

Driving performance for Queensland's biodiversity conservation

Biodiversity, and why it's important

Biodiversity is essential for the processes that support all life on Earth. It is the variety of plants, animals and microorganisms, and the places they live and communities they form. We commonly refer to biodiversity as 'nature'.

Queensland is the most biologically diverse state in Australia, with many native plants and animals, and landscapes found nowhere else in the world—and we want to keep it that way.

Queensland is home to:

85%
of Australia's
native mammals



72% of Australia's
native birds



more than **50%**
of Australia's native **reptile**
and **frog species**



over **14,000**
native plant species



a variety of **landscape** and
aquatic ecosystems



some of the most **ancient**
tropical rainforests
in the world

Our globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems support the health, wellbeing, cultures, and lifestyle of all Queenslanders. Biodiversity contributes to the quality of the water we drink, the food we eat and the air that we breathe. It's also critical to our economy and industries including the tourism, agriculture, resources and creative sectors.



Biodiversity conservation for Queensland

The Queensland Government released *Conserving Nature—a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Queensland* (Biodiversity Strategy) in 2022. The Biodiversity Strategy outlines our commitment to protect and conserve our biodiversity values so that we can achieve our vision for the future which is 'nature is supported to thrive in Queensland'.



Queensland
Government

The need for targets, actions and indicators

To achieve this vision, we are proposing ambitious targets that will guide what we do over the next six to seven years to conserve our biodiversity, protect native species and restore ecosystems.

These targets—along with supporting actions that reflect where we can best focus our efforts and indicators that will measure our progress—will enable us to evaluate how we are progressing.

These targets, actions and indicators are what we call the Performance Framework.

Proposed targets to 2030

The proposed targets set the scale and pace of change needed to recover Queensland's nature by 2030.

They are:

TARGET 1

PROTECT

Effectively protect areas of high biodiversity value to ensure net gain in extent and condition as part of the national 30-by-30 target

We want more of the most valuable biodiversity across our state to be effectively protected and managed, and to contribute towards the national target of ensuring 30 per cent of land and marine areas are protected, conserved and effectively managed by 2030.

TARGET 2

RESTORE

Restoration is underway in up to two million hectares of priority degraded ecosystems

We want to restore selected land and water ecosystems so that native plants and wildlife can thrive, and our landscapes become more resilient.

TARGET 3

RECOVER

Improve threatened species recovery and reduce overall extinction risk

We want to slow, halt, or reverse the declines of our native animal and plant species, and improve recovery outcomes for our most threatened species.

TARGET 4

MITIGATE

Mitigate key threats to biodiversity and enhance nature's resilience to change

We want to mitigate the impacts of threats that cause biodiversity to decline and ensure Queensland's biodiversity is more resilient to impacts like climate change.

MAINSTREAM

Integrate biodiversity into relevant decisions of government, business and community

We want government (including ourselves and councils), industry and businesses to think about the value of biodiversity and consider any impacts when we make decisions.

5
TARGET

CONNECT

Increase awareness and engagement in conservation efforts

We want Queenslanders to understand more about what they can do for biodiversity and get involved in conserving and protecting it. This can start in your backyard or with a local citizen science group.

6
TARGET

Actions

Actions are the activities that government, industry and the community do that help our biodiversity targets to be achieved.

Indicators

Indicators allow scientists, policymakers and the public to monitor and evaluate our progress towards the targets. They will help identify which actions are working and identify when changes may be necessary.



We want to hear from you

You can have your say on how to measure progress towards protecting the state's unique native animals, plants and landscapes.

We are seeking your feedback on the proposed targets, actions and indicators. Further details are outlined in the consultation paper.

Feedback will be used to inform the final Performance Framework and will support future planning and monitoring of biodiversity and conservation in Queensland.

You can:

- complete the online survey
- email your written submission to: biodiversitystrategy@des.qld.gov.au (use the subject line: Submission—Consultation Performance Framework—[your name])
- post your written submission to: GPO Box 2454, Brisbane, Queensland, 4001.

The consultation closes at 5pm on Wednesday, 11 September 2024.