No fee	N/A	Nil
Member	Dr Melinda Laidlaw	1	No fee	N/A	Nil
Member	Professor Better Weiler	1	No fee	N/A	Nil
No. scheduled meetings/sessions	One				
Total out of pocket expenses	Nil. The World Heritage Advisory Committee and the Executive Officer are funded by the Australian Government and the Queensland Government does not contribute to their operational cost.				

Queensland Heritage Council					
Act or instrument	<i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>				
Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide strategic advice to the Minister about matters relating to Queensland's cultural heritage, including, for example, measures necessary to conserve Queensland's cultural heritage. • Provide information to the community to encourage interest in, and understanding of, Queensland's cultural heritage. • Advise entities about conserving Queensland's cultural heritage, including, for example, government entities and community organisations. • Encourage the appropriate management of places of cultural heritage significance. • To perform other functions given to the Council under the <i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>. 				
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entered 16 places of state heritage significance in the Queensland heritage register. • Participated in the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand meeting held in Adelaide on 8 and 9 May 2017. • Participated in and provided sponsorship for annual Brisbane, Maryborough, Gold Coast and Cairns Open House events. • Visited Rockhampton in May 2017 as part of the Queensland Heritage Council's commitment to visiting regional Queensland. • Appointed eight new members from January 2017, giving the Heritage Council its first female majority membership including a new Chair, Ms Debbie Best. 				
Financial reporting	All operating and administration costs associated with Queensland Heritage Council are paid for by EHP core funding. This includes all meeting costs, sitting fees, travel and accommodation. The department's financial statements are audited by the Queensland Audit Office annually.				
Remuneration: The Queensland Heritage Council members are remunerated at the category Regulation, Administration and Advice Level 1 of the Procedures.					
Position	Name	Meetings/sessions attendance	Approved annual, sessional or daily fee	Approved sub-committee fees if applicable	Actual fees received
Chair (1/07/2016 to 31/12/2016)	Peter Coaldrake	3	\$650 x 1 \$325 x 2	1 additional meetings (\$325 x 1)	\$1,625
Member (1/07/2016 to 31/12/2016)	Barry Merrick	2	\$500 x 1 \$250 x 1	N/A	\$750
Member (1/07/2016 to 31/12/2016)	Ivan McDonald	Does not get paid	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member (1/07/2016 to 31/12/2016)	Marcus Ford	3	\$500 x 1 \$250 x 2	1 additional meeting (\$250 x 1)	\$1,250
Member (1/07/2016 to 31/12/2016)	Carol Cashman	4	\$500 x 2 \$250 x 2	1 additional meeting (\$250 x 1)	\$1,750
Member (1/07/2016 to 31/12/2016)	Stuart Lummis	4	\$500 x 2 \$250 x 2	3 additional meetings (\$500 x 2 and \$250 x 1)	\$2,750
Member (1/07/2016 to 31/12/2016)	Judith McKay	4	\$500 x 2 \$250 x 2	4 additional meetings (\$500 x 2 and \$250 x 2)	\$3,000

Member	Valerie Dennis	10	\$500 x 8 \$250 x 2	2 additional meetings (\$500 x 2)	\$5,500
Member	Anthony Ross	8	\$500 x 7 \$250 x 1	2 additional meetings (\$500 x 2)	\$4,750
Member	William Marklew	7	\$500 x 5 \$250 x 2	1 additional meeting (\$500 x 1)	\$3,500
Deputy Chair (1/07/2016 to 31/12/2016)	Debbie Best	4	As Chair \$650 x 1 \$500 x 1 \$250 x 2	2 additional meetings as Deputy Chair (\$500 x 2)	\$10,450
Chair (1/01/2017 to 30/06/2017)		5	\$650 x 5	9 additional meetings as Chair (\$325 x 4 \$650 x 5)	
Deputy Chair (from 1/01/2017)	George Seymour	Does not get paid	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member (from 1/01/2017)	Judy Brien	5	\$500 x 5	2 additional meetings (\$500 x 1 \$250 x 1)	\$3,250
Member (from 1/01/2017)	Kathy Davis	6	\$500 x 6	3 additional meetings (\$500 x 3)	\$4,500
Member (from 1/01/2017)	Alice Hampson	6	\$500 x 6	3 additional meetings (\$500 x 2 \$250 x 1)	\$4,250
Member (from 1/01/2017)	Katie McConnel	6	\$500 x 6	2 additional meetings (\$500 x 2)	\$4,000
Member (from 1/01/2017)	Tanya Neville	Does not get paid	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member (from 1/01/2017)	Judy Peters	Does not get paid	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member (from 1/01/2017)	Ian Sinnamon	6	\$500 x 6	2 additional meetings (\$500 x 2)	\$4,000
Number of scheduled meetings/sessions	10				
Total out of pocket expenses	N/A (see financial reporting above).				

Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee					
Act or instrument	Australian World Heritage Intergovernmental Agreement				
Functions	<p>The Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee provides advice to the Australian and Queensland Governments, on matters relating to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of the Riversleigh component of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh) World Heritage property from the view point of the community and scientists.</p> <p>The Chair represents Riversleigh on the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC), which considers national and cross-cutting issues relevant to all World Heritage properties in Australia.</p>				
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked towards engaging people through cross-collaboration endeavours with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) on the development of the World Heritage Family' concept and the 'Science in the pub' event co-presented by RCSAC committee member Professor Mike Archer ○ Tourism and Events Queensland on the 'Outback Queensland Dinosaurs-Palaeo Tourism Opportunities to 2020' ○ Mount Isa Entertainment and Tourism to promote the values of Riversleigh ○ The Naracoorte section of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (AFMS) World Heritage property to emphasise the serial character of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (AFMS). • Finalised Stage 2 of the Site Marker project to better identify the locational position of fossil sites and to adhere to international standards of practice. • Worked towards improving the effectiveness of the Riversleigh fossil database to ensure the archiving of site and specimen data is an accurate and effective tool in succession planning for the site. • Worked with QPWS towards better presentation of the Riversleigh World Heritage site to convey its OUV and improve visitor experiences by working towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Finalising the 'Vision for D-site Strategy'. ○ Opening a section of the 'Bitesantennary Valley' to improve education opportunities. 				
Financial reporting	Annual financial report to the Australian Government for World Heritage Grant A000001074G.				
Remuneration					
Position	Name	Meetings/sessions attendance	Approved annual, sessional or daily fee	Approved sub-committee fees if applicable	Actual fees received
Chair	Dr Graeme Potter	2	\$390 daily	N/A	\$780
Member	Ms Claudette Albert	1	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member (up to and including 25/01/2017)	Mr Henry Alpin	0	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Prof Mike Archer	2	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Cr Ernie Camp	2	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Mr Rod Connolly	2	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Dr Judith Field	2	No fee	N/A	N/A

Member	Mr Henk Godthelp	1	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Ms Michelle Low Mow	2	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Ms Megan Muchenberg	1	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Ms Angi Matveyeff	2	No fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Dr Andrew Rozefelds	2	No fee	N/A	N/A
Number of scheduled meetings/sessions	Two				
Total out of pocket expenses	Nil. The World Heritage Advisory Committee and their Executive Officer are funded by the Australian Government and the Queensland Government does not contribute to their operational cost.				

Wet Tropics Community Consultative Committee					
Act or instrument	<i>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993.</i>				
Functions	The community consultative committee has the function of advising the authority on the views of the community on the authority's policies and programs in relation to the wet tropics area.				
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provided advice and comment on a number of strategic policy documents including the draft Queensland Protected Area Strategy, the Australian Government proposed climate change policy, the Wet Tropics Management Authority's Community Engagement Strategy, Rainforest Aboriginal engagement Strategy, the Wet Tropics World Heritage Presentation Strategy and review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan. provided input on potential themes, activities, products and partnerships to help celebrate the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area 30 year anniversary in 2018. provided advice on WTMA engagement, strategies and branding. provided input into the review of the Wet Tropic Tour Guide School and program. 				
Financial reporting	The Wet Tropics Management Authority provides audited financial statements as required as per the <i>Financial Accountability Act 2009 (QLD)</i> .				
Remuneration					
Position	Name	Meetings/sessions attendance	Approved annual, sessional or daily fee	Approved sub-committee fees if applicable	Actual fees received
Chair	Ms Anne Clarke	3	\$400 daily fee	N/A	\$2,200
Member	Dennis Ah-Kee	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Allison Anderson	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Ellie Bock	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Allan Gillanders	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Sigrid Heise-Pavlov	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Bess Murphy	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Craig Pocock	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Gerard Puglisi	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Peter Rowles	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Angela Toppin	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Linda Venn	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Seraeah Wyles	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of scheduled meetings/sessions	The Community Consultative Committee met three times in 2016-17: 15 December 2016, 16 February 2017 and 4 May 2017.				
Total out of pocket expenses	<p>The Community Consultative Committee cost \$6,650 to operate, mostly for sitting fees (Chair), advertising, reimbursement for out of pocket expenses, travel expenses and catering. Members do not receive sitting fees.</p> <p>The Community Consultative Committee is funded by the Australian Government. The Queensland Government does not contribute to its operational cost.</p>				

Board of the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA)	
Act or instrument	<i>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993.</i>
Functions	<p>Under s10(1) <i>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993</i>, the functions of the Board are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) develop and implement policies and programs in relation to the management of the wet tropics area; (b) formulate performance indicators for the implementation of policies and programs approved by the Ministerial Council; and (c) advise and make recommendations to the Minister and the Ministerial Council in relation to— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the management of the wet tropics area; and (ii) Australia's obligation under the World Heritage Convention in relation to the wet tropics area; (d) prepare, and ensure the implementation of, management plans for the wet tropics area (e) administer funding arrangements in relation to the wet tropics area; (f) enter into, and facilitate the entering into of, cooperative management agreements (including joint management agreements) with land-holders, Aboriginal people particularly concerned with land in the wet tropics area and other persons (g) enter into arrangements for the provision of rehabilitation and restoration works in relation to any land in the wet tropics area; (h) gather, research, analyse and disseminate information on the wet tropics area; (i) develop public and community education programs in relation to the wet tropics area (j) promote the wet tropics area locally, nationally and internationally; liaise with the governments and authorities of the State, the Commonwealth, other States and the Territories, and international and foreign organisations and agencies; (k) monitor the state of the wet tropics area; and (l) advise and report to the Minister and the Ministerial Council.
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the framework, steps and estimated timelines for the 10-year review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan. This includes establishing a framework to ensure the free, prior and informed consent with Prescribed Body Corporates and Aboriginal groups throughout the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area as part of the consultation process. • Held the Wet Tropics Ministerial Forum on 25 November 2016. The Forum, comprising Australian and Queensland Environment Ministers, meets annually to provide oversight to the strategic operation of the Wet Tropics Management Authority, approve annual budgets and consider future directions for meeting the property's World Heritage obligations. • Tabled the Authority's 2016-17 State of Wet Tropics report in the Queensland and Australian parliaments. • Hosted the 2016 Cassowary Awards, which were held on 3 December 2016. This event celebrated the contributions made by the wider community into the protection and presentation of the World Heritage Area. Over 30 individuals and organisations were nominated in eight categories http://www.wettropics.gov.au/cassowary-awards-celebrate-champions.html. • Appointed a new Community Consultative Committee (CCC) and Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). These committees met for the first time in December 2016 for an induction session and introduction to the Authority. • Developed an action plan to progress a couple of creative resourcing ideas that would boost support World Heritage management, visitor amenities and other initiatives to enhance presentation. • Published the Inaugural Rainforest Aboriginal News (October 2016) to showcase good news stories about Traditional Owner involvement in the management of the Wet Tropics. • Developed a (draft) Wet Tropics presentation strategy which aims to help focus the Authority efforts to present the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and canvass options for new private and public contributions to achieve higher standards.

Financial reporting	The Authority provides audited financial statements as required as per the <i>Financial Accountability Act (QLD) 2009</i> .				
Remuneration					
Position	Name	Meetings/sessions attendance *	Approved annual, sessional or daily fee	Approved sub-committee fees if applicable	Actual fees received
Chair	Leslie Shirreffs	4	\$520 daily fee	N/A	\$26,780
Member	John Courtenay	4	\$400 daily fee	N/A	\$5,800
Member	Anne Clarke	4	\$400 daily fee	Chair Wet Tropics Community Consultative Committee (\$400 daily fee)	\$5,800
Member	Iain Gordon	4	\$400 daily fee	Chair Wet Tropics Scientific Advisory Committee (\$400 daily fee)	\$5,800
Member	Leah Talbot	3	\$400 daily fee	N/A	N/A
Member	Phillip Rist	3	\$400 daily fee	N/A	\$5,000
Number of scheduled meetings/sessions	The Board met four times in 2016-17: 23-14 August 2016, 1-2 December 2016, 7 March 2017 and 25-26 May 2017.				
Total out of pocket expenses	The Board cost \$76,918 to operate, mostly for sitting fees, reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses, travel expenses, site inspections and catering. The Board of the Wet Tropics Management Authority is funded by the Australian Government. The Queensland Government does not contribute to its operational cost.				

Wet Tropics Scientific Advisory Committee					
Act or instrument	<i>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993</i>				
Functions	To advise the Wet Tropics Management Authority on: (a) scientific research that will contribute to the protection and conservation of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (b) scientific developments relevant to the protection or conservation of the Area.				
Achievements	<p>The Scientific Advisory Committee were appointed by the Wet Tropics Board in November 2016 and met for the first time in December 2016. Some of the major issues discussed included the development of Science Priority Action Plan that focuses on climate change resilience and monitoring, biosecurity, World Heritage presentation and community engagement. Other achievements included providing advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to the Wet Tropics Management Authority Board on the World Heritage attributes and ecological function of Wet Tropics species including the southern cassowary and spectacled flying fox regarding developing guidelines (draft) for research protocols for engagement between Rainforest Aboriginal People and researchers on QPWS Values based park management framework for national parks on State of Wet Tropics report for 2016-17 which is based on World Heritage Criteria vii: 'Natural Beauty and Aesthetic value of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area'. 				
Financial reporting	The Wet Tropics Management Authority provides audited financial statements as required as per the <i>Financial Accountability Act (QLD) 2009</i> .				
Remuneration					
Position	Name	Meetings/sessions attendance	Approved annual, sessional or daily fee	Approved sub-committee fees if applicable	Actual fees received
Chair	Professor Iain Gordon	3	\$400 daily fee	N/A	\$1,800
Member	Professor John Herbohn	2	N/A	N/A	
Member	Mr John Locke	3	N/A	N/A	
Member	Associate Professor Susan Laurance	3	N/A	N/A	
Member	Dr Suzanne Long	0	N/A	N/A	
Member	Professor. Bruce Richard Prideaux	0	N/A	N/A	
Member	Dr Lea Scherl	1	N/A	N/A	
Member	Mrs Joann Schmider	3	N/A	N/A	
Member	Dr David Westcott	2	N/A	N/A	
Number of scheduled meetings/sessions	The Scientific Advisory Committee met three times in 2016-17: 15 December 2016, 10 February 2017 and 16 May 2017.				
Total out of pocket expenses	<p>The Scientific Advisory Committee cost \$5,439 to operate, mostly for sitting fees (Chair), advertising, reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses, travel expenses and catering. Members do not receive sitting fees.</p> <p>The Scientific Advisory Committee is funded by the Australian Government. The Queensland Government does not contribute to its operational cost.</p>				

Appendix 3—Litigation 2016–17

Matter	Date	Charge	Penalty
LIT1586	5 July 2016	One charge of operating a vessel on the plane in a go slow zone for turtles and dugong, in contravention of section 45(1) of the Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 2008.	\$500 fine \$250 legal costs \$186 investigation costs No conviction recorded
LIT1572	9 August 2016	One charge of operating a vessel on the plane in a go slow zone for turtles and dugong in contravention of section 45(1) Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 2008.	\$500 fine \$250 legal costs \$206 investigation costs No conviction recorded
LIT1569	9 August 2016	One charge of littering at a place contrary to section 103 of the <i>Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011</i> .	\$150 fine \$300 legal costs No conviction recorded
LIT048	16 August 2016	One charge of disturbing a flying-fox in a flying-fox roost contrary to section 88C (3) of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> . One charge of contravening a condition of an exemption certificate which applies at a heritage place contrary to section 76 of the <i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i> .	\$15,000 fine \$1,500 legal costs No conviction recorded
LIT1507	16 August 2016	Two charges of contravening a condition of an exemption certificate which applies at a heritage place contrary to section 76 of the <i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i> .	\$3,000 fine \$1,500 legal costs No conviction recorded
LIT1556	18 August 2016	One charge of failing to comply with a direction from an inspector without a reasonable excuse contrary to section 99(7) of the <i>Marine Parks Act 2004</i> .	\$1,000 fine \$250 legal costs \$700 investigation costs No conviction recorded
LIT1557	22 August 2016	One charge of contravening a condition of an environmental authority under section 430 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .	\$25,000 fine \$1,500 legal costs \$1,684 investigation costs No conviction recorded
LIT1514	14 September 2016	One charge of providing false or misleading documentation to an authorised person contrary to section 480 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .	\$11,000 fine \$2,750 legal costs \$480 investigation costs No conviction recorded

Matter	Date	Charge	Penalty
LIT1541	13 September 2016	<p>One charge of entering or using a marine park for a prohibited purpose contrary to section 109 of the Marine Parks Regulation 2006.</p> <p>One charge of giving false or misleading information to an inspector contrary to section 89 of the <i>Marine Parks Act 2004</i>.</p>	<p>\$6,000 fine</p> <p>\$1,500 legal costs</p> <p>\$1,390 investigation costs</p> <p>No conviction recorded</p>
LIT1545	6 October 2016	<p>One charge of carrying out an environmentally relevant activity without an environmental authority contrary to section 426 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>.</p>	<p>\$40,000 fine</p> <p>\$250 legal costs</p> <p>\$1,800 investigation costs</p> <p>No conviction recorded</p>
LIT062	13 October 2016	<p>Three charges of contravening a condition of an environmental authority under section 430 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>.</p> <p>One charge of causing serious environmental harm contrary to section 437 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>.</p>	<p>\$150,000 fine</p> <p>\$1,500 legal costs</p> <p>\$8,490 investigation costs</p> <p>No conviction recorded</p>
LIT1547	October 2016	<p>One charge of lighting, keeping or using a fire in a recreation area where it has been prohibited by regulatory notice, contrary to section 115(2) of the <i>Recreation Areas Management Act 2006</i>.</p>	<p>\$1,000 fine</p> <p>\$500 legal costs</p> <p>No conviction recorded</p>
LIT1607	21 October 2016	<p>One charge of littering at a place contrary to section 103 of the <i>Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011</i>.</p>	<p>\$300 fine</p> <p>\$100 legal costs</p> <p>No conviction recorded</p>
LIT1559	8 November 2016	<p>One charge of contravening a condition of an environmental authority under section 430 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>.</p> <p>One charge of failing to provide prescribed information in a waste transport certificate to the administering authority contrary to section 811(2) of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008.</p>	<p>\$63,000 fine</p> <p>\$1,500 legal costs</p> <p>\$1,035 investigation costs</p> <p>No conviction recorded</p>
LIT020	November 2016	<p>Seven charges of contravening a condition of an environmental authority under section 430 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>.</p> <p>One charge of unlawfully causing serious environmental harm contrary to section 437 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>.</p> <p>One charge of unlawfully causing material environmental harm contrary to section 438 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>.</p>	<p>\$225,000 fine</p> <p>\$9,655 compensation ordered to be paid to landholders (note not included in fine total below)</p> <p>\$1,000 legal costs</p> <p>\$45,684 investigation costs</p> <p>No conviction recorded</p>
LIT1604	17 November 2016	<p>Two charges of contravening a condition of an environmental authority under section 430 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>.</p>	<p>\$60,000 fine</p> <p>\$1,500 legal costs</p> <p>\$1,928 investigation costs</p> <p>No conviction recorded</p>

Matter	Date	Charge	Penalty
LIT1582	8 November 2016	One charge of entering or using a marine park for a prohibited purpose contrary to section 109 of the Marine Parks Regulation 2007.	\$7,500 fine No conviction recorded
LIT018	21 November 2016	One charge of failing to comply with a condition of a relevant authority contrary to section 58 of the Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006. Eleven charges of failing to ensure a relevant record particular was included in a record on the prescribed day, contrary to section 125(b)(ii) of the Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006. Two charges of taking a cultural or natural resources of a protected area contrary to section 62(1) of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> .	\$8,500 fine No conviction recorded
LIT991	14 December 2016	One charge of contravening a condition of an environmental authority under section 430 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .	\$50,000 fine No conviction recorded
LIT1504	15 December 2016	One charge of unlawfully causing serious environmental harm contrary to section 437 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .	\$400,000 fine \$1,500 legal costs \$9,882 investigation costs No conviction recorded
LIT1595	20 December 2016	One charge of contravening a condition of an environmental authority under section 430 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .	\$7,500 fine \$1,750 legal costs \$2,516 investigation costs No conviction recorded
LIT1612	25 January 2017	One charge of littering at a place contrary to section 103 of the <i>Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011</i> .	\$235 fine \$125 legal costs \$584 investigation costs No conviction recorded
LIT046	13 February 2017	One charge of carrying out an environmentally relevant activity without an environmental authority contrary to section 426 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .	\$70,000 fine \$12,500 legal costs \$20,636 investigation costs No conviction recorded
LIT1540	16 February 2017	One charge of contravening an environmental protection order contrary to section 361 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> . One charge of contravening a condition of an environmental authority under section 430 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .	\$40,000 fine \$250 legal costs \$1,830 investigation costs Conviction recorded
LIT1540	16 February 2017	One charge of an executive officer failing to ensure that a company complies with an environmental protection order contrary to section 361 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .	\$15,000 fine No conviction recorded

Matter	Date	Charge	Penalty
LIT1515	27 April 2017	<p>Two charges of an executive officer failing to ensure that a company complied with section 426 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>.</p> <p>Two charges of providing false or misleading documentation to an authorised person contrary to section 480 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>.</p>	<p>No penalty imposed in respect of two offences contrary to section 426 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>.</p> <p>Two months imprisonment for each offence contrary to section 480 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>, to be served concurrently with each other but cumulative to the drug trafficking sentence.</p> <p>Conviction recorded for all four offences</p>
LIT1631	18 April 2017	One charge of wilfully using the marine park for a prohibited purpose contrary to section 43 of the <i>Marine Parks Act 2004</i> .	<p>\$4,000 fine</p> <p>\$750 legal costs</p> <p>\$1,510 investigation costs</p> <p>No conviction recorded</p>
LIT1632	18 April 2017	One charge of wilfully using the marine park for a prohibited purpose contrary to section 43 of the <i>Marine Parks Act 2004</i> .	<p>\$2,500 fine</p> <p>\$750 legal costs</p> <p>\$1,510 investigation costs</p> <p>No conviction recorded</p>
LIT1601	15 May 2017	<p>One charge of carrying out an environmentally relevant activity without an environmental authority contrary to section 426 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>.</p> <p>Two charges of unlawfully depositing a prescribed contaminant in waters contrary to section 440ZG of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>.</p>	<p>\$20,000 fine</p> <p>\$1,500 legal costs</p> <p>\$2,120 investigation costs</p> <p>No conviction recorded</p>
		Total sum of fines ordered: \$1,225,885	
		Total sum of costs ordered: \$153,052	

Appendix 4—Annual report on the administration of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (the EP Act) provides for ecologically sustainable development. It allows development that improves the total quality of life—now and in the future—in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.

Section 546A of the EP Act requires the chief executive of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) to give to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection a report on the administration of the Act for each financial year.

Section 546A (4) of the EP Act requires the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection to include a statement in the report about requests received by the Minister to prepare environmental protection policies. The Minister received no such requests for the 2016–17 financial year.

The EP Act is jointly administered by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) as the chief executive, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) and local governments as relevant administering authorities who have either delegated or devolved powers. Table 1 summarises the major EP Act activities and identifies the administering authority and its areas of responsibility.

Table 1: Administration of activities under the EP Act by relevant administration

Activities under the EP Act	EHP	DAF	DNRM	Local governments
Changes to the EP Act and subordinate legislation	✓			
Administration of ERAs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Contaminated land management	✓			
Reports about contraventions of the EP Act	✓	✓		✓
Actions taken to enforce the EP Act	✓	✓		✓

In previous years local government provided information to include in this report. The director-general, as chief executive, removed this administrative burden from local governments as of the 2015–16 financial year. However, individual local governments may still want to collate this information and make it available to their ratepayers.

Local governments are an important administering authority under the EP Act and their contribution to the administration of the EP Act is appreciated. While this report does not include data from local government, general reference is made to their important contribution to the administration of the EP Act.

This report contains information on the following topics for each state administering authority:

1. Administration of environmentally relevant activities (ERAs).
2. Contaminated land management.
3. Reports about contraventions of the EP Act.
4. Actions taken to enforce the EP Act.
5. Reporting requirements.

1. Administration of ERAs

The EP Act defines three types of ERAs:

- a) Agricultural ERAs involve the application of fertilisers on cane and cattle farms in certain catchments affecting the Great Barrier Reef.
- b) Resource activities include:
 - mining activities (exploration, extraction, rehabilitation and similar activities) authorised under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*
 - petroleum and gas activities authorised under the *Petroleum Act 1923*, the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* and the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982*
 - greenhouse gas storage activities authorised under the *Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009*.
- c) Prescribed ERAs are other industrial or commercial activities that may release contaminants with the potential to cause environmental harm (excluding those which are part of a mining, petroleum or gas project).

Both DAF and local governments undertake tasks in relation to the administration and enforcement of those prescribed ERAs delegated or devolved to them. These include:

- assessing, deciding, conditioning, amending, transferring, suspending and cancelling environmental authorities and the issuing of temporary emissions licences (TEs)
- requiring and assessing environmental evaluations to assess environmental compliance
- issuing environmental enforcement notices or directions
- invoicing and collecting annual fees, application fees and outstanding debts.

DNRM handles the initial processing of some applications for ERAs that are resource activities.

The number and type of environmental authorities administered by EHP and other state administering authorities are summarised in this report.

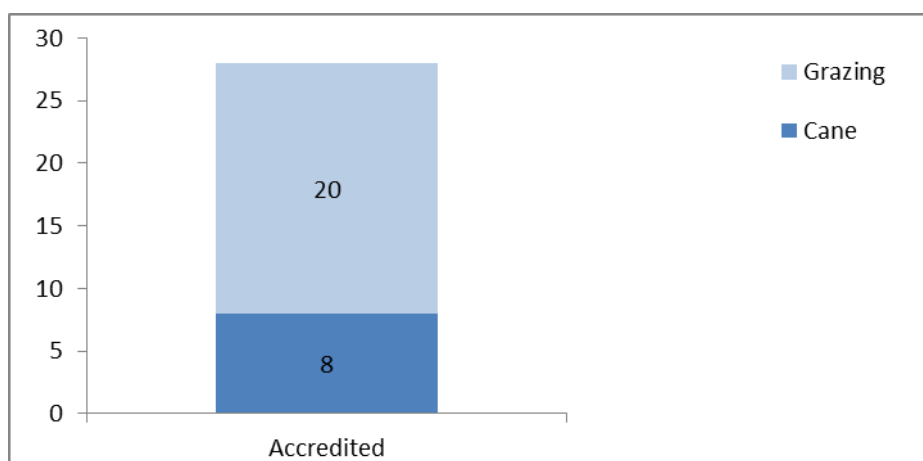
1.1 Agricultural ERAs

Under section 75 of the EP Act, an activity is classed as an agricultural ERA if it is commercial sugar cane growing or cattle grazing carried out on an agricultural property of more than 2,000 hectares; and is in one or more of the following catchments:

- Wet Tropics catchment
- Mackay–Whitsunday catchment
- Burdekin Dry Tropics catchment.

An environmental risk management plan (ERMP) is required for agricultural ERAs where there is sugar cane growing on more than 70ha in the Wet Tropics catchment or cattle grazing on more than 2,000 hectares in the Burdekin Dry Tropics catchment.

An ERMP may also be required by ministerial direction where it is considered necessary or desirable to improve the quality of water being released from the relevant agricultural property; or because the agricultural ERA is causing or may cause unlawful environmental harm.

Figure 1: Total number and status of ERMPs accredited at 30 June 2017

1.2 Resource activities

Resource activities are: geothermal, greenhouse gas storage, mining and petroleum activities.

All resource activities require an environmental authority under the EP Act to operate, with some higher risk activities also requiring an environmental impact statement (EIS) as part of the approval process.

Both EHP and DNRM (under powers delegated by the EP Act) administer resource activities. DNRM administer small-scale mining activities. Prospecting and small-scale mining claims do not require environmental authorities.

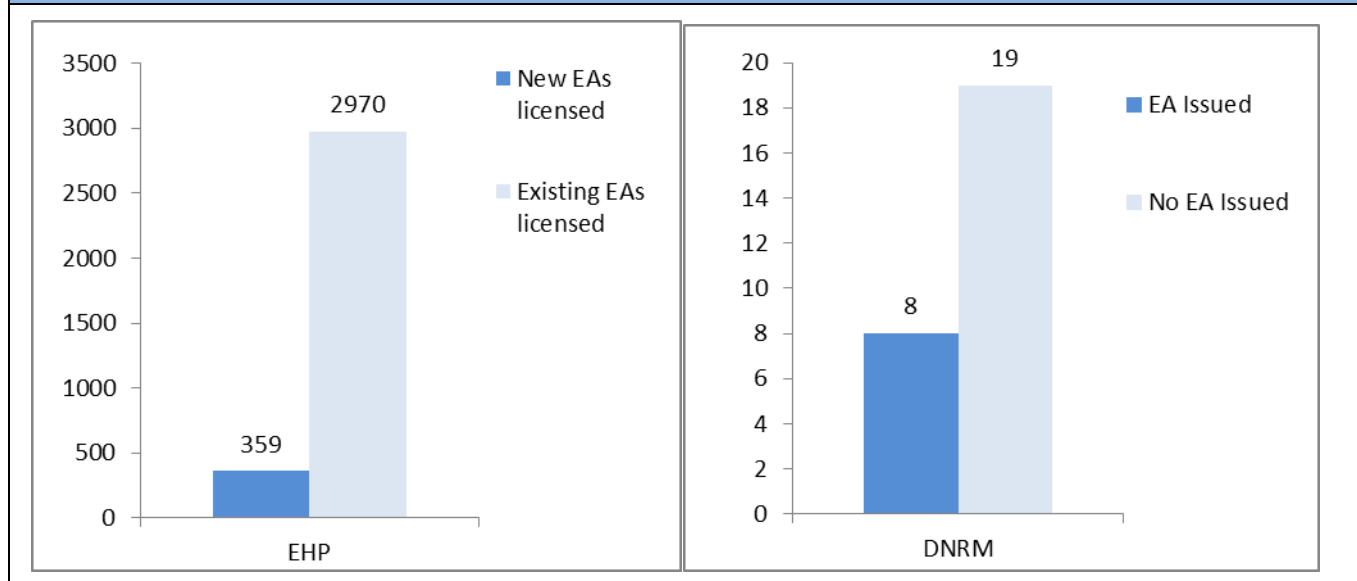
Figure 2 gives the number of new and existing environmental authorities for 2016–17 by the relevant state administering authority. Existing environmental authorities were those current at 30 June 2016 that are still current at 30 June 2017. New environmental authorities are those that were issued after 30 June 2016 and are still current as at 30 June 2017. The total of environmental authorities as at 30 June 2017 is 3,329 (359 new and 2,970 current).

Figure 2 also gives the number of small-scale mining claims approved by DNRM during the 2016/17 financial year (under powers delegated by the EP Act), of which eight were issued an environmental authority.

Of the 359 new resources environmental authorities approved by the department in the 2016/2017 Financial Year, there are 148 environmental authorities that have been granted, but are not yet effective; this can occur for any of the following reasons:

- If the EA states an event for it to take effect and the event hasn't taken place yet – EP Act s 200(1)(b)
- If the EA is for a resource activity and the relevant tenure hasn't been granted yet – EP Act s 200(2)(a)
- If a development permit(DA) for an MCU is necessary for carrying out an activity that relates to the EA and the DA hasn't taken effect yet – EP Act s 200(2)(b)
- If an SDA approval is necessary under the State Development Act for carrying out an activity that relates to the EA and the approval hasn't taken effect yet – EP Act s 200(2)(c).

Figure 2: Environmental authorities for resource activities for 2016–17

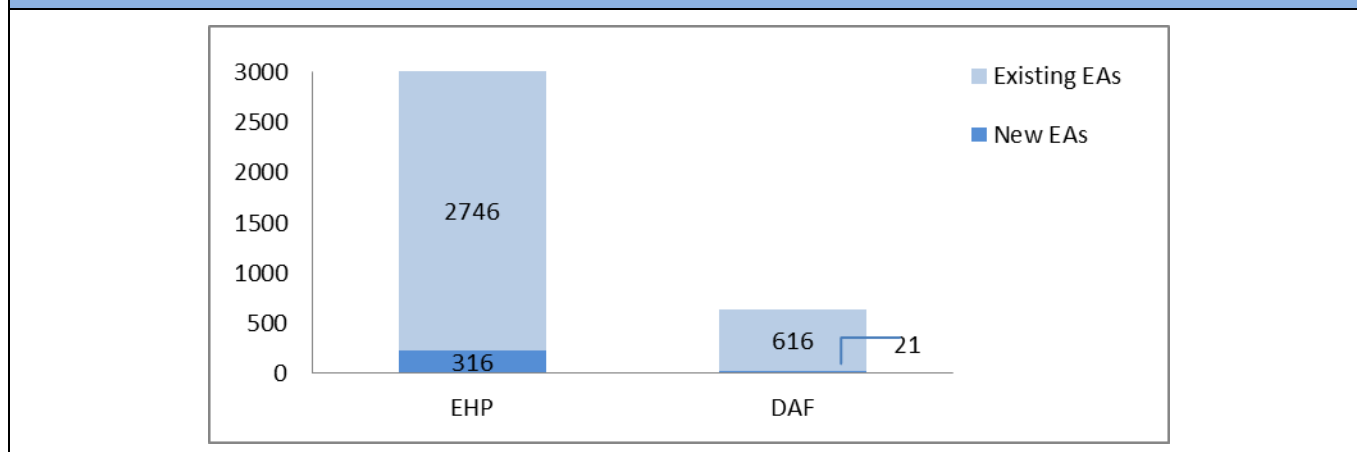


1.3 Prescribed environmentally relevant activities

Prescribed ERAs are activities—other than resource or agricultural ERAs—that have the potential to cause harm to the environment. They are listed in schedule 2 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008.

To operate an ERA an environmental authority issued under the EP Act is required. Figure 3 gives the number of new and existing EAs for 2016–17 by the relevant state administering authority. Existing environmental authorities were those current at 30 June 2016 that are still current at 30 June 2017. The total number of environmental authorities current at 30 June 2017 is 3017 for EHP and 615 for DAF (from the sum of the new and existing environmental authorities).

Figure 3: Environmental authorities for prescribed ERAs for 2016–17



1.4 Environmental impact statements

The EIS process is set out in Chapter 3 of the EP Act. An EIS may be required by legislation, requested by the administering authority or submitted as a voluntary proposal by the applicant.

The purpose of an EIS is to assess the potential adverse and beneficial environmental, economic and social impacts of the project; and management, monitoring, planning and other measures proposed to minimise any adverse environmental impacts of the project.

The EIS assessments completed in 2016–17 and those still in progress at 30 June 2017 are outlined in Figure 4, with further information provided in tables 2 and 3.

Figure 4: Total number and status of EIS assessments in 2016–17

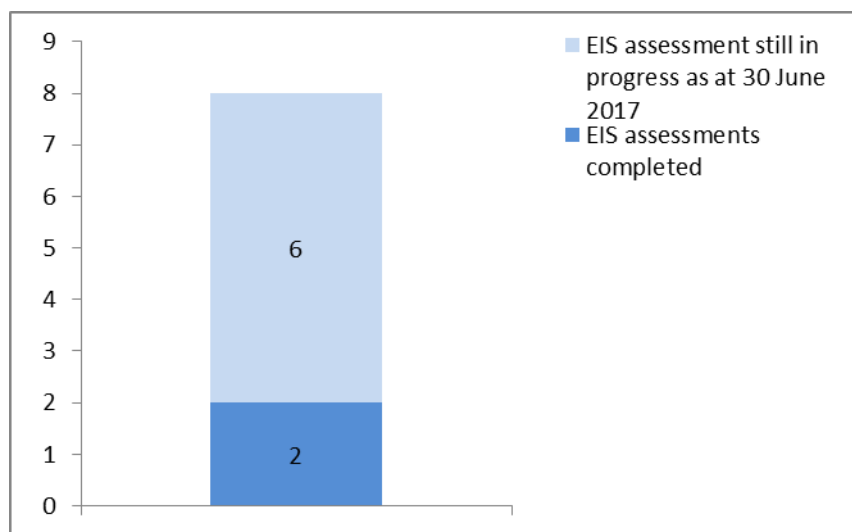


Table 2: EIS assessments completed in 2016–17

Project name	Type of project
Bauxite Hills Project	Open cut bauxite mine and barge facility
Hillalong Coal Project	Open cut coal mine

Table 3: EIS assessments in progress in 2016–17

Project name	Type of project	Status as at 30 June 2017
Baralaba South Project	Open cut coal mine	Response to TOR comments in preparation
Broughton Project	Open cut coal mine	Lapsed
Gladstone New Fuels Development Project Stage 2A	Oil shale mine and processing	EIS in preparation
New Lenton Coal Project	Open cut coal mine	EIS in preparation
Saraji East Mining Lease Project	Open cut coal mine	EIS in preparation
Styx Coal Project	Open cut coal mine	Response to TOR comments in preparation
Walford Creek Project	Open cut mine producing copper, lead, zinc, silver and cobalt concentrates	Submit a draft TOR
Walton Coal Project	Open cut coal mine	Submit a draft TOR
Western Surat Gas Project	Coal Seam Gas wells	Withdrawn

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 2016	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

Suitability statements issued	68
Soil disposal permits issued	251
Searches of the environmental management and contaminated land registers	70,756

3. Environmental incidents

The responsibility for managing environmental incidents is shared between the Queensland Government and local governments. The Queensland Government responds to reports regarding serious and material environmental harm and the ERAs it administers (including ERAs operated by local governments).

Where a report of an environmental incident is received by EHP, it will respond directly or if necessary coordinate the response in conjunction with other Queensland Government agencies or local governments. Some incidents of environmental significance (such as oil spills from ships) may be covered by other legislation and be administered by other bodies. EHP provides a support role for these incidents.

3.1 Community Reports

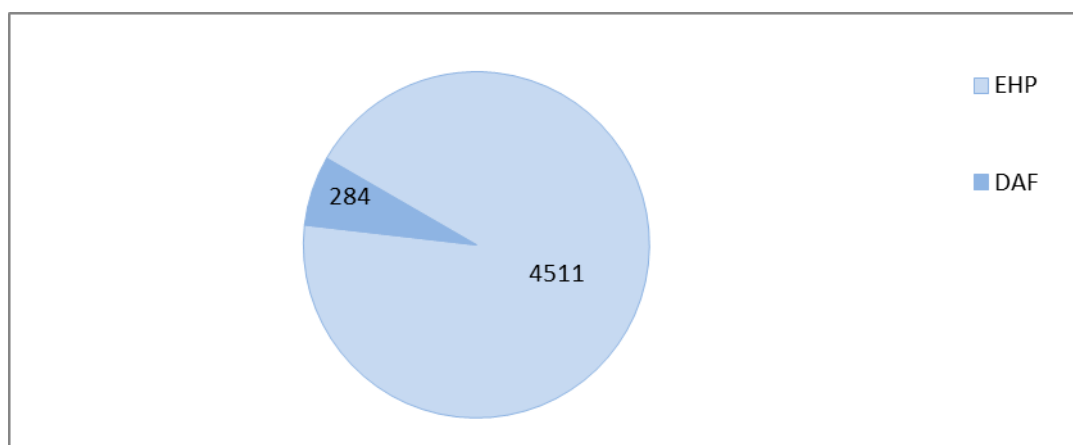
Local governments are generally responsible for the investigation of reports about releases of prescribed water contaminants, nuisance (such as noise, odour and fumes) and ERAs administered by local government. Local governments can respond to the report and can take action against someone causing an environmental nuisance.

DNRM does not have delegated responsibility for community reports about ERAs. DAF responds to reports about the ERAs it administers (ERA 2 Intensive animal feedlotting, ERA 3 Pig keeping and ERA 4 Poultry farming), dairy farming, livestock holding facilities and intensive animal feeding. EHP responds to reports about the remaining ERAs that are not devolved to local government and reports of serious and material environmental harm that are not associated with an ERA.

Responses to community reports can include issuing orders requiring action to be taken, issuing a penalty infringement notice (PIN) or prosecution. Section 4 has details of enforcement undertaken by the state in 2016–17.

Figure 5 gives the number of community reports received by the relevant state administering authorities. A break-down by type of report to EHP is shown in Figure 6. Figure 6 also includes details of calls to EHP's pollution hotline.

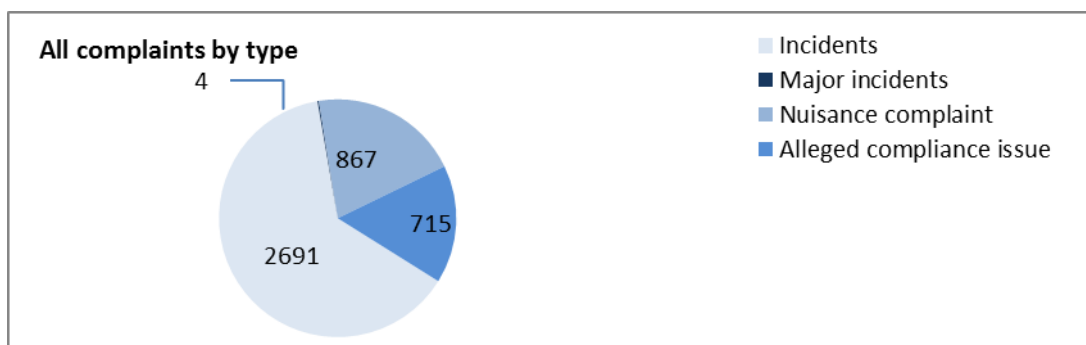
Figure 5: Community reports received by the relevant administering authorities in 2016–17



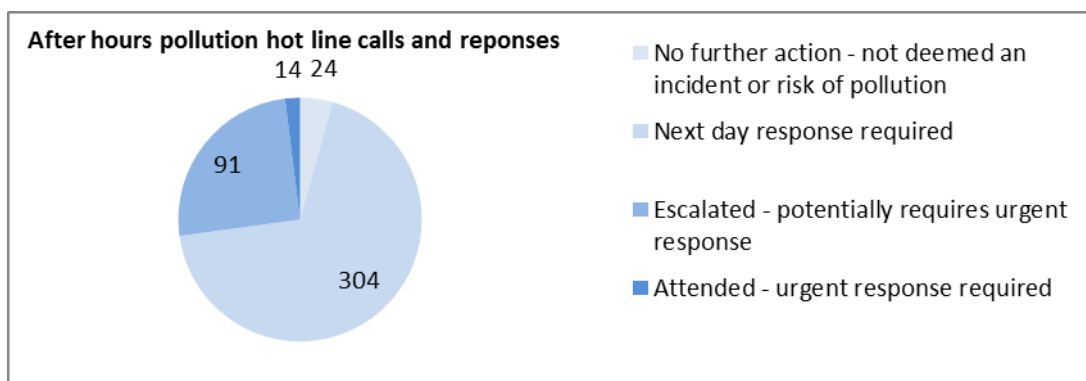
3.2 Incidents

EHP responds to incidents involving serious and material environmental harm when the contaminant creates more than just a minor nuisance and is likely to result in widespread damage to ecosystems. EHP also responds to nuisance matters where they involve state government bodies or local governments.

Figure 6: Community reports received by EHP in 2016–17



Total reports received 4,277



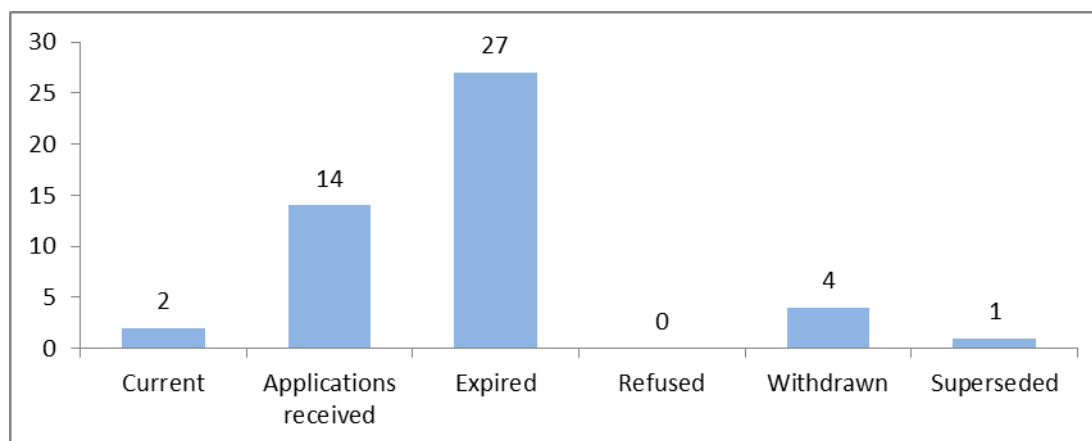
Total calls 417

Note - categories are not exclusive. Some incidents may have 2 categories, (e.g. next day responses may also be escalated).

3.3 Temporary emissions licence

The holder of an environmental authority may apply for a temporary emissions licence (TEL). A TEL is a permit that temporarily (generally no longer than three months) relaxes or modifies specific conditions of an environmental authority. If approved, this allows the release of a contaminant into the environment in response to an emergency such as a cyclone or an unforeseen event or emergent issues such as flood waters or bushfires.

No TELs were issued by DAF in 2016–17. Figure 7 shows the TELs issued by EHP for 2016–17.

Figure 7: Temporary emissions licences as at 30 June 2017

4. Enforcement

EHP and DAF can issue a range of statutory notices that require a person or organisation to start or stop an activity in order to reduce the risk of environmental harm or to remedy harm done to the environment.

An environmental evaluation of an activity or event is undertaken to decide the source, cause or extent of environmental harm being caused; or the extent of environmental harm likely to be caused by the activity or event; and the need for a transitional environmental program for the activity or event.

A transitional environmental program is a specific program that, when complied with, achieves compliance with the EP Act for the activity to which it relates.

Environmental protection orders are issued to ensure a person or organisation complies with the EP Act. The order may require the recipient to stop or start a stated activity for a stated period or duration.

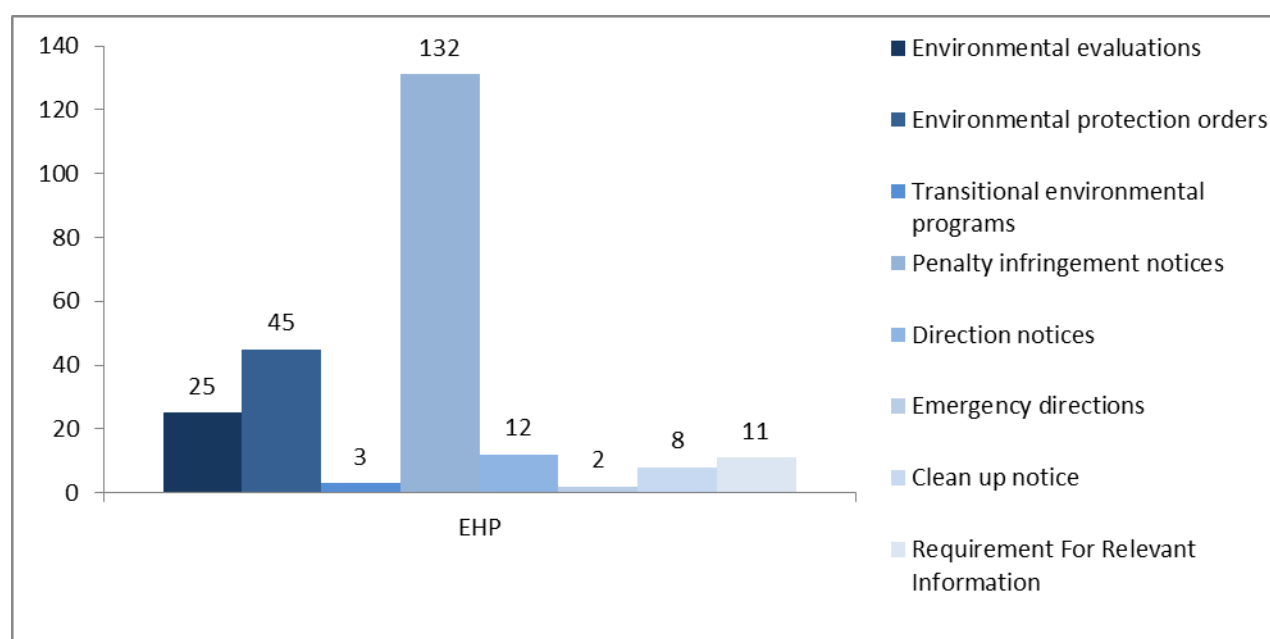
Penalty infringement notices can be issued for minor breaches of the EP Act or a condition of an approval, and require the recipient to pay a fine.

Direction notices can be issued to a person or organisation if contravention of a prescribed provision has occurred, or is likely to occur, and requires the recipient to remedy the contravention.

Clean-up and cost recovery notices are often used together. The administering authority may issue a clean-up notice to a person or organisation it believes to be responsible for a contamination incident. The notice will require various actions to be undertaken to restore or rehabilitate the environment. If the recipient does not comply with the notice, the administering authority can conduct the clean-up and use a cost recovery notice to recover the costs from the responsible person.

Local government can use the same statutory notices (other than the clean-up and cost recovery notices) as well as prosecutions, restraint orders and warrants.

Figure 8 summarises compliance actions under the EP Act for 2016–17 by relevant state administering authority.

Figure 8: Statutory compliance and infringement notices issued by the relevant administering authorities for 2016–17**Table 6: Breakdown of the number of infringement notices issued by relevant state administering authority based on the offence type for 2016–17**

No. PINs	Description
EHP issued penalty infringement notices	
4	Contravene a condition of an approval of a transitional environmental program – Corporation
1	Contravention of condition of environmental authority – Individual
102	Contravention of condition of environmental authority – Corporation
4	Contravention of condition of EPO – Corporation
5	Contravention of TEP – Corporation
4	Depositing prescribed water contaminants in waters etc.
1	Depositing prescribed water contaminants in waters etc. if the deposit or release is done other than wilfully – Corporation
1	Fail to comply with conditions of a licence – corporation
2	Fail to comply with investigation notice – Corporation
1	Holder contravenes an environmental authority even if another person acting under authority commits an offence – Corporation
1	Unlawfully cause material environmental harm – Corporation

EHP issued penalty infringement notices under Environmental Protection Regulation 2008	
No. PINs	Description
3	Failure to give information to administering authority (Generator) – Corporation
1	Failure to give information to waste receiver (Transporter) – Corporation
1	Failure to give information to waste transporter (Generator) – Corporation
1	Failure to keep record information (Generator) – Corporation
132	Total
DAF issued penalty infringement notices	
0	Penalty infringement notices
0	Total

4.1 Prosecutions

Prosecutions may be progressed in the courts where an environmental offence is believed to have been committed and the department considers that such action is warranted and is consistent with its enforcement guidelines.

A brief summary of prosecutions under the EP Act by state administering authority is provided in Table 7.

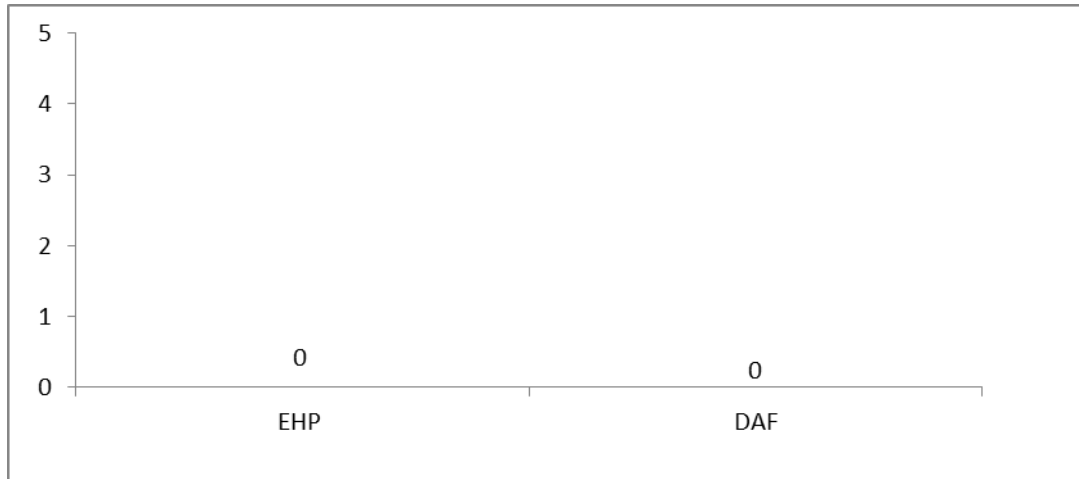
Table 7: Prosecutions by relevant state administering authority for 2016–17

	Prosecutions commenced	Prosecution completed	Penalties imposed (totals)
EHP	29	15	Total sum of fines ordered: \$1,176,500 Total sum of costs ordered: \$125,589
DAF	0	0	

4.2 Planning and environment court orders

Where a continuing or potential environmental threat exists, the court may make a restraint order. Restraint orders may be issued for a threatened or anticipated offence.

Figure 9 shows the number of restraint orders made in 2016–17, and the state administering authority that applied for them.

Figure 9: Restraint orders made for 2016–17

4.3 Warrants

Entry of premises is a sensitive issue that requires a balance between people's rights to privacy and the needs of an investigation. Authorised persons have powers of entry in a range of circumstances. When entry of premises is necessary, but not possible through the authorised person's powers, an authorised person may obtain a warrant from a magistrate to gain entry. A warrant allows an authorised person, with necessary and reasonable help and force, to enter a place and exercise those powers as provided for in the warrant.

Two search warrants were executed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* by the relevant state administering authority.

Two search warrants were executed under the *Environment Protect Act 1994* by the relevant state administering authority.

Appendix 5—Queensland Heritage Council

Background

The object of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (the Act) is to provide for the conservation of the State's cultural heritage for the benefit of the community and future generations. The Act also establishes the Queensland Heritage Council (QHC), which is comprised of 12 members.

The QHC has as its principal functions:

- provision of strategic advice to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection about matters relating to Queensland's cultural heritage.
- provision of information to the community to encourage interest in and understanding of Queensland's cultural heritage.
- advice to government entities and community organisations about conserving Queensland's cultural heritage.
- encouragement of the appropriate management of places of cultural heritage significance
- other functions delegated to the QHC by the Minister.

In performing its functions, the QHC must act independently, impartially and in the public interest.

The department supports and funds the operations of the QHC. It provides professional, administrative and technical assistance for meetings, projects and communications, as well as applications related to the Heritage Register and applications for development proposed by the Queensland Government on State-registered places.

Strategic direction

A key strategic activity involving the QHC has been its input into the Queensland Government's planning reform legislation. On the 3 July 2017, the *Planning Act 2016* will replace the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, while the *Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016* will align the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* with the new system.

As a result of the Heritage Council's efforts, the *Planning Act 2016* will require that its view be sought before approvals are given to development proposals that are likely to destroy or substantially reduce the cultural heritage significance of a place on the Heritage Register. Also, the *Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016* will expand the functions of the Heritage Council to allow it to give advice about the effect any proposed development will have on the cultural heritage significance of places on the Heritage Register.

The QHC gave advice on a new state code for assessing development on places on the Heritage Register. It also advised the Queensland Government about re-introducing protections for places on the Heritage Register from inappropriate development adjoining them.

The *Queensland Heritage Strategy: protecting, investing in and connecting Queensland's story* (the Strategy) sets out the strategic framework for managing the State's heritage. In carrying forward the Strategy's Priority Actions, the QHC, along with EHP and owners, has worked to review listings to improve the way places on the Heritage Register are understood and managed into the future.

The QHC remains committed to attracting a greater level of private and philanthropic investment in heritage conservation and is exploring opportunities.

Ms Debbie Best, the incoming QHC Chair in 2017, has met with the Directors-General of a number of Queensland Government departments to discuss the approach to management of their state heritage-listed assets. The QHC supports the Queensland Government's commitment to conserving the State's heritage and looks forward to continuing to work closely with the Honourable Dr Steven Miles, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, in conserving Queensland's historic places.

The QHC was successful in the Planning and Environment Court, winning an appeal against the entry of St Patricks Convent, which is on The Strand in Townsville, in the Heritage Register in 2012.

Highlights

During 2016–17 the QHC:

- made decisions on 100% of applications to the Queensland Heritage Register within the statutory timeframes
- entered 16 state heritage places in the Heritage Register
- decided not to enter six places nominated for entry in the register and not to extend one heritage entry
- removed parts of two state heritage places
- consented, with the support of place owners, to major changes in three existing state heritage place entries
- provided two recommendations to the responsible Ministers in respect of the development of heritage places proposed by the Queensland Government
- published *Time & Place*, the official publication of the QHC
- provided representatives for the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Project Control Group and the Anzac Square restoration and enhancement project
- provided advice to Economic Development Queensland in its assessment of the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Plan of Development application
- contributed to discussions about relocation of the Queensland Police memorial
- supported a number of Open House events in Brisbane and regional centres including Maryborough, Cairns and the Gold Coast
- sponsored, and participated on the judging panel for the 2017 National Trust Queensland Heritage Awards and attended the Gala Dinner held in Brisbane City Hall on 20 May 2017
- sponsored, and participated on the judging panel for the Premier's Sustainability awards, with the Brisbane City Council, Queensland Anzac Centenary Coordination Unit and Tanner Kibble Denton Architects winning the Sustainable Heritage Award for the Anzac Square Restoration.

The Queensland Heritage Register

The Heritage Register is the primary mechanism in the Act for the protection of Queensland's heritage and a key role of the Heritage Council is to decide applications related to it. Each application is carefully considered by the Heritage Council to ensure the Heritage Register is a representative, State-wide record of Queensland's heritage.

Close engagement with owners and custodians of heritage places, local government and local communities is a particular priority in this endeavour.

Applications from the community and sometimes record numbers of community submissions for various applications demonstrate the sustained interest in protecting Queensland's heritage and the diverse range of historic places valued by the community across the State. As at 30 June 2017, there were 1,741 places on the Heritage Register.

Notable entries this year include the:

- Ravenswood Mining Landscape and Chinese Settlement Area (QHR 650038)
- Colinton War Memorial (QHR 650029)
- Combined Services Detailed Interrogation Centre (former), Indooroopilly (QHR 650030).

Across Queensland, 13 state schools have been entered in the Heritage Register, including Ascot State School (1920), Coorparoo State School (1876), and Indooroopilly State High School (1954). These schools are important in demonstrating the evolution in Queensland of State education and its associated architecture. The QHC congratulates the Department of Education and Training on its ongoing, proactive approach in identifying and protecting its heritage assets through the Queensland Schools Heritage Strategy.

Meetings

The QHC met on nine occasions this financial year on:

- 15 July, 19 August, 14 October and 22 November 2016, and
- 24 February, 7 April, 28 April, 19 May and 22 June 2017.

The QHC took the opportunity to hold its May 2017 meeting in Rockhampton, where members met with local government representatives and owners of places on the Heritage Register, and inspected heritage places there and in Mount Morgan.

Heritage Council members are remunerated in accordance with the *Remuneration of Part-Time Chairs and Members of Government Boards, Committees and Statutory Authorities* as approved by the Governor in Council.

Membership

The Queensland Heritage Council comprises 12 members appointed by the Governor in Council, including a Chair and Deputy Chair. Five members must be appointed to represent specific organisations, while the remaining seven members are appointed for their knowledge, expertise and interest in heritage conservation. Terms of appointment are up to three years and total continuous service by any individual on the QHC must not exceed six years.

At 30 June 2017 membership of the QHC comprised:

- Debbie Best, Chair
- George Seymour, Deputy Chair
- Judy Brien
- Kathy Davis
- Dr Val Dennis (National Trust of Australia Queensland representative)
- Alice Hampson
- Katie McConnel
- Bill Marklew (Queensland Council of Unions representative)
- Tanya Neville (property owners and managers representative)
- Judy Peters (Local Government Association of Queensland representative)
- Anthony Ross (rural industries representative)
- Ian Sinnamon

In 2017, the QHC welcomed eight new members: Deputy Chair, George Seymour, Judy Brien, Kathy Davis, Alice Hampson, Katie Mc Connel, Tanya Neville, Judy Peters and Ian Sinnamon. It is a great privilege and honour to be appointed Chair of the QHC, having served the previous year as Deputy Chair.

Current members and I acknowledge the great contribution to Queensland's cultural heritage made by the out-going Chair, Professor Peter Coaldrake OA, who provided strong leadership over his six years in the position.

Current members and I also warmly acknowledge the expertise and enthusiasm contributed by other former members who completed their service on 31 December 2016: Carol Cashman (Local Government Association of Queensland representative), Stuart Lummis (property owners and managers representative), Anthony Ross (rural industries representative), Ivan McDonald, Marcus Ford, Barry Merrick, and Dr Judith McKay.

The new QHC, with its first ever majority female membership, was appointed from 1 January 2017. We all look forward to continuing the QHC's important role in conserving Queensland's cultural heritage.

QHC members who visited Rockhampton in May 2017 received a warm welcome and great hospitality from Rockhampton Regional Council and its Mayor, Margaret Strelow. Members were treated to a tour of the Town Hall and were impressed by the effort being expended by Rockhampton Regional Council to conserve this important civic building.

While in Rockhampton, members also enjoyed a lunch at which they were able to meet some of the area's heritage place owners. This event was generously hosted at St Paul's Cathedral where more excellent heritage conservation work is being undertaken. QHC members topped off their trip with a visit to St Joseph's Cathedral. It, like the other places visited, makes a significant contribution to Rockhampton and is being looked after with impressive dedication and care.



Debbie Best

Chair, Queensland Heritage Council

Appendix 6—Board of Trustees of Newstead House

Newstead House is Queensland's oldest surviving residence and is held on trust for the people of Queensland. The House is controlled by the Board of Trustees appointed pursuant to the *Newstead House Trust Act 1939*. The Act is administered by the department. The Board of Trustees is comprised of three members, respectively nominated by the Queensland Government (Dr. Daniel Morgan), the Brisbane City Council (Cr. Vicki Howard), and the Royal Historical Society of Queensland (Dr. Ian Hadwen) and appointed by the Governor in Council.

Newstead House's status as the oldest residence in Queensland and its location in a prime setting demand that it be treated with respect and that all activities are executed to a professional standard. Its present and future conservation and sustainability are the prime considerations. Almost as important, however, is a recognition that the whole point of conserving the property is so that it may be visited and enjoyed by the people of Queensland - whose heritage it is, after all - and by other visitors with whom we wish to share our history and culture.

The House is located within 6 hectares of gardens which are owned and maintained by the Brisbane City Council. The operations of the House are managed by the Board. The Board members are unpaid. Two staff are employed by the Board: Ms. Kim Davis has continued in the role as the Acting Manager, and Ms Jennifer Garcia is the Communications and Events Manager.

The program of revitalisation of the House, the collection, and our operations continues. Through traditional and social media, innovative partnerships and a range of events, we have deliberately set out to engage with the public more broadly than has been previously the case. The Board has formed the view that this engagement and revitalisation is essential for the survival of the House.

The highlights of this year were:

- Staged the third Little Historians' Festival
- Participated in Brisbane Open House programme
- Hosted the 75th Commemoration of the Battle of the Coral Sea organised by the Australian-American Association
- Finalised the collection database
- Cleared the Sub-Station of ephemera and cleaned it so as to reinstate it as an additional multi-purpose venue.
- Filmed an episode of Haunted Australia.

We also host regular public music performances, and again we wish to expand this program. This year we staged the Cellar Series of concerts in the cellar, which demonstrated the versatility of the venue.

We also trialled the Jazz by the River concept which involves utilisation of the Newstead Park precinct on a monthly basis. Numbers have been pleasing, with several thousand people attending each event.

The partnership with the Moreton Bay Environment Education Centre (MBEEC) (a campus of Education Queensland) commenced this year, with Newstead hosting the closing event of the Bunya to Bay Eco Adventure event.

Our education program is now provided by MBEEC, and as well as the traditional colonial program we launched a Newstead *During the War Years* program. For many years this has been run by Eileen Mitchell and Ralda Forzin and we acknowledge their contribution and express our thanks.

We also extend our thanks to the continued support of the Friends of Newstead House.

Following Cr. David McLachlan's retirement from the Board, we welcomed Cr. Vicki Howard to the Board as the Brisbane City Council's nominee. The House is located within Cr. Howard's ward of Brisbane Central.

I express my personal gratitude to my fellow Board members for the significant contributions in time and effort they make and for their collegiate support. I also thank Kim Davis and Jen Garcia for their continued contributions which are onerous given the small size of the organisation.

May I also record the Board's thanks for the generous support and guidance provided by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.



Dr Daniel Morgan

Chair

Board of Trustees of Newstead House

Appendix 7—Additional published information

In addition to the information contained in this annual report, the department has also published a range of administrative functions which can be found on the Queensland Government's Open Data portal at <https://data.qld.gov.au>

Topics included in this additional report are:

- consultancies
- overseas travel
- Queensland Language Services Policy.

Appendix 8—External scrutiny

This section provides information about significant external audits and reviews of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

Queensland Audit Office – Report 1: Strategic Procurement

In 2016-17 the QAO conducted an audit to examine whether departments were enabling and achieving value-for-money procurement outcomes through strategic procurement.

The department is actively working with the Office of the Chief Advisor Procurement (OCAP), and internally, to ensure actions are implemented to address:

1. spend analysis by the categories established and agreed with the OCAP
2. the use of existing whole-of-government supply arrangements
3. agency-specific opportunities (economic, social, and environmental) to realise procurement benefits and reduce processing costs
4. measurable benefits targets (financial and non-financial) against realistic timeframes that departments set, but which align to whole-of-government category goals and objectives.

Queensland Audit Office – Report 3: Follow-up: Monitoring and reporting performance

In 2016-17 the QAO followed up on the progress and effectiveness of departments in implementing recommendations made in Report 18: Monitoring and reporting performance, which was tabled in June 2014. In the 2014 audit, QAO recommended that departments apply a service logic approach to define their service areas so that they only group services where they contribute to common objectives and outcomes.

As a result, the department undertook a rigorous review of its services areas and services using a service logic approach when developing the 2015-16 Service Delivery Statement (SDS). To ensure consistency and to enable monitoring of results over time, the same service areas, services and service standards introduced in 2015-16 were retained for the 2016-17 SDS; with an additional service regarding Reef Water Quality added to the Environment Protection services area.

In 2016-17, three service areas and six services were included in the SDS:

1. Environmental Protection Services (four material services)
2. Species and Ecosystem Protection Services (two material services)
3. Heritage Protection Services (no material services).

The QAO noted in its November 2016 report to Parliament that the department had developed good ‘technical’ measures of efficiency; for example, Average Cost per environmental complaint resolution and Average Cost per permit/licence assessed.

Queensland Audit Office – Report 8: 2015-16: Results of financial audits

In 2016-17 the QAO analysed the timeliness and quality of financial reporting by public sector entities controlled by the State Government.

QAO assessed the department’s internal controls, and the financial statement preparation process. With respect to internal controls the department was rated as “effective” across all five measures (control environment, risk assessment, monitoring activities, and information and communication). QAO also provides attestation over the financial statement preparation component of this annual report.

Queensland Audit Office – Report 16: 2016-17 Government Advertising

In May 2017, the QAO tabled their review of government advertising which examined the economy of government purchasing of advertising, the effectiveness of a selection of advertising campaigns, and the application of governance frameworks. General recommendations for all departments included the need to:

1. strengthen the evaluation of communication activities by preparing formal reports post campaigns summarising results, cost-effectiveness of advertising mediums and insights into how results inform future campaigns
2. ensure that campaign materials submitted to the Government Advertising and Communication Committee have been certified by the relevant authority (Director-General or equivalent) as compliant with the Queensland Government Advertising Code of Conduct, and that evidence of this certification is included in submissions.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet, in their response to the review, indicated that guidance and best-practice materials will be developed and shared across government.

As at 30 June 2017, the department had an evaluation reporting process in place and Director-General approval processes for internal advertising.

Queensland Audit Office – Report 17: Organisational structure and accountability

In 2016-17 the QAO assessed whether the structure within departments supports the achievement of individual agency strategic objectives as well as government priorities, and whether there is clear accountability for delivering these objectives. The department was selected as one of three departments for a detailed review. QAO recommended that the department:

1. enhance strategic planning approaches
2. establish clear alignment between accountability and strategic objectives
3. review delegations of authority in relation to organisational structure design and
4. calculate and review staffing structures and workforce profiles to ensure that the department allocates its employees efficiently and effectively to deliver the department's strategic objectives.

As at 30 June 2017, enhancements to the organisational planning process were completed. Additional detail was included in the strategic and operational plans in line with QAO recommendations and the Queensland Government Agency Planning Requirements for 2017-18 to enable the increased ability to allocate specific accountability as well as to monitor and report on progress.

The department is also progressively implementing changes to the workforce planning process, formalising workflow processes associated with organisational structure design, undertaking system changes to better facilitate the assignment of individual accountability, and undertaking enhancements to reporting.

Queensland Ombudsman – Customer complaints system

In 2016-17, the Queensland Ombudsman's Office followed up on their 2014 customer complaints system audit of public sector agencies to review progress on the implementation of their recommendations. The 2014 audit had resulted in seven recommendations that consisted of 29 issues.

The 2016-17 follow-up audit identified the following outstanding areas to be addressed:

1. Complaints Resolution – need to include review or appeal rights if a complainant remains dissatisfied
2. Internal Reporting – need to provide regular internal complaint reports to senior management to enable analysis of trends, issues or systemic issues that need improvement
3. Monitoring Effectiveness – need to review the customer complaint system to assess its effectiveness.

The department is currently reviewing the entire customer complaints system in order to address the outstanding audit items and to comply with the Australian Standard.

Acronyms

Acronym	Explanation
AO	Officer of the Order of Australia
ARC	Audit and Risk Committee
AS/NZS	Australian Standard/New Zealand Standard
ATCRC	Atherton Tablelands Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre
AWHAC	Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee
BBB	Bowen-Broken-Bogie
BCP	Business and Corporate Partnership Board
BMP	best management practice
BPS	Business and Professional Services
CAC	Community Advisory Committee
CCA	Catchment Conservation Alliance
CCC	Crime and Corruption Committee
CEO	chief executive officer
CLR	Contaminated Land Register
COF	Carbon Offsets Fund
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CYPAL	Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land
DAF	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
DBMPs	Direct Benefit Management Plans
DET	Department of Education and Training
DNRM	Department of Natural Resources and Mines
DSD	Department of State Development
EA	Environmental Authority
eDOCS	electronic document and records management system
EFRG	Environment Functional Recovery Group
EHP	Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
EIS	environmental impact statement
EMR	Environmental Management Register

Acronym	Explanation
EMT	Executive Management Team
EOF	Environmental Offsets Framework
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>
EPO	Environmental Protection Order
EPOLA Act	<i>Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016</i>
ERAs	environmentally relevant activities
ERF	Emissions Reduction Fund (Commonwealth)
ERMP	environmental risk management plan
FSO	Financial Settlement Offsets
FTE	full-time equivalent
GBRCRC	Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre
GBRWST	Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce
GST	Goods and Services Tax
IAS	Internal Audit Services
ICO	Interim Conservation Order
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDC	Interdepartmental Committee
IP Act	<i>Information Privacy Act 2009</i>
IR Act	<i>Industrial Relations Act 2016</i>
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LGAQ	Local Government Association of Queensland
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer
LIDORS	Litter and Illegal Dumping Online Reporting System
LTIR	Lost Time Injury and Illness Rate
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NPSR	Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing
NRM	natural resource management groups
OCAP	Office of the Chief Advisor, Procurement
OGBR	Office of the Great Barrier Reef
OUV	outstanding universal value

Acronym	Explanation
P&DP	Performance and Development Plan
PIN	penalty infringement notices
PFAS	per - and polyfluoroalkl
PSC	Public Service Commission
QAO	Queensland Audit Office
QCAS	Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy
QCMP	Queensland Crocodile Management Plan
QHC	Queensland Heritage Council
QHR	Queensland Heritage Register
QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
RP20	Reef Plan 2020
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
RTI Act	<i>Right to Information Act 2009</i>
RUNR	Richard Underwood Nature Refuge
RVM	Reverse Vending Machine
SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee
SDS	Service Delivery Statement
SES	Senior Executive Service officers
SEQ	South East Queensland
SOIC	Strategic Offset Investment Corridor
TEL	temporary emissions licence
TEP	transitional environmental program
TC Debbie	Tropical Cyclone Debbie
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WTMA	Wet Tropics Management Authority

Glossary

Term	Definition
best management practice	Methods or techniques found to be the most effective and practical means in achieving an objective while making optimum use of the department's resources.
biodiversity	Life in all its forms—different plants, animals and micro-organisms; the genes they contain and the ecosystems they form.
catchment	An area of land on which runoff from a rainfall is collected and transferred to a waterway.
Connect	EHPs online licensing system.
contaminated land register	A register of sites with proven contamination of the land that is causing, or may cause, serious environmental harm. Land is recorded on the register when scientific investigation shows it is contaminated and action needs to be taken to remediate or manage the land.
CYPAL	Amendments to the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> (NCA) allow for the creation of a new class of protected area called "national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land)" (national park [CYPAL]). This allows existing and proposed national parks to become Aboriginal land and also be dedicated and managed as a national park (CYPAL). It allows for joint management of national park land by Traditional Owners (represented by a land trust) and NPSR.
ecosystem	A community of organisms interacting with one another and their environment.
environmental authority	Authorisation provided by the department which allows an environmentally relevant activity to be performed.
environmental management register	A land-use planning and management register which provides information on historic and current land use.
Financial Settlement Offsets	A financial settlement offset is a payment for a significant residual impact on a prescribed environmental matter(s) that must be calculated in accordance with the Financial Settlement Offset Calculation Methodology, which is outlined in the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy.
heritage	Places of cultural and natural significance that we want to keep, respect and pass on to future generations. Heritage places include buildings, structures, cemeteries, archaeological sites, gardens, urban precincts and natural and landscape features.
K'gari	Aboriginal name for Fraser Island.
macropod	Refers to the three macropod species that can be commercially harvested in Queensland: red kangaroo <i>Macropus rufus</i> ; grey kangaroo <i>Macropus giganteus</i> ; wallaroo <i>Macropus robustus</i> .
nature refuge	An area of land voluntarily dedicated and protected for conservation purposes while allowing compatible and sustainable land uses to continue.
Office of the Great Barrier Reef	The Office of the Great Barrier Reef is responsible for implementing and coordinating reef management strategies and programs including the Queensland Government's actions under the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan), reef election commitments and the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.

Term	Definition
Order of Australia	In the Australian Honours system, appointments to the Order of Australia confer recognition for outstanding achievement and service. The Officer of the Order (AO) is awarded for distinguished service of a high degree to Australia or humanity at large.
Outstanding Universal Value	The collective term used to define a property's World Heritage listed natural and or cultural values. To achieve World Heritage status, the value to be assessed as being exceptional or superlative, based on specific international standards and processes. The OUV may fall under one of more of 10 criteria set out under the World Heritage Convention.
Per and polyfluoroalkyl	A chemical compound historically used as a fire-fighting foam.
Queensland Heritage Register	A list of places of cultural heritage significance to Queensland.
senior executive service	An employee on a fixed term contract for up to five years between the employee and the Director-General. Their employment conditions are defined by a Directive of the Public Service Commission.
stakeholders	Individuals, groups or organisations with specific interest in and/or influence on the work of the department.
Strategic Offsets Investment Corridors	SOICs identify some of the best places in the landscape for environmental offsets. They mainly consist of core areas of largely intact remnant vegetation, generally associated with protected areas such as national parks, or areas that provide important links between those core areas. They are a tool to identify landholder opportunities for providing offsets in areas that will provide strategic conservation benefits for Matters of State and National Environmental Significance. The Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy requires that wherever possible offsets should be delivered in a SOIC.
sustainable development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Traditional Owners	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a particular connection and relationship to land or water and who have cultural and traditional obligations and custodial responsibility.
wetlands	Areas of permanent or periodic/intermittent inundation, whether natural or artificial, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.
World Heritage Area	World Heritage Areas are examples of the world's most outstanding natural or cultural heritage that it is agreed should be protected for all humanity. They are identified and listed under an international treaty administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Compliance checklist

Summary of requirement		Basis for requirement	Annual report reference
Letter of compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A letter of compliance from the accountable officer or statutory body to the relevant Minister/s 	ARRs – section 8	Page 1
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table of contents Glossary 	ARRs – section 10.1	Pages iii-iv Pages 101-105
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public availability 	ARRs – section 10.2	Inside front cover
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpreter service statement 	<i>Queensland Government Language Services Policy</i> ARRs – section 10.3	Inside front cover
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copyright notice 	<i>Copyright Act 1968</i> ARRs – section 10.4	Inside front cover
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Licensing 	<i>QGEA – Information Licensing</i> ARRs – section 10.5	Inside front cover
General information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductory Information 	ARRs – section 11.1	Pages 2-4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency role and main functions 	ARRs – section 11.2	Pages 4-5, 61-62
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operating environment 	ARRs – section 11.3	Pages 4-6, 10-12, 82-93
Non-financial performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government's objectives for the community 	ARRs – section 12.1	Page 7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other whole-of-government plans / specific initiatives 	ARRs – section 12.2	Pages 2, 6, 10-12, 18-44
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency objectives and performance indicators 	ARRs – section 12.3	Pages 18-44
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency service areas and service standards 	ARRs – section 12.4	Pages 5,18-44
Financial performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of financial performance 	ARRs – section 13.1	Pages 13-17
Governance – management and structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisational structure 	ARRs – section 14.1	Page 9
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive management 	ARRs – section 14.2	Pages 8, 52
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government bodies (statutory bodies and other entities) 	ARRs – section 14.3	Pages 63-77
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Public Sector Ethics Act 1994</i> 	<i>Public Sector Ethics Act 1994</i> ARRs – section 14.4	Pages 49-50, 59-60
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland public service values 	ARRs – section 14.5	Page 4

Governance – risk management and accountability	• Risk management	ARRs – section 15.1	Pages 53-54, 57
	• Audit committee	ARRs – section 15.2	Pages 53-54
	• Internal audit	ARRs – section 15.3	Page 57
	• External scrutiny	ARRs – section 15.4	Page 99-100
	• Information systems and recordkeeping	ARRs – section 15.5	Page 58
Governance – human resources	• Workforce planning and performance	ARRs – section 16.1	Pages 45-51
	• Early retirement, redundancy and retrenchment	Directive No.11/12 <i>Early Retirement, Redundancy and Retrenchment</i> Directive No.16/16 <i>Early Retirement, Redundancy and Retrenchment</i> (from 20 May 2016) ARRs – section 16.2	Page 51
Open Data	• Consultancies	ARRs – section 17 ARRs – section 34.1	Page 98 Datasets available on Open Data website
	• Overseas travel	ARRs – section 17 ARRs – section 34.2	Page 98 Datasets available on Open Data website
	• Queensland Language Services Policy	ARRs – section 17 ARRs – section 34.3	Page 98 Datasets available on Open Data website
Financial statements EHP and Newstead House	• Certification of financial statements	FAA – section 62 FPMS – sections 42, 43 and 50 ARRs – section 18.1	Provided electronically
	• Independent Auditor’s Report	FAA – section 62 FPMS – section 50 ARRs – section 18.2	Provided electronically

FAA *Financial Accountability Act 2009*

FPMS *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009*

ARRs *Annual report requirements for Queensland Government agencies*

This page has been left intentionally blank.

Financial statements

- The EHP Financial Statements 2016–17 is provided electronically.
- The Board of Trustees of Newstead House Financial Statements 2016–17 is provided electronically.

