Interim Policy

Nature Conservation Act 1992

Protected Animal Translocation Interim Policy

This policy is intended to outline the key matters the chief executive of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 will consider when assessing proposals to translocate protected animals.

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide the chief executive with guidance when considering whether to undertake or authorise a protected animal translocation under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act)

The key objectives of this policy are to:

- provide guidance to the chief executive of the NC Act to ensure decisions regarding proposed protected animal translocations are appropriate and consistent with the NC Act;
- provide clarity and transparency for proponents and stakeholders regarding the Queensland Government's position on, and approach to, protected animal translocations;
- establish a risk-based approach to assessing and deciding protected animal translocations, where the appropriate level of assessment and decision-making is informed by the potential risks and impacts of a proposal;
- establish principles and considerations that the chief executive of the NC Act may have regard to, in addition to any mandatory legislative considerations, when determining whether to undertake or authorise a protected animal translocation;
- maximise conservation outcomes and minimise potential risks and adverse outcomes associated with a protected animal translocation;
- promote the sharing of knowledge and learnings from protected animal translocations through transparency and public dissemination of results; and
- ensure effective use of public conservation resources in protected animal translocations; and
- recognise the deep and enduring relationship and connection First Nations peoples have to land, sea, and sky Country, and provide opportunities for First Nations peoples to be involved in the planning, implementation, and ongoing monitoring and management of protected animal translocations.

The department recognises translocation as a management tool that can be valuable in threatened species recovery and wildlife and ecosystem conservation and management. However, the outcomes of translocations are often uncertain, with a potential risk of failure and adverse outcomes. Therefore, translocations require a robust policy framework to maximise the chance of success and minimise the risk of adverse outcomes by ensuring translocations are appropriately planned, implemented, monitored, evaluated, and documented.

This policy outlines a consistent set of principles and considerations that will be applied to NC Act decisions related to protected animal translocations, that the chief executive may have regard to, based on an assessment of potential risks, in addition to any mandatory legislative considerations. The policy aligns with the objects of the NC Act, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations and the Commonwealth Government Policy Statement - Translocation of Listed Threatened Species.

2. Scope

2.1 Decisions in scope

This policy applies to chief executive decisions regarding all protected animal translocation involving the human mediated movement of threatened species into, out of, and within Queensland, including from the wild to another location in the wild, from the wild into captivity (e.g., for captive breeding programs or temporary holding) to another location in the wild, and from captive origins to the wild. The policy may also be applied to protected animal translocations involving non-threatened species where a risk assessment conducted by the department identifies that the proposal is beyond departmental risk tolerances (see section 4).

2.2 Decisions out of scope

This policy does not apply to chief executive decisions regarding the movement of:

- animals that are not protected animals under the NC Act; or
- protected animals where the movement:
    - complies with a Code of Practice made under the NC Act that is applicable to the movement (e.g., movement of sick, injured, or orphaned protected animals that complies with the Code of Practice – Care of Sick, Injured or Orphaned Protected Animals in Queensland); and
    - is undertaken by a person that is authorised to move the animals under the NC Act (e.g., a conservation officer of authority holder).

3. Policy statement

Protected animal translocation is a valuable management tool that can be used in wildlife management (e.g. salvage translocation or conflict translocation) and for conservation actions to support species recovery or ecosystem reconstruction (i.e. conservation translocation).

Ex situ management and conservation actions (including translocation) are not substitutes for *in situ* management and conservation actions, and should be, as far as possible, integrated with *in situ* management and conservation actions.

Translocations may present risks to the focal species and other species at the source or receiving sites and in many circumstances require detailed planning and assessment and a commitment to long-term monitoring and long-term adaptive management.

Conservation translocation may be a primary tool to prevent extinction by establishing new populations (within or outside of the species' natural range) or reinforcing existing populations and may be used in conjunction with captive breeding or rearing programs. Conservation translocations should only be undertaken where they are likely to yield a measurable conservation benefit to either a population, species, or ecosystem, not only to provide a benefit to translocated individuals.

Wildlife management translocation may provide some benefit to translocated individuals; however, their primary purpose is not to yield a measurable conservation benefit to a population, species, or ecosystems. Therefore, wildlife management translocations relating to salvage or conflict should typically only be undertaken as a last resort after all other options, such as *in situ* management (e.g. avoidance, minimisation, and mitigation), have been exhausted.

No type of translocation authorisation would provide an alternative approval pathway for proposed development, nor would it change statutory requirements and standards relating to development, including the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy (i.e. avoid, minimise, mitigate, offset impacts on matters of environmental significance) (see section 5.3).

4. Risk-based assessment

Protected animal translocations have the potential to pose a variety of risks to wildlife, ecosystems, cultural and social values, human health and wellbeing, business enterprises, and property. However, each proposal will have a unique risk profile based on the probability and consequence of potential impacts to natural, cultural, and social values. This will depend on a range of technical and value-based factors, such as the nature, scale, location, and timing of a proposal, the conservation status and ecology of the focal species and ecosystems involved, the number of animals to be translocated, the characteristics of, and distance between, the source and receiving sites, potential contributions and adverse impacts to the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of nature, and the views and interests of landholders and interested groups and persons, including First Nations people.

To ensure the procedural requirements for a proposed protected animal translocation are proportional to the potential risks, impacts, and benefits of the proposal, a risk-based approach will be adopted.[1]

All proposals will require sufficient information to assess the proposal against the relevant legislative considerations and to identify potential sources of risk. The results of the risk assessment will determine the levels of information and assessment required, including whether a Translocation Proposal is required to be developed in accordance with the Protected Animal Translocation Proposal Template and whether the principles and considerations detailed in section 6 and 7 of this policy are to be considered in the assessment.

5. Types of translocations

Translocation is defined by the IUCN as the intentional, human-mediated movement of living organisms from one area, with release in another. This can involve the movement of living organisms from the wild to another location in the wild, or the movement of living organisms from captive origins to the wild.

[1] Guidance on the matters to be considered in determining the risk level of a proposed protected animal translocation is provided in the Protected Animal Translocation Procedural Guide.

Protected animal translocations are delineated into two categories based on the primary purpose of the translocation: conservation and wildlife management.

5.1 Conservation translocation

The primary purpose of conservation translocations are to provide a measurable conservation benefit to either a population, species, or ecosystem (not only to provide benefit to translocated individuals), and are primarily to improve the conservation status of the focal species and/or restore natural ecosystem functions or processes.

Conservation translocations include the following types of translocations:

- Population restoration, whereby animals are translocated into an area that is within the focal species' indigenous range and may involve:
    - Reinforcement, which is the translocation of animals to a location that is within the focal species' current range where a population of the species currently exists. Reinforcement aims to enhance population viability, for example by increasing population size, genetic diversity, or representation of specific demographic groups or stages.
    - Reintroduction, which is the translocation of animals to a location that is within the focal species' indigenous range where a population of the species once occurred but has since disappeared. Reintroduction aims to re-establish a viable population of the focal species within its indigenous range.
- Conservation introduction, whereby animals are translocated into an area that is outside the focal species' indigenous range, but within an appropriate habitat and bio-climatic region for the species, and may involve:
    - Assisted colonisation, which is the translocation of animals to a location that is outside the focal species' indigenous range to avoid extinction of populations of the focal species. Assisted colonisation is primarily undertaken where protection from current or likely future threats in the indigenous range is deemed less feasible than sites outside the indigenous range. An example may be to mitigate impacts of climate change on a species.
    - Ecological replacement, which is the translocation of animals to a location that is outside the focal species' indigenous range to perform a specific ecological function that was lost when another species became extinct. This will often involve the most suitable existing sub-species or a close relative of the extinct species within the same genus.

5.2 Wildlife management translocation

Wildlife management translocations primarily aim to provide benefit to translocated individuals, not to provide a measurable conservation benefit to a population, species, or ecosystems.

Wildlife management translocations include the following types of translocations:

- Salvage translocation, where the primary purpose is to move animals from a location that has been or is likely to be significantly impacted by human activity or a natural disaster and/or to prevent death or injury of animals.

- Conflict translocation, where the primary purpose is to move animals from a location to reduce or remove conflict between humans and animals.

As the primary objective of salvage and conflict translocations are to move individuals away from the source site, historical proposals sometimes had limited consideration of the risks associated with the receiving site (e.g. competition, resources, disease, displacement, predation), and therefore an increased risk of poor outcomes.

If the department does decide to authorise a salvage or conflict translocation, that does not remove the requirement for a proponent to obtain any relevant land use approvals, nor remove the requirement to implement the mitigation hierarchy to avoid, minimise, mitigate, and/or offset impacts.

6. Legislative powers

6.1 Authorisation mechanisms under the NC Act

Protected animal translocations may be undertaken by, or on behalf of, the chief executive of the NC Act under section 173P of the NC Act. Proponent-driven protected animal translocations will also require authorisation under the NC Act. Depending on the circumstances of a proponent-driven protected animal translocation, there are a number of mechanisms available to authorise the proposal, as follows:

Inside a protected area—

1. Any translocations are typically authorised under a Protected Area Authority[2] or by chief executive written approval[3].

Outside of a protected area—

2. Conservation translocations are typically authorised under section 173P of the NC Act which can include authorising an agent to carry out actions on behalf of the chief executive.
3. Salvage translocations are typically authorised under a Rehabilitation Permit[4].
4. Conflict translocations are typically authorised under a Damage Mitigation Permit[5].

Proponents are encouraged to seek pre-lodgement advice from the department, to identify the appropriate application pathway and supporting information required. Pre-lodgement advice can be initiated by contacting the department by email at wildlife.management@des.qld.gov.au, in accordance with the Protected Animal Translocation Procedural Guide.

[2] More information on Protected Area Authorities can be found at https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/parks/permits.

[3] For protected areas that are national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land) or indigenous joint management areas, the chief executive will ensure that decisions are consistent with any indigenous land use agreement or indigenous management agreement.

[4] More information on Rehabilitation Permits can be funder at Rescue and rehabilitation | Environment | Department of Environment and Science, Queensland (des.qld.gov.au).

[5] More information about Damage Mitigation Permits can be found at Damage mitigation permits | Environment | Department of Environment and Science, Queensland (des.qld.gov.au).

6.2 Other approvals

In addition to any authorisation required under section 5.1, the following approvals may be required or relevant, in the specific circumstances outlined:

- Captive Breeding Agreement under the NC Act— where protected animals are proposed to be taken from the wild for a captive breeding program, noting that any release from captive breeding to a receiving site will typically require a translocation proposal authorised in accordance with this policy.
- Movement Permit under the Nature Conservation (Animal) Regulation 2020— where protected animals are proposed to be imported into or exported out of Queensland.
- Research Permit[6] under the NC Act— where protected animals are proposed to be taken from the wild for a scientific purpose, noting that any release from research to a receiving site will typically require a translocation proposal authorised in accordance with this policy; and that there are a number of detailed requirements that must be met to demonstrate a scientific purpose (e.g. a proposal must be associated with a tertiary institution or an entity that is involved in scientific research, the chief executive must be satisfied that it will make a significant contribution to community knowledge, and there is no commercial purpose associated with the proposal).
- Emergency authorisation under section 173P of the NC Act— in circumstances where there is an immediate risk of local or total extinction of a species (e.g. a sudden and significant reduction in numbers, an impending natural disaster, or an emergent biosecurity threat), noting that any release to a receiving site will typically require a translocation proposal authorised in accordance with this policy.
- Approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*[7]— where the activity is likely to result in a significant impact on a threatened species or ecological community (or other matter of national environmental significance) at either the source or receiving site
- Approvals from other jurisdictions— where protected animals are proposed to be imported into or exported out of Queensland.

6.3 Interaction with environmental impact assessment process

Queensland has a range of legislation regulating land use planning, development, and environmental impacts, which generally require the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy to avoid, minimise, mitigate, or offset environmental impacts. This includes the *Planning Act 2016, Environmental Protection Act 1994*, *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*, *Economic Development Act 2012, Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.

[6] More information on Research Permits and Animal Ethics Committee Approvals, which may be applicable to Research Permits, can be found at Protected animal permits for scientific/research or educational purposes - non-protected areas | Environment, land and water | Queensland Government (www.qld.gov.au) and Activities requiring approval from an animal ethics committee | Business Queensland.

[7] More information on referrals under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* can be found at Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) - DAWE.

In some circumstances, a person wishing to clear or develop land under the above-mentioned legislation, may propose to move or translocate protected animals away from a site to mitigate, compensate, or offset the impacts of a proposed development on a resident population of protected animals (i.e. salvage translocation). Where such a proposal is included in an application, the relevant assessor and decision-maker should note that such a proposal is not lawfully able to occur unless it has been authorised by the chief executive of the department administering the NC Act. Where no such authority has been issued by the chief executive of the NC Act, the animals should be treated as a complete loss for the purposes of the environmental impact assessment, except where other measures are proposed that would avoid, minimise, or mitigate impacts on the protected animals.

7. Guiding principles

In deciding whether to undertake or authorise a protected animal translocation, the chief executive may have regard to the following guiding principles, in addition to any mandatory legislative considerations.

Translocations should:

1. Demonstrate an acceptable conservation outcome.
2. Maximise chances of successful establishment and long-term persistence of the translocated animals.
3. Minimise the risk of adverse impacts to species and biodiversity at source and receiving sites, using comprehensive risk analysis and mitigation strategies, and long-term monitoring and management.
4. Maximise knowledge transfer to support learning and adoption of best practice approaches through full reporting on outcomes at agreed timeframes.
5. Adhere to relevant legislation and be under appropriate authorities.
6. Include consideration of potential social, cultural, and economic impacts, including consultation with First Nations people and the community if appropriate.
7. Minimise any adverse impacts on the welfare of animals.

8. Detailed considerations for each guiding principle

The chief executive may consider the following matters as sub-elements of the guiding principles above.

1. **Demonstrate an acceptable conservation outcome.**
    a. Conservation translocations will typically only be authorised where a proposal demonstrates that they will deliver a measurable conservation benefit for the focal species, population, or ecosystem, including:
        i) a conservation benefit that outweighs the potential risks; and

ii) a superior conservation benefit compared to alternatives management options including *in situ* management; and

iii) as far as possible, integration with *in situ* management.

b. Wildlife management translocations (including salvage and conflict translocations) will typically only be authorised where a proposal demonstrates that:

i) all *in situ* management options have been exhausted or are unworkable; and

ii) there are no likely significant adverse impacts to species, populations, and ecosystems at the source and receiving sites (see principle 3).

c. Salvage translocations, additionally, will typically only be authorised where a proposal demonstrates that the risks to relevant species, populations, and ecosystems of not translocating, are greater than the risks to relevant species, populations, and ecosystems of translocating[8].

d. Conflict translocations, additionally, will typically only be authorised where a proposal demonstrates that the risks associated with not translocating (risks to human health and wellbeing or risks of damage or loss) are greater than the risks of translocating (risks to species, populations, and ecosystems at source and receiving sites).

2. Maximise chances of successful establishment and long-term persistence of the translocated species.

a. Translocation proposals must be developed in accordance with the Protected Animal Translocation Proposal Template and implemented in accordance with the approved Protected Animal Translocation Proposal and any conditions of authorisation.

b. Translocation proposals must be developed or endorsed by relevant experts and include relevant plans and supporting information[9].

c. Translocation proposals must not be inconsistent with applicable conservation planning documents for the species, population, or ecosystem (e.g. recovery plans).

3. Minimise the risk of adverse impacts to species and biodiversity at source and receiving sites, including comprehensive risk analysis and mitigation strategies, and long-term monitoring and management.

[8] The Commonwealth Government Policy Statement - Translocation of Listed Threatened Species, notes that it is generally unlikely that a salvage translocation proposal will compensate, in its own right, for impacts of a proposed action. However, in rare circumstances, a carefully developed translocation proposal could contribute to the long-term conservation of a species or community.

[9] Refer to the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations for more information on each element of a translocation proposal.

a. Translocation proposals must have reasonable scientific grounds for concluding the action will not have significant adverse impacts on any native species or ecosystem, whether the focal species or ecosystem or otherwise, both at the source and receiving site.

b. Translocation proposals must include a comprehensive risk analysis for all reasonably likely risks to the focal species, population, or ecosystem and other impediments to success and include mitigation strategies that reduce these risks to an acceptable level.

c. The procedural requirements for proposed translocations must be appropriate to the risks and benefits arising from the translocation and avoid imposing unnecessary barriers to achieving the best conservation outcome.

4. Maximise knowledge transfer, including full reporting at agreed timeframes.

a. Translocations must build upon existing knowledge and learnings from previous relevant translocations nationally and internationally, as well as local knowledge from First Nations people for Country.

b. All stages and outcomes of a translocation must be monitored and fully documented to inform future translocation proposals.

c. Translocations must include annual reporting of all monitoring and management outcomes (made publicly available and provided to DES), adding records to relevant DES databases if required, and a full report be published (published in a peer reviewed journal, or made publicly available and provided to DES) within an agreed timeframe.

5. Adhere to relevant legislation and be under appropriate authorities.

a. Translocations must operate within the terms of any relevant legislation such as relevant animal welfare, health and safety, quarantine, and biosecurity legislation.

b. Proponents must obtain all necessary permits and authorities prior to commencing an approved translocation proposal, including approvals from other jurisdictions where necessary, and comply with the requirements of each approval.

c. All land tenure and access issues associated with the take, release, ongoing management, and monitoring, must be addressed, including permissions from all parties with an interest in the land, and native title parties.

6. Include consideration of potential social, cultural, and economic impacts, including consultation with First Nations people and the community if appropriate.

a. Translocation proposals must include an assessment of the potential social, cultural, and economic impacts associated with the proposed translocation and demonstrate no or minimal adverse social,

cultural, or economic impacts, including consideration of whether any animals are proposed to be moved between First Nations lands.

b. Where a social, cultural, or economic risk analysis identifies potential adverse impacts, translocation proposals must include details of a consultation process completed or planned, that will adequately include:

   i. consultation with First Nations peoples for both the source and receiving site; and

   ii. consultation with relevant land manager/s, animal welfare representatives, environmental and conservation representatives, interested community members, and relevant representatives from local government, State Government, and Commonwealth Government.

7. Minimise any adverse impacts on the welfare of animals.

a. Any translocation proposal requires appropriate safeguards to ensure potential animal welfare concerns are minimised at all stages of the translocation, including:

   i. safe handling, transport and housing (if required);

   ii. access to food and water;

   iii. access to vet care as needed;

   iv. minimising disease risks;

   v. minimising genetic risks; and

   vi. avoiding unacceptable levels of predation.

b. Any translocation proposal requires appropriate reporting requirements for any adverse animal welfare outcomes.

Glossary

Adaptive management is a systematic decision-making process involving an iterative strategy of management and monitoring that allows for continual improvement in management practices, whereby data collected through ongoing monitoring is used to inform future decisions about management.

Animal in this policy has the same meaning as protected animal.

Assisted colonisation is the intentional, human-mediated movement of animals to a location that is outside the focal species' indigenous range to avoid extinction of populations of the focal species. Assisted colonisation is primarily undertaken where protection from current or likely future threats in the indigenous range is deemed less feasible than sites outside the indigenous range, for example to mitigate impacts of climate change on a species.

Captive breeding means the human mediated breeding of animals in a facility such as a zoo or aquarium to contribute to the conservation of an extant population, establish a new population or protect the species against imminent extinction, where food and water are provided and in which interactions between individuals, including breeding, is controlled or partially controlled by human intervention.

Captive breeding population means a population of animals that are maintained in a facility such as a zoo or aquarium to contribute to the conservation of an extant population, establish a new population or protect the species against imminent extinction, where food and water are provided and in which interactions between individuals, including breeding, is controlled or partially controlled by human intervention.

Captive origin means animals that have been maintained in a facility such as a zoo or aquarium where food and water are provided and in which interactions between individuals, including breeding, is controlled or partially controlled by human intervention.

Conflict translocation is the intentional, human-mediated movement of animals that pose a threat to human health and safety away from the source site.

Conservation benefit means an outcome that reduces the risk of extinction for a species, such as the reduction of threatening processes or the increase of the total population size, number of populations, genetic fitness, or breeding success. It is also an outcome that results in an improvement to ecosystem quality, function, or health.

Conservation introduction is the intentional, human-mediated movement of animals to an area outside its indigenous range but within an appropriate habitat and bio-climatic region for the species. Conservation introductions consist of assisted colonisation and ecological replacement.

Conservation translocation is the intentional, human-mediated movement of animals where the primary objective is a conservation benefit to either a population, a species, or an ecosystem. This will usually be to improve the conservation status of the focal species locally or globally, and/or restore natural ecosystem functions or processes. It does not include translocations that primarily benefit an individual(s). Conservation

translocations consist of population restoration, which includes reinforcement and reintroduction, and conservation introduction, which includes assisted colonisation and ecological replacement.

Ecological replacement is the intentional, human-mediated movement of animals to a location that is outside the focal species' indigenous range to perform a specific ecological function lost through extinction. This will often involve the most suitable existing sub-species or a close relative of the extinct species within the same genus.

Emergency collection is the intentional, human-mediated movement of animals from their natural environment into conditions of intensive protection, such as zoos, aquaria, or other dedicated *ex situ* facilities, to respond to a significant risk of local or total extinction from either a sudden and significant reduction in numbers due to threatening processes or an imminent catastrophic threat (e.g., a natural disaster such as fire, flood or cyclone or an emergent biosecurity threat such as an invasive pest or disease) that is likely to lead to a significant reduction in numbers.

Ex situ means the management of biodiversity that has been removed from its natural environment by human intervention, including conservation actions in zoos and aquaria. This encompasses a range of actions that vary with respects to the level of management intervention.

Habitat means an area where the environmental (biotic and abiotic) conditions are suitable for a species' survival.

Indigenous range means the known or inferred distribution of a species. This is based on historical (written or verbal) records, or physical evidence of the species' occurrence. Where direct evidence is inadequate to confirm previous occupancy, the existence of suitable habitat within ecologically appropriate proximity to proven range may be taken as adequate evidence of previous occupation.

In situ means the management of biodiversity within its naturally occurring environment.

Long-term means the longer of 10 years or three generations of the focal species of the translocation.

NC Act means the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992*

Population restoration is the intentional, human-mediated movement of animals into an area that is within the focal species' indigenous range, consisting of reinforcement and reintroduction.

Protected animal means an animal that is prescribed under the Nature Conservation (Animals) Regulation 2020 as threatened, near threatened, or least concern wildlife.

Reinforcement is the intentional, human-mediated movement of animals to a location that is within the focal species' current range where a population of the species currently exists. Reinforcement aims to enhance population viability, for example by increasing population size, genetic diversity, or representation of specific demographic groups of stages. Also referred to as augmentation, supplementation, enhancement, enrichment or restocking.

Receiving site means the geographic area or location where a translocated population is to be released.

Reintroduction is the intentional, human-mediated movement of animals to a location that is within the focal species' indigenous range where a population of the species formally occurred but has since disappeared. Reintroduction aims to re-establish a viable population of the focal species within its indigenous range.

Salvage translocation where the primary purpose is to move animals from a location that has been or is likely to be destroyed by human activity or a natural disaster to prevent death or injury of animals.

Scientific purpose (for Research Permits and Protected Area Authorities) has the same meaning as in the Nature Conservation (Animals) Regulation 2020 and Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2017, respectively.

Self-sustaining population is a population of animals that is able to persist into the future with no or minimal human intervention.

Source site means the geographic area or location from which individuals are to be taken for a translocation.

Species is a group of animals that are able to interbreed and produce fertile offspring and that possess common characteristics derived from a common gene pool.

The department means the Queensland Government department responsible for the administration of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

Protected animal translocation proposal or **translocation proposal** means a document prepared in accordance with the template, for consideration by DES.

Translocation or **Protected animal translocation** means the intentional, human-mediated movement of animals from one area, with release in another.

Wildlife management translocation primarily aims to provide benefit to translocated individuals and not provide a measurable conservation benefit to a population, species, or ecosystems.

Disclaimer

While this document has been prepared with care it contains general information and does not profess to offer legal, professional or commercial advice. The Queensland Government accepts no liability for any external decisions or actions taken on the basis of this document. Persons external to the Department of Environment and Science should satisfy themselves independently and by consulting their own professional advisors before embarking on any proposed course of action.

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