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THE GAP

Dam, that looks like fun



James Brownlie and Yulia Kornienko from Riverlife. Picture: JAMES BROWN

Heather Ludgate

ENOGERA Reservoir will become the adventure capital of the western suburbs under a plan to expand the dam's offerings.

Tourism operators Tree Top Challenge and Riverlife are negotiating to set up high ropes courses as well as on-site mountain bike hire and water activities.

The plan has the support of Environment Minister and state

Labor MP for Mt Coot-tha Steven Miles, who announced the proposal.

Riverlife owner John Sharpe said the picturesque dam offered a new experience for visitors.

"The place is absolutely beautiful, it's a completely different experience from what's on offer at Kangaroo Point," Mr Sharpe said.

"We've got the beach experience (at Tangalooma), we've got the urban experience ... but what

we're lacking for our international visitors and students is that unique wilderness experience and this is a gateway to a National Park."

Tour and hire options for kayaks, stand up paddle boards and mountain bikes were likely to be considered.

Group activities such as laser tag or Segway tours have also been discussed.

Meanwhile, Tree Top Challenge director Max Taylor said the site's

trees and topography were well suited for a high ropes course.

Mr Taylor, who grew up in The Gap, said he hoped to offer 80 aerial challenges on five courses.

Mr Miles said more new projects on or near National Parks were part of a recently finalised ecotourism strategy.

He said extra parking, as part of the first stage of developments at Walkabout Creek Discovery Centre, had been provided.

WESTSIDE

Sellers keep firm hold on discounting



PROPERTY owners have been holding firm on their selling prices during the past year, offering only small discounts to achieve a sale.

The latest figures from CoreLogic show that across Greater Brisbane, Southbank and Arana Hills were the best performers, averaging just 1.6 per cent vendor discounting in the year ending April, 2014.

Suburbs like Red Hill (3.2 per cent) and Indooroopilly (4.7 per cent) were among the best in the west.

Belle Property principal Robin McIlwain said as a suburb matured, and the closer it was to the city, the more tightly held and the firmer the prices.

"Too many only average 3.2 house sales a month, and when a property comes on the market, the seller is in control of the price," Mr McIlwain said.











From: JACOBS Mark [mark.jacobs@des.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Thursday, 27 October 2016 5:15 PM

To: MERRICK Jamie

CC: Grace Martinelli; GUYMER Gordon; LAZZARINI Peter

Subject: FW: DSITI & DNRM Innovation Arena Idea - Vegetation Management mapping app and reporting tool

Attachments: vegetationmanagementapp_Gordon Guymer.docx; Gruntify Brochure.pdf

Dear Jamie,

Please find attached a proposal for a Vegetation Management mapping app and reporting tool developed for submission to the DSITI & DNRM Innovation Arena. It is intended to be a joint submission from the Queensland Herbarium (DSITI) and Vegetation Operations Support (DNRM).

Kind regards

Dr Mark Jacobs

Executive Director

Science Delivery | Science Division

Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation



P 07 3170 5848 M **s.73 - Irrelevant** E mark.jacobs@dsiti.qld.gov.au

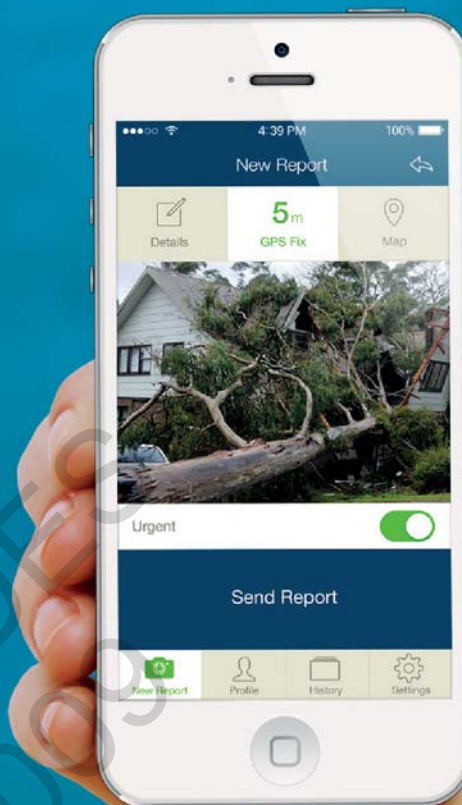
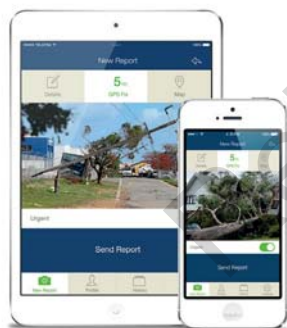
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Gruntify makes it super easy to collect data, identify hotspots and plan your response. Fast.



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Tap to capture

Designed for fast, secure and accurate capture of data. Branded as your own and available on:



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Real-time data is sorted, analysed and mapped automatically. Gruntify gives you a clear picture of data trends.



Act on your data

Improve efficiency through location-based job assignment. Gruntify makes remediation faster and prevention cheaper.





Innovation ARENA is an opportunity to present your great idea and see it become reality through the support of decision makers in DSITI and DNRM.

STEP 1: Save this form (save document name as: idea and name of primary contact e.g. *building cost reduction_Jon Johns.pdf*)

STEP 2: Provide brief answers to all the questions on this form (you can include up to two additional pages of supporting documentation to your proposal if needed).

STEP 3: Email the completed form (with any supporting documentation - two pages max.) to the Office of the Director-General (DirectorGeneral@dsiti.qld.gov.au) **before COB Friday 14 October 2016.**

All proposals that are in-scope will be put forward for consideration. Short-listed applicants will be invited to 'pitch' their idea to a joint agency panel, including the Directors-General of DSITI and DNRM.

NEED HELP?

Refer to the [How to enter Innovation Arena](#) or the [Q&A](#) on the intranet.

Date:

27/10/2016

Name/s (max. two people):

Dr Gordon Guymer
Peter Lazzarini

Division/s:

Science Division
Service Delivery

Department/s:

DSITI
DNRM

Email address (for primary contact):

Gordon.Guymer@dsiti.qld.gov.au

Position/s:

Director Queensland Herbarium
Director Vegetation, Operations Support

Business unit/s:

Queensland Herbarium
Vegetation, Operations Support

Phone (for primary contact):

(07) 3836 9325
(07) 3199 7394

Please select the statement/s below that best describes your idea:

- ✓ Solves an existing problem
- ✓ Is an innovative product, process or practice
- ✓ Will lead to savings or more efficient and effective delivery of services to Queenslanders
- ✓ Links to the agency's strategic priorities

Briefly describe the problem or opportunity your idea will address:

- The clearing of vegetation in Queensland is regulated by the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* and associated policy and codes.
- Understanding where approvals are required for clearing can be complex. Landholders can apply online for a vegetation management report and vegetation maps. The maps define where they can clear vegetation under an exemption, as well as what self-assessable codes they may be able to use, and where they would need to apply for development approval. Some landholders find it difficult to translate paper maps to their property. Landholders may wish to provide feedback or apply to amend the vegetation mapping which requires supporting information including mapping, vegetation descriptions and imagery.
- Compliance with vegetation management laws are monitored using a range of measures including satellite imagery and audits. Landholders that apply self-assessable codes are required to undertake self-audits. The use of mobile technologies would facilitate the timely and accurate reporting of audits as well as notifications of potential illegal clearing.
- This project involves the development of innovative technologies for data delivery, capture and reporting to support vegetation management in Queensland.

Briefly describe what the solution looks like:

The Queensland Vegetation Mapping app and reporting tool will have the following components:

- a public facing app that is scalable so that can be instantaneously deployed to the internet and the range of mobile devices which features:
 - a map with base mapping and location features
 - ability to support multiple customisable forms for various user types to facilitate the capture of data including images and video
- a back-end platform for data storage within the cloud
- a work flow process that manages incoming requests and ability to provide feedback to clients
- dashboard to track incoming data and responses
- in-built analytics for reporting and the ability to export data in a range of formats

Briefly describe the benefits of the solution:

The Gruntify technology already employs the following features which can be utilised within this project:

- easy to use technology with a clean user interface for a streamlined and intuitive user experience
- multi-user workflow engine to enable customers and staff to work effectively
- drag and drop Form Builder which provides easy creation of data entry forms which are automatically pushed to user apps
- individual or bulk notification capability via email, SMS and push notifications to the app
- data uploads to the cloud in real-time and provides instant situational awareness via hotspot and cluster maps
- integration with ArcGIS, Google and DigitalGlobe base maps as well as your own vector layers
- has encryption, SSL technology, action logging and auditing to keep data safe and role-based security to give you complete user access control.

The development of a Queensland Vegetation Management app and reporting tool will support landholders with precision land management information and will facilitate adherence to vegetation management legislation. It will also automate the collection of location accurate field data with associated photographs and video provide real-time reporting to support best-practice land management and deliver good environmental outcomes.

Briefly describe the key steps that are needed to make your idea happen in 90 days:

Gruntify facilitates the use of Scrum which is an iterative agile software development framework for managing product development. The project will utilise PRINCE2 artifacts adopted by Science Division DSITI and will include the following steps:

- Develop Project Governance framework involving DSITI, DNRM, DEHP and industry representation
- Develop a Project Brief and project descriptions documenting data layers, mapping features, data capture forms and work flows including organisational roles and contacts and reporting requirements etc.
- Engage Gruntify
- Develop a communication plan
- Weekly progress meetings with Gruntify
- Release a prototype by Week 8 for field testing and consultation with external stakeholders
- Refine products based on consultation and finalise product documentation
- Report on project including recommendations for future developments

Briefly describe what level of funding, resourcing or other assistance that would be needed to support a 90 day delivery (please see Q&As for further details):

- \$25K to support Gruntify contract over 12 weeks
- In-kind support from DSITI, DNRM and DEHP relating to:
 - o project governance
 - o project documentation including product description
 - o procurement
 - o product development and testing
 - o consultation with staff and stakeholders
 - o promotion

Who will benefit from your idea (agency/agencies, customers, Queenslanders, staff)?

- Landholders and industry will have mobile access to essential information to support precision vegetation management and the ability to provide feedback to Queensland Government including audits.
- External parties (local authorities, NRM groups, NGOs, community etc.) will have mobile technology to easily report unexplained clearing activities for investigation.
- Staff will have a mobile device to assist them in their vegetation management work.
- Government agencies will have improved processes for documenting their vegetation management responsibilities.
- Queensland Government will have a property based app that can be easily expanded to support data collection from landholders for other government programs.

Briefly describe whether there is an existing solution we could adopt or explore further:

Gruntify is a successful small to medium enterprise operating within Queensland and has developed a powerful product suite that could be easily customised for the development of the Vegetation Management app and reporting tool (refer attached).

The Gruntify technology has a range of features including:

- Mobile apps for citizen engagement
- Real-time notifications and alerts via emails and SMS on any mobile device
- In-built analytics for instant situational awareness
- A simple form builder for ease of creation and amendment of data entry forms
- Cloud hosting for fast, secure and scalable data management

Gruntify has a proven track record working for state and local governments and was the winner of the emerging Exporter Award at the Premier of Queensland Export Awards 2016.

Briefly describe the risks that might be associated with your idea:

The project could have the following risks:

- Lack of uptake of mobile technology by landholders
- Potential for misunderstanding of the scale limitation of the map datasets and the potential for misinterpretation by landholders
- Insufficient engagement from DSITI, DNRM and DEHP in project to ensure successful uptake
- Capacity to integrate app into complex existing framework of products and work flows
- Inadequate resourcing to sufficiently explain and promote product to stakeholders
- Capacity constraints to deal with potential increased public interaction with vegetation management data

END OF FORM

MINISTERIAL MEETING BRIEF

3 June 2016 at 3:00pm

Minister for the Environment

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MR GRANT MAUDSLEY (QLD PRESIDENT) AND MR CHARLES BURKE (CHIEF EXECUTIVE), AGFORCE: CHANGES TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL OFFSETS ACT IN THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT (REINSTATEMENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (the Bill)

☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Noted ☐ Further information required (see comments)	Minister's Signature: _____ Date/...../..... Comments: _____
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DEP REP: Geoff Clare, A/Executive Director, CSS

ISSUES

- Currently, an environmental offset can be required under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* for (a) High Value Agriculture (HVA); (b) Irrigated High Value Agriculture (IHVA); (c) relevant infrastructure that impacts on certain regulated vegetation such as a road; or (d) marine plants.
- Offsets may also be required under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (for clearing protected plants) or *Marine Parks Act 2004* (for establishment of ponded pastures or reclamation for agricultural purposes).
- The *Sustainable Planning Act Significant Residual Impact Guideline* allows greater impacts to occur before an offset is considered than the *Significant Residual Impact Guideline for activities assessed under the Environmental Protection Act 1994, Nature Conservation Act 1992 and Marine Parks Act 2004*.
- Because of the above exposure of the agricultural sector to SPA the proposed removal of the 'significant' impact threshold from the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014* by the Bill, and its replacement with the requirement to offset 'residual' impacts, is therefore likely to have some impact on agricultural development costs and hence, on Agforce members.
- However, it is important to note that the agricultural clearing activities requiring an offset under the environmental offsets framework is limited.
- Should the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (the Bill) be passed in its current form, HVA and IHVA applications will only be considered as coordinated projects by the Co-ordinator General under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* or for special indigenous purposes under the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007*.
- For coordinated projects, the Coordinator-General is not bound by the environmental offsets framework, nor any changes made to it.
- Further, other types of clearing for agriculture can occur in accordance with:
 - a self-assessable vegetation clearing codes (Attachment 1); or
 - a relevant exemption (Attachment 2).
- As such clearing is not assessable development it is not subject to the environmental offsets framework unless a permit is also required to remove a protected plant under the *Nature Conservation Act* or works are required under the *Marine Parks Act*.
- The Bill proposes to re-regulate clearing of regrowth (Category C and R) vegetation on Indigenous and freehold land. Such clearing will similarly not require an offset under the environmental offsets framework because it is regulated under a self-assessable vegetation clearing code. The self-assessable vegetation clearing code may however require an "exchange area" to counterbalance the impact from clearing.
- A guideline for the assessment of 'residual' impact is being developed by Queensland Government agencies and will be made available to stakeholders for consultation prior to the Bill's debate.
- The guideline will be based on generally equivalent impact thresholds for offsets in place prior to the previous government's changes.
- No specific issues have been raised by Agforce regarding the proposed offset-related amendments in the Bill. Attachment 3 outlines a Question and Answer regarding clearing for agriculture.

BACKGROUND

- Agforce has requested a meeting to discuss concerns with the environmental offsets changes in the Bill.
- In its submission to the Agriculture and Environment Parliamentary Committee examining the Bill, Agforce stated that they were strongly opposed to amendments to the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014* in the Bill.
- Agforce also stated that they were not well enough informed to comment on the amendments and that further information would be provided to the Committee through Public Hearings once briefed.

ATTACHMENT/S

Attachment 1.

Questions and Answers

Author Name: Carol Wall Position: Manager Tel No: 3330 5806 Date Drafted: 30/05/16	Branch Endorsement Name: Geoff Clare Position: A/ED, CSP Tel No: 3330 5865 Date Endorsed:	Division Endorsement Name: Maria Mohr Position: DDG, CSS Tel No: 3330 5390 Date Endorsed:	Director-General Endorsement Name: Jim Reeves, DG, EHP Tel No: 3330 6298 Signed Date/...../....
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Attachment 1 - VMA Clearing exemptions on Freehold Land and Agriculture Leases.

(List of vegetation clearing exemptions, State of Queensland, 2013.)

Table 2: Exemptions on freehold and Indigenous land

Exempt clearing activities / purpose	Vegetation category on the Regulated Vegetation Management Map / vegetation status on regional ecosystem mapping
For any purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a forest practice other than on land on which the state owns the trees. • To build a single residence and reasonably associated buildings and structures on a lot when a development permit has been issued for the residence. • To build dwelling houses and reasonably associated buildings and structures on Indigenous land for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander inhabitants of the land, or persons providing education, health, police or other community services for the inhabitants if a development permit has been issued for the dwelling. • To establish or maintain a necessary fire break to protect infrastructure other than a fence, road or vehicular track if the maximum width of fire break is 1.5 times the height of the tallest adjacent tree or 20 m, whichever is the greater. • To establish a necessary fire management line up to 10m wide. • To maintain a garden or orchard provided the canopy trees are retained. • Necessary to remove or reduce imminent risk of serious personal injury or damage to infrastructure posed by the vegetation. • By fire under the Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990 to reduce hazardous fuel load. • Necessary to maintain infrastructure including airstrips, buildings, fences, helipads, roads, stock yards, water facilities and constructed drains other than contour banks. • By the owner on freehold land to source construction timber to maintain infrastructure if the clearing does not cause land degradation and an area is restored similar to the cleared. • Gathering, digging or removing forest products on indigenous land to improve the land or for use under the Aurukun and Mornington Shire Leases Act 1978, section 28 or section 62 of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984, section 62. • In a priority development area. • Clearing under a self-assessable vegetation clearing code other than Category A. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category A area on a PMAV unless stipulated by the department on a notice issued under the VMA or Sustainable Planning Act 2009 • Category B • Category R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an urban area for an urban purpose (e.g. residential, industrial, sporting, recreational or commercial). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Least Concern or Of Concern Regional Ecosystem shown as Category B • Category R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a necessary fence, road or vehicle track up to 10 m wide. • To establish necessary built infrastructure other than contour banks, fences, roads or vehicular tracks where the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Least Concern Regional Ecosystem shown as Category B • Category R

total clearing is less than 2 ha and total extent of the infrastructure is on less than 2 ha. • By the owner on freehold land to source construction timber to establish necessary infrastructure if the clearing does not cause land degradation and an area is restored to a similar type and to the extent of the removed trees.	
• Clearing conducted under a self-assessable vegetation clearing code.	• Category B • Category R
• Clearing for an extractive industry in a Key Resource Area • Clearing for Significant Community Infrastructure	• Category R

Table 3: Exemptions on leasehold land for agriculture and grazing

Exempt clearing activities / purpose	Vegetation category on the Regulated Vegetation Management Map / vegetation status on regional ecosystem mapping
• For any purpose	• Category X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build a single residence and reasonably associated buildings and structures on a lot when a development permit has been issued for the residence. • To establish or maintain a necessary fire break to protect infrastructure other than a fence, road or vehicular track if the maximum width of fire break is 1.5 times the height of the tallest adjacent tree or 20 m, whichever is the greater. • To establish a necessary fire management line up to 10m wide. • To maintain a garden or orchard provided the canopy trees are retained. • Necessary to remove or reduce imminent risk of serious personal injury or damage to infrastructure posed by the vegetation. • By fire under the Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990 to reduce hazardous fuel load. • Necessary to maintain infrastructure including airstrips, buildings, fences, helipads, roads, stock yards, water facilities and constructed drains other than contour banks. • By the lessee to source construction timber to maintain infrastructure if the clearing does not cause land degradation and an area is restored similar to the cleared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category A area unless stipulated by the department on a notice issued under the VMA or <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i> • Category B • Category C • Category R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a necessary fence, road or vehicle track up to 10 m wide. • To establish necessary built infrastructure other than contour banks, fences, roads or vehicular tracks where the total clearing is less than 2 ha and total extent of the infrastructure is on less than 2 ha. • By the lessee to source construction timber to establish necessary infrastructure if the clearing does not cause land degradation and an area is restored similar to the cleared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Least Concern Regional Ecosystem shown as Category B • Category C • Category R
• Clearing conducted under a self-assessable vegetation clearing code.	• Category B • Category C • Category R
• Clearing for an extractive industry in a Key Resource Area. • Clearing for Significant Community Infrastructure.	• Category C • Category R

Attachment 2 - VMA Self-assessable clearing codes.

Management purpose	Applies to	Description	Download code
Managing encroachment	Category B grassland regional ecosystems in the western bioregions of Queensland	Clearing to manage invasion of a grassland regional ecosystem by native woody species	Managing encroachment
Extractive industry	Category B vegetation across Queensland	Clearing of native vegetation for a pit or quarry	Clearing for an extractive industry
Fodder harvesting	Fodder species in Category B areas within specific local government areas of Western Queensland	Cutting, felling, breaking, pushing or pulling of fodder species, that are left where harvested for livestock to consume	Fodder harvesting
Improving operational efficiency of existing agriculture	Category B vegetation, across Queensland, in areas of existing agriculture	Clearing of islands and straightening of edges and irregular shapes to improve the operational efficiency of existing agriculture	Clearing to improve the operational efficiency of existing high-value or irrigated high-value agriculture
Managing Category C regrowth	Category C vegetation, across Queensland on leasehold land granted for agriculture or grazing purposes	Clearing of native vegetation shown as category C on the regulated vegetation management map	Managing category C regrowth vegetation
Managing Category R regrowth	Category R vegetation in the Burdekin, Mackay Whitsunday or Wet Tropics catchments	Clearing of native vegetation shown as category R on the regulated vegetation management map	Managing category R regrowth vegetation
Managing a native forest practice	Category B vegetation, across Queensland on freehold and Indigenous land	Selective harvesting of native timber to produce value-added products (other than woodchips for export) for an ongoing forestry business	Native forest practice
Necessary environmental clearing	Category B vegetation across Queensland	Clearing of native vegetation to prepare for a natural disaster and to restore the	Necessary environmental works

		environmental condition of land	
Property infrastructure	Category B, C and R vegetation across Queensland	Clearing of native vegetation for necessary property infrastructure in rural areas, including fences, roads, firebreaks, and dams	Clearing for necessary property infrastructure
Thinning vegetation in the Mulga Lands	Specified regional ecosystems in the Mulga Lands bioregion, that are mapped as Category B vegetation	Selective clearing of native vegetation to return thickened areas to a state that is more typical for the regional ecosystem	Managing thickened vegetation in the Mulga Lands
Thinning in the North West Highlands, Gulf Plains, Cape York Peninsula, Wet Tropics and Einasleigh Uplands	Specified regional ecosystems in those bioregions, that are mapped as Category B vegetation	Selective clearing of native vegetation to return thickened areas to a state that is more typical for the regional ecosystem	Managing thickened vegetation in the North West Highlands, Gulf Plains, Cape York Peninsula, Wet Tropics and Einasleigh Uplands bioregions
Thinning in the Brigalow Belt, Central Queensland Coast and Desert Uplands	Specified regional ecosystems in those bioregions, that are mapped as Category B vegetation	Selective clearing of native vegetation to return thickened areas to a state that is more typical for the regional ecosystem	Managing thickened vegetation in the Brigalow Belt, Central Queensland Coast and Desert Uplands bioregions
Thinning in the Mitchell Grass Downs and the Channel Country	Specified regional ecosystems in those bioregions, that are mapped as Category B vegetation	Selective clearing of native vegetation to return thickened areas to a state that is more typical for the regional ecosystem	Managing thickened vegetation in the Mitchell Grass Downs and the Channel Country bioregions
Thinning in the South East Queensland and New England Tableland bioregions	Specified regional ecosystems in those bioregions, that are mapped as Category B vegetation	Selective clearing of native vegetation to return thickened areas to a state that is more typical for the regional ecosystem	Managing thickened vegetation in South East Queensland and the New England Tableland bioregions
Weed control	Category B vegetation across Queensland	Clearing of native vegetation to control non-native plants or declared pests and certain non-endemic native plants	Managing weeds: self-assessable vegetation clearing code

Attachment 3

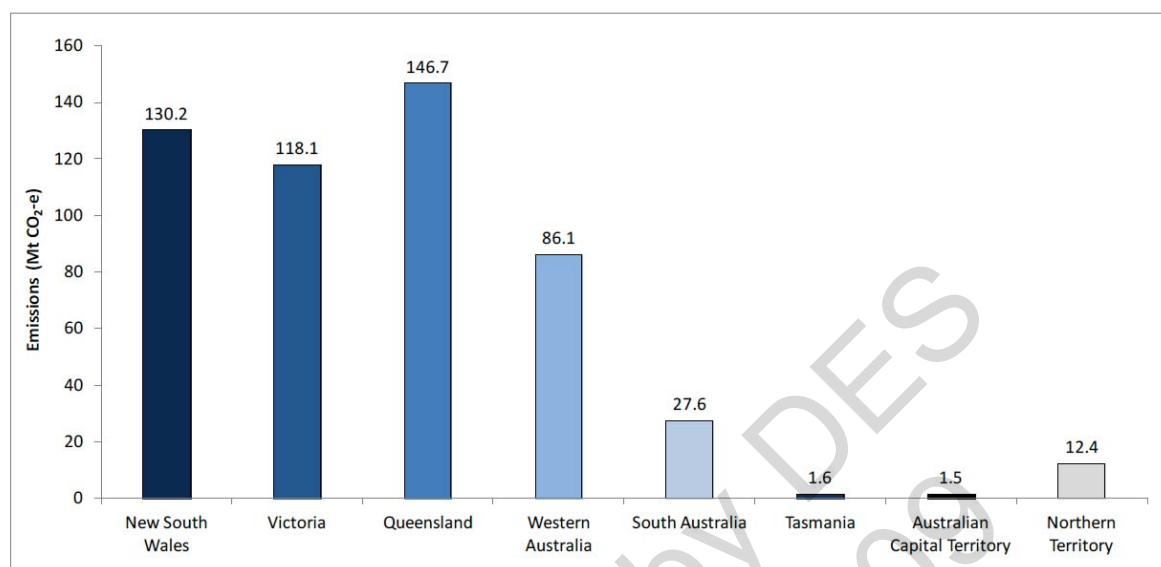
Q.1 Will removing the significant residual impact trigger directly affect the cost of agricultural development?

- **Where an offset may currently be considered, for agricultural development under the Environmental Offsets framework, removal of the significant impact trigger may reduce the level of impact permitted before an offset is required and therefore costs associated with offsets may increase as a result.**
- However, the Queensland legislative framework already includes a number of concessions to reduce the impact on agricultural costs including exemptions from requirements under the environmental offsets framework for:
 - o a suite of activities that involve essential and routine management activities as outlined under Schedule 24 of the Planning Regulation 2009; and
 - o for clearing in accordance with self-assessable codes e.g. for forest practice, fodder harvesting (except where essential habitat is cleared), weed and pest management and thinning where an offset under the Queensland environmental offsets framework is not required , noting that an exchange area may be required under the self-assessable code.
- In addition, for high value agriculture or irrigated high value agriculture, a significant beneficial outcome may be provided to counterbalance significant residual impacts on of-concern or endangered regional ecosystems instead of an offset under the environmental offsets framework.
- Should the Reinstatement Bill be passed in its current form, high value agriculture and irrigated high value agriculture applications will only be considered as coordinated projects under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* or for special indigenous purposes under the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007*.

Queensland Greenhouse Gas Emissions

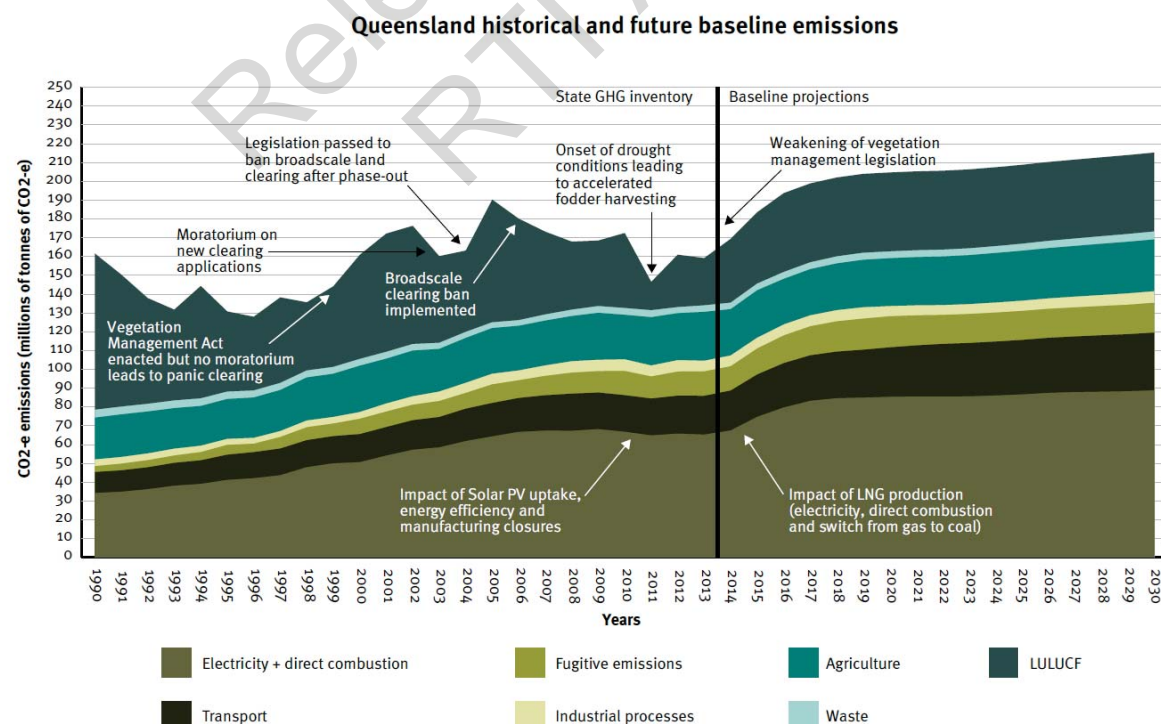
- In 2014, Queensland's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were the highest of all states and territories and contributed 28% of Australia's national emissions.

Figure 1: State and Territory total emissions (including those from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry) in million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂-e), 2014



Source: Australian National Greenhouse Accounts – State and Territory Greenhouse Gas Inventories 2014

- A baseline emissions projection for Queensland shows a 35% increase in Queensland's emissions to 2030.
- Overall, the baseline emissions projection for Queensland shows that the State's previous 'good news' stories—declining emissions from electricity generation and land clearing—are projected to reverse.
- That is, if Queensland does nothing, our emissions will rise significantly over the next 15 years.



Source: Carbon Pollution Projections – Queensland's baseline greenhouse gas emissions projections to 2030

New vegetation management laws currently before Parliament

Intentions of the Bill

The Reinstatement Bill intends to protect the health of the Great Barrier Reef and reduce carbon emissions by:

- reinstating the protection of high-value regrowth on freehold and Indigenous land ([category C](#))
- removing provisions permitting clearing for [high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture](#)
- broadening protection of regrowth vegetation in watercourse areas ([category R](#)) to cover all Great Barrier Reef catchments (refer to the attached map)
- reinstating compliance provisions
- reinstating provisions in the [Water Act 2000](#) to regulate against the destruction of vegetation in a watercourse under a riverine protection permit
- amending the [Environmental Offsets Act 2014](#) in relation to determining impacts and Commonwealth offsets (email offsets@ehp.qld.gov.au for more information).

Proposed new regulated areas

The Reinstatement Bill proposes to change some unregulated areas of vegetation (category X) to regulated areas subject to a [self-assessable vegetation clearing code](#) (categories R or C). If the Bill becomes law, these regulations will be effective from the 17 March 2016:

- [Category C regulations](#) have been proposed for high-value regrowth on freehold and indigenous land.
- [Category R regulations](#) have been proposed for regrowth vegetation within 50m of a watercourse in the Burnett-Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef catchments. The map below shows the location of these catchments.

Agriculture and Environment Parliamentary Committee Report

The committee's [report](#) on the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 was tabled on 30 June 2016.

Government members of the committee acknowledged the concerns raised by submitters about the limited consultation undertaken by the Government on the Bill, particularly given the potentially significant impacts the amendments may have on landholders and the agricultural, resources and development industries more widely.

Non-government members of the committee had significant concerns about the lack of consultation on the Bill, and noted the Government's original intention was for the committee to report to the House on the Bill by 15 April 2016 – only 19 working days, including the Easter and school holiday period.

Non-government members noted that the Government's motion failed; however, had it been successful, the Government would have further restricted public consultation and debate on this important Bill.

As required by Standing Order 132(1), the committee has considered whether or not to recommend the Bill be passed.

The committee was unable to reach a majority decision as to whether the Bill be passed. The committee did, however, agree unanimously with the recommendations outlined in the report.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines explain to the House, during the second reading debate on the Bill, the consultation process that will be undertaken on the updated self-assessable codes, including details of who will be consulted.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines provide an update, during the second reading debate on the Bill, on the steps, including the associated timescales, that will be taken:

- to improve the accuracy of vegetation mapping, and
- to proactively engage with landholders to provide them with updated property maps of assessable vegetation which correct any inaccuracies.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that the element of clause 6 of the Bill, which inserts new section 67A into the Vegetation Management Act 1999 to reverse the onus of proof in relation to vegetation clearing offences, be omitted.

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection engage with the property, resources and development sectors to assess and establish the full impact of the proposed amendments to the environmental offsets regime in Queensland.

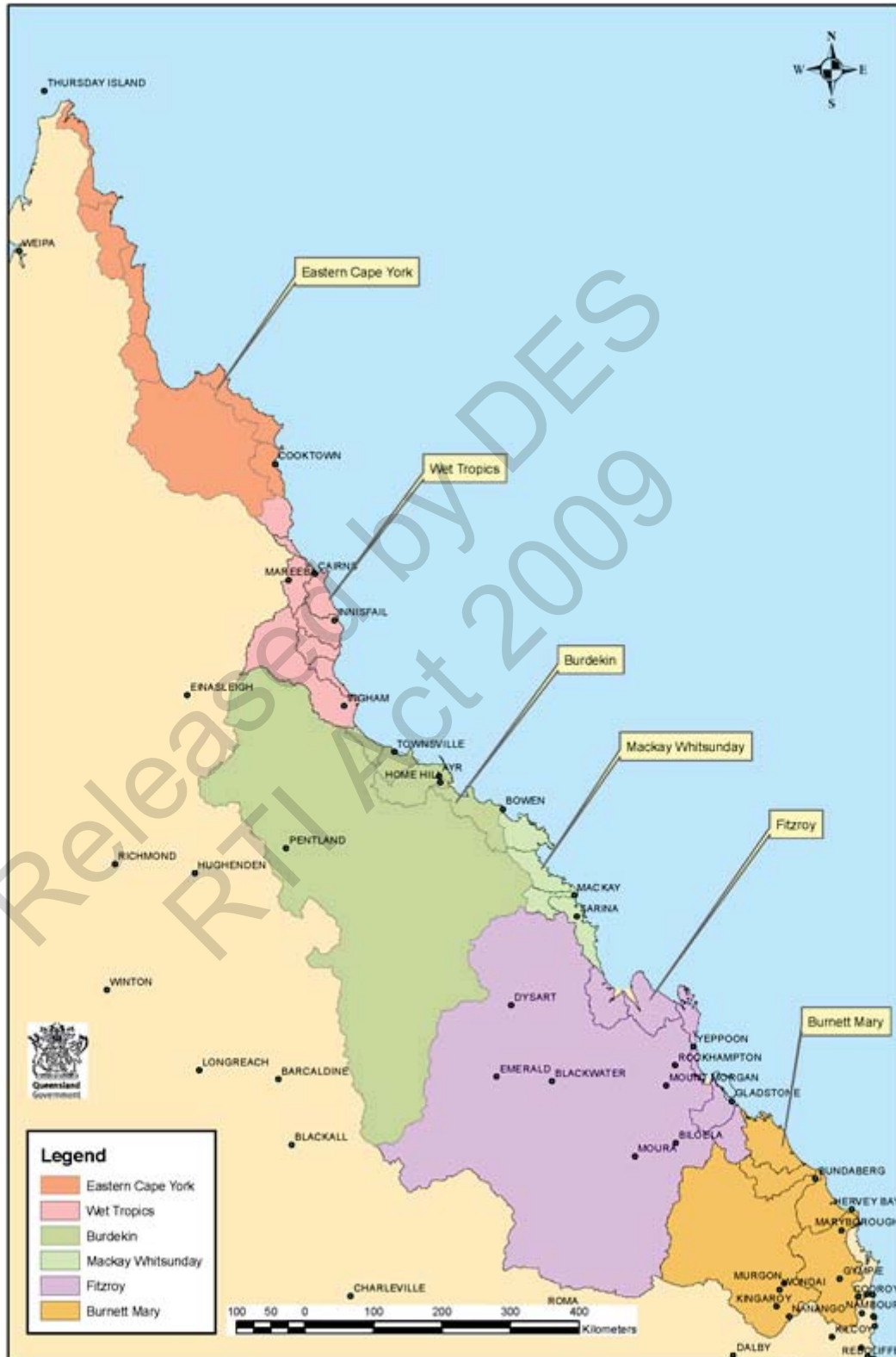
Recommendation 5

The committee recommends that the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef informs the House, during the second reading debate on the Bill, of the outcome of the assessment of the impacts, including potential costs, of the proposed amendments to the environmental offset regime and if any actions will be taken.

Debate

It is expected that the Parliament will debate the Bill in mid-August 2016.

Great Barrier Reef Catchments



Prepared 15/03/2016. Department of Natural Resources and Mines

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

CoS / AdvisorEndorsed

Date/...../.....

MINISTERIAL MEETING BRIEF

Meeting – 5 September 2016

Michael Roche, Queensland Resources Council

SUBJECT: Various issues: s.73 - Irrelevant information, **Offsets – Vegetation Management Bill, Reef 2050 Progress Report**

☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Noted ☐ Further information required (see comments)	Minister's Signature: _____ Date/...../..... Comments: _____
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DEP REP: Andrea Leverington, Executive Director, Conservation and Sustainability Policy, 3330 5865

ISSUES

1. The Queensland Resources Council has raised a number of issues for discussion at their quarterly meeting, each issue is addressed below.

BACKGROUND

2. Details for the issues nominated for discussion are outlined below.

s.73 - Irrelevant information

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Chain of Responsibility

5. **Deputee Position:** The Queensland Resources Council has publically stated that the Chain of Responsibility legislation has created significant uncertainty for investors and placed some mining projects at serious risks of being scrapped.

Suggested Response: *Feedback from a range of stakeholders, including domestic banks and international investors, indicates that the department's engagement with them since the passage of the legislation has greatly reduced the level of uncertainty for the majority of investors that are committed to meeting their environmental obligations.*

It is expected that the guideline currently being drafted will be able to provide further clarification for stakeholders and significantly quell concerns regarding the potential impact that the Chain of Responsibility Act will have on investment in Queensland.

The guideline will provide guidance around the circumstances of a relationship which may result in a person being the subject of the chain of responsibility legislation. There will be no prescriptive list of persons that will be 'carved out' from the legislation. This is consistent with the provisions of the chain of responsibility legislation. However, the guidelines will provide clarity regarding the circumstances in which the new powers will be used and when they are unlikely to be used.

The department has committed to continue to engage with the Queensland Resources Council through the working group established for the guideline and through the satellite working group which the Queensland Resources Council has established.

Environmental Offsets – Vegetation Management Act

1. **Deputee Position:** The Queensland Resources Council raised a number of issues with the proposed Environmental Offsets Act amendments in the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment (VMROLA) Bill. Although Parliament voted against the bill, QRC still requested a response to nine case studies provided to the Department and in its submission to the Agricultural and Environment Committee. QRC supports a single, consistent Significant Residual Impact guideline but not through legislative change.

Suggested Response: *EHP provided feedback on the case studies at the Quarterly EHP/QRC meeting on 25 August 2016. Of the nine case-studies provided three did not have sufficient information to properly assess the impact of the proposed changes. The offset requirements in the remaining six would not have changed as a result of the proposed amendments. QRC have requested and will be provided with an electronic version of the analysis. Further consultation on criteria for a single residual impact guideline will not proceed at this stage.*

s.73 - Irrelevant information

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