



smart **state**



Annual Report 2003-04 Environmental Protection Agency



Communication objectives

Our annual report outlines the purpose, role, goals, initiatives and activities of the Environmental Protection Agency, which incorporates the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

It has been prepared primarily to allow the Queensland Parliament, through our Minister, to assess our financial and operational performance. It also plays an important role in informing the Queensland community, our clients and our stakeholders about our work so they can judge the value and effectiveness of our efforts.

The report aims to:

- create an awareness of the vision, role, values and business principles that drive our Agency;
- show how our Agency supports the Queensland Government's priorities;
- communicate the nature of our work, our achievements and our performance;
- explain the way the Agency works;
- show how we performed against our goals and focus areas; and
- account for the way we managed our finances.

It meets the Agency's reporting obligations under the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977*, the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

This report is made available to members of Parliament, local governments, industry and business groups, other environmental authorities, environment and conservation groups, members of the community and Agency staff.

It is also available on the Agency's web site at www.epa.qld.gov.au or upon request at the Naturally Queensland Information Centre, 160 Ann St, Brisbane, telephone (07) 3227 8185.

Have your say

We value the views of our readers, so you are invited to give us feedback and suggestions. Please send your comments to: Marketing and Communication Unit, Environmental Protection Agency, PO Box 155, Brisbane Albert Street Qld 4002, e-mail annualreport@epa.qld.gov.au or fax (07) 3247 5947.

Cover photographs

Front: Technical officer John Ferris takes samples as part of the EPA's water monitoring program. Photo: Mike Langford.

Back: Shipmaster Craig Baddiley and ranger Brenda Healey on patrol in Moreton Bay Marine Park. Photo: Adam Creed.

Photographers for header and margin photos:

Paul Candlin, Adam Creed, Terry Harper, Darren Jew, Mike Langford.

Environmental Protection Agency annual report 2003-04

© Environmental Protection Agency 2004

Pe04 2003-2004, October 2004

ISSN 1442-7478





Our highlights—at a glance

The table below summarises some of our major achievements during 2003–04 in relation to our four goals.

Goal 1: Protecting our natural and cultural heritage	Goal 2: Promoting sustainable use of our natural capital
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established the Trust for Nature • Reviewed and updated the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> to ensure the effective regulation of wildlife management • Signed and gazetted 30 new nature refuge agreements • Listed the koala as “vulnerable” in the south-east Queensland bioregion, providing an opportunity for statutory intervention when koala habitat is threatened in the bioregion • Completed and submitted the multi-species recovery plan for the endangered <i>Acacia porcata</i> • Continued the implementation of the “Croc-wise” education campaign, including the launch of new brochures and posters • Prosecuted four persons in the District Court at Brisbane for illegally taking a dugong in Moreton Bay • Released the South-east Queensland Nature Conservation Strategy • Surveyed and mapped a further 10 million hectares of the state’s vegetation and regional ecosystems to a scale of 1:100,000, enabling more effective vegetation management, biodiversity conservation and regional planning • Established the first national park (recovery) at Nairana, a former 25,000ha Central Highlands property • Finalised the Riversleigh Management Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published and released <i>State of the Environment Queensland 2003</i> • Released the <i>Queensland Biodiversity Policy Framework: Sustaining our Natural Wealth</i>. • Completed and implemented regional coastal management plans for the Curtis Coast, Cardwell-Hinchinbrook and Wet Tropical Coast regions • Published the <i>Exploring Queensland’s parks and forests</i> guide and a new edition of <i>Camping in Queensland</i> • Established three new EPA extension programs: EnergyWise, WaterWise and WasteWise • Completed the Fraser Island and Whitsunday Great Walks • Completed the 30km Misty Mountains Trail project in the Wet Tropics • Opened the new Central Station campground on Fraser Island • Improved visitor facilities at Bribie Island, Kondalilla, Noosa, Crows Nest, Fraser Island, Capricorn Coast, Whitsunday Islands, Lakefield, Mt Cook, Iron Range and Chillagoe-Mungana Caves national parks • Expanded the Go Bush program to the Sunshine Coast • Issued 7341 rebates through the Solar Hot Water Rebate Scheme, including the 30,000th rebate since the scheme started
Goal 3: Ensuring a clean environment	Goal 4: Improving organisational performance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led the development of the whole-of-government <i>Queensland Greenhouse Strategy</i>, published a Queensland greenhouse gas inventory, and developed a greenhouse and climate change web site • Conducted a statewide strategic compliance program encompassing licensed activities, industry-sector and catchment compliance inspections • Prosecuted seven companies for breaches under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>, resulting in total fines of \$565,000 with costs of \$585,027.57 being awarded • Expanded the Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program, which now monitors more than 240 sites within the major estuarine and marine waterways from the Noosa River to the Gold Coast’s Currumbin Creek • Continued to provide public access to environmental information by co-ordinating web sites for air and water quality, coastal waves and storm-tide monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched the strategic workplace health and safety initiative, “towards NONE—Not One Not Ever”, and implemented the Health and Safety Cultural Change Strategy • Implemented the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan to ensure we are on track to achieve whole-of-government targets • Provided support and advice to local governments on legislation and coastal management issues such as dune management planning and erosion mitigation strategies • Enhanced Ecomaps, our corporate geographic information facility that is used as a decision-support tool for environmental licensing and assessment, by integrating air quality and water quality data • Initiated a detailed audit of the safety of public facilities on protected areas across the state • Constructed and upgraded nearly 1000km of high-priority fire-lines



Contents

Director-General's report	3
Who we are	5
Our vision	5
Our role	5
Our values and business principles	5
Our people	5
Where we are	14
What we do	16
Our contribution to government priorities	16
Our outputs and goals	16
How we manage	18
Our strategic planning and reporting framework	18
Our organisational structure	19
Our key functions and resources	20
Internal audit	24
Our performance	26
Goal 1: Protecting our natural and cultural heritage	26
Goal 2: Promoting sustainable use of our natural capital	31
Goal 3: Ensuring a clean environment	35
Goal 4: Improving organisational performance	39
Sustainability Charter	40
Queensland Trust for Nature	44
Future challenges	45
Financial statements	48
Appendices	74
1 – Acts and legislation	74
2 – Statutory authorities	75
3 – Overseas travel	79
4 – Report on the administration of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	81
5 – Report on the administration of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	108
6 – Additional reporting requirements	130
7 – Publications list 2003–04	133
8 – Sustainability Charter report 2003–04	139



Director-General's report

I am delighted to present this year's annual report.

Our achievements during 2003–04 underline the substantial and valuable efforts of our staff, who are striving to build a healthier and more sustainable environment. The report highlights the great steps forward we have taken during the past 12 months to achieve our vision of "a Queensland where everyone values the environment".

Safety and customer service will continue to be top priorities for the EPA.

Some of our major achievements during 2003–04 included:

- reviewing and updating wildlife regulations under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, resulting in streamlined reporting processes, reducing the number of licences required by clients and giving greater protection to threatened wildlife;
- adding about 40,000ha to the existing protected-area estate;
- mapping a further 10 million hectares of the state's vegetation and regional ecosystems;
- completing two of six Great Walks planned across Queensland—at the Whitsundays and Fraser Island;
- completing three regional coastal management plans—for the Curtis Coast, Cardwell-Hinchinbrook and the Wet Tropical Coast;
- releasing draft guidelines for the safe use of recycled water as part of the state's Water Recycling Strategy;
- establishing EcoBiz, a three-year, \$6 million industry program, to help Queensland industry adopt eco-efficient practices and technology;

- releasing *State of the Environment Queensland 2003*, the second and most comprehensive report card into the condition of the state's natural and cultural environment which provides valuable information on the health of the state's air, land, coastal zone, biodiversity and heritage;
- completing the *Queensland Greenhouse Strategy* and *Queensland Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report* to help the State Government tackle the challenges of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions;
- endorsing the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, which aims to reduce the decline in the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area; and
- releasing the *State of Waste and Recycling Report 2003*, the third annual report of waste and recycling practices of local government and private operators, and a valuable report card for decision makers on recycling and disposal trends and recycling programs.

One of our main priorities is to continually review and strengthen our service capabilities and ensure that the working environments of our staff are safe, rewarding and challenging. We have taken steps to improve our organisational performance by:

- implementing the "towards NONE—Not One Not Ever" strategy to ensure the continued health of our employees, volunteers and visitors. It shows our commitment to sustained better health and safety practice. Our aim is to achieve zero injuries, zero incidents and zero unsafe acts and practices in the workplace;



- developing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Development Strategy to encourage dual technical and cultural approaches to core business activities;
- awarding six scholarships to staff in 2004 under the Indigenous Scholarship Scheme, bringing the total number of staff working under the scheme to 13;
- helping 40 percent of our managers towards a postgraduate qualification under our Leadership Development Program;
- helping 45 staff from Cairns and Brisbane towards a Diploma in Frontline Management; and
- training staff in remote parks and areas in basic and advanced information technology applications through the IT Handshake project.

These examples provide a snapshot only of the achievements of the EPA during the last year.

I invite you to explore further in this report the valuable efforts of our staff in ensuring Queensland has a healthy and sustainable environment.

James Purtill
Director-General
Environmental Protection Agency



Snapshot

Report assesses state of Queensland's environment



State of the Environment Queensland 2003, an audit of Queensland's environmental assets and concerns.
Photos: EPA, Tourism Queensland.

State of the Environment Queensland 2003 is an audit of Queensland's environmental assets and concerns. The report is the second state-of-the-environment report for Queensland, with the first being prepared in 1999.

The report is the result of whole-of-government co-operation. It helps government, industry and the community make decisions on resource use, transport, production, manufacturing, waste management and energy use, all of which have environmental impacts.

The report was officially launched and released on 19 May 2004. Regional information sessions to present the key findings of the report were held in May and June 2004.

The process of reporting is continually evolving. State-of-the-environment reporting is more than a product; it is an ongoing process of evaluating environmental performance and the condition and trend of Queensland's environmental assets and concerns.

State-of-the-environment reporting helps Queenslanders understand and manage environmental issues.



Who we are

The Environmental Protection Agency, which incorporates the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, is responsible for key aspects of the State Government's environmental management program. We work to protect our natural and cultural heritage, promote the sustainable use of our natural capital and maintain a clean environment. We will safeguard our valuable and diverse natural and cultural environments—our natural capital—to ensure that they continue to provide material and social benefits for the people of Queensland.

The machinery-of-government changes that followed the state election in February 2004 did not impact on the administration arrangements for the Agency.

Our vision

A Queensland where everyone values the environment

Our role

To protect the environment for a sustainable future

Our values and business principles

We are committed to sustainable development and to practising sustainability. We will achieve this by integrating environmental, social and economic considerations into our business. Our commitment is outlined in the following values and business principles, which also form the core of the EPA's Sustainability Charter (see page 40).

We will take care of:

- ourselves;
- each other; and
- our environment.

We show our commitment through the:

- choices we make;
- actions we take; and
- respect we show others.

We all aim to:

- reduce the environmental impact of our activities;
- value people as our most important asset;
- support our colleagues with the knowledge needed to become a sustainable organisation;
- provide a work environment that is safe, secure, adaptive and diverse; and
- share knowledge, engage and build mutual understanding.

Our people

Table 1: Staffing numbers by occupation

Occupational stream	Headcount	FTE*	
		Headcount	FTE*
		June 2003	June 2004
Administrative	865	787.2	831
Operational	29	21.1	25
Professional	581	525.0	544
Ranger	787	683.6	810
Technical	114	100.4	106
Trainee	64	64.0	45
Total	2,440	2,181.4	2,361

*Totals may not add up exactly due to rounding of values



Table 2: Total staffing by division (as at 30 June 2004)

	Headcount	FTE*	% total FTE*
Office of the Director-General	52	45.0	2.1
Conservation Services	112	78.2	3.7
Corporate Development	193	177.4	8.3
Environmental Operations	295	277.7	13.0
Environmental Sciences	189	172.6	8.1
Parks	1174	1055.5	49.6
Planning	204	187.9	8.8
Policy	55	51.0	2.4
Sustainable Industries	61	58.2	2.7
Wet Tropics Management Authority	26	25.0	1.2
Total	2361	2128.6	100.0

*Totals may not add up exactly due to rounding of values

Table 3: Regional staffing only (as at 30 June 2004)

	Headcount	FTE*	% total FTE*
Central Region			
Environmental Operations	39	36.8	1.7
Parks	195	176.3	8.3
Planning	20	18.8	0.9
Northern Region			
Environmental Operations	54	52.6	2.5
Parks	353	304.7	14.3
Planning	34	31.8	1.5
Southern Region			
Environmental Operations	127	118.5	5.6
Parks	566	518.9	24.4
Planning	36	33.5	1.6
Total	1424	1291.9	60.7

*Totals may not add up exactly due to rounding of values

Table 4: Staffing by employment type (as at 30 June 2004)

	Headcount	FTE*	% total FTE*
Casual	143	48.8	2.3
Permanent	2021	1897.8	89.2
Temporary	153	139.0	6.5
Trainee	44	43.0	2.0
Total	2361	2128.6	100.0

*Totals may not add up exactly due to rounding of values



Table 5: Staffing numbers for rangers

Employment type	June 2003		June 2004	
	Headcount	FTE*	Headcount	FTE*
Casual	118	37.7	110	35.0
Permanent	636	613.4	644	621.1
Temporary	33	32.6	56	49.9
Total	787	683.6	810	706.0

*Totals may not add up exactly due to rounding of values

Table 6: Staff identifying with an EEO target group

	June 2003	June 2004
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	2.5%	3.2%
People with a disability	9.9%	10.4%
People with a non-English-speaking background	5.8%	5.8%
Women in middle management	24.8%	26.4%
Women in Senior Executive Service/senior officers	23.4%	19.7%

Table 7: Staffing numbers by gender (as at 30 June 2004)

Level	FTEs		Percentage	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
AO2 or equivalent	196.3	250.0	44.0	56.0
AO3 or equivalent	201.4	172.4	53.9	46.1
AO4 or equivalent	107.6	279.4	27.8	72.2
AO5 or equivalent	156.2	289.5	35.0	65.0
AO6 or equivalent	63.3	150.5	29.6	70.4
AO7 or equivalent	36.3	106.7	25.4	74.6
AO8 or equivalent	18.0	55.0	24.7	75.3
SO1 or equivalent	3.0	12.0	20.0	80.0
SO2 or equivalent	5.0	11.0	31.3	68.8
SES2	1.0	9.0	10.0	90.0
SES3	1.0	3.0	25.0	75.0
SES4 or higher	0.0	1.0	0.0	100.0
Total	789.1	1339.5	37.1	62.9

Table 8: Gender representation on boards and authorities

Gender	Percentage
Female	32
Male	68

Explanatory notes:

- Full-time equivalent (FTE) is based on the equivalent of a full-time paid employee. FTEs for casual employees reflect the time worked in the preceding pay fortnight while the headcount figure includes all current casuals.
- Employees on leave without pay are not included in the FTE figure but are counted in the headcount.
- On 30 June 2004, there were 81 employees on leave without pay and 57 casuals not paid. This compares with 96 employees on leave without pay and 62 casuals not paid on 30 June 2003.
- The change in the FTE staffing level from last year is the result of a reduction in the use of casual labour (about 11 FTEs) and temporary employees (about 36 FTEs), fewer trainees employed at the time (about 14 FTEs) and a small increase in permanent employees (about 9 FTEs).
- The employment levels used in table 7 indicate salary levels based on the administrative stream (AO) levels in the Public Service Award—State. Determination of each category is made using the dollar value of an employee's standard full-time pay rate in relation to the top paypoint of the administrative stream levels.



Workforce

In 2003–04, the Agency employed 2128.6 staff (see tables 1–5, pages 5–7). We have continued to emphasise leadership development among our employees by committing resources to the Leadership Development Program (which incorporates the Public Sector Management Program and the Masters Program). We have also introduced the Frontline Management Program to help our staff move into supervisory and management positions.

We recognise the client-service benefits of recruiting a diverse workforce (see table 6, page 7 and extra information below). We also recognise the need to provide new employees with timely corporate information. The Corporate Orientation Program has continued, with 155 employees taking part this year, more than 95 percent of all new permanent appointees. During 2003–04, we also developed competency-based CD-ROM training packages on contemporary human resource issues to help train staff, particularly those located in remote areas.

We have maintained our commitment to ensuring Indigenous employment within key areas identified throughout the state. Specific ranger positions across Queensland are now nominated as “Indigenous specified and identified”, ensuring cultural significance and environmental impact is fully appreciated during our decision-making processes.

Equal Employment Opportunity

We recognise and acknowledge the importance of worldwide trends in relation to achieving work and family obligations by our employees, particularly women. Work and personal life have emerged as key priority areas within the Agency as we realise the benefits to be gained such as:

- increased productivity;
- reduced stress;
- improved morale and commitment;
- reduced lateness and absenteeism;
- increased staff retention;
- increased ability to attract and recruit new staff; and
- good corporate citizenship and enhanced corporate image.

As a consequence, we have introduced family-friendly guidelines such as the Flexible Work Practices (FWP) initiative to support a work environment that values employees as well as helping divisions achieve their business outcomes.

Many employees across the Agency are actively working within the FWP guidelines and working part-time or telecommuting to meet their family obligations.

The improvement of facilities such as carer’s rooms has helped parents by allowing them to tend to the needs of ill children as well as enabling our employees to continue with their daily work.

Women’s initiatives

Our flexible work options also encourage women to return to work after prolonged absences such as maternity leave and support return-to-work options such as job sharing or part-time work based on child-care availability. This initiative has proved invaluable in retaining our corporate knowledge and supporting staff returning to the workforce.

During 2003–04, 16 women took part in the Frontline Management Program and 14 women were involved in the Public Sector Management Program.

These leadership and management programs are designed to provide women within our workforce with the skills and knowledge to develop their leadership potential. Coupled with our participative mentoring program, women are empowered to further their career aspirations into senior management and executive positions. Women are further encouraged to take part in the Director-General’s Leadership Development Program, which encourages women to complete a masters degree in business administration.

The above initiatives are designed to ensure that women will be at the forefront of experience in providing practical leadership and management across the Agency (see tables 7 and 8, page 7).

Our Women’s Network also continues to provide pertinent information to its members via the Agency’s intranet.



Diversity training

As part of our competency-based training packages, we have developed a diversity training program for staff. In the past year, 903 participants completed the program, which was facilitated by face-to-face training and completion of a CD-ROM. This training initiative informed staff of their statutory obligations and helped them understand legislation and issues administered by the Queensland Government such as anti-discrimination, harassment and workplace bullying.

The training program also informed training participants of their obligations under our Code of Conduct and associated guidelines, policies and procedures.

The outcome of this training program will enable our staff to better understand their obligations, accountability and requirements to work within, supervise and manage employees to meet our strategic goals.

Harmony Day

On 21 March 2004, we celebrated Harmony Day, which encouraged staff to recognise the diversity of today's modern workforce. This celebration acknowledged the importance of eliminating racial discrimination and encouraged tolerance among Australians of all races and cultural backgrounds.

We were fortunate to have Mrs Pearl Duncan, a noted and respected Aboriginal elder, speak of her achievements and contributions towards Indigenous education in Australia. Mrs Duncan's contributions within the Indigenous community led to her being awarded the 2004 Senior Australian of the Year award for Queensland.

Indigenous employment and engagement

We are committed to leading the public sector with regard to Indigenous employment. We have implemented innovative strategies including the Return to Country Program (a program that helps Indigenous Agency employees deepen their feelings of connectivity to their country of origin and community) and the Indigenous Staff Scholarship Scheme (which funds Indigenous employees to study full-time to obtain a tertiary degree). We also ensure Indigenous youth gain the advantages of education and offer three-year scholarships to youth to encourage them to complete Years 10–12.

In July 2003, we established the new Indigenous Engagement Unit. Its major focus is to introduce practices that strengthen our ability to effectively engage Indigenous stakeholders. This approach is integral to knowledge management, risk management and professional development. Due to the dynamic structures, rights and interests of Queensland's Indigenous people in the natural and cultural environment, engagement knowledge is crucial across regional, local and species-level interests.

Our commitment to communicating and sharing knowledge with Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is critical. It provides a platform for two-way innovation and learning and a genuine partnership in protecting and managing Queensland's environment.

Our *Yarning Up* newsletter celebrates Indigenous engagement outcomes achieved by our various business units. For instance, in 2003–04, the Ghungalu people and QPWS staff signed a memorandum of understanding to formalise a working relationship between us and the traditional custodians of land that includes Blackdown Tableland National Park west of Rockhampton.



Agency staff join members of the Ghungalu people at the signing of a memorandum of understanding that outlines the roles and responsibilities of both parties for the management and use of Blackdown Tableland National Park and other protected areas in central Queensland. Photo: EPA.



Disability Network

Our Disability and Carer's Network has been very active in ensuring that the needs of people with diverse abilities are incorporated into our services and products. It also provides an internal support service to our staff who either have a disability or care for someone who has.

Workplace health and safety

In June 2004, the Director-General launched our "towards NONE—Not One Not Ever" health and safety strategic plan. This strategic plan provides a framework for the development and implementation of systems and culture to reduce the number of injuries in the workplace. It also aims to improve the work life of all people working for and with the EPA. The strategy will operate during the next three years and aims to reduce the occurrence of lost-time injuries (LTI) to none.

In recent years, strategies have been put in place that have resulted in a significant reduction in the number of LTIs in the Agency. These have included:

- extensive risk management training that has improved our employees' understanding and management of risk and hazards in the workplace;
- manual handling safety initiatives, started in 2003, to improve these practices; and
- early-intervention strategies that have reduced the incidence of stress-related Workcover claims.

The "towards NONE" initiative will strengthen results in these and other areas by providing a framework for sustained better health and safety practice among our staff. We are currently benchmarking our health and safety practices against world standards and aim to achieve an international standard of excellence in 2007.

Ethics

We finalised the review of our Code of Conduct in July 2003. The code outlines our responsibilities under the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*. As part of the educative process, our employees received a summary of the Code of Conduct with their payroll slips. Extensive face-to-face training was also undertaken, with 34 workshops held and 942 employees trained. Another 155 employees attended the Corporate Orientation Program, which includes Code of Conduct training. Attendance at the Corporate Orientation Program is mandatory for all our newly appointed permanent employees, thus ensuring that they receive training in both the Agency's Code of Conduct and diversity within two months of joining the organisation.

We believe that ethical conduct underpins our interactions with the community and each other. A key capability contained in the majority of position descriptions for our staff relates to ethical behaviour and decision-making.

Shared Service Initiative

The Shared Service Initiative is a whole-of-government approach to corporate services delivery that aims to provide high-quality, cost-effective corporate services to Queensland Government departments. Shared service providers and CorpTech were established from 1 July 2003 through the consolidation of corporate service functions from departments and existing shared service providers. Departments are grouped into six clusters, each serviced by a dedicated shared service provider, with CorpTech providing services to all shared service providers.

On 1 July 2003, we transferred responsibility and staff for human resources and finance services to Corporate Solutions Queensland and to CorpTech. The Department of Employment and Training hosts Corporate Solutions Queensland as a separate entity and will report on its activities in its 2003-04 annual report.

Voluntary early retirement

No voluntary early retirement packages were taken by our employees in 2003-04.





Awards

Australian Geographic Society Conservation Award

Dr Alan Horsup, Senior Conservation Officer, QPWS, was awarded the Australian Geographic Society's 2004 Conservation Award for his tireless guardianship of the northern hairy-nosed wombat, and his dedication to the preservation of this endangered animal.

Clean Beach Challenge

Ian Osborn, from QPWS's Cairns Marine Parks District, won the Outstanding Accomplishment Award in the far north Queensland section of the EPA-sponsored Clean Beach Challenge, which is run by the Keep Australia Beautiful Council. Ian is the ranger-in-charge at Green Island National Park. His responsibility is to ensure that developments, activities and actions on the island do not jeopardise its quality as a valuable asset within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. He is constantly interacting with visitors to the island and has become an unofficial ambassador, not only for Green Island and QPWS, but also for Australia. Ian's actions have a high positive impact on the quality of visitor hospitality and experience on Green Island and directly support the objectives and intent of the Clean Beach Challenge.

DNRM Award for Excellence

Dr Nikki Moore, Principal Environmental Officer, Environmental Operations Division, received an award for excellence from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) for her contribution as co-author of the *Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual Soil Management Guidelines 2002*.

Geological Society of Australia's N.C. Stevens Medal

David Trezise, Chief Scientific Officer, Environmental Operations Division, received the N.C. Stevens Medal from the Geological Society of Australia's Queensland division for his contribution to the geological community and promotion of public awareness of earth sciences in Queensland. The award particularly recognised David's contributions to Queensland in past years as a member of the society's committee and also for helping to write the *Rocks and Landscape* book series.

Healthy Waterways Awards

Policy Division's Indigenous Engagement Unit (IEU) worked closely with Yugambah Land Enterprises, which won the rural category in the annual Healthy Waterways Awards for the Rocky Creek Riparian Project. Yugambah Land Enterprises was the first Aboriginal organisation to enter the awards and was recognised for the work it undertook in traditional land and waters. The IEU supported the traditional custodians by providing them with services and products available from the Agency. This included environmental management expertise and training through QPWS. The Moreton Bay Waterways and Catchments Partnership runs the Healthy Waterways Awards.

Planning Institute of Australia Awards for Excellence

The Sustainable Communities Adapting to Climate Change Project, aimed at developing tools to help regional and local government planning to support climate change adaptation in communities, won two Planning Institute of Australia (Queensland division) Awards for Excellence. The project, co-sponsored by the EPA, won awards for "Disaster management and mitigation planning", and "Planning scholarship", as well as a national commendation in the "Planning scholarship, research or teaching" category.

Queen's Birthday Honours List

Olwyn Crimp, Executive Director, Planning Division, was awarded the Public Service Medal in the 2004 Queen's Birthday Honours List. The award recognises her outstanding public service in environmental protection and planning in Queensland. Olwyn, who has worked with the Agency and its predecessors since 1985, was appointed to her current position in 1999. Her work has focused on a new approach to coastal management and protection through the development of state and regional coastal management plans. Olwyn's nomination also paid tribute to her energy, vision and rapport with staff.



Wildlife Preservation Society's Community Wildlife Conservation Award

QPWS was part of the team that won the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia's 2004 Community Wildlife Conservation Award for the Bringing Back the Flashjack Project, a community effort empowering landholders and community groups to save the bridled nailtail wallaby from extinction in the Central Highlands. Emerald Shire Council sponsored the project in partnership with QPWS, landowner Hugo Spooner, Gindie State School, Emerald Scout Group, Emerald Educational College, BHP, Australian Bush Heritage, Bauhinia Shire Council, Camp Quality, Green Corps, the Natural Heritage Trust and community volunteers.

EPA Australia Day Achievement Medallions 2004

Greg Fisk, Manager, Strategic Projects, Planning Services Branch, Planning Division

Fiona Gardiner, Manager, Strategy and Planning, Cultural Heritage Branch, Planning Division

Gary Innis, Planning Manager, Coasts, Wetlands and Waterways, Northern Region, Cairns

Paul McGraw, Administration Officer, Marketing Unit, Office of the Director-General

Annie Moody, Business Manager, Parks Division,

Sue Olsson, Principal Conservation Officer, Interpretation, QPWS Central Region, Rockhampton

Dr Mark Read, Senior Conservation Officer, Conservation Services, QPWS Northern Region, Cairns

Ken McMahon, Ranger, Savanna District, QPWS Northern Region, Charters Towers

Cameron Allanson, Ranger, Wet Tropics District, QPWS Northern Region, Mission Beach

Carley Bansemer, Conservation Officer, Moreton Bay District, QPWS Southern Region, Cleveland

Michael Pyke, Training and Safety Co-ordinator, Moggill Corporate Development Management Unit, Southern Region, Toowoomba

Cathy Kant, Environmental Support Officer, Central Region, Mackay

Jean McMahon, Executive Officer, Planning Division, Northern Region, Townsville

Gethin Morgan, Senior Principal Biodiversity Planning Officer, Planning Division, Northern Region, Townsville

Volunteers

Community support for our work through volunteering has continued to grow. Presently, there are about 1600 registered volunteers, up from 1300 last financial year. These volunteers have contributed about 154,000 hours of work (compared with 162,000 hours in 2002-03).

Most volunteers support Agency programs through activities such as monitoring and research (33 percent), park maintenance and infrastructure development (23.5 percent) and public contact roles (22.5 percent). Other activities include interpretation, wildlife care and administration. Some 80 percent of volunteers are engaged in the delivery of Parks Division services, with volunteers also supporting Environmental Sciences, Conservation Services and Planning divisions, and other parts of the Agency.

This contribution of support is spread across more than 30 permanent and seasonal programs as well as through individual engagements with Parks Division and other work units. The roles performed by volunteers include:

- marine research and seagrass mapping at Cleveland, Rockhampton, Mackay, Airlie Beach and Mon Repos (near Bundaberg);
- wildlife care at David Fleay Wildlife Park, Moggill Koala Hospital, Cape Pallarenda and Cairns;
- research and monitoring of various species including turtles (fresh and saltwater), crocodiles, beach stone-curlews, northern hairy-nosed wombats, bridled nailtail wallabies, bilbies and frogs;
- public contact and interpretive work at places such as Lake Eacham, Lamington National Park, David Fleay Wildlife Park, Airlie Beach, Daisy Hill Koala Centre, Brisbane Forest Park, Capricornia Cays and Burleigh Heads; and
- rehabilitation and infrastructure development and maintenance programs at Tamborine, Daisy Hill, the Centre for Tropical Restoration at Lake Eacham, Brisbane Forest Park and many more.

We thank those volunteers who have provided such a valuable contribution to the management of natural areas and wildlife. This donation of volunteer skills and effort has enabled us to continue many environmental programs that may not otherwise be possible.





Snapshot

Volunteers help with Agency's initiatives



*Volunteers help the Agency on various programs and initiatives including turtle capture, tagging and tracking, and dugong management.
Photos: Col Limpus, Duncan Limpus.*

Volunteer support for Agency programs and initiatives continues to grow. Volunteers across Queensland have taken part in activities such as research and monitoring, public contact and interpretation and park maintenance and infrastructure development. These volunteers make a valuable contribution to conserving natural areas and wildlife.

The EPA has also continued to play an important role in the whole-of-government approach to volunteer management through its participation in the Engaging Queensland steering committee and the training and policy sub-committees.

New-look web pages will appear soon on the EPA web site, which has proved to be a valuable contact for many local, interstate and overseas volunteers. A new feature on the web site will be a section outlining volunteer opportunities for tertiary students and graduates who aspire to careers in resource management.

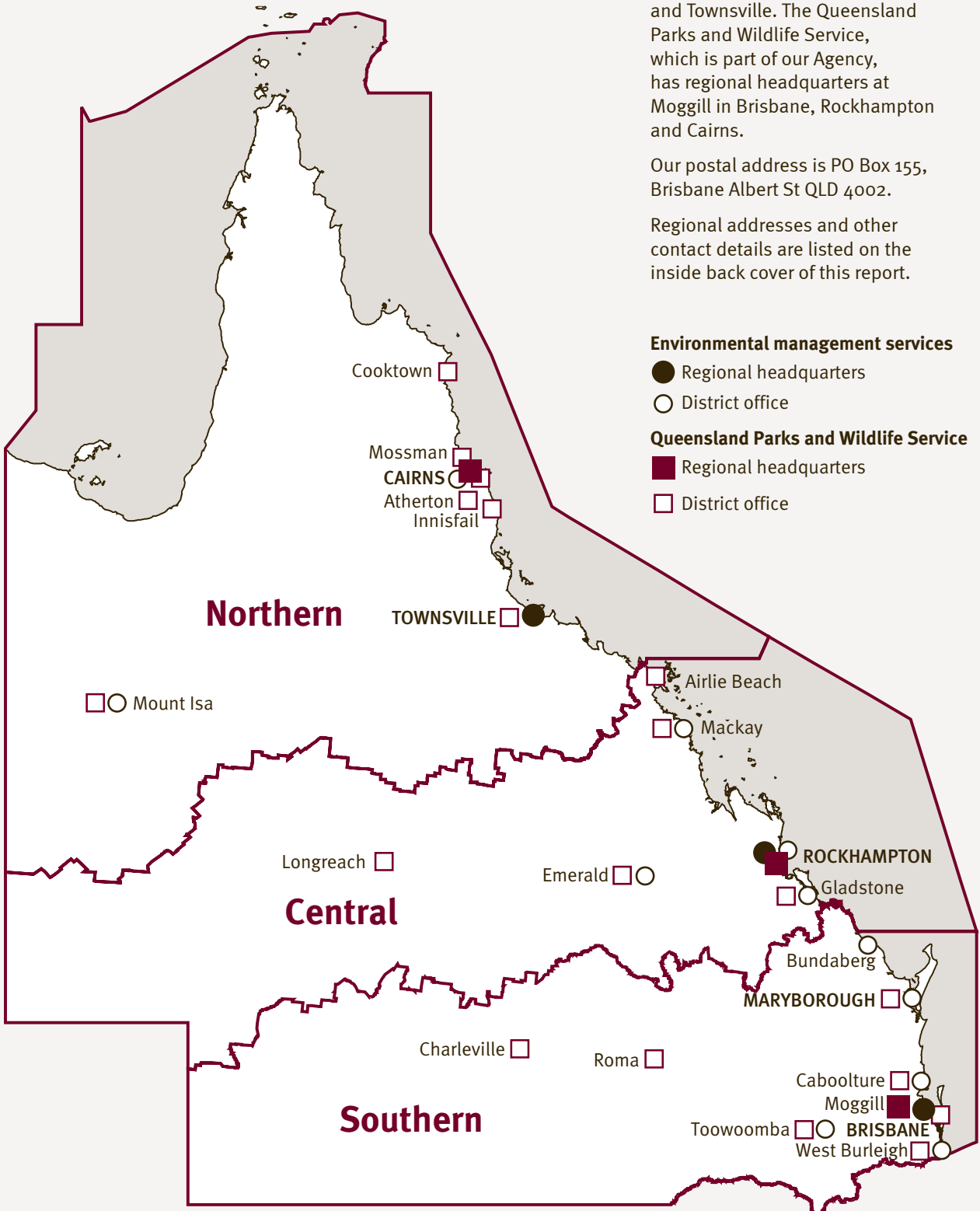


Where we are

Our principal place of business is 160 Ann Street, Brisbane. We have regional headquarters for environmental management services at Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, which is part of our Agency, has regional headquarters at Moggill in Brisbane, Rockhampton and Cairns.

Our postal address is PO Box 155, Brisbane Albert St QLD 4002.

Regional addresses and other contact details are listed on the inside back cover of this report.



Snapshot

Lark Quarry—making tracks to trackways



*Visitors to Lark Quarry Conservation Park in central western Queensland now enjoy improved access to the park's unique dinosaur trackways.
Photo: Dave Sansom.*

As joint trustees of Lark Quarry Conservation Park in central western Queensland, the Agency and Winton Shire Council have improved visitor access to the dinosaur trackways.

After the completion of the new best-practice facility to preserve and present the dinosaur trackways, the Agency (through QPWS) and the council finalised a capital works project to bring access up to the same high standard.

QPWS staff designed and co-ordinated the project to upgrade visitor car parking and walking tracks and the council helped with earth moving and road works at the site.

Conservation Volunteers Australia contributed to the two-stage project, helping to build the walking track and visitor access to the entry building.



What we do

Our contribution to Government priorities

The State Government's priorities highlight areas for policy focus. The Government has also endorsed a set of outcomes that provides a related but more comprehensive framework for agencies to plan and deliver the services (outputs) that will contribute to achieving these priorities.

While we are the Government's lead agent on environmental matters and take our guidance from the Government's priority of *Valuing the Environment*, we are also part of a wider conservation community. Other government bodies contribute to this priority and we will continue to work closely with them.

This priority, and its related outcomes, place greater importance on environmental protection and the value of the environment to the state's well-being through a commitment to sustainable development.

Government priorities and best-practice environmental management support a shift towards the integration of environmental management into "mainstream" economic activities. We have already begun to refocus on facilitating sustainable development, creating environmentally sustainable jobs, demonstrating the value to business of sound environmental management and ensuring that the sustainable use of our natural capital benefits Queensland.

Our outputs and goals

Our direct contribution to the Government priority, *Valuing the Environment*, and the associated outcomes, is articulated through our three outputs: Protecting our natural and cultural heritage, Promoting sustainable use of our natural capital, and Ensuring a clean environment.

Government priority	Whole-of-government outcome	Agency output
Valuing the Environment	Maintenance of the natural resource base	Protecting our natural and cultural heritage
		Promoting sustainable use of our natural capital
	A clean, livable and healthy environment	Ensuring a clean environment

We have aligned our Agency goals to directly reflect the three outputs. We have also adopted a fourth goal, Improving our organisational performance, which highlights our commitment to creating a high-performing organisation.

Therefore, our four goals are:

Protecting our natural and cultural heritage—enabling Queenslanders to enjoy a richer environment, valued for its natural and cultural diversity.

Promoting sustainable use of our natural capital—ensuring Queensland's natural capital will be used sustainably, for the benefit of current and future generations.

Ensuring a clean environment—enabling Queenslanders to live in a clean environment and to be confident that pollution and waste are minimised.

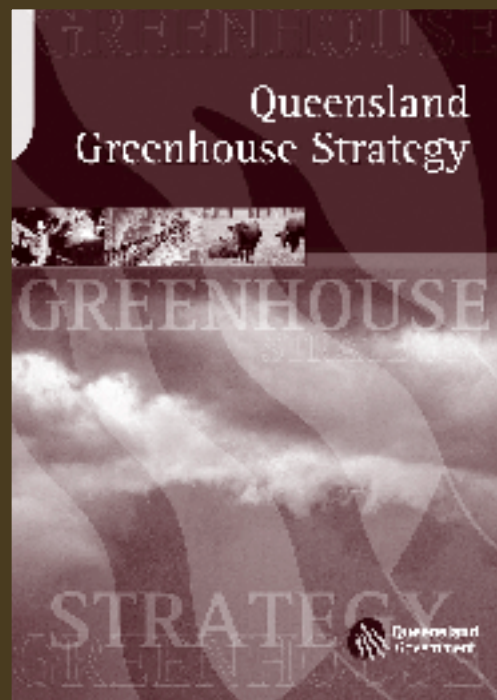
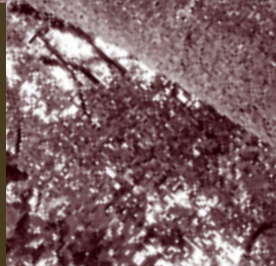
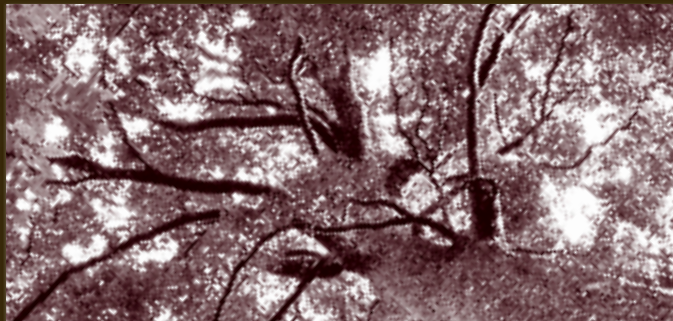
Improving our organisational performance—providing value-added services and remaining relevant to our stakeholders by undertaking regular reviews of our operations and improving the services we deliver.





Snapshot

Strategy airs response to greenhouse issues



The Queensland Greenhouse Strategy outlines the State Government's response to the environmental, economic and social impacts of climate change. Photos: EPA.

The Premier, Peter Beattie, and Environment Minister John Mickel launched the *Queensland Greenhouse Strategy* on 4 May 2004.

The EPA led the development of the whole-of-government strategy, which features current initiatives and outlines a way forward based on:

- fostering increased knowledge and understanding of greenhouse issues and climate change impacts;
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions and facilitating carbon sequestration; and
- helping Queenslanders adapt to the environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change.

Key State Government initiatives outlined in the strategy include:

- phasing out broad-scale clearing of remnant vegetation by December 2006 and implementing an associated \$150 million structural adjustment package, which should reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions by 20–25 megatonnes a year;
- adoption of the *Queensland Energy Policy: A Cleaner Energy Strategy*, which includes a scheme to require energy retailers to source 15 percent of their power from gas-fired or renewable sources, various gas supply and energy management-related initiatives, and a government energy management strategy;

- legislative reforms to allow carbon rights in trees to be recognised, independent of the ownership of the trees and land; and
- the promotion of smart housing, encouraging good design to reduce energy and water use as well as being safer and more affordable.

Associated with the strategy's release, the Agency also published a Queensland greenhouse gas inventory and a new greenhouse web site to inform the community of greenhouse and climate change issues. Visit www.epa.qld.gov.au/environmentalmanagement/sustainability/greenhouse for more information.



How we manage

Our strategic planning and reporting framework

The purpose of our planning and reporting framework is to ensure that our strategic direction more explicitly informs and aligns all planning activities and resource decisions.

The strategic plan is our key public document that outlines our future direction and our major areas of focus for the four-year period from the financial year ending 2004. The strategic plan is a high-level document and provides guidance for the development of supporting documents such as executive business plans within each division.

Process	Document
Direction setting and strategic choice	
Understanding what has to be achieved and planning ways to achieve that	Government priorities EPA strategic plan
Defining deliverables and allocating resources	
Enabling the achievement of stated intent	Budget submissions Ministerial Portfolio Statements Executive business plans
Acquittal and reconciliation	
Monitoring activity, reporting on performance and re-aligning where necessary	State of the Environment report Annual report

Our processes ensure that we:

- are better informed about needs and outcomes;
- have common core processes to review these strategic outcomes and modify our approach; and
- have a more integrated agency with a shared sense of purpose.





Our organisational structure

Our organisational structure, comprising nine divisions, reflects the core capabilities required to deliver our outputs and key focus areas. Capabilities include knowledge, planning, policy, community engagement, corporate support and implementation.

Using these capabilities, we have five divisions—Policy, Planning, Corporate Development, Environmental Sciences and the Office of the Director-General—that provide whole-of-Agency functions and support.

Two divisions—Parks, and Conservation Services—provide the core functions of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, which was established by the Government as an entity of the EPA.

Environmental Operations and Sustainable Industries provide functions in the area of environmental management services.

We manage our responsibilities both centrally in Brisbane and at a regional level. Our environmental management services are based regionally at Brisbane (City), Rockhampton and Townsville while QPWS regions are based at Brisbane (Moggill), Rockhampton and Cairns.

Our organisational structure is shown in figure 1 (this page), with more information about the key functions and resources of our divisions and regions provided on pages 20–23.

We also have several boards that contribute to our corporate governance functions. These are the EPA Board, the Board of Corporate Governance, and the Service Delivery Board (see page 24 for details).

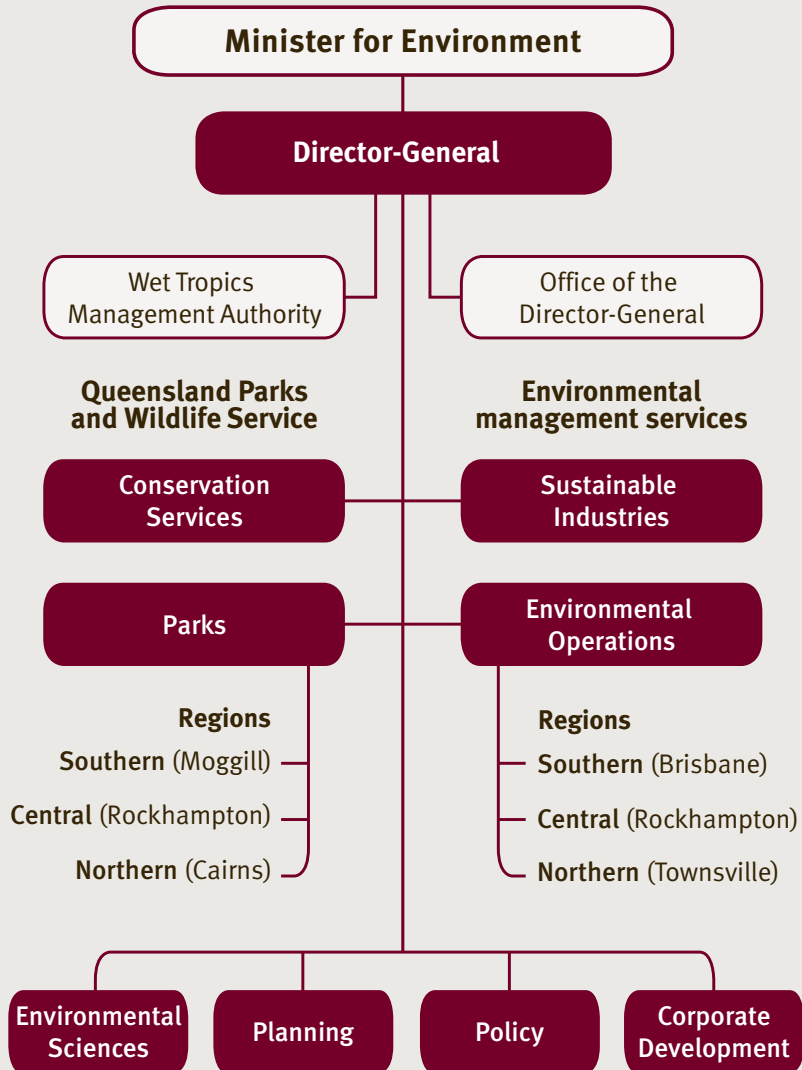


Figure 1: Organisational structure of the Environmental Protection Agency.

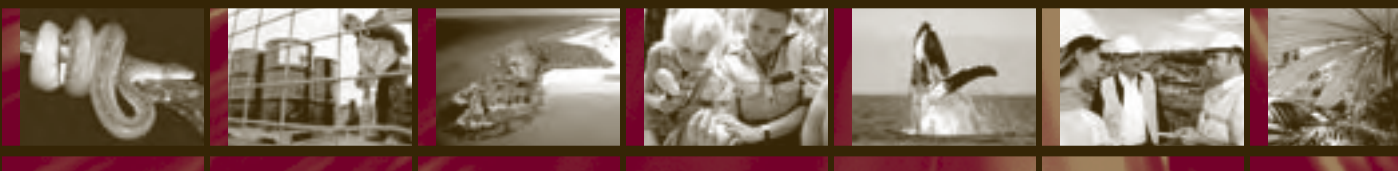


Our key functions and resources

Division/ region	Key functions	Resources—2003–04		
		Operating budget	Capital budget	FTEs [*]
Divisions				
Conservation Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides wildlife management and education (including management of the State's macropod management program) • Co-ordinates and delivers threatened species conservation • Protects biodiversity off the protected-area estate • Regulates forest restoration and timber harvesting 	\$7.4 million (including \$357,000 in Natural Heritage Trust grants)	\$337,000	78.2
Corporate Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides support for information management, financial management and workforce management across the Agency • Works with other divisions and regional offices to improve organisational accountability and the well-being and productivity of the workforce 	\$22.28 million	\$1.25 million	177.4
Environmental Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manages Ecoaccess, a whole-of-Agency business approach integrating and streamlining all Agency environmental licences and approvals including environmental impact assessment • Conducts strategic compliance, ensuring a risk-based approach to monitoring and investigating industrial activities, mining and coastal developments • Operates a state-wide Pollution Hotline (1300 130 372), a 365-day, 24-hour major environmental incident response service • Co-ordinates Queensland's responsibilities under the Australian Government's <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> • Regulates contaminated land management and waste tracking 	\$24.1 million	\$410,000	277.7
Environmental Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivers high-quality science to support the Agency's core objectives • Provides scientific monitoring, modelling and assessment of environmental conditions and trends in air quality, water quality, coastal processes, biodiversity, and species and ecosystem conservation • Delivers environmental information systems • Provides the science necessary to make informed decisions about planning, policy and operational matters 	\$16.75 million (including \$1.85 million from non-State funding sources)	\$770,000	172.6
Office of the Director-General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manages various whole-of-Agency functions including executive services, media, marketing and communication, legal services, internal audit and risk management • Provides liaison services between the offices of the Minister for Environment and the Director-General, and the Agency's operational units 	\$8.48 million	\$29,000	45

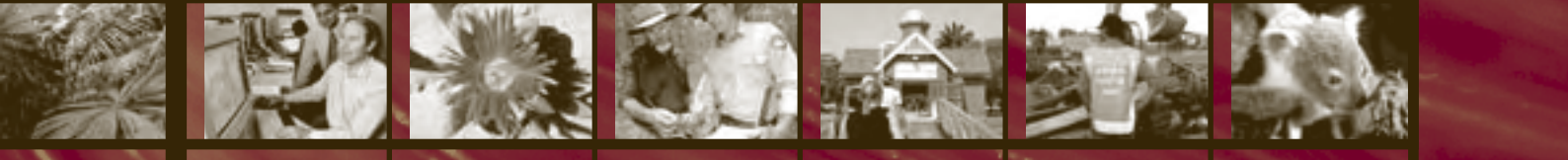
^{*} Full-time equivalent staff members

Division/ region	Key functions	Resources—2003–04		
		Operating budget	Capital budget	FTEs
Divisions <i>(continued)</i>				
Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides management services for parks and forests, comprising a terrestrial estate of 11.9 million hectares, seven State marine parks, and an area of 339,750 square kilometres of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park • Provides equitable access to safe, sustainable and recreational opportunities, as well as multiple-use forest management and nature-based business development • Delivers services through three geographic regions based at Brisbane (Moggill), Rockhampton and Cairns 	\$89 million	\$16.4 million	1055.5
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops and implements coastal management plans • Prepares biodiversity planning assessments • Gazettes and zones State marine parks • Provides direction for State-level protected area planning • Provides guidance and input to local government planning schemes, development assessment, and regional and State planning programs • Manages tenure gazettal and land conservation agreements • Co-ordinates services to natural resource management bodies throughout Queensland • Manages Queensland's cultural heritage resources 	\$26.7 million	\$6.38 million	187.9
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinates and provides high-level policy advice • Leads and co-ordinates policy development and legislative amendments • Facilitates wider use of economic instruments and economic analysis • Co-ordinates inter-governmental arrangements and cross-agency policy development • Identifies emerging environmental policy issues 	\$4.56 million	\$10,000	51
Sustainable Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps Queensland industry achieve higher levels of environmental performance while boosting profitability and competitiveness • Helps industry and communities integrate business and environmental decision-making in the achievement of eco-efficiency, innovation and business development through voluntary partnerships • Delivers major programs in cleaner production, renewable energy, water recycling and greenhouse gas abatement • Delivers products and services through the ecoBiz program and markets them through the established brands WaterWise Queensland, EnergyWise Queensland, and WasteWise Queensland • Works in alliances with state and local government agencies to provide and foster leadership in sustainable development 	\$25 million	\$95,000	58.2



Division/ region	Key functions	Resources—2003–04		
		Operating budget	Capital budget	FTEs
Regions				
Environmental management services				
Southern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides environmental planning, protection and management services through district offices in southern Queensland (including Brisbane, the Sunshine and Gold coasts, Wide Bay Burnett and the south-west) • Covers the islands and beaches of southern Queensland to the sparsely populated rim of the central Australian desert country • Manages environmental impacts of major activities in the region including oil refineries, large chemical manufacturing plants, food processing and tourism 	\$10.8 million	\$75,000	152
Central	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides environmental planning, protection and management services through district offices in Mackay, Emerald, Gladstone, Rockhampton and Longreach • Covers an area from Miriam Vale shire to Whitsunday shire and west to the borders with South Australia and the Northern Territory • Manages environmental impacts of major activities in the region including heavy industries, mining, shipping, ports, broadscale agriculture and tourism 	\$4.6 million	\$31,000	55.6
Northern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides environmental planning, protection and management services through district offices in Townsville, Mt Isa and Cairns • Covers an area from the southern boundary of Bowen shire to Cape York and west to the Northern Territory border • Manages environmental impacts of major industries in the region, including mining, mineral processing, agriculture and tourism 	\$7.25 million	\$76,600	84.4





Division/ region	Key functions	Resources—2003–04		
		Operating budget	Capital budget	FTEs
Regions <i>(continued)</i>				
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service				
Southern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers an area from Eurimbula National Park, near Agnes Water, south to the New South Wales border and west to the South Australian border, covering an area that includes 78 percent of the state's population Manages more than 1.2 million hectares of protected area (predominantly national park), about 300,000 hectares of forest reserves, about 2.2 million hectares of State forests and timber reserves, and Moreton Bay and Hervey Bay marine parks Works with the community to enhance conservation outcomes, including the promotion and adoption of nature refuges, the management of native wildlife, and liaison and partnerships with traditional owners 	\$40 million	\$6.52 million	518.9
Central	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers an area from north to Cape Upstart, south to Lady Elliot Island, west to the Simpson Desert and east to the Swain Reefs and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area boundary Manages more than 2.5 million hectares of protected area (predominantly national park), about 850 000 hectares of State forest and timber reserves, and about one-third of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Works with the community to enhance conservation outcomes, including the promotion and adoption of nature refuges, the management of native wildlife, and liaison and partnerships with traditional owners 	\$16.2 million	\$3.5 million	176.3
Northern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers an area that includes the northern half of Queensland, most of the Great Barrier Reef, the Gulf of Carpentaria, Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait Manages 4.23 million hectares of protected area (predominantly national park) across nine bioregions Helps manage three World Heritage Areas: the Great Barrier Reef, the Wet Tropics and the Riversleigh fossil mammal site Works with the community to enhance conservation outcomes, including the promotion and adoption of nature refuges, the management of native wildlife, and liaison and partnerships with traditional owners 	\$27.95 million	\$3.8 million	304.7



EPA Board

The EPA Board's charter is to focus on the delivery of our three outputs:

- Protecting our natural and cultural heritage;
- Promoting sustainable use of our national capital; and
- Ensuring a clean environment.

Board of Corporate Governance

The Board of Corporate Governance (BCG) is our executive decision-making group for corporate administration issues.

Several standing and special-purpose committees report to the BCG. These include the:

- Workplace Health and Safety Committee;
- Internal Audit Committee;
- EEO Consultative Committee;
- Knowledge Management Committee; and
- Training Steering Committee

Service Delivery Board

The Service Delivery Board considers matters that relate directly to our service delivery (including regional service delivery) and delivers decisions of action regarding those matters.

Internal audit

Our independent internal audit unit provides professional audit services on behalf of the Director-General. The unit reviews, examines and audits systems, controls and programs to report on the efficient, effective and economic use of resources through risk management and good corporate governance.

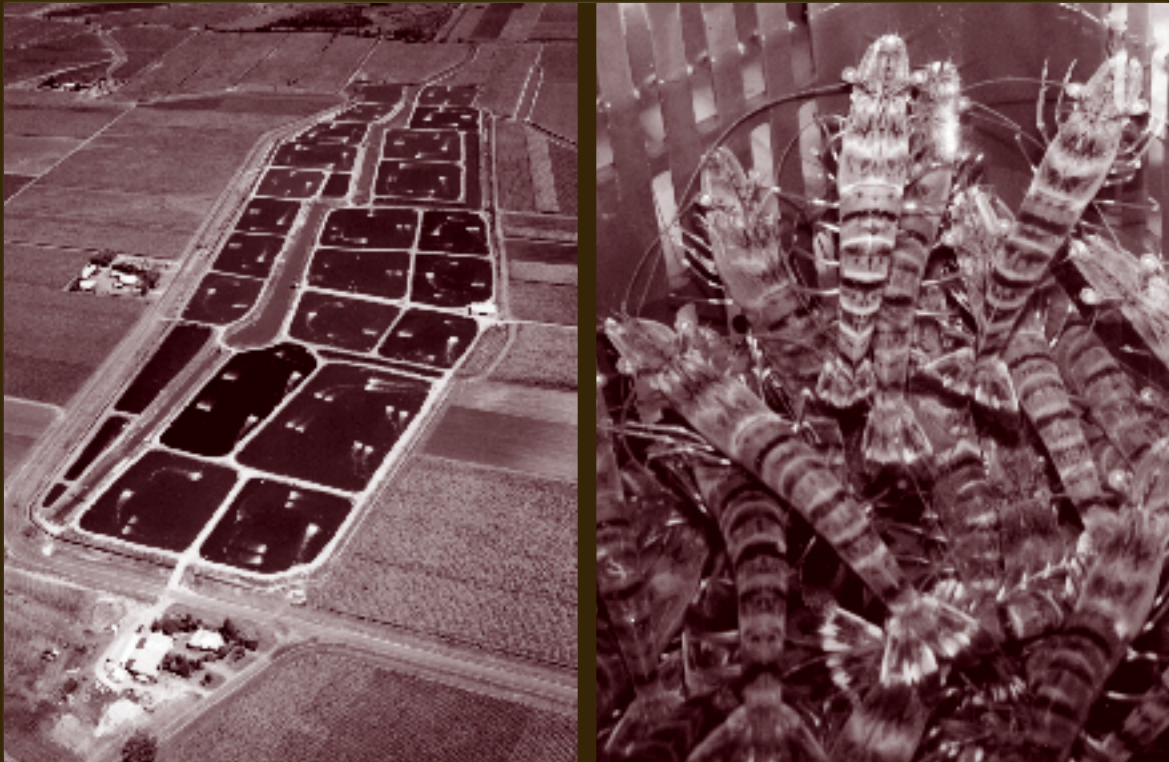
In 2003–04, our internal audit unit completed 36 projects. Of these, 50 percent were compliance, 28 percent were operational and 22 percent were performance audits. We also implemented our 2003–2005 Strategic Audit Plan. This document will focus our efforts in improving accountability and ensuring that our resources are used efficiently, effectively and economically in the future.





Snapshot

Partnership helps prawn farm's profits



The Rocky Point Prawn Farm has implemented environmental initiatives that improve its competitiveness overseas.

Worldwide aquaculture has been growing at more than 10 percent a year, and with this expansion comes environmental concerns including nutrient discharge into marine environments.

Through a partnership with the EPA and the Australian Prawn Farmers Association, the Rocky Point Prawn Farm is improving its environmental performance by developing an environmental management system that has received ISO (International Standardisation Organisation) 14001 international accreditation.

Rocky Point Prawn Farm owner and operator Serena Zipf said it undertook the ISO certification process to protect the environment and increase its competitiveness overseas.

“We want to show our customers and neighbours that we are committed to achieving best practice in environmental management,” Ms Zipf said. “Having a product that complies with a process and quality that can be independently certified (such as ISO 14001) has helped us obtain a strong marketing position (overseas).”



Our performance

Goal 1: Protecting our natural and cultural heritage

Focus area—Natural ecosystems preservation

- Established the Trust for Nature
- Progressed the South-East Queensland Forest Agreement
- Dedicated about 40,000ha of extra national park and conservation park, including establishing the first national park (recovery) at Nairana, a former 25,000ha Central Highlands property
- Completed policy and legislative work, in partnership with the Department of State Development and Innovation, for the Biodiscovery Bill 2004
- Released the South-east Queensland Nature Conservation Strategy
- Renamed Currimundi Lake Conservation Park after the late Kathleen McArthur
- Prepared a draft Bill to replace the existing *Marine Parks Act 1982*
- Developed the Environmental Protection Legislation Amendment Bill and the Environmental Legislation Amendment Bill, which were passed by Parliament and received assent on 3 December 2003
- Completed drafting instructions for a review of the *Recreation Areas Management Act 1988*
- Finalised operational policies for Indigenous partnerships on protected areas
- Signed and gazetted a total of 30 new nature refuge agreements and extended four existing nature refuges, increasing the area under nature-refuge protection by more than 87,000ha to 147,000ha

- Developed four pilot ecosystem management profiles for semi-evergreen thicket regional ecosystems and Great Artesian Basin spring wetlands to help on-ground management of regional ecosystems in Queensland
- Finalised and released biodiversity planning assessments for the Mulga Lands (East) and Central Queensland Coast bioregions
- Updated biodiversity planning assessments for the New England Tableland and Mulga Lands bioregions
- Prepared biodiversity planning assessments for rangelands in the Desert Uplands bioregion
- Provided client training for using biodiversity planning assessments
- Progressed the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area forest transfers
- Developed a wetlands implementation program to deliver the Queensland Wetland Strategy
- Reviewed 24 draft regional vegetation management plans prepared across the state, and provided input to the assessment codes developed for new vegetation management legislation
- Surveyed and mapped a further 10 million hectares of the state's vegetation and regional ecosystems to a scale of 1:100,000, enabling more effective vegetation management, biodiversity conservation and regional planning, and bringing to 66 percent the area of the state that has been mapped

- Prepared and released updated regional ecosystem and remnant vegetation maps and statistics on clearing during the period 1997–2001
- Released the *Regional Assessment of Parks and Forests* in Central Region
- Released Carnarvon and Moreton Island draft management plans
- Revised the Great Sandy Management Plan
- Finalised the Riversleigh Management Strategy

Focus area—Native species maintenance and enhancement

- Reviewed and updated the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* to ensure the effective regulation of wildlife management, including:
 - completion of a comprehensive wildlife regulation review assented to in December 2003 and introduced on 1 March 2004
 - introduction of additional categories of protected wildlife to make them more consistent to those recognised by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- Listed the koala as “vulnerable” in the south-east Queensland bioregion under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, providing an opportunity for statutory intervention when koala habitat is threatened in the bioregion
- Listed the grey nurse shark as “endangered” under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and inserted restrictions on diving activities in the Moreton Bay Zoning Plan, allowing greater and more cost-effective interventions when threatening processes are identified



- Developed a master plan for David Fleay Wildlife Park to set direction for the park in promoting educational programs and conducting research into threatened species
- Transferred research on the endangered mahogany glider from Pallarenda in north Queensland to David Fleay Wildlife Park at Burleigh as part of the rationalisation of our captive breeding program
- Exported two female koalas to Riverbanks Zoo in South Carolina as a State gift, and negotiated a significant funding package with the zoo and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to support koala genetics and disease research
- Raised awareness of “go-slow” areas in Moreton Bay Marine Park through community service advertisements on Channel Ten featuring motor racing champion Dick Johnson
- Completed and submitted the multi-species recovery plan for the endangered *Acacia porcata* and other species to the Australian Government’s Department of the Environment and Heritage for adoption as a national recovery plan, setting an approved framework for recovery action of the species
- Attached an extra four satellite transmitters to adult estuarine crocodiles at the Nesbit River, eastern Cape York Peninsula, bringing the total number of radio transmitters in use on adult estuarine crocodiles to 10, as part of the memorandum of understanding with Australia Zoo
- Completed threatened species management guidelines for six Cape York Peninsula national parks
- Trained Indigenous community rangers at Aurukun and Mapoon land and sea centres in turtle monitoring techniques
- Helped James Cook University researchers with a month-long turtle monitoring research project at Green Island
- Continued the successful implementation of the “Croc-wise” education campaign, including launch of new brochures and posters
- Conducted the annual central Queensland FrogSearches, to monitor known populations of threatened frog species and to search potential habitat for new populations
- Continued to monitor seagrass in Shoalwater Bay as part of a four-year project to assess fluctuations in biomass and nutritional value related to dugong and turtle populations
- Secured an undertaking from BHP Mitsubishi Alliance to support volunteer work involving the recovery of the bridled naitail wallaby at the Gregory Mine site, and, in future, at the Avocet Nature Refuge
- Prosecuted four people in the District Court at Brisbane for illegally taking a dugong in Moreton Bay
- Integrated our wildlife enquiries system with the new EPA hotline on 30 June
- Entered a memorandum of understanding with the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations, Cane Growers and Cane Productivity Services of Queensland to integrate native species pest management and adopt a co-operative approach to monitoring native rodents in cane fields
- Discovered, described and published 23 plant species new to science
- Updated and refined the regional ecosystem mapping for Beaudesert and Cooloola shires and Gold Coast City
- Prepared recovery plans for Queensland’s threatened cycad species
- Processed 900 requests through the WildNet Fauna Data Request Service
- Reported on wedge-tailed shearwater and black noddy monitoring in Capricornia Cays National Park
- Trialled an anti-vandalism surveillance camera at the Art Gallery, Carnarvon National Park
- Conducted an annual census of flying fox camps in south-east Queensland
- Completed fauna surveys at Bendidee, Sundown, Girraween, Cooloola, Wondul Range, Mt Walsh and Crows Nest national parks
- Finalised vegetation reports on Girraween and Expedition Range national parks
- Finalised research to reintroduce bilbies to Currawinya National Park
- Commissioned James Cook University to identify southern Moreton Bay’s critical dugong habitats
- Managed wildfire risk and protected biodiversity by conducting more than 525,000ha of planned burns on parks and forests across the state
- Contained a major fire on Lockyer Forest Reserve
- Completed the Bribie Island and Fraser Island fire management strategies
- Controlled a major wildfire in southern Cooloola, when 12,000ha were burnt



- Completed the QPWS State Land Pest Management Plan
- Eradicated sunflower from North Keppel Island
- Eradicated feral goats from High Peak Island
- Relocated Fraser Island brumbies to the mainland
- Conducted fox baiting at Mon Repos Conservation Park
- Controlled a tree pear infestation on Burncluth State Forest
- Conducted feral animal control programs on Lake Bindegolly, Sundown, Goodedulla, South Percy Island and Hinchinbrook Island national parks and Conway State Forest
- Helped police remove a drug crop from Burrum Coast National Park
- Completed weed control on Great Sandy National Park islands and Tuan and Conway State forests
- Released the draft Moreton Bay Shorebird Management Strategy
- Maintained and updated web access to more than 1430 entries on the Heritage Register
- Completed 12 cultural heritage profiles (seven Indigenous and five historic) to address priority cultural heritage management issues and to complement the existing 25 profiles of the Cultural Heritage Management Information System
- Co-ordinated a project with The University of Queensland and Noosa Shire Council at Lake Cootharaba to record Queensland's earliest timber mill and provide interpretation
- Conducted a pilot project under the Rural Homesteads Program involving Conservation Volunteers Australia and produced a promotional film to attract future business sponsorship
- Transferred the administration of Indigenous cultural heritage legislation to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines
- Provided development assessment advice about the protection of natural and cultural heritage values
- Signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ghungalu people, traditional owners of Blackdown Tableland National Park
- Supported the Wet Tropics Indigenous Negotiating Forum
- Drafted the Angumathamaree memorandum of understanding on turtle and dugong take in Albatross Bay
- Met with traditional owners to ensure culturally appropriate development of the Moreton Island North Point campground
- Completed Aspiration of Traditional Owners documents for Eidsvold, Hervey Bay and Eurimbula National Park

Focus area—Heritage recognition and protection

- Dealt with: 223 matters related to entries to or removal from the Heritage Register; 353 matters relating to the development of and works undertaken on heritage places; and 3607 searches of the Queensland Heritage Register
- Established joint ticketing for five historic sites—Commissariat Store, Customs House, Newstead House, South Brisbane Dry Dock and Fort Lytton
- Implemented amendments to the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*, including statewide training
- Provided \$115,000 for 14 cultural heritage grants supporting Indigenous, community and local government heritage interests
- Developed guidelines to help manage the assessment of and entry to the Heritage Register of houses and religious places
- Provided secretariat services for the Queensland Heritage Council
- Added 850 places to the Indigenous Sites Database
- Produced three issues of *Time and Place: Queensland's cultural heritage newsletter* in conjunction with the Queensland Heritage Council
- Joined with the National Trust, Bendigo Bank, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and Conrad Treasury to establish the Queensland Heritage Awards program
- Established a reduced-interest-rate Historic Home Loan scheme in conjunction with Bendigo Bank and the National Trust



Snapshot

Agencies combine to protect grey nurse shark



*New fishing and diving laws will help bring the grey nurse shark back from the brink of extinction.
Photo: Carley Bansemer.*

The EPA and the Queensland Fisheries Service (QFS) have worked together to increase protection for the grey nurse shark, one of Australia's most threatened marine species.

In December 2003, the EPA and QFS introduced new fishing and diving laws to protect the grey nurse shark and its habitat. The changes followed extensive consultation with the community through meetings and the release of a joint regulatory impact statement. The EPA introduced new diving laws at Cherub's Cave, Flat Rock and Henderson Rock in Moreton Bay Marine Park. New fishing laws also apply at these sites and at Wolf Rock off Double Island Point.

The grey nurse shark is on the brink of extinction, with research indicating there are between 300 and 500 individuals left on the east coast of Australia. As a result, the EPA listed the shark as "endangered" under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.



Snapshot

Recording the past at Mill Point



Archaeology student volunteer Michelle Langley (inset, left) records artefacts at the Mill Point sawmill site as part of a joint project (main picture). Photos: Sean Ulm.

In February 2004, EPA cultural heritage staff recorded the remains of a 19th century timber settlement at Lake Cootharaba in the Cooloola section of Great Sandy National Park.

The archaeological survey was a joint project between EPA, QPWS, The University of Queensland and Noosa Shire Council. One aim of the project was to assist in the site's nomination to the Queensland Heritage Register.

The Cootharaba sawmill was established at Mill Point in 1871. During its operation, a township developed that included workers' houses, a school, a dance hall, a cemetery and extensive tramway and wharf networks. The National Trust and the EPA have long identified the site as historically significant.

The survey team identified and recorded features, not only from the mill period but also from early 20th century dairy-farming activities.

To ensure ongoing protection of the site, the Cooroora Historical Society and the Noosa Shire Museum recently nominated the Mill Point settlement to the Queensland Heritage Register.

An \$8000 contribution from Noosa Shire Council was used to upgrade interpretative signage at Mill Point to enhance the historical experience for park visitors. The new interpretive panels were unveiled on 22 June 2004.



Goal 2: Promoting sustainable use of our natural capital

Focus area— Environmentally responsible resource use promotion

- Published and released *State of the Environment Queensland 2003* in May 2004
- Completed and implemented regional coastal management plans for the Curtis Coast, Cardwell-Hinchinbrook and Wet Tropical Coast regions
- Progressed the draft South-east Queensland Regional Coastal Management Plan
- Completed the Moreton Bay Sand Extraction Study
- Implemented the Gladstone Harbour Protection and Enhancement Strategy
- Implemented the amended *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* and supporting regulations after comprehensive statewide training
- Prepared a draft storm-tide planning guideline for consultation
- Provided secretariat support for the Beach Protection Authority
- Implemented the Natural Heritage Trust Extension and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality initiatives with the departments of Primary Industries and Fisheries and Natural Resources and Mines
- Collated emissions information from 792 Queensland facilities as part of the National Pollutant Inventory for 2003 (the highest response rate in Australia), and published the details at www.npi.gov.au

- Delivered about 737,750 cu.m of sand to the southern Gold Coast beaches through the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project
- Released, for public consultation, guidelines about the safe use of recycled water

Focus area— Sustainable practices support and promotion

- Contributed to the development of the Cabinet-endorsed Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, for improved management of Great Barrier Reef water quality
- Supported and contributed to national Ministerial Council processes to provide advice and direction on environmental issues of national significance
- Produced documentaries including *Living Smart*, concerning sustainable housing at Springfield Lakes Green Smart Village
- Raised awareness of solar hot water systems through targeted advertising in south-east Queensland
- Promoted sustainable use of our natural assets by co-ordinating sponsorship and advertising for *Brownie's Coast Watch* on radio 4KQ
- Published a new edition of *Camping in Queensland*
- Provided timely and accurate national park news through the establishment of the weekly "Ranger Diary" column in *The Courier-Mail*
- Produced five full-colour corporate newsletters, *EQ*, to inform stakeholders and the public about our activities, initiatives and achievements

- Implemented the Solar Schools Goes Bush program, targeting remote, Indigenous community schools; and installed three of the 11 five-kilowatt solar-power systems—at Cairns Distance Education, and the Lakeland and Laura areas
- Established three new EPA extension programs—under the EnergyWise Queensland, WaterWise Queensland and WasteWise Queensland labels—to promote greater resource efficiency and productivity by Queensland industry
- Helped major projects, such as the Pacific Harbour development and the Kelvin Grove Urban Village, incorporate environmental sustainability features as part of the EPA's Sustainable Urban Development Program
- Worked with the chicken meat industry to establish mechanisms and processes to manage environmental issues
- Issued 7341 rebates through the Solar Hot Water Rebate Scheme, including the 30,000th rebate since the scheme started, saving more than 1.4 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions
- Provided \$1.58 million to 29 Queensland companies for projects that reduce water, energy and waste, and offer significant financial advantage



Focus area—Biodiversity resource management

- Released the *Queensland Biodiversity Policy Framework: Sustaining our Natural Wealth*
- Designed and initiated trials of the first Queensland biodiversity tender model as a market-based mechanism to achieve biodiversity outcomes
- Finalised, with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) Bilateral Agreement with the Australian Government to allow implementation of the NHT program in Queensland
- Purchased a new boat for marine park operations near Townsville

Focus area—Native species management

- Received recognition that the Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy constitutes world's best practice
- Gazetted the Nature Conservation (Protected Plant Harvesting Period) Notice 2004 on 26 March 2004, reducing the quota for plant take by 25 percent from the previous year as part of the phase-out of whole-plant take from the wild on 31 December 2005
- Finalised the implementation of the Native Forest Timber Production Code of Practice on 1 October 2003, ensuring that all timber sales on state land must now comply with the ecological standards in the code
- Audited 38 timber sale operations, resulting in the issuing of 37 corrective action reports and 53 continuous improvement notices for non-compliance with either the Native Forest Timber Production Code of Practice or a QPWS-approved operational harvesting plan

- Assessed harvesting plans for Herberton, Ingham, Atherton, the south west, Maryborough and Monto areas
- Finalised or improved management arrangements for aquarium fish, coral and sea cucumber harvesting

Focus area—Recreation, presentation and tourism opportunity management

- Conducted rapid assessment of the state's protected areas to benchmark and monitor management effectiveness
- Extended online campsite bookings to 59 parks and 156 campgrounds
- Completed the Fraser Island and Whitsunday Great Walks
- Completed the Palm Grove section of the Mackay Highlands Great Walk
- Started building the Wet Tropics Great Walk
- Won a STEPS 2003 Disability Award for the Tea Tree Bay to Dolphin Point track at Noosa National Park
- Completed the 30km Misty Mountains Trail project in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area
- Improved visitor facilities at Bribie Island, Kondalilla, Noosa, Crows Nest, Fraser Island, Capricorn Coast, Whitsunday Islands, Lakefield, Mt Cook, Iron Range and Chillagoe-Mungana Caves national parks and Heathlands Resource Reserve
- Opened the new Central Station campground, Fraser Island
- Re-opened the Coomera circuit, Lamington National Park, and the Pile Valley to Central Station track, Fraser Island
- Replaced The Tombs boardwalk in Carnarvon National Park

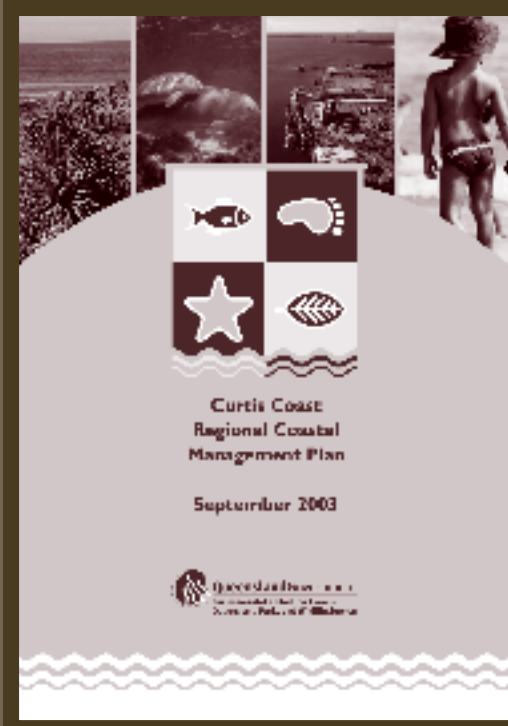
- Opened the Mill Point Heritage Walk in Great Sandy National Park (Cooloola)
- Published *Exploring Queensland's parks and forests* guide
- Produced brochures and signs for the Fraser Island and Whitsunday Great Walks
- Produced DVDs for the Mon Repos turtle nesting season
- Published 13 new park guides in the new QPWS design
- Provided interpretive signs at Noosa, Glass House Mountains, Crows Nest, Bunya Mountains, Fraser Island, Mt Walsh, Mt Moffat and Carnarvon Gorge
- Produced the *Driving on sand* and *Noosa River* videos for backpackers
- Expanded the Go Bush program to the Sunshine Coast
- Completed the second year of the capital works rolling plan
- Held a workshop on maintaining Wet Tropics roads
- Completed the 48km Idalia National Park boundary fence
- Upgraded Lark Quarry's roads, tracks and carparks
- Upgraded access to Finch Hatton Gorge in Eungella National Park
- Developed agreements for commercial camping in the Whitsundays
- Completed the Whitsunday Great Walk Interpretation Plan
- Commenced a Whitsunday visitor management strategy





Snapshot

Plan outlines management of Curtis Coast



The Curtis Coast Regional Coastal Management Plan. Main photo: EPA.

The Curtis Coast Regional Coastal Management Plan, the first in a series that will provide regional direction for coastal management, started on 29 December 2003.

The Curtis Coast centres on Gladstone, a major industrial city that has many highly significant natural and landscape values. Through the State Coastal Management Plan and the regional Curtis Coast plan, planning for future use and development in

this region will include appropriate consideration of those valuable coastal resources.

The development of the plan included the active participation of the 17 members of the regional consultative group. This group helped ensure that community concerns and feedback were incorporated into the final plan, resulting in strong regional ownership and vision with a focus on issues of local concern.

The Curtis Coast plan complements the Gladstone Harbour Protection and Enhancement Strategy. The two documents provide the "on-ground" direction and framework for the management and protection of significant resources associated with the harbour and reflect the desire of the community, and the organisations involved, to work in partnership to achieve improved coastal management outcomes.



Snapshot

Fraser Island Great Walk officially opens



Enjoying the official opening of the Fraser Island Great Walk are (from left, front) Alf Blackman, Narelle Blackman, Noel Wedding, Premier Peter Beattie, Andrew McNamara and Environment Minister John Mickel, (rear) Jor-el Hyde, Rob Allan (obscured), Anthony Thomas, Brett Turnbull and Dave Palmer (obscured). Photo: Andrea Dobbyn.

The Premier, Peter Beattie, officially opened the Fraser Island Great Walk at Central Station on 27 June 2004. Environment Minister John Mickel joined invited guests, including members of Parliament, local councillors, community representatives and traditional owners for an official ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by a stroll along the new Wanggoolba Creek boardwalk. The more energetic also enjoyed

a guided tour on the Great Walk track to Basin Lake.

Construction along the 90km Great Walk was completed in early June, and includes new signage, lookouts, fences and bridges. Walkers' camps, designed to blend in with the landscape, are located at some of Fraser's most picturesque sites including Lake McKenzie, Lake Wabby and Valley of the Giants.

Visitors wishing to do the Great Walk can get information from the Fraser Island Great Walk visitor information sheet, a detailed hikers map, numerous interpretive displays along the length of the walk and a specific web page, www.epa.qld.gov.au/greatwalks. Walkers can now book their camps along the Great Walk online via the Smart Service Queensland web site, www.qld.gov.au/camping or by calling 13 13 04.



Goal 3: Ensuring a clean environment

Focus area—Air, water and land quality management

- Collaborated on the introduction of a National Environment Protection Measure for air toxics, which will help improve understanding of population exposure to five key air toxics in ambient air and underpin the future development of national standards
- Contributed to the development of a national chemicals policy, national initiatives relating to human health and ecological risk assessment for dioxins, and reviews of ambient standards for sulfur dioxide and ozone
- Conducted a statewide strategic compliance program encompassing licensed activities, industry sector and catchment compliance inspections, leading to an increase in compliance inspections from 2756 last financial year to 3285 for 2003–04
- Completed a review of the roles and responsibilities of state and local governments, in partnership with the Local Government Association of Queensland, to improve the administration of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- Secured industry investment of about \$40 million for environmental improvements using statutory tools such as environmental management programs, environmental protection orders and court orders
- Finalised the assessment of environmental impact statements for seven major projects, leading to ecologically sustainable development approvals for projects such as a new coal mine in central Queensland, a marina development in the Whitsunday area and chemical/industrial plants in Gladstone
- Prosecuted seven companies for breaches under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, resulting in total fines of \$565,000 with total costs of \$585,027.57 being awarded. Prosecutions included:
 - Moonie Pipe Line Company Pty Ltd—fined \$300,000, together with costs of more than \$56,000, for causing serious environmental harm when a pipeline ruptured at Lytton in March 2003 causing an estimated 1.9 million litres of light crude oil to leak into five hectares of reclaimed riverside land, drainage channels and small creeks near the Port of Brisbane. In addition, clean-up costs of \$496,136.95 were subsequently agreed to
 - W.H. Heck and Sons Pty Ltd—fined \$55,000 over an incident where contaminated water used to douse a burning stockpile of green waste flowed into the Bremerhaven Channel and Logan River
 - Wastetek Pty Ltd, a regulated waste transporter—fined \$50,000, with costs of \$13,274.98, for contravening a condition of its environmental authority in respect to a chicken effluent spill from a truck along two kilometres of the Ipswich Motorway
 - Aargus Pty Ltd, an environmental consultancy company—fined \$10,000, with costs of \$990.35, for a contaminated land report it knew was incomplete in that surface samples had not been taken
 - Karreman Quarries Pty Ltd—fined \$20,000 for extension of its quarrying activities without the proper environmental authority. A further fine of \$25,000 was incurred for having allowed sediment to be placed in a position where it had the potential to cause environmental harm. The company was ordered to pay \$12,500 in costs
 - Thomas Borthwick and Sons (Australia) Pty Ltd, meatworks operator near Mackay—fined \$40,000 for contravening a condition of its environmental authority with regard to a spill of five to eight tonnes of tallow into Bakers Creek in August 2003 after a storage tank overflowed. Most of the tallow solidified in the drain and intertidal areas of Bakers Creek, smothering intertidal channels and mangrove areas
 - Malanda Dairyfoods Ltd — received fines totalling \$65,000, with costs of \$6156.84, for two charges of placing wastewater where it could reasonably be expected to cause environment harm to North Johnstone River. This related to ruptures of effluent irrigation pipelines



- Obtained a restraining order against Bundaberg Sugar Pty Ltd, resulting in significant environmental improvement works being undertaken, greatly improving water use efficiency at the South Johnstone Sugar Mill and reducing the risk of accidental discharge of contaminants
- Obtained a restraining order against Landfix Pty Ltd to stop receiving, recycling or reprocessing certain regulated waste and to remove regulated waste from the Port Alma site. Significant environmental improvement works will be undertaken
- Issued an environmental protection order to Bassett Barks Pty Ltd, a composting facility in the Glass House Mountains, to remove a 40,000-tonne stockpile of chicken manure. The company removed the manure one month earlier than required
- Achieved significant reduction in environmental risk at a large refinery in the north of the state where installation of a new 550,000 cu.m stormwater gravity-feed catchment pond will greatly enhance the zero discharge policy for the site
- Minimised the potential for environmental harm by tracking 267,000 movements of regulated waste materials from the waste generators to appropriately licensed facilities
- Expanded the Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program, which now monitors more than 240 sites within the major estuarine and marine waterways from the Noosa River to the Gold Coast's Currumbin Creek
- Undertook water quality monitoring at the Narangba Industrial Estate and uncovered serious water pollution from herbicides and insecticides
- Enhanced the south-east Queensland airshed model with the inclusion of emission information from the south-east Queensland air emissions inventory
- Continued to work with industry and other stakeholders to develop guidelines in relation to odour, water and noise
- Monitored and reported air quality in Queensland's major industrial areas
- Continued to provide public access to environmental information by co-ordinating web sites for air and water quality, coastal waves and storm-tide monitoring
- Recorded the strong uptake of the WasteWise Queensland public place recycling program in government facilities and public venues, including sporting stadiums (Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane, Dairy Farmers Stadium in Townsville) and other locations such as South Bank Parklands, Queen Street Mall, Broadway and Wintergarden
- Implemented the Sustainable Catchment Partnership Program as part of the whole-of-government change management program under the Sugar Industry—The Way Forward initiative
- Finalised a waste management strategy for Cook Shire
- Implemented a statewide best-practice recycling program in conjunction with local governments
- Formalised a waste management agreement for Boodjamulla National Park with Zinifex Century Mine
- Secured Maryborough and Hervey Bay council funding support for a Fraser Island waste management consultancy
- Facilitated the removal of a barge grounded on Deepwater National Park beach, the only known leatherback turtle nesting site on the Queensland coast

Focus area—Climate change response management

- Led the development of the whole-of-government *Queensland Greenhouse Strategy*, published a Queensland greenhouse gas inventory, and developed a greenhouse and climate change web site
- Compiled and released reports and data relating to aggregated air emissions in south-east Queensland and compliance with the National Environment Protection Measure for ambient air quality

Focus area—Environmental nuisance mitigation

- Promoted public awareness of litter and waste issues through continued sponsorship of the EPA Clean Beach Challenge, a major program of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council (Queensland)



Snapshot

Southern Gold Coast beaches survive storms



*Gold Coast beach swells during March 2004 storms.
Photo: Robert Schwartz.*

In March 2004, storms broke a long period of good weather and mild seas in south-east Queensland. A low-pressure system, followed by a cyclonic sea, produced large swells and wild seas for about five days during the month. Wave-buoy stations at Tweed Heads, the Gold Coast and Brisbane measured some of the biggest waves on record.

The peak maximum individual wave height of 14.3m, measured during the early March event, was the largest recorded by the EPA at the Brisbane wave-buoy station since recordings started there in October 1976.

The wider southern Gold Coast beaches, produced as a result of sand delivery from the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project in recent years, showed no obvious erosion scarps. The Gold Coast City Council's good coastal management practices and the joint Queensland/NSW Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project have greatly contributed to the resilience of the beaches.



Snapshot

Gasworks remediation brings community benefits



The former Newstead Gasworks, Queensland's largest decontamination site. Photo: South Pacific Aerials.

The Newstead Gasworks was a major industrial facility used from the 1880s to the 1960s for the manufacture of town gas from coal. The 15-hectare site has been derelict for some time, with large areas of hazardous contamination including hydrocarbon tars, cyanide wastes, benzene and other carcinogenic chemicals. The area involves 300,000 cubic metres (15,000 truckloads) of odorous contaminated soils.

The gasworks remediation is being undertaken under strict EPA controls and is Queensland's largest site decontamination. The estimated clean-up cost is \$25-\$30 million.

Clean-up plans include extensive provisions to minimise community odour impacts and to protect the local environment. Excavation of hazardous soils is conducted in an odour-minimising tent structure, more than one hectare in area and 20 metres high (see photo).

The clean-up will deliver outstanding environmental and economic growth benefits to the community with a \$1 billion residential/commercial development to follow and substantial job creation. Decontamination started in December 2003 with expected completion in July 2005.



Goal 4: Improving organisational performance

Focus area—Workplace health and safety

- Implemented the Health and Safety Cultural Change Strategy
- Implemented core training across the Agency including diversity, Code of Conduct, Indigenous cultural awareness, staff orientation, and recruitment and selection
- Completed training for field staff in senior first aid, four-wheel-drive, chainsaw, fire extinguisher and chemical handling
- Initiated a detailed audit of the safety of public facilities on protected areas across the state
- Conducted safety audits of workplaces
- Finalised and implemented an external review of QPWS operational fire management capacity
- Developed web-based reporting of planned burns and wildfires to facilitate operational response to fires
- Constructed and upgraded nearly 1000km of high-priority fire-lines
- Developed a standard design for lightweight fire-operations units, and built and deployed 30 new units

Focus area—Diverse and highly skilled workforce

- Implemented the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan to ensure the Agency is on track to achieve whole-of-government targets, with the focus for 2003–04 being people with a disability
- Held cross-cultural awareness focus groups in Northern Region
- Trained field staff on the Strategic Asset Management System

- Trained more than 200 staff in developing and using operational policies
- Provided training in advanced interpretive skills
- Employed the first seasonal Indigenous rangers at Carnarvon National Park

Focus area—Continual improvement of work practices

- Reviewed Agency processes for the development and review of legislation, with the implementation of new standard operational procedures and ongoing management processes approved in May 2004
- Implemented the Agency's Strategic Waste Management Plan, in partnership with all divisions
- Ensured a smooth transition and delivery of services with the shared service provider, Corporate Solutions Queensland, in accordance with the operational agreement
- Developed a strategy to continuously improve the Agency's budget model
- Reviewed and updated procedures for emergency evacuation, fire disaster, dangerous weather, escaped animals, medical emergency and armed confrontation at David Fleay Wildlife Park
- Enhanced Ecomaps, the Agency's corporate geographical information system (GIS) facility that is used as a decision-support tool for environmental licensing and assessment, by integrating air quality and water quality data
- Provided Internet access via the EPA's web site to Maps on the Web, enabling the mining community to produce maps of mining activities throughout the state
- Initiated a project on available knowledge and relative values of parks to guide planning and future management
- Continued the rollout of ParkInfo, a spatial recording system to support park and forest management
- Developed policies and procedures on wild dog management and Indigenous partnership arrangements
- Finalised an independent valuation and condition audit of park infrastructure
- Published stage one of the QPWS *Facilities Manual* with design guidelines for common park infrastructure
- Transferred vessels from Cairns to Gladstone to rationalise the fleet
- Transferred Dilli Village management to Sunshine Coast University
- Demolished and removed the former base at Pine Ridge Conservation Park
- Linked the asset management and park GIS (ParkInfo) to facilitate site planning and maintenance
- Continued work on the declaration of recreation areas at Bribie and Cooloola
- Combined Cardwell-based operations at one location



Focus area—Strong inter-governmental relationships

- Delivered economic analysis and input into various market-based approaches and initiatives being developed by other areas of the Agency and the State Government, including the Green Rewards program
- Provided support and advice to local governments on legislation and coastal management issues such as dune management planning and erosion mitigation strategies

Focus area—Environmental management leadership

- Released a guide on environmental economic evaluation in August 2003

Sustainability Charter

Introduction

Sustainable development—meeting the needs of our world without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs—is fundamental to the Agency's outlook. The Sustainability Charter commits us to integrating environmental, social and economic considerations into all aspects of our business.

In 2002, we adopted our Sustainability Charter, setting out the values and business principles to guide how we deliver environmental services to the Queensland community within a framework of sustainability.

In 2003–04, we reviewed the Sustainability Charter and reporting framework, nominating objectives to be achieved in the environment, social and economic areas, as well as accompanying actions and indicators of performance and achievement.

We recognised that sustainable development is our business. The very nature of what we are responsible for and what we do should, by definition, contribute significantly towards a more sustainable Queensland. The challenge is to measure our performance as an organisation, to reduce our own impact on the environment and enhance our contribution and that of others to sustainability in practice.

By implementing our Sustainability Charter, we are showing how to build sustainable business practices into our work, and strengthen the alignment of our internal business practices with our principles.

Values and principles

At the core of the charter is the set of values and business principles that guide us in our day-to-day decision-making and in the interactions between staff and with the people of Queensland. The charter has been implemented through practical strategies aimed at doing things smarter and more efficiently, creating more with less, eliminating waste, fully valuing our environment and emphasising social equity.

We recognise that we all have an impact, individually and collectively, on the environment, economy and people of Queensland. Sustainability is good practice, not only for the environment but also for business and the community. By working together to improve the quality of life of all Queenslanders, and by respecting cultures, customs and social values in our actions, we can achieve sustainability. This is our Sustainability Charter.

We will take care of:

- ourselves;
- each other; and
- our environment.

We show our commitment through the:

- choices we make;
- actions we take; and
- respect we show others.

We all aim to:

- reduce the environmental impact of our activities;
- value people as our most important asset;
- support our colleagues with the knowledge needed to become a sustainable organisation;
- provide a work environment that is safe, secure, adaptive and diverse; and
- share knowledge, engage and build mutual understanding.



Snapshot

Rangers get a hand with IT training



*Anne Luk conducts IT training with rangers Boyd Blackman and Sven Lavender at Eurong on Fraser Island.
Photo: Mary Lin.*

The Agency initiated the Parks IT Handshake project in 2003-04, providing one-on-one computer training for national parks staff to help them with their IT work. Training, conducted on the parks, was tailored to suit skill levels and needs. The project team also addressed any local computing problems in these locations. The team visited as many remote parks as possible, as these areas often have limited opportunities for IT training and support. The project ran from February to June 2004. During this time, the team visited 64 national park offices and provided IT training to 256 staff.

The Agency worked with students, through a partnership scheme with the Queensland University of Technology, to implement the project. Positive feedback was received from rangers and managers across the state. The Agency is committed to providing more of this type of training in the next financial year.



Snapshot

Web-based system helps miners' mapping

Maps of Environmentally Sensitive Areas for Mining

Create a map by entering coordinates OR Create a map by entering tenure number

Create a map by entering coordinates
Enter easting coordinates (in decimal degrees)

Top-left latitude: _____
Top-right longitude: _____
Bottom-left latitude: _____
Bottom-right longitude: _____
Print address: _____
[Print] [Close]

Map display area showing a map of Australia with a highlighted region.

Legend:

- Mining sites
- Mining areas
- Environmental sensitive areas
- Environmental sensitive areas

Print address: _____
[Print] [Close]

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

- 1. Areas of environmental significance
- 2. Areas of environmental concern
- 3. Areas of environmental sensitivity
- 4. Areas of environmental importance
- 5. Areas of environmental significance
- 6. Areas of environmental concern
- 7. Areas of environmental sensitivity
- 8. Areas of environmental importance
- 9. Areas of environmental significance
- 10. Areas of environmental concern
- 11. Areas of environmental sensitivity
- 12. Areas of environmental importance
- 13. Areas of environmental significance
- 14. Areas of environmental concern
- 15. Areas of environmental sensitivity
- 16. Areas of environmental importance
- 17. Areas of environmental significance
- 18. Areas of environmental concern
- 19. Areas of environmental sensitivity
- 20. Areas of environmental importance

See our website for further information:
<http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/licences/mapping>

Maps of environmentally sensitive areas are now available on the Agency's web site.

When applying to the Agency for environmental licences, mining companies are required to identify environmentally sensitive areas. These areas are defined under the codes of compliance within the Environmental Protection Regulation 1998.

In the past, mining companies have contacted the EPA to request a map of these areas. Maps of environmentally sensitive areas are now available to mining companies via the Agency's web site, allowing them to produce their own maps. The new Maps on the Web system provides a useful service to the mining industry and reduces the effort required when making application.

The service was developed in conjunction with the Queensland Resources Council and has been available since December 2003. It is proving successful, with users producing about 20 maps a week.





We see the development of a sustainability culture as a journey. There are many steps to take and through our Sustainability Charter implementation plan, we will move forward.

Organisational sustainability

Our activities are documented in several ways.

- The Ministerial Portfolio Statement sets out our annual budget and operations for the coming year.
- The annual report reviews the past year, and also signals changes to policy and operations.
- The strategic plan anticipates the direction we will take during the next five years.
- The corporate procurement plan aligns procurement activities with our goals and objectives.
- The Sustainability Charter and implementation plan describes progress towards our goal of becoming a sustainable organisation.

Performance reporting

One of our key strengths is the passion our staff have for the environment and their commitment to making a difference.

Reporting progress towards sustainable operations—often called triple-bottom-line reporting—places environmental and social impacts, changes and performance indicators alongside financial performance to develop a broader picture of an organisation's operations.

We aim to capture our “footprint” in terms of social, environmental and economic impacts on society and, through the charter, ensure this knowledge is translated into action. The snapshots in this report show our key achievements during the past year. Our progress towards sustainability and reducing the impact of our footprint is reported, on an annual basis, on our web site, www.epa.qld.gov.au, and is reported in Appendix 8 of this annual report.

Our vision of a Queensland where everyone values the environment is more than an environmental one. It is about us being responsible, committed and accountable—to our staff, to the environment, and to society at large.

Achievement snapshots

Reducing carbon dioxide production

Our ongoing activities to reduce carbon dioxide production include:

- continued support of the Green Energy program through Energex and Ergon for all Agency-owned sites and other sites where we are separately metered for electricity use;
- ongoing support of fuel-efficient vehicles through our vehicle management policy, which gives preference to hybrid (petrol-electric) and four-cylinder vehicles; and
- expansion of computer energy-management settings, which will be fully implemented in 2004–05.

Greenfleet

Through the Queensland Government's supplier, Q-Fleet, we have signed up to Greenfleet Australia, which is a program to plant trees to offset the carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles.

Hybrid vehicles

We have continued to incorporate the hybrid Toyota Prius into our fleet, with 17 vehicles now within the Agency. Hybrid vehicles differ from conventional vehicles in that they have both a petrol engine and an electric motor. They are about twice as fuel efficient as conventional vehicles, which means that they generate only half the carbon dioxide emissions of a conventional vehicle. The leasing of these vehicles is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 19 tonnes a year. Also, by leasing these cars, we are encouraging public acceptance of such vehicles in the market while reducing the impact of our activities.

Green energy

Under the *Queensland Energy Policy—A Cleaner Energy Strategy*, we administer the Government Green Power Purchase Program, which involves buying energy from renewable sources for the State. A target has been proposed for five percent of the State Government's total electricity consumption for buildings and activities to come from “green energy” sources. Currently, all Agency-owned sites purchase green energy, as well as all other sites where we pay Energex or Ergon. This is proposed to continue next financial year.

Water

In conjunction with the Sustainable Parks initiative, we have implemented strategies to have water-efficient devices installed in all new works and replace existing non-conforming fittings as routine maintenance occurs.



Sustainable housing

The State Government is investing more than \$3 million in 22 new housing units for rangers as part of a multimillion-dollar initiative to improve management of Queensland's national parks.

Rangers are at the frontline in managing and protecting national parks, and improving their living conditions is a priority. The new housing will ensure our rangers have comfortable, environmentally sustainable living space. This will help attract staff to remote national parks and minimise impacts on these outstanding natural areas.

Designing housing that meets the needs of rangers living on national parks, particularly those in remote areas, presents a unique challenge for us. The first, and most important, step in meeting this challenge was talking to the people who will live in these new dwellings. Based on the advice of rangers on their needs, a design brief was prepared, which also took into account environmental sustainability concerns. Part of the project involved working closely with our Sustainable Industries Division. Expert advice was provided on how to design the new accommodation units to best suit the environment and the occupants. Architect Gabriel Poole, renowned for his low-cost, innovative and energy-efficient housing designs, was then engaged to design state-of-the-art accommodation units for our staff. The eco-friendly design features of these buildings include:

- natural cooling by cross-ventilation and insulation, and wide roof overhangs to shade walls;
- durable, easily transportable material;

- fire-resistant material (because of the potential threat of bushfires), with units featuring specially designed shutters over windows and doors to further reduce bushfire risk;
- solar hot water systems;
- water-efficient showers;
- long-life fluorescent lighting; and
- assembly off site, to minimise waste and site disturbance during installation.

Workplace health and safety

Our health and safety strategic plan, "towards NONE—Not One Not Ever", was launched in June 2004. This strategic plan provides a framework for the development and implementation of systems and culture to reduce accidents in the workplace and to improve the work life of all people working for and with us.

More information about the "towards NONE" initiative is published in the "Our people" section of this report on page 10.

Queensland Trust for Nature

The State Government, through the EPA, established in 2003–04 a \$5 million trust to buy land with high conservation values.

The Queensland Trust for Nature operates as a revolving fund to buy and sell land. The trust buys land identified as having a significant conservation area, then arranges for the area to be protected by a covenant that gives direction to future landholders. Once the covenant is established, the trust will sell the land to maintain funds for future purchases.

State and regional planning bodies will help the Trust for Nature and its management committee to identify areas that have genuine conservation significance in Queensland, such as important native vegetation, wetlands, wildlife and related habitat, and special landscape features. The trust will complement existing schemes such as the Agency's nature refuge network.

Preserving open space in south-east Queensland will be a priority for the trust.

The EPA will administer the trust, but it will be a separate legal entity and any land held by the trust is not the property of the State of Queensland.

The EPA is making an application to the Federal Department of the Environment and Heritage to allow the trust to receive tax-deductible gifts of land or money from people interested in conserving our natural environment.

The trust is a significant step forward in expanding Queensland's protected area estate and recognises that sustainable use of our natural resources must involve a partnership between government, industry and the community.





Future challenges

Queensland faces many environmental challenges, including an unprecedented rate of urban development, a rapidly growing population and a high ecological footprint (the per-capita measurement of environmental impact). The recent State of the Environment report highlights the substantial pressures facing the state's air, land, inland and coastal waters, biodiversity and natural and cultural heritage. These challenges will influence the solutions and actions we need to take to improve the quality of Queensland's environment.

The EPA alone cannot protect the environment. Our role in maintaining and improving the quality of our environment is based on working co-operatively with partners and stakeholders. Elements of our multifaceted approach will include:

- implementation of the *Queensland Greenhouse Strategy*, which was launched by the Premier and the Environment Minister in May 2004;
- ensuring environmental and social costs and benefits are factored into economic decisions;
- improving the efficiency of our resource use by promoting cleaner production technology and methodologies in industry, local government and the community that involve less water and energy use, focus increasingly on renewables, minimise waste production and encourage recycling;
- setting, monitoring and enforcing environmental standards by proactive methods to achieve compliance;
- effective transport planning that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and minimises negative noise and air quality impacts;

- innovation in design of new housing estates and developments that “build in” energy and water eco-efficiency;
- planning for sustainable recreational activity in protected areas; and
- developing and updating environmental values and water quality objectives for key catchments in Queensland.

Protection and sustainable use of our natural environment is a guiding principle for our work in the future. Future acquisition and responsible management of Queensland's protected estate is a high priority, with the \$5 million Trust for Nature and a significant capital works and maintenance program key elements of this approach.

During 2004–05, we will continue the significant reform agenda to strengthen and review legislation that protects our unique marine biodiversity, with the introduction of the Marine Parks Bill 2004 (a complete remake of the *Marine Parks Act 1982*) and a review of the Marine Parks Regulation. Also, the Queensland Government has announced a proposal to create a new Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park along the length of the Great Barrier Reef after the introduction of a new Commonwealth zoning plan for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Together with a planned new marine park in the Great Sandy region, these two initiatives will constitute significant progress toward achieving the long-standing commitment to developing a system of marine parks from border to border.

It is vital that legislation to protect and provide for the sustainable use of our natural environment is contemporary and meets community expectations. Accordingly, reviews of the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994 and the *Recreation Areas Management Act 1988* are also planned.

Development has been rapid in a short time span, and the resulting environmental issues are ones that may be expected of a growing economy. Whether it is coastal development, recreational use, mining or infrastructure expansion, environmental considerations need to be addressed.

The biological values of Queensland's ecosystems—some unique to the region, rich in diversity and home to a number of threatened species—and the ecological services that they provide need to be understood and appreciated. This diversity underpins the health of our catchments, forests and seas, contributes to our quality of life, and provides an untapped genetic and molecular resource as a basis for future innovation.

The challenges for Queensland include the protection of our biodiversity for future generations, mitigation and adaptation measures in the face of climate change, and the responsible and smart use of our rich biological material for research into new medicines, sustainable agricultural practices and environmental improvements. We need to learn more about our biological diversity, and this knowledge is being obtained through:

- ongoing research by the Agency, including through biodiversity mapping, management plans for protection of threatened species and the implementation of the Wetlands Strategy;
- investigation of biodiversity by landholders seeking to take part in the nature refuges program;
- initiatives under the Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, involving a co-operative approach across the three levels of government, industry and the community;



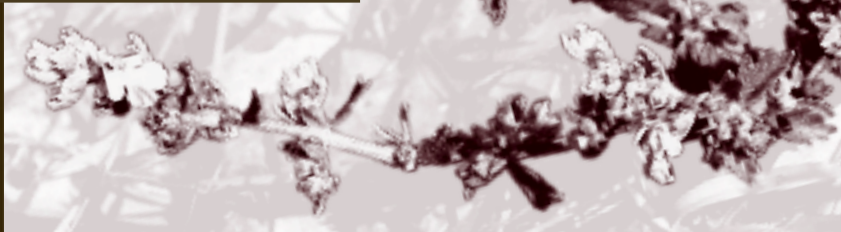
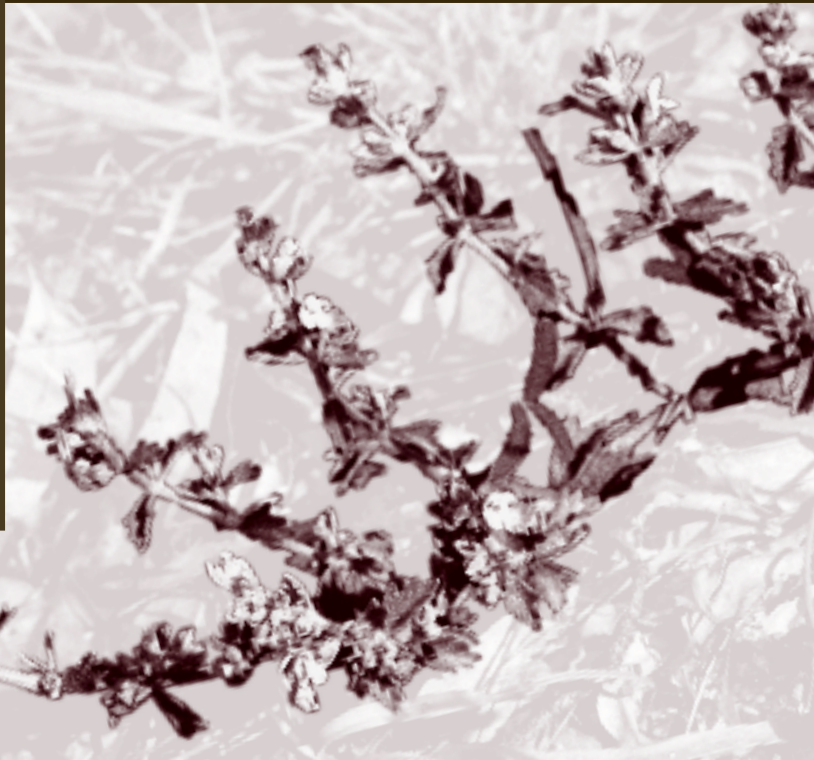
- regionally based initiatives by organisations funded under the Natural Heritage Trust;
- working in partnership with Indigenous groups to learn about traditional approaches to protection and sustainable use of fauna and flora; and
- biodiscovery in our protected areas. The Biodiscovery Bill 2004 was introduced into Parliament in June 2004 and is designed to facilitate responsible access to and use of Queensland's biodiversity in national parks and rare and threatened species of wildlife. This access, and the amount of material taken, will be strictly controlled. This Bill creates opportunities for new partnerships and industries, providing a vast amount of knowledge about the biodiversity in our protected areas that would not otherwise be possible.

While we must resolve environmental challenges that we are faced with now, we must also pay attention to signals of challenges that may confront us in the future. State-of-the-environment reporting will continue to guide prioritisation of our efforts, in partnership with other government agencies, industry and the community, to achieve our vision of a Queensland where everyone values the environment.



Snapshot

Rare plant rediscovered on Cape York Peninsula



EPA staff rediscovered the thought-to-be-extinct small shrub, *Teucrium ajugaceum*, on Cape York Peninsula. Photos: Bruce Wannan.

The small shrub, *Teucrium ajugaceum* (Musgrave mint), has been removed from the list of extinct plants in Queensland thanks to the work of EPA staff.

In May 2004, during fieldwork with the Queensland Department of Main Roads, EPA botanist Bruce Wannan collected and tentatively identified a specimen of *Teucrium ajugaceum* from near Red Blanket Creek, north of Musgrave. This identification was made using the 100-year-old *Queensland Flora* by

Bailey (1901) and subsequently confirmed by the Queensland Herbarium. This collection represents the first confirmed collection for more than 100 years.

Teucrium ajugaceum is a small shrub in the Lamiaceae (mint family). Early Queensland botanist Bailey described it in 1888 from a single undated specimen collected by T. Barclay-Millar from the Electric Telegraph Station at Musgrave on Cape York Peninsula.

The shrub grows on low sandy rises near Musgrave. Bruce Wannan is now working on a habitat and conservation assessment for this rediscovered species.



Financial statements

Environmental Protection Agency

Statement of financial performance for the year ended 30 June 2004

	Notes	2004 \$' 000	2003 \$' 000
Revenues from ordinary activities			
Output revenue	2	330,727	251,976
User charges	3	14,949	14,735
Grants and other contributions	4	28,764	37,663
Other	5	6,637	2,531
Total revenues from ordinary activities		381,077	306,905

Expenses from ordinary activities			
Employee expenses	6	128,418	131,312
Supplies and services	7	51,086	46,757
Equity return expense	8	114,316	64,802
Depreciation and amortisation	9	38,934	37,234
Grants and subsidies	10	22,864	23,668
Other	11	21,813	23,466
Total expenses from ordinary activities excluding borrowing costs		377,431	327,239
Borrowing costs	12	412	438
Net operating result		3,234	(20,772)

Non-owner transaction changes in equity			
Net increase (decrease) in asset revaluation reserve	23	148,681	793,653
Net amount of each revenue, expense, valuation or other adjustment not disclosed above recognised as a direct adjustment to equity	23	436	101,253
Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments recognised directly in equity		149,117	894,906
Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners		152,351	874,134

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.



Environmental Protection Agency

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2004

	Notes	2004 \$' 000	2003 \$' 000
Current assets			
Cash assets	13	15,937	19,114
Receivables	14	9,300	6,406
Inventories	15	603	424
Other	16	1,293	2,387
Total current assets		27,133	28,331
Non-current assets			
Intangibles	17	3,511	3,388
Property, plant and equipment	18	2,029,387	1,895,835
Total non-current assets		2,032,898	1,899,223
Total assets		2,060,031	1,927,554
Current liabilities			
Payables	19	10,580	11,406
Interest-bearing liabilities	20	344	315
Provisions	21	12,711	13,527
Other	22	7,096	6,613
Total current liabilities		30,731	31,861
Non-current liabilities			
Interest-bearing liabilities	20	4,136	4,480
Total non-current liabilities		4,136	4,480
Total liabilities		34,867	36,341
Net assets		2,025,164	1,891,213
Equity			
	23		
Contributed equity		418,591	436,991
Retained surpluses		656,944	653,274
Reserves:			
– Asset revaluation reserve		949,629	800,948
Total equity		2,025,164	1,891,213

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.

Environmental Protection Agency



Environmental Protection Agency

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2004

	Notes	2004 \$' 000	2003 \$' 000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Inflows:			
Output receipts		328,231	258,905
User charges		14,569	13,653
Grants and other contributions		28,198	36,207
GST input tax credits from ATO		8,528	8,755
GST collected from customers		2,200	1,438
Interest receipts		804	989
Other		165	71
Outflows:			
Employee expenses		(128,780)	(129,675)
Supplies and services		(49,611)	(45,205)
Grants and subsidies		(23,508)	(23,594)
Borrowing costs		(412)	(438)
Equity return expense		(114,316)	(64,802)
GST remitted to ATO		(2,180)	(1,498)
GST paid to suppliers		(8,115)	(8,932)
Other		(19,952)	(20,147)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	24	35,821	25,727

Cash flows from investing activities

Inflows:

Sales of property, plant and equipment		2,257	348
----------------------------------------	--	-------	-----

Outflows:

Payments for property, plant and equipment		(22,492)	(23,132)
--------------------------------------------	--	----------	----------

Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(20,235)	(22,784)
------------------------------------------------------------	--	-----------------	-----------------

Cash flows from financing activities

Inflows:

Equity injections		3,333	4,410
-------------------	--	-------	-------

Outflows:

Borrowing redemptions		(315)	(289)
-----------------------	--	-------	-------

Equity withdrawals		(21,781)	-
--------------------	--	----------	---

Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		(18,763)	4,121
------------------------------------------------------------	--	-----------------	--------------

Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(3,177)	7,064
---------------------------------------------	--	----------------	--------------

Cash at beginning of the financial year		19,114	12,050
------------------------------------------------	--	---------------	---------------

Cash at end of the financial year	13	15,937	19,114
------------------------------------------	-----------	---------------	---------------

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.



Environmental Protection Agency

Statement of financial performance by output/major activities – controlled for the year ended 30 June 2004

	Protecting our natural and cultural heritage		Promoting sustainable use of our natural capital		Ensuring a clean environment		Total	
	2004 \$'000	2003 \$' 000	2004 \$'000	2003 \$' 000	2004 \$'000	2003 \$' 000	2004 \$'000	2003 \$' 000
Revenues from ordinary activities*								
Output revenue	174,945	130,094	111,697	78,161	44,085	43,721	330,727	251,976
User charges	7,111	7,371	6,888	7,148	950	216	14,949	14,735
Grants and other contributions	12,662	17,811	8,378	12,087	7,724	7,765	28,764	37,663
Other	3,883	1,264	2,387	936	367	331	6,637	2,531
Total revenues from ordinary activities	198,601	156,540	129,350	98,332	53,126	52,033	381,077	306,905
Expenses from ordinary activities*								
Employee expenses	63,547	62,833	36,613	40,944	28,258	27,535	128,418	131,312
Supplies and services	24,600	23,810	17,536	16,466	8,950	6,481	51,086	46,757
Equity return expense	63,683	42,043	50,129	21,461	504	1,298	114,316	64,802
Depreciation and amortisation	23,229	25,122	14,392	10,663	1,313	1,449	38,934	37,234
Grants and subsidies	9,405	6,734	4,461	6,154	8,998	10,780	22,864	23,668
Other	12,283	12,564	5,886	7,124	3,644	3,778	21,813	23,466
Total expenses from ordinary activities excluding borrowing costs	196,747	173,106	129,017	102,812	51,667	51,321	377,431	327,239
Borrowing costs	–	–	412	438	–	–	412	438
Net operating result	1,854	(16,566)	(79)	(4,918)	1,459	712	3,234	(20,772)

Table continued on following page.

Environmental Protection Agency



Environmental Protection Agency

Statement of financial performance by output/major activities – controlled for the year ended 30 June 2004

(continued)

	Protecting our natural and cultural heritage		Promoting sustainable use of our natural capital		Ensuring a clean environment		Total	
	2004 \$'000	2003 \$' 000	2004 \$'000	2003 \$' 000	2004 \$'000	2003 \$' 000	2004 \$'000	2003 \$' 000
Non-owner transaction changes in equity								
Net increase(decrease) in asset revaluation reserve	91,877	500,001	56,410	293,652	394	–	148,681	793,653
Net amount of each revenue, expense, valuation or other adjustment not disclosed above recognised as a direct adjustment to equity	270	63,789	166	37,464	–	–	436	101,253
Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments recognised directly in equity	92,147	563,790	56,576	331,116	394	–	149,117	894,906
Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners	94,001	547,224	56,497	326,198	1,853	712	152,351	874,134

*Allocation of revenues and expenses from ordinary activities to corporate services (disclosure only):

Revenues from ordinary activities	14,503	16,838	10,492	12,181	6,016	6,807	31,011	35,826
Expenses from ordinary activities	14,551	16,039	10,528	11,603	5,887	6,483	30,966	34,125



Environmental Protection Agency**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04****Objectives of the Agency**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the Queensland Government's lead agency for environmental protection and conservation management, and incorporates the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). The EPA works to protect our natural and cultural heritage, promote sustainable use of our natural capital, and maintain a clean environment. We will safeguard our valuable and diverse natural and cultural environments – our natural capital – ensuring that they continue to underpin the material and social benefits for the people of Queensland.

The Agency will also continue to focus on the protection of national parks, marine parks, forests and World Heritage areas. Queensland's parks systems will be comprehensive, adequate and representative of our biological and landscape diversity, will include outstanding examples of natural and cultural heritage, and will maintain the values of World Heritage areas as a key element of the parks system.

The EPA will focus on driving resource efficiency by actively promoting cleaner production through reducing the use of energy, water and material resources, and minimise waste in the production process by working with the community, industry and government to encourage the use of renewable energy, and recycling resources.

The EPA continues to ensure the environment is clean and healthy through setting, monitoring and enforcing standards by proactive methods to achieve compliance.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies**(a) Basis of accounting**

This financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards (principally AAS 29 Financial Reporting by Government Departments), the Treasurer's Minimum Reporting Requirements for the year ending 30 June 2004, and other authoritative pronouncements.

Except where stated, the historical cost convention is used.

The accounting policies adopted by the Agency are materially consistent with those for the previous year.

(b) The reporting entity

The financial statements include the value of all revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity of the Agency. The outputs/major activities undertaken by the Agency are disclosed in note 1(v).

(c) Administered transactions and balances

The Agency administers, but does not control, certain resources on behalf of the Government. In doing so, it has responsibility and is accountable for administering related transactions and items, but does not have the discretion to deploy the resources for the achievement of the Agency's objectives.

Administered transactions and balances are disclosed in note 30. These transactions and balances are not significant in comparison to the Agency's overall financial performance/financial position.

(d) Trust and Agency transactions and balances

There are no trust and agency transactions and balances as at 30 June 2004.

(e) Output revenue/administered revenue

Appropriations provided under the Annual Appropriation Act are recognised as revenue in the year to which the appropriation relates.

Amounts appropriated to the Agency for transfer to other entities in accordance with legislative or other requirements are reported as 'administered' revenues.

(f) User charges, taxes, fees and fines

User charges and fees controlled by the Agency are recognised as revenues when invoices for the related services are issued. User charges and fees are controlled by the Agency where they can be deployed for the achievement of Agency objectives.

Taxes, fees and fines collected, but not controlled, by the Agency are reported as administered revenue. Refer note 30.



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies

(g) Grants and other contributions

Grants, donations and gifts that are non-reciprocal in nature are recognised as revenue in the year in which the Agency obtains control over them. Where grants are received that are reciprocal in nature, revenue is accrued over the term of the funding arrangements.

Contributed assets are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are recognised only when a fair value can be determined reliably and the services would be purchased if they had not been donated.

(h) Cash assets

For the purposes of the Statement of financial position and the Statement of cash flows, cash assets include all cash and cheques received but not banked as at 30 June.

(i) Receivables

Trade debtors are recognised at the nominal amounts due at the time of sale or service delivery. Settlement on these amounts is required within 30 days from invoice date.

The collectability of receivables is assessed periodically with provision being made for doubtful debts. All known bad debts have been written off as at 30 June.

Other debtors generally arise from transactions outside the usual operating activities of the Agency and are recognised at their assessed values. Terms are a maximum of three months, no interest is charged and no security is obtained.

(j) Inventories

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Cost is assigned on a first-in, first-out basis for raw materials and stores. For finished goods, cost is assigned on the weighted average cost method.

(k) Acquisitions of assets

Actual cost is used for the initial recording of all asset acquisitions. Cost is determined as the value given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition, including all other costs incurred in getting the assets ready for use, including architects' fees and engineering design fees.

Where assets are received free of charge from another Queensland department (whether as a result of a machinery-of-Government or other involuntary transfer), the acquisition cost is recognised as the gross carrying amount in the books of the transferor immediately prior to the transfer together with any accumulated depreciation.

Assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, other than from an involuntary transfer from another Queensland department, are recognised at their fair value at date of acquisition in accordance with AAS21 – Acquisitions of Assets.

(l) Property, plant and equipment

All items of property, plant and equipment, except intangibles, with a cost or other value in excess of \$5,000 for buildings and infrastructure and in excess of \$1,000 for plant and equipment are recognised for financial reporting purposes in the year of acquisition.

Items with a lesser value are expensed in the year of acquisition.



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies

(m) Amortisation and depreciation of intangibles, property, plant and equipment

Land is not depreciated as it has an unlimited useful life.

Property, plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis so as to allocate the net cost or revalued amount of each asset, less its estimated residual value, progressively over its estimated useful life to the Agency.

Assets under construction (work-in-progress) are not depreciated until they reach service delivery capacity.

Where assets have separately identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned useful lives distinct from the asset to which they relate and are depreciated accordingly.

Any expenditure that increases the originally assessed capacity or service potential of an asset is capitalised and the new depreciable amount is depreciated over the remaining useful life of the asset to the Agency.

Major spares purchased specifically for particular assets are capitalised and depreciated on the same basis as the asset to which they relate.

The depreciable amount of improvements to or on leasehold land is allocated progressively over the estimated useful lives of the improvements or the unexpired period of the lease, whichever is the shorter. The unexpired period of leases includes any option period where exercise of the option is probable.

Leased plant and equipment are amortised on a straight line basis over the term of the lease, or where it is likely that the Agency will obtain ownership of the asset, the expected useful life of the asset to the Agency.

For each class of depreciable asset the following depreciation and amortisation rates were used:

Class	Rate
Buildings	1.25% to 10%
Infrastructure	1.25% to 20%
Plant and equipment	
– computers	33%
– heavy vehicles	10% to 20%
– vessels > \$250,000	7%
– other equipment	5% to 25%
Intangibles	
– Computer software	20% to 33%

(n) Revaluations of non-current physical assets

Land, buildings, infrastructure and heritage and cultural assets are measured at fair value in accordance with AASB 1041 *Revaluation of Non-Current Assets* and Queensland Treasury's *Non-Current Asset Accounting Guidelines for the Queensland Public Sector*.

All other non-current assets, principally plant and equipment and intangibles, are measured at cost.

Non-current physical assets measured at fair value are comprehensively revalued at least once every five years with interim valuations, using appropriate indices, being otherwise performed on an annual basis where there has been a material variation in the index.

Only those assets, the total values of which are material, compared to the value of the class of assets to which they belong, are comprehensively revalued.

Separately identified components of assets are measured on the same basis as the assets to which they relate.



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies

(o) Leases

The Agency does not have any finance leases.

Operating lease payments are representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets and are expensed in the periods in which they are incurred.

(p) Other financial assets

Other financial assets are brought to account at the lower of cost and recoverable amount and are disclosed at the fair values indicated in Note 29.

(q) Intangibles

Intangible assets with a cost or other value greater than \$1,000 are recognised in the financial statements, items with a lesser value being expensed. Each intangible asset is amortised over its estimated useful life to the Agency, less any anticipated residual value.

Internal use software

Costs associated with the development of computer software have been capitalised and are amortised on a straight-line basis over the period of expected benefit to the Agency, which is between 3 to 5 years.

(r) Payables

Trade creditors are recognised upon receipt of the goods or services ordered and are measured at the agreed purchase/contract price, gross of applicable trade and other discounts. Amounts owing are unsecured and are generally settled on 30-day terms.

(s) Interest-bearing liabilities

Loans payable are recognised at the face value of the principal outstanding, interest being expensed or otherwise recognised as it accrues. The fair value of these loans is disclosed in note 29.

(t) Employee benefits

Wages, salaries, annual leave and sick leave

Wages, salaries and annual leave due but unpaid at reporting date are recognised in the Statement of financial position at the remuneration rates expected to apply at the time of settlement and include related on-costs such as payroll tax, WorkCover premiums, long service leave levies and employer superannuation contributions.

Prior history indicates that on average, sick leave taken each reporting period is less than the entitlement accrued. This is expected to recur in future periods. Accordingly, it is unlikely that existing accumulated entitlements will be used by employees and no liability for unused sick leave entitlements is recognised.

As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised for this leave as it is taken.

Long service leave

Under the Queensland Government's long-service leave scheme, a levy is made on the Agency to cover this expense. Amounts paid to employees for long service leave are claimed from the scheme as and when leave is taken.

No provision for long service leave is recognised in the financial statements, the liability being held on a whole-of-Government basis and reported in the financial report prepared pursuant to AAS31 – *Financial Reporting by Governments*.

Superannuation

Employer superannuation contributions are paid to QSuper, the superannuation plan for Queensland Government employees, at rates determined by the State Actuary.

No liability is recognised for accruing superannuation benefits in these financial statements, the liability being held on a whole-of-Government basis and reported in the financial report prepared pursuant to AAS 31 – *Financial Reporting by Governments*.



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

Note 1	Summary of significant accounting policies
	(u) Allocation of revenues and expenses from ordinary activities to corporate services
	The Agency discloses revenues and expenses attributable to corporate services in the Statement of Financial Performance by Outputs/Major Activities.
	(v) Outputs/major activities of the Agency
	The Agency has three outputs, namely, Protecting our natural and cultural heritage, Promoting sustainable use of our natural capital and Ensuring a clean environment. The Corporate Development Division supports these three outputs. The purpose of these outputs is summarised below:
	Protecting our natural and cultural heritage
	Queensland has rich and diverse natural resources, including unique landscapes and ecosystems, plants and animals.
	To protect Queensland's natural resources the EPA will focus on preserving the diversity and integrity of Queensland's natural ecosystems and maintain and enhance the conservation status of Queensland's native species by ensuring that:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the diversity and integrity of Queensland's natural ecosystems are preserved; • the conservation status of Queensland's native species is maintained or enhanced; and • Queensland's historic cultural heritage is recognised and protected.
	Promoting sustainable use of our natural capital
	Our natural capital is our natural resources, living systems and ecosystems – including air, water, soils, flora and fauna. It sustains our lives, the economy and society.
	The EPA will ensure the parks system, including marine areas, will be managed to provide safe, substantial and sustainable environmental, economic and social benefits to the Queensland community while maintaining the intrinsic values of Queensland's environment.
	Industry, local government and the community look to the Queensland Government to provide leadership.
	The EPA will continue to develop partnerships with business, the community and all tiers of Government to develop solutions that improve resource efficiency. The EPA will continue to ensure:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the full environmental, social and economic value of environmental function and amenity is understood and reflected in Government and business decision making; • sustainable use principles are adopted by Government, industry and the community; • improved infrastructure performance comes through innovation in sustainable water, energy and resource processing systems, technology and practice; • sustainable industries are developed with the support, encouragement and promotion of markets for sustainable goods and services; • Traditional-owner knowledge and management practices are recognised and valued in the management of environmental sustainability; • Queensland benefits from the sustainable use of our biodiversity; • the sustainability of parks, forests and wildlife resources is managed; and • appropriate and safe recreation, presentation and tourism opportunities are provided on the managed estate.



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies

(v) Outputs/major activities of the Agency

Ensuring a clean environment

The EPA aims to ensure that our environment is clean and healthy through setting, monitoring and enforcing standards that reflect the community's expectations for clean air, water and environmental amenity. Strategic enforcement is a cornerstone of achieving this outcome and the EPA uses proactive methods to achieve compliance when warranted.

The EPA continues to provide a rigorous information base with the *State of the Environment* Report to identify the environmental values of Queensland's air, water, land and cultural resources as well as to enable decision makers in government, industry and the community to achieve better environmental and natural resource management outcomes. The EPA will continue to:

- establish minimum standards for air, water and land quality, monitor sources of contamination and levels of pollutants, regulate emissions and use enforcement measures where appropriate;
- develop and implement strategies for climate change response; and
- mitigate the effects of environmental nuisance by ensuring compliance with statutory provisions.

Share Service Provider arrangements

From 1 July 2003, certain corporate services previously resourced internally by the Agency were outsourced to the Department of Employment and Training and Queensland Treasury under a shared-service-provider arrangement. As part of this new arrangement, a number of this Agency's staff and resources were transferred in 2003–04 to these departments.

As a result of this change, the Agency recognised a reduction to its provision for recreation leave of \$203,989 whilst assets to the value of \$156,158 were transferred to the shared service providers. The net effect of these transactions is reported in note 23. In addition, cash of \$71,718 representing the cash value of accumulated depreciation and recreation leave expense in excess of 20 days was transferred to the shared service providers as reported in note 23.

(w) Insurance

The Agency's non-current physical assets and other risks are insured through the Queensland Government Insurance Fund, premiums being paid on a risk assessment basis. In addition, the Agency pays premiums to WorkCover Queensland in respect of its obligations for employee compensation.

(x) Rounding and comparatives

Amounts included in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest \$1,000 or, where the amount is \$500 or less, to zero.

Comparative information has been restated where necessary to be consistent with disclosures in the current reporting period.

(y) Services received free of charge or for nominal value

Contributions of services are recognised only if the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated and their fair value can be measured reliably. Where this is the case, an equal amount is recognised as revenue and an expense.

(z) Contributed equity

Non-reciprocal transfers of assets and liabilities between wholly-owned Queensland State Public Sector entities as a result of machinery-of-Government changes, are adjusted to 'Contributed Equity' in accordance with UIG Abstract 38 *Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities*. Appropriations for equity adjustments are similarly designated.

(aa) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred, except where they are included in the costs of qualifying assets. No borrowing costs were capitalised during 2003–04.



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

Note 1	Summary of significant accounting policies	
	(ab) Taxation	
	<p>The EPA is a State body as defined under the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i> and is exempt from Commonwealth taxation with the exception of Fringe Benefits Tax and Goods and Services Tax (GST). As such, GST credits receivable from/payable to the Australian Taxation Office are recognised and accrued.</p>	
	(ac) Adoption of international financial reporting standards	
	<p>The Financial Reporting Council has determined that all entities preparing general purpose financial statements will apply the Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005.</p> <p>The EPA has established an IFRS Work Group to assist in the implementation of the new reporting requirements. All pending Australian Equivalents to IFRSs are being progressively reviewed for possible implications on policies, procedures, systems and financial impacts arising from such changes.</p> <p>To date, the agency has identified the following key differences in accounting policies which will arise from the adoption of Australian Equivalents to IFRS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The valuation of inventories will change from the lower of cost and net realisable value as stated in note 1(j) to the lower of cost and current replacement cost under pending AASB 102 <i>Inventories</i>. This may lead to an increase in the valuation shown for inventories. • The introduction of pending AASB 136 <i>Impairment of Assets</i> will require an annual impairment test to be performed on all non-current physical and intangible assets. This may result in a write-down of the value of plant and equipment and intangible assets. <p>The dollar values of the above changes cannot be reliably estimated at the date of this report. Policy decisions made at a whole-of-Government level in relation to the limiting of options in the Australian Equivalent to IFRS may have additional impacts on financial reports prepared using these standards.</p>	
Note 2	Reconciliation of payments from consolidated fund	
	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
	Reconciliation of payments from consolidated fund to output revenue recognised in Statement of financial performance	
Budgeted output appropriation	262,207	262,902
Transfers from/to other headings	22,838	1,706
Lapsed output appropriation	–	(5,703)
Unforeseen expenditure	43,186	–
Total output receipts	328,231	258,905
Less: Opening balance of output revenue receivable	(13)	(6,942)
Plus: Closing balance of output revenue receivable	2,509	13
Output revenue recognised in statement of financial performance	330,727	251,976
	Reconciliation of payments from consolidated fund to equity adjustment recognised in contributed equity	
Budgeted equity adjustment appropriation	4,462	6,116
Transfers from/to other headings	(22,838)	(1,706)
Total equity adjustment receipts (note 23)	(18,376)	4,410

Environmental Protection Agency



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

		2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Note 3	User charges		
	Fees, permits and fines	11,040	10,679
	Sale of publications	862	912
	Services rendered	2,172	2,601
	Miscellaneous	875	543
	Total	14,949	14,735

Note 4	Grants and other contributions		
	Grants	26,812	35,921
	Donations – other	175	169
	Services received below fair value:		
	Volunteer services	1,537	1,192
	Office accommodation	145	–
	Other services	95	381
	Total	28,764	37,663

Note 5	Other revenues		
	Interest	857	887
	Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	3,822	–
	Property rental	513	399
	Other	1,445	1,245
	Total	6,637	2,531

Note 6	Employee expenses/number of employees/chief executive's remuneration		
	Employee expenses:		
	Wages and salaries	105,643	108,334
	Employer superannuation contributions	12,589	12,487
	Payroll tax	5,603	5,602
	Training and development	1,987	1,870
	Long service leave levy	1,580	1,570
	Workers compensation	674	1,146
	Other	342	303
	Total	128,418	131,312
	Number of employees:	2,128	2,181
	The number of employees includes both full-time employees and part-time employees measured on a full-time equivalent basis.		



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

Note 6 Employee expenses/number of employees/chief executive's remuneration**Chief executive's remuneration:**

Level	Min superannuable salary \$	Max superannuable salary \$
CEO 2	172,858	195,770

In addition to the base superannuable salary, the chief executive is also eligible for a bonus, based on an assessment by the Premier and Minister for Trade. The total of such bonuses paid to the chief executives of all departments is published in the annual report of the Office of Public Service Merit and Equity.

The superannuable salary does not include industry and like allowances, leave loading and fringe benefits such as private use of a motor vehicle and employer superannuation contributions.

	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Note 7 Supplies and services		
Administrative costs	23,897	19,326
Maintenance of assets	13,625	13,756
Consultants and contractors	8,056	7,728
Travel – staff and client	4,166	4,844
Materials	1,342	1,103
Total	51,086	46,757

Note 8 Equity return expense

Equity return expense	114,316	64,802
Total	114,316	64,802

The Queensland Government has set an equity return rate of 6% for 2003–04. This represents the opportunity cost of capital invested in the net assets of the Agency.

Note 9 Depreciation and amortisation**Depreciation and amortisation incurred in respect of:**

Buildings	3,829	3,459
Infrastructure	30,292	29,099
Plant and equipment	3,670	3,887
Intangibles – internal use software	1,143	789
Total	38,934	37,234

The increase in depreciation on buildings and infrastructure due to revaluations during the reporting period was \$934,893.

Environmental Protection Agency



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

		2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Note 10	Grants and subsidies		
	Recurrent		
	Energy rebates	8,555	10,446
	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	4,627	4,389
	Sustainable Industry grants	3,038	3,123
	Natural Heritage Trust	105	2,280
	Planning grants	612	1,224
	Other	621	606
	Capital		
	Regional Forest Agreement	–	1,255
	Queensland Trust for Nature	4,800	–
	Other	506	345
	Total	22,864	23,668

Note 11	Other expenses		
	Insurance premiums – QGIF	1,561	1,364
	Insurance premiums – Other	66	54
	Audit fees – external	117	136
	Audit fees – other	83	30
	Operating lease rentals	15,445	15,789
	Losses from disposal of property, plant and equipment	–	1,658
	Bad and doubtful debts	72	87
	Services received below fair value	1,776	1,573
	Gifts	9	11
	Other	8	89
	Losses		
	Public monies	7	4
	Special payments		
	Compensation claims	5	357
	Contributions	2,138	1,806
	Ex-gratia payments	–	3
	Other	526	505
	Total	21,813	23,466

Note 12 Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs relate to the interest component of the promissory notes for the Tweed River Sand Bypassing System.

Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

		2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Note 13	Cash assets		
	Imprest accounts	79	90
	Cash at bank and on hand	15,858	19,024
	Total	15,937	19,114

Note 14	Receivables		
	Current		
	Trade debtors	1,800	1,538
	Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(102)	(138)
		1,698	1,400
	GST receivable	1,481	1,881
	GST payable	(341)	(327)
		1,140	1,554
	Long service leave reimbursements	503	244
	Grants receivable	2,406	1,357
	Interest receivable	247	194
	Output revenue (note 1e)	2,509	13
	Unexpended advances	763	1,614
	Other	34	30
		6,462	3,452
	Total	9,300	6,406

Note 15	Inventories		
	Current		
	Publications, souvenirs and other saleable stock – at cost	462	384
	Supplies and consumables – at cost	141	40
	Total	603	424

Note 16	Other current assets		
	Prepayments	1,293	2,387
	Total	1,293	2,387

Note 17	Intangibles		
	Internal use software:		
	At cost	6,690	6,089
	Less: Accumulated amortisation	(3,179)	(2,701)
	Total	3,511	3,388
	Due to the unreliability of determining future economic benefits and the inherent difficulty of measurement, intellectual property and trade names have not been valued.		
	The Agency has software valued at \$1,492,938 with a written down value of zero still being used in the provision of services.		



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

		2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Note 18	Property, plant and equipment		
	Land:		
	At independent valuation	1,725	49,518
	At management valuation	1,086,250	910,010
		1,087,975	959,528
	Buildings:		
	At independent valuation	4,809	105,274
	At management valuation	111,943	–
	Less: Accumulated depreciation	(33,282)	(27,465)
		83,470	77,809
	Plant and equipment:		
	At cost	45,949	46,103
	Less: Accumulated depreciation	(31,275)	(30,737)
		14,674	15,366
	Infrastructure:		
	At independent valuation	4,635	1,065,479
	At management valuation	1,099,166	–
	Less: Accumulated depreciation	(279,604)	(243,356)
		824,197	822,123
	Capital works in progress	19,071	21,009
	Total property, plant and equipment – net book value	2,029,387	1,895,835
	<p>Independent valuations of a proportion of buildings and infrastructure were performed as at 1 July 2003 by Project Services and State Valuation Services using 'fair value' principles. The remainder of buildings and infrastructure assets were revalued using an appropriate index. Revaluations of the Agency's land holdings were carried out using an appropriate index supplied by State Valuation Services. The Agency's estate was comprehensively valued in the 2001–02 financial year.</p> <p>The Agency has plant and equipment valued at \$16,393,136 and buildings and infrastructure valued at \$3,820,678 with a written down value of zero still being used in the provision of services. Plant and equipment are valued at cost in accordance with Queensland Treasury's <i>Non-Current Asset Accounting Guidelines for the Queensland Public Sector</i> (May 2001).</p> <p>The adjustment to accumulated depreciation on account of revaluations of depreciable assets as at 30 June is:</p>		
	Infrastructure	5,948	88,570
	Buildings	2,001	1,430
	Total	7,949	90,000



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

Note 18	Property, plant and equipment						
		Land	Buildings	Plant and equipment	Infra-structure	Capital works in progress	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying amount at 1 July	959,528	77,809	15,366	822,123	21,009	1,895,835	
Acquisitions	8,840	24	2,709	45	13,192	24,810	
Write-ons	–	48	11	574	–	633	
Disposals	(516)	(312)	(425)	(229)	–	(1,482)	
Transfer between classes	14	4,149	683	8,985	(13,831)	–	
Transfers to intangibles	–	–	–	–	(1,299)	(1,299)	
Revaluation Increments/ (Decrements)	120,109	5,581	–	22,991	–	148,681	
Depreciation	–	(3,829)	(3,670)	(30,292)	–	(37,791)	
Carrying amount at 30 June	1,087,975	83,470	14,674	824,197	19,071	2,029,387	

Note 19	Payables		
		2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Current			
Long service leave levy payable		393	396
Trade creditors		7,844	8,388
Grants payable		1,083	1,874
Salaries and wages payable		1,260	748
Total		10,580	11,406

Note 20	Interest-bearing liabilities		
		2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Current			
Promissory note		344	315
Total		344	315
Non-current			
Promissory note		4,136	4,480
Total		4,136	4,480
The promissory note relates to the Tweed River Sand Bypassing System for which no interest has been capitalised during the current or comparative reporting period.			

Environmental Protection Agency



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

		2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Note 21	Provisions		
	Current		
	Employee benefits:		
	– Annual leave	12,711	13,527
	Total	12,711	13,527

Note 22	Other current liabilities		
	Unearned revenue	7,096	6,613
	Total	7,096	6,613

Note 23	Changes in equity	Retained surpluses		Asset revaluation reserve		Contributed equity	
		2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
	Balance at 1 July	653,274	572,793	800,948	7,294	436,991	420,914
	Net surplus/(deficit)	3,234	(20,772)	–	–	–	–
	Non-owner changes in equity recognised on the face of the Statement of Financial Performance:						
	– Increase in asset revaluation reserve	–	–	148,681	793,654	–	–
	Assets not previously recognised	436	101,253	–	–	–	–
	Equity injections/(withdrawals)	–	–	–	–	(18,376)	4,410
	Equity injection/(withdrawals) – CorpTech/CSQ (note 1(v))	–	–	–	–	(72)	–
	Assets received (MOG change) (note 1(v))	–	–	–	–	48	11,667
	Balance 30 June	656,944	653,274	949,629	800,948	418,591	436,991

		2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Closing balance of asset revaluation reserve by class:			
	Land	187,089	66,979
	Buildings	47,827	42,247
	Infrastructure	714,132	691,141
	Plant and equipment	581	581
	Total	949,629	800,948



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003-04 (continued)

	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Note 24 Reconciliation of net surplus/deficit to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		
Surplus/deficit from ordinary activities	3,234	(20,772)
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation expense	38,934	37,234
(Gain)/loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(3,822)	1,658
Assets not previously recognised	(12)	-
Bad debts expense	-	87
Net leave liability transferred to other departments	204	-
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in output revenue receivable	(2,496)	6,929
(Increase)/decrease in GST input tax credits receivable	413	(178)
(Increase)/decrease in LSL reimbursement receivable	(259)	386
(Increase)/decrease in net receivables	(1,403)	2,168
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(178)	90
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	1,095	(1,712)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	706	3,428
Increase/(decrease) in unearned revenue	483	(4,605)
Increase/(decrease) in employee provisions	(816)	710
Increase/(decrease) in grants and subsidies payable	(791)	571
Increase/(decrease) in GST payable	20	(60)
Increase/(decrease) in long service levy payable	(3)	7
Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	512	(214)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	35,821	25,727

Note 25 Non-cash financing and investing activities

Assets and liabilities received or transferred by the Agency as a result of machinery-of-Government changes are set out in note 1(v).

Note 26 Commitments for expenditure**(a) Non-cancellable operating leases**

Commitments in relation to non-cancellable operating leases at reporting date are inclusive of anticipated GST and are payable as follows:

Not later than one year	4,747	4,745
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,291	6,871
Later than five years	-	-
Total	7,038	11,616

Operating leases are entered into as a means of acquiring access to office accommodation. Lease payments are generally fixed, but are subject to periodic market reviews. The operating leases contain renewal and extension options but do not contain restrictions on financing or other leasing activities.



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

		2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Note 26	Commitments for expenditure		
	(b) Capital expenditure		
	Material classes of capital expenditure commitments inclusive of anticipated GST, contracted for at reporting date but not recognised in the accounts are payable as follows:		
	Land acquisitions	990	2,245
	Borrowings	2,066	2,478
	Other	3,244	513
	Total	6,300	5,236
	Payable:		
	Not later than one year	4,474	3,170
	Later than one year and not later than five years	1,342	1,338
	Later than five years	484	728
	Total	6,300	5,236
	(c) Grants and subsidies		
	As at 30 June 2004, in accordance with a formal agreement, approval has been given to pay the following grants and subsidies provided certain criteria are met:		
	Grants payable:		
	Not later than one year	6,726	3,815
	Later than one year and not later than five years	137	440
	Total	6,863	4,255
	Grants and subsidies are shown on a GST inclusive basis where applicable. Total GST input tax credits receivable in relation to these grants and subsidies is estimated to be \$249,500 although this could vary based on the GST status of the grant recipient.		

Note 27	Contingencies	
	(a) Guarantees and undertakings	
	A guarantee/undertaking in relation to the sale of intellectual property rights of the Agency's Eco-track software system was entered into in March 2004. This guarantee/undertaking has not been recognised as an asset in the Statement of financial position.	
	(b) Litigation in progress	
	As at 30 June 2004 the following cases were filed in the courts:	
		No of cases
	Claims up to \$100k	8
	Claims \$100k to \$250k	4
	Claims \$250k to \$500k	3
	Claims > \$500k	3
	Unspecified/unknown	4
	Total	22



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

Note 27 Contingencies

(b) Litigation in progress

The Agency's legal advisers and management believe that it would be misleading to estimate the final amounts payable (if any) in respect of the litigation filed in the courts at this time.

The Agency is insured through the Queensland Government Insurance Fund (QGIF) and as such the maximum exposure to the Agency is \$10,000 excess per claim.

The Agency has also received notification of a number of other cases that are not yet subject to court action. These cases may result in subsequent litigation.

(c) Native title claims over Agency land

At 30 June 2004, there were 1,130 native title claims notified to the Agency over protected areas in Queensland. As yet, no claims over protected areas have been determined by the Federal Court.

The *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwth) provides for payment of compensation to native title holders for a variety of acts that may affect native title. During 2003–04 the Agency issued numerous permits, licences etc. which may be determined to have affected native title.

At reporting date it is not possible to make an estimate of any probable outcome of these claims, or any financial effect.

(d) Financial assurance liability gap for mining projects

Financial assurances are required when mining projects are undertaken to cover the rehabilitation liability should a mining leaseholder fail to undertake rehabilitation, or for remediation of disturbed land or to secure compliance with the licence. The current financial assurance system provides for a discount based on past environmental performance. This has resulted in a gap in the financial assurances held by the Agency and the potential liability should a miner default.

The contingent liability would only be recognised as an actual liability in the event that the miner defaults on the conditions of the licence and the State holds insufficient financial assurance to cover the rehabilitation that the State considers necessary. Since the responsibility for ensuring that the conditions of the mining environmental authorities are complied with passed to the EPA in January 2001, it has not been necessary to call upon the financial assurances held to undertake rehabilitation. It is therefore not considered practical to estimate the potential financial effect of these contingent liabilities.

In the event of default it is likely the EPA would attempt to pursue legal action to obtain a court order requiring miners, companies and/or directors to carry out rehabilitation as required under the provision of the licence. Where such action is not successful the Agency may perform the work using financial authority funds held and attempt to instigate litigation in an effort to recover any additional costs of the rehabilitation. It is recognised that the EPA would face potentially significant obstacles recovering monies from persons who are insolvent.

Note 28 Events occurring after balance date

- On 23 August 2004, the Government announced its intention to create a stand-alone energy portfolio, possibly incorporating some functions of the EPA.

The financial effect of this decision has not been recognised in the financial report at 30 June 2004, nor is it possible to estimate reliably the effect on the Agency's financial position and performance from discontinuing this activity, given that at reporting date the details of the transfer have not been finalised.

- In 2004–05, further corporate services currently resourced internally by the Agency will be outsourced to the Department of Employment and Training under the shared service provider arrangement, which commenced on 1 July 2003. As part of this arrangement, a number of this Agency's staff and resources will be transferred. Details of the financial effect of this transfer will be reported in the 2004–05 financial year statements.



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003–04 (continued)

Note 29 Financial instruments

Interest rate risk exposure

The Agency's exposure to interest rate risk and the effective interest rates of financial assets and financial liabilities are shown in the following table.

	Floating rate	1 year or less	1 to 5 years	Greater than 5 years	Non-interest-bearing	Total	Weighted average rate
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Financial assets							
Cash	15,937	–	–	–	–	15,937	4.15
Receivables	–	–	–	–	9,300	9,300	NA
	15,937	–	–	–	9,300	25,237	
Financial liabilities							
Payables	–	–	–	–	10,580	10,580	NA
Interest-bearing liabilities	–	344	1,711	2,425	–	4,480	8.88
	–	344	1,711	2,425	10,580	15,060	

- Floating interest rate represents the most recently administered market rate applicable to the instrument at 30 June 2004.
- The fixed rate represents weighted average market interest rate.

Credit risk exposure

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets net of any provisions for doubtful debts as indicated in the Statement of Financial Position.

No significant credit risks have been identified.

Net fair value

The net fair value is determined as follows:

- The net fair value of cash and cash equivalents and non-interest bearing monetary financial assets and financial liabilities approximate their carrying amounts.
- The net fair value of other monetary financial assets and financial liabilities is based on market prices where a market exists, or is determined by discounting expected future cash flows by the current interest rate for financial assets and liabilities with similar risk profiles.



Environmental Protection Agency

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements 2003-04 (continued)

Note 29 Financial instruments

The carrying amounts and estimated net fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities held at balance date are given below:

Financial instruments	Total carrying amount		Net fair value	
	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Financial assets				
Cash	15,937	19,114	15,937	19,114
Receivables	9,300	6,406	9,300	6,406
Total	25,237	25,520	25,237	25,520
Financial liabilities				
Payables	9,320	10,658	9,320	10,658
Promissory notes	4,480	4,795	4,480	4,795
Total	13,800	15,453	13,800	15,453

Note 30 Schedule of administered items

	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Administered revenues		
Commonwealth grants	743	990
Taxes, fees and fines	14,425	13,267
Other	2	4
Total	15,170	14,261
Administered expenses		
Other – fees waived	327	468
Total	327	468
Administered assets		
Current		
Cash	1,200	807
Receivables	737	789
Total	1,937	1,596
Administered liabilities		
Current		
Payables		
– Treasury	340	532
– Other	22	3
Other	18	3
Total	380	538
Transfers to government of grants, taxes, fees, fines and other	14,345	13,807



Environmental Protection Agency

Certificate of the Environmental Protection Agency

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared pursuant to section 40 (1) of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977* (the Act), and other prescribed requirements. In accordance with Section 40 (3) of the Act we certify that in our opinion:

- (a) the prescribed requirements for the establishing and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
- (b) the statements have been drawn up to present a true and fair view, in accordance with prescribed accounting standards, of the transactions of the Environmental Protection Agency for the financial year ended 30 June 2004, and of the financial position of the Agency at the end of that year.

N. O'Sullivan
Acting Director, Financial Services

A. Feely
Acting Director-General

Date: 23/09/2004

Date: 23/09/2004



Environmental Protection Agency**Independent audit report*****To the Accountable Officer of the Environmental Protection Agency*****Matters relating to the electronic presentation of the audited financial statements**

The audit report relates to the financial statements of the Environmental Protection Agency for the financial year ended 30 June 2004 included on the Environmental Protection Agency's web site. The Accountable officer is responsible for the integrity of the Environmental Protection Agency's web site. The audit report refers only to the financial statements identified below and does not include a review of the integrity of this web site or provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements. If users of the financial statements are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial statements, available from the Environmental Protection Agency, to confirm the information included in the audited financial statements presented on this web site.

These matters also relate to the presentation of the audited financial statements in other electronic media including CD Rom.

Scope**The financial statements and accountable officer's responsibility**

The financial statements consist of the statement of financial performance, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, notes to and forming part of the financial statements and certificates given by the Accountable Officer and officer responsible for the financial administration of the Environmental Protection Agency, for the year ended 30 June 2004.

The accountable officer is responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial statements, the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

Audit approach

As required by law, an independent audit was conducted in accordance with *QAO Auditing Standards* to enable me to provide an independent opinion whether in all material respects the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the prescribed requirements, including any mandatory financial reporting requirements as approved by the Treasurer for application in Queensland.

Audit procedures included –

- examining information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements;
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the accountable officer;
- obtaining written confirmation regarding the material representations made in conjunction with the audit; and
- reviewing the overall presentation of information in the financial statements.

Independence

The *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977* promotes the independence of the Auditor-General and QAO authorised auditors.

The Auditor-General is the auditor of all public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament.

The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which powers are to be exercised.

The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all information, documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

Audit opinion

In accordance with section 40 of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977* –

- (a) I have received all the information and explanations which I have required; and
- (b) in my opinion -
 - (i) the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
 - (ii) the Statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view, in accordance with the prescribed accounting standards of the transactions of the Environmental Protection Agency for the financial year 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 and of the financial position as at the end of that year.

E A MUIR, FCPA
Assistant Auditor-General
(as Delegate of the Auditor-General of Queensland)

Queensland Audit Office
Brisbane



Appendices 1 – Acts and legislation

At 30 June 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency administered all or parts of the following Acts:

- *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* (s 83(2)-(11); s 134
(as it applies to the provisions of the Act administered by the Minister))
- *Brisbane Forest Park Act 1977*
- *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*
- *Currumbin Bird Sanctuary Act 1976*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- *Forestry Act 1959* (jointly administered with the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, except to the extent administered by the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries)
- *Gurulmundi Secure Landfill Agreement Act 1992*
- *Marine Parks Act 1982*
- *Meaker Trust (Raine Island Research) Act 1981*
- *National Environment Protection Council (Queensland) Act 1994*
- *National Trust of Queensland Act 1963*
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
- *Newstead House Trust Act 1939*
- *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*
- *Recreation Areas Management Act 1988*
- *Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991* (s 80(2)-(11); s 131
(as it applies to the provisions of the Act administered by the Minister))
- *Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project Agreement Act 1998*
- *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*

Primary legislation passed during 2003–04

- *Marine Parks Amendment Act 2003*
- *Beach Protection Legislation Amendment Act 2003*
- *Environmental Protection Legislation Amendment Act 2003*
- *Environmental Legislation Amendment Act 2003*
- *Nature Conservation Amendment Act 2004*



Appendices

2 – Statutory authorities

The following seven statutory authorities report to the Queensland Minister for Environment.

Name of entity	Departmental or statutory body	Act under which entity is constituted	Control of funds	Balances in Agency	Public availability of entity reports and statements
Beach Protection Authority (ceased on 22 August 2003)	Statutory authority	<i>Beach Protection Act 1968</i>	Balances incorporated in Agency financial statements		Separate report in <i>Annual Report 2003-04: Statutory authorities reporting to the Minister for Environment</i>
Board of Trustees of Newstead House	Statutory authority	<i>Newstead House Trust Act 1939</i>	Controls own funds	Financial operations and balances reported separately	Separate report in <i>Annual Report 2003-04: Statutory authorities reporting to the Minister for Environment</i>
National Trust of Queensland	Statutory authority	<i>National Trust of Queensland Act 1963</i>	Controls own funds	Financial operations and balances reported separately	Separate report submitted to the Minister for Environment for tabling
Queensland Heritage Council	Statutory authority	<i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>	No funds controlled		Separate report in <i>Annual Report 2003-04: Statutory authorities reporting to the Minister for Environment</i>
Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board	Instrumentality jointly administered by EPA and DNRM	<i>Recreation Areas Management Act 1988</i>	Balances incorporated in Agency financial statements	Financial operations and balances reported separately	Separate report in <i>Annual Report 2003-04: Statutory authorities reporting to the Minister for Environment</i>
Raine Island Corporation	Statutory authority	<i>Meaker Trust (Raine Island Research) Act 1981</i>	Controls own funds	Financial operations and balances reported separately	Separate report in <i>Annual Report 2003-04: Statutory authorities reporting to the Minister for Environment</i>
Wet Tropics Management Authority	Statutory authority	<i>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993</i>	Balances incorporated in Agency financial statements		Separate report submitted to the Minister for Environment for tabling



Beach Protection Authority

Constitution

The Beach Protection Authority, which was disbanded in August 2003, was constituted under the *Beach Protection Act 1968*.

Functions

The authority's statutory objectives were to:

- regulate and provide advice with respect to activities affecting the coast;
- protect the amenity of the coast;
- minimise damage to property from erosion or encroachment by tidal water; and
- establish an authority, and confer and impose upon it certain powers and functions.

Financial reporting

The authority's operations for 2003–04 were financed through the EPA's budget process with the transactions of the authority accounted for in the Agency's financial statements. The authority details its operations in a separate report to the Minister for Environment.

Board of Trustees of Newstead House

Constitution

The Board of Trustees of Newstead House (the board) is constituted under the *Newstead House Trust Act 1939*.

Functions

The board is required to govern, manage and control Newstead House, Brisbane.

Financial reporting

The transactions of the board are not accounted for in the Agency's financial statements. The board details its operations and audited financial statements in a separate report to the Minister for Environment.

National Trust of Queensland

Constitution

The National Trust of Queensland is established under the *National Trust of Queensland Act 1963*.

Functions

The trust is constituted for the purposes of promoting:

- the preservation and maintenance of lands, buildings, furniture, pictures and other chattels of beauty or of national, historic, scientific, artistic, or architectural interest for the benefit of the public generally;
- the restoration or completion of a building (referred to above) consistent and in harmony with the original design or intention with regards its architectural style;
- the protection and augmentation of the amenities of such lands, buildings and chattels and their surroundings; and
- the access to and enjoyment of such lands, buildings and chattels by the public.

Financial reporting

The transactions of the trust are not accounted for in the Agency's financial statements. The trust details its operations and audited financial statements in a separate report to the Minister for Environment.

Queensland Heritage Council

Constitution

The Queensland Heritage Council is established under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

Functions

The objective of the Act is to provide for the conservation of Queensland's cultural heritage.

The council's functions are to:

- advise the Minister on matters relating to Queensland's cultural heritage, in particular measures necessary to conserve Queensland's cultural heritage for the benefit of the present community and future generations;
- administer the Heritage Register;
- encourage public interest in, and understanding of, issues relevant to conserving Queensland's cultural heritage;
- encourage and assist proper management of places of cultural heritage significance;
- keep proper records, and encourage others to keep proper records, of places and objects of cultural heritage significance;
- co-operate and collaborate with federal, state and local authorities in the conservation of places and objects of cultural heritage significance; and
- undertake any other functions assigned to the council by the Act or the Minister.

Financial reporting

The council's operations are financed through the EPA's budget process with the transactions of the council accounted for in the Agency's financial statements. The council details its operations in a separate report to the Minister for Environment.



Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board

Constitution

The Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board is constituted under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 1988*.

Functions

The Act's objective is to provide for the establishment of a system of recreation areas throughout Queensland and, in relation to them, to:

- provide, co-ordinate, integrate and improve recreational planning, development and management of recreation areas;
- provide for joint management of any recreation area where necessary; and
- provide for the collection of funds from users or intending users of the recreational facilities and services provided.

The board aims to provide opportunities for the public to recreate in natural environments and to facilitate public appreciation, enjoyment, respect and protection of resources in recreation areas. The board has legislative powers to manage the four recreation areas it administers: Fraser Island, Moreton Island, Green Island and Inskip Peninsula.

Financial reporting

The transactions of the board are accounted for in the Agency's financial statements. The board also details its operations and audited financial statements in a separate report to the Minister for Environment.

Raine Island Corporation

Constitution

The Raine Island Corporation is constituted under the *Meaker Trust (Raine Island Research) Act 1981*.

Functions

The corporation's functions are to:

- promote research in respect of the nature and the environment of Raine Island, Moulter and Maclennan cays and the surrounding seas;
- promote, by appropriate and practicable means, the preservation and protection of the nature and the environment of those areas;
- promote the development and application of science and technology to preserve and protect the nature and the environment of those areas;
- investigate the feasibility of restoring or preserving any improvements or relics situated on Raine Island; and
- promote, through the publication of research results, the conservation of the nature and the environment of the Great Barrier Reef province.

The corporation may do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with or incidental to the performance of its functions and, in particular, may:

- cause such restoration of preservation work to be carried out in respect of any improvements or relics situated on Raine Island as appears to it to be desirable; and
- establish such research facilities on or in relation to Raine Island as appear to be necessary for the proper performance of its functions.

Financial reporting

The transactions of the corporation are not accounted for in the Agency's financial statements. The corporation details its operations and audited financial statements in a separate report to the Minister for Environment.

Wet Tropics Management Authority

Constitution

The Queensland legislation concerning the Wet Tropics, the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*, was proclaimed on 1 November 1993. Complementary Commonwealth legislation, the *Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Conservation Act 1994*, was proclaimed on 15 March 1994. It has now been replaced by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 was gazetted on 22 May 1998 and started on 1 September 1998.

The Wet Tropics World Heritage Area Management Scheme is an intergovernmental agreement signed by the Prime Minister and the Premier of Queensland in 1990. The agreement is scheduled in the Queensland Act and given effect by section three of the Commonwealth Act. The Australian and Queensland Environment Ministers last revised it in December 1995.

Functions

The authority's primary goal is to ensure Australia meets its obligations under the World Heritage Convention in relation to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.



The authority's functions are to:

- develop and implement policies and programs for managing the World Heritage Area;
- formulate and implement performance indicators for approved policies and programs;
- advise and make recommendations to the Minister for Environment and the Ministerial Council;
- prepare and implement management plans for the area;
- administer funding arrangements;
- facilitate and enter into co-operative management agreements;
- rehabilitate and restore the area;
- gather, research, analyse and disseminate information about the area;
- develop public and community education programs;
- promote the area locally, nationally and internationally;
- liaise with State and Australian governments, agencies and international organisations;
- monitor the state of the area; and
- advise and report to the Minister for Environment and the Ministerial Council on the state of the area.

In performing its functions, the authority must, as far as practicable, consider Aboriginal tradition and liaise and co-operate with Aboriginal people who are particularly concerned with the area. In assessing permit applications, the authority must refer to section 62 of the Wet Tropics Management Plan, guideline three: "Consulting Aboriginal people particularly concerned with the land in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area".

Financial reporting

The transactions of the authority are included in the Agency's financial statements. The authority also details its operations and audited financial statements in a separate report to the Minister for Environment. A copy of the Wet Tropics Management Authority's 2003–04 annual report is published on the authority's website, www.wettropics.gov.au, after tabling in State and Australian Parliaments.



Appendices

3 – Overseas travel

Name of officer and position	Destination	Reason for travel	Agency cost	Contribution from other agencies or sources
John Gilmour, Executive Director, Corporate Affairs	New Zealand	Attend Environmental Protection and Heritage Council Standing Committee (EPHC) strategic planning meeting	\$3,436	
James Purtill, Director-General	New Zealand	Attend EPHC strategic planning meeting	\$3,437	
Fiona Leverington, Team Leader, Planning and Community Engagement	South Africa	Assist at IUCN World Parks Congress	\$300	\$5,500 University of Queensland, Gatton
Geoff Smith, Senior Principal Zoologist, Wildlife Ecology	China	Present and discuss relevant aspects of the science and information dissemination systems of the EPA and NRM used to assess and manage natural resources.	\$806	China paid for the airfares
Dr Jian Wang, Senior Botanist	China	Present and discuss relevant aspects of the science and information dissemination systems of the EPA and NRM used to assess and manage natural resources.	\$636	China paid for the airfares
Alan Feely, Executive Director, Parks	South Africa	Attendance at IUCN World Parks Congress	\$8,700	
Dr Munro Mortimer, Senior Principal Scientist, Waterways Scientific Services	New Zealand	Attend the Solutions to Pollution Conference, Christchurch	\$2,100	
Paul O'Neill, Principal Conservation Officer	Brazil	Present a paper at the 27 th annual meeting of the Waterbird Society	\$1,122	\$3,606 US donor
Allan McKinnon, Manager, Moggill Koala Hospital	USA	Deliver koalas to Riverbanks Zoo, South Carolina (gift from Queensland)	\$1,326	\$7,456 Department of Premier & Cabinet
Adam Northam, Ranger	USA	Deliver koalas to Riverbanks Zoo, South Carolina (gift from Queensland)	\$1,326	\$7,456 Department of Premier & Cabinet
Russell Watkinson, Executive Director, Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA)	New Zealand	Represent ACIUCN at a meeting of the Oceania Regional Council of IUCN		\$1,500 IUCN

Environmental Protection Agency



Name of officer and position	Destination	Reason for travel	Agency cost	Contribution from other agencies or sources
Tad Bagdon, A/Director, Policy Division	China	Represent EPA at Leshan International Water Conference	\$3,425	
Jim Thompson, Manager (Wildlife)	New Zealand	Attend 3 rd International Wildlife Conference	\$2,596	
Max Chappell, Manager, WTMA	Indonesia	Represent Australian Government and participate in seminar workshop on cluster and trans-border natural World Heritage nominations in ASEAN region		\$3,333 UNESCO
Max Chappell, Manager, WTMA	Indonesia	Progress Indonesian Government Sectors Linkages Program relating to management capacity at Lorentz NP World Heritage Property, Papua		\$3,300 AusAid through Department of the Environment and Heritage, Canberra
Samantha Hewton, Environmental Advisor	Brazil	Provide environmental management support to fulfil obligation of trade agreement (memorandum of understanding between Queensland Government and State of Minas Gerais, 16 July 2003)	\$36,757 (overseas posting to Brazil for 12 months)	\$36,757 Department of State Development
			\$65,967	\$68,908





Appendices

4 – Report on the administration of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

Background

Government priorities and best-practice environmental management support a shift towards the integration of environmental management into mainstream economic activities. The Environmental Protection Agency facilitates sustainable development by creating environmentally sustainable jobs, demonstrating the value to business of sound environmental management, and ensuring the sustainable use of our natural capital.

The EPA's administration of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (the Act) makes a direct contribution to the Government priority of *Valuing the Environment*. It does this through the Agency output, *Ensuring a clean environment*, by focusing on:

- restoring, enhancing or maintaining the quality of Queensland's air, water and land; and
- minimising environmental nuisances.

Administering authorities

The Act is administered in partnership with local governments and other government departments. Section 514 of the Act provides that enforcement and administration of certain matters can, by regulation, be devolved to local government. Section 40 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 1998 devolves the administration and enforcement of the Act for certain environmentally relevant activities to the local government for the area where the activity is, or is to be, carried out.

Chapter 6, Part 2 of the Act also provides for the EPA to delegate powers to other government

agencies that manage the State's resources and infrastructure. The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPIF) has been delegated powers for administering the Act for cattle feedlotting, pig farming, dairy farming and livestock holding facilities.

Under mining provisions of the Act, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) is responsible for issuing environmental authorities for prospecting permits and mining claims. DNRM also has delegations to administer the Act as it applies to the upstream (exploration and extraction) petroleum and gas industry.

All local governments also have a delegated responsibility for the enforcement and management of litter, illegal waste disposal and waste management facilities. Thirty-six local governments have voluntarily accepted delegations under sections 31 and 32 of the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997 for local pollution matters such as sediment from building sites.

Introduction

The object of the Act is "to protect Queensland's environment while allowing for development that improves total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends (ecologically sustainable development)".

The Act provides that protection of Queensland's environment is to be achieved by an integrated management program that is consistent with ecologically sustainable development. The EPA has responsibility for the overall administration of the Act, which includes the following subordinate legislation:

- Environmental Protection Regulation 1998
- Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000
- Environmental Protection (Interim Waste) Regulation 1996
- Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 1997
- Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997
- Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 1997
- Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Policy 2000

Requirement for the annual report

Section 546(1) of the Act requires each administering authority to give the chief executive officer an annual report on its administration of the Act. This report must be in the form approved by the chief executive officer and contain information prescribed by the Act as well as other information that may be required by the chief executive officer.

DNRM, DPIF and local governments were required to report to the EPA for the 2003–04 reporting period.

Section 546(1) requires that within three months after the end of the financial year, the chief executive officer must give to the Environment Minister an annual report on the administration of the Act during the year. Section 546(7) requires that the Minister table a copy of the chief executive officer's annual report in the Legislative Assembly within 14 sitting days of receiving it.



Government reports

State

The following list summarises action taken by the EPA, DNRM and DPIF in administering the Act during 2003–04:

- 2322 new environmental authorities were issued (see table 2, page 83);
- 10,413 environmental authorities¹ are current (see table 3, page 84);
- 350 environmental authorities were cancelled or suspended and 15 were refused (see table 5, page 84);
- 3285 compliance inspections were undertaken by the EPA;
- 4793 complaints were received and processed (see table 10, page 87);
- 34 environmental protection orders were issued (see table 15, page 92);
- 17 environmental evaluations were required (see table 14, page 91);
- 68 environmental management programs were approved (see table 16, page 92);
- nine prosecutions were finalised (see attachment 1, page 96) and eight prosecutions were commenced (see attachment 2, page 102);
- 95 infringement notices were issued (see table 17, page 94); and
- 191 persons are currently “authorised officers” under the Act (see table 9, page 87).

Local government

The following is a summary of the actions formally taken by local governments to administer the Act during 2003–04:

- 840 new environmental authorities were issued (see table 2, page 83);
- 11,338 environmental authorities are current (see table 3, page 84);
- 162 environmental authorities were cancelled or suspended and four were refused (see table 5, page 84);
- 20,921 complaints relevant to the Act were received (see table 10, page 87);
- four environmental evaluations were required (see table 14, page 91);
- 12 environmental protection orders were issued (see table 15, page 92);
- 21 environmental management programs were approved (see table 16, page 92);
- 19 prosecutions were finalised and 10 commenced;
- 823 infringement notices were issued (see table 17, page 94); and
- 686 authorised persons were appointed under section 445 of the Act (see table 9, page 87).

The Queensland Audit Office (<http://www.qao.qld.gov.au/publications/document/0203report5.htm>) observed that only 26.8 percent of local governments recognised as local governments under the *Local Government Act 1993* submitted reports by the due date in the 2001–02 financial year. Outstanding reports represented 17 percent of the state’s population based on the 2001 census.

For the 2002–03 financial year, reports were received from 95 out of 158 councils (60.1 percent) within the required timeframe. Local governments not reporting represented 7.6 percent of the state’s population when compared with the 2001 census.

During the current 2003–04 reporting period, reports were received from 113 out of 158 councils (71.5 percent) within the required timeframe. Local governments not reporting represent only 3.5 percent of the state’s population when compared with the 2001 census. Table 1 (page 83) contains a list of local governments that did not meet their obligations under the Act to provide a report to the chief executive of the EPA within the required timeframe.



Table 1: Local governments that did not meet reporting requirements under the Act

Aramac	Kowanyama Aboriginal Council	Rosalie
Aurukun	Kubin Community Council	Saibai Community Council
Badu Community Council	Laidley	Seisia Community Council
Bamaga Community Council	Longreach	St Pauls Community Council
Boigu Community Council	Mabuiag Community Council	Ugar Community Council
Carpentaria	Mapoon Aboriginal Council	Umagico Aboriginal Council
Crows Nest	Mareeba	Warraber Community Council
Dauan Community Council	Masig Community Council	Weipa
Doomadgee Aboriginal Council	Mer Community Council	Winton
Duaringa	Miriam Vale	Whitsunday
Erub Community Council	Mundubbera	Woorabinda Aboriginal Council
Esk	Murgon	Wujal Wujal Community Council
Gayndah	Perry	Yam Community Council
Hammond Island Council	Porpuraaw Aboriginal Council	Yarrabah Community Council
Hope Vale Aboriginal Council	Poruman Community Council	Yorke Island Council

Environmental authorities

An environmental authority (EA) is a licence or approval issued by an administering authority under the Act for the carrying out of an environmentally relevant activity (ERA). Environmental authorities currently exist in several forms. Some older environmental authorities and those for mining and petroleum activities contain conditions that must be complied with by anyone carrying out the activity. More recent environmental authorities simply authorise the carrying out of an activity at a particular location and are associated with a development approval (issued under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* [IP Act]). The development approval, rather than the environmental authority, will contain conditions relevant to these activities. These conditions are designed to prevent or minimise environmental harm from the operation of the activity.

Schedule 1 and Division 2 of Part 2 of Schedule 6 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 1998 list all the ERAs, except for mineral exploration and mining, and include those that are administered by local government, and the annual fees payable. These ERAs, including mineral exploration and mining, that are regulated by the different administering authorities are summarised in attachment 3. Details about the number of new environmental authorities issued for each administering authority during 2003–04 are found in table 2 (see below). The number of environmental authorities current at the end of the financial year for each administering authority is detailed in table 3 (page 84).

Schedule 1 of the Act lists decisions taken by the administering authority that are subject to review and appeal. For example, if an applicant disagrees with certain licence conditions, the applicant may apply for a review of the decision. Table 4 (page 84) provides summary data on the outcomes of applications for a review of decision and table 5 (page 84) provides summary details of licences cancelled, suspended or refused.

Table 2: Environmental authorities² issued during 2003–04

Type of authority	EPA	DPIF	DNRM	Local government	Total
Level 1 activities ³	730	32	0	448	1,210
Level 2 activities ⁴	762	33	765	392	1,952
Total	1,492	65	765	840	3,162



Table 3: All environmental authorities at 30 June 2004

Type of authority	EPA	DPIF	DNRM	Local government	Total
Level 1 activities ³	6,320	306	0	7,034	13,660
Level 2 activities ⁴	2,399	262	1,126	4,304	8,091
Total	8,719	568	1,126	11,338	21,751

Table 4: Internal reviews of original decisions during 2003–04

Type of decision	EPA	DPIF	Local government	Total
Applications	14	1	12	27
Confirmed	8	1	25	34
Revoked	0	0	2	2
Varied	6	0	8	14

Table 5: Environmental authorities (EAs) cancelled, suspended or refused during 2003–04

Type of action	EPA	DPIF	Local government	Total
EAs cancelled or suspended	343	7	162	512
EAs refused	14	1	4	19
EAs transferred	229	36	198	463

Environmentally relevant activities that are considered to present a higher risk to the environment and require the person carrying out the activity to be licensed under the Act are referred to as “level one” ERAs. Many of these also require a development approval under the IP Act. Annual returns (a reporting requirement) and licence fees are imposed on those carrying out level one activities. However, the administering authority may waive payment of an amount of a fee if it is satisfied:

- payment of the amount would cause the applicant financial hardship; or
- the applicant holds a concurrent authority for the activity; or
- the risk of material or serious environmental harm from the activity is significantly smaller than the risk associated with most other activities of its type; or
- the risk of environmental harm or environmental nuisance from the activity is insignificant.

The number of applications for fee waiver processed during the financial year is summarised in table 6 (see below).

Environmentally relevant activities that are considered to present a lower risk to the environment have been categorised as “level two” ERAs. A person carrying out the activity must hold a level two approval or a development approval under the IP Act. No reporting requirements or annual fees apply to level two ERAs.

Table 6: Fee waiver applications processed on statutory grounds

Reason for waiver	EPA	DPIF	Local government ⁵	Total
Financial hardship	69	0	–	69
Concurrent authority	2	0	–	2
Significantly smaller risk	56	4	–	60
Insignificant risk	162	2	–	164
Total	289	6	1,233	1,528

Major assessments

The EPA assesses potential environmental impacts associated with proposed major projects within the state against the legislation administered by the EPA, such as the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* and *Marine Parks Act 1982* and associated subordinate legislation. These assessments are conducted through extensive environmental impact assessment processes under the Act; through advice to the Co-ordinator-General under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*; or as a concurrence or referral agency under the IP Act. A sample of completed, major projects assessed during 2003–04 relating to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* are summarised in table 7 (see below).

Table 7: Summary of major project assessments

Project	Description	Key environmental issues and outcomes
Curragh North Coal Project	Proposal to develop an open-cut coal mine 30km north of Blackwater. The mine will produce about 7 million tonnes a year for up to 40 years.	The project is next to the Mackenzie River. A buffer zone of riparian vegetation will be maintained along the river to maintain biodiversity values and habitat linkages. A 21km-long earthen levee bank along the Mackenzie River will contain run-off from the mine. Modelling indicates that the levee bank will have minimal impacts on the flooding regime of the Five Mile Lagoon catchment. Stakeholder consultation to be initiated by the proponent will explore the potential for improving habitat corridor connectivity by rehabilitating endangered regional ecosystems beyond the boundary of the mining lease.
Castle Hill residential development	Proposal includes a residential subdivision and community facilities next to a proposed canal created by historic gravel extraction next to the North Pine River.	The proposal caters for the high demand for waterfront properties in south-east Queensland. Coastal values will be preserved, as the development will use an existing gravel pit. Stabilisation works will reduce further bank erosion of the existing pit. Mangrove habitat will be retained. Dredging for navigation purposes will not take place. Dredging will only be permitted to maintain flushing with the North Pine River and access for maintenance by Pine Rivers Shire Council.
Tully-Mission Beach sewage treatment plant	A new tertiary sewage treatment plant has been built at Tully to treat effluent from the unsewered township of Mission Beach.	The new plant has resolved significant health and environmental concerns at Mission Beach by improving the quality of effluent treatment. The plant will reduce the quantity of contaminants being released to the environment and improve recycling of wastewater for irrigation.

Major projects subject to ongoing assessment under the Act at the end of June 2004 included:

- LG ethylene dichloride project, Gladstone;
- Sun Aqua seacage aquaculture project in Moreton Bay;
- Stuart Oil Shale (stage 2) project, Gladstone; and
- Swanbank paper production plant, Swanbank.



Contaminated land

Land contamination can occur as a result of poor environmental management and waste disposal practices, or accidental spills from industrial or commercial activities. Actions undertaken by the EPA in the administration of contaminated land issues are summarised in table 8 (see below).

Activities—such as service stations, cattle dips, tanneries, wood treatment sites and landfills that have been identified as likely to cause land contamination—are listed as notifiable activities. Details of land that has been used for notifiable activities are kept on the Environmental Management Register (EMR). Entry on the EMR does not mean that the land must be cleaned up or that the current land use must stop. When the EPA is satisfied that the land is not contaminated, the land is removed from the EMR. This can occur when a suitably qualified person or consultant has investigated the land, and provides a site investigation report about the land to the EPA for assessment.

The Contaminated Land Register (CLR) is a register of proven contaminated land. Land is removed from the CLR when it is remediated and a site investigation report satisfies the EPA that the land no longer poses a risk to the environment or public health. The EPA issued 300 information requests during 2003–04 in relation to site investigation and validation reports received for land on the CLR.

Land can be transferred from the CLR to the EMR where site management plans have been issued for the contamination of the subject land to be managed so it no longer causes environmental harm or poses a risk to human health. In 2003–04, the EPA approved 149 site management plans. When land is removed from either register, a suitability statement is issued for the land. The EPA issued 127 suitability statements for the year.

Contaminated soil must not be removed from sites listed on the EMR or where analysis of soil samples from a site has shown it to be contaminated. Anyone removing soil from land that is contaminated must obtain a disposal permit from the EPA. Last year 201 disposal permits were issued.

Contaminated land issues must be considered through the planning processes of the IP Act. Last year the EPA made 486 information requests and set conditions through 481 concurrence responses under the IP Act.

Searches can be conducted through the EPA or via CITEC CONFIRM (<http://www.citec.com.au/>) to find out if a particular site is listed on the EMR or CLR. CITEC CONFIRM offers an immediate response through online searches and payment by credit card. The immediate response is very popular, with 74,328 searches being conducted through CITEC CONFIRM and 40,529 through the EPA during 2003–04.

Table 8: Contaminated land actions

Action	Number
Information requests for site investigation and validation reports	300
Suitability statements issued for land taken off the EMR/CLR	127
Site management plans issued for contaminated land	149
Site investigation and validation reports assessed	244
Information requests issued under the IP Act	486
Concurrence responses issued under the IP Act	481
Contaminated soil disposal permits issued	201
EMR/CLR searches performed by EPA	40,529
EMR/CLR searches performed through CITEC	74,328

An example of a contaminated site that the EPA is involved with is the former Newstead Gasworks site. The Newstead Gasworks was a major industrial facility used from the 1880s to the 1960s for the manufacture of town gas from coal. The site is contaminated with hazardous contaminants such as hydrocarbon tars, cyanide wastes, benzene and other carcinogenic chemicals.

The gasworks site is currently under remediation and is Queensland's largest decontamination site. Clean-up costs are estimated at \$25–30 million. The clean-up will deliver outstanding environmental and economic growth benefits to the community with an estimated \$1 billion residential/commercial development to be built after the site is remediated.





Authorised officers

Officers appointed by the administering authority under the Act as authorised officers investigate valid complaints registered under the Act, process various applications, carry out compliance inspections and take enforcement actions. The number of authorised officers under the Act is listed in table 9 (see below).

Table 9: Number of authorised officers

Authority	EPA	DPIF	Local government	Total
Number of authorised officers	182	9	686	877

Complaints and incidents

The responsibility for managing environmental complaints and incidents is shared between State Government departments and local government. For example, complaints and incidents can be investigated under the following legislation:

- Environmental Protection Regulation 1998—Part 2A—Environmental Nuisance (for example, noise)
- Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000 (for example, littering, waste dumping)
- Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997—(for example, depositing or releasing certain things such as oil, concrete, paint, insecticides, chemical and sediment to stormwater drains or waterways)
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (for example, for more serious environmental harm offences).

Depending on the type of complaint or environmental incident, the EPA either responds directly or co-ordinates a response with other State Government agencies or local governments. Some local governments have hotlines dealing with a range of issues, including environmental nuisance and other environmental pollution incident issues.

Local government is generally responsible for the investigation of complaints from residential premises and devolved environmentally relevant activities. Some also have delegations from the EPA to investigate complaints and incidents under the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997.

The EPA Pollution Hotline (1300 130 372) allows a fast, effective response to reports about major pollution incidents such as fish kills, chemical spills, waste dumping and sewage overflows. The hotline is a service for reporting pollution incidents via a single telephone number across Queensland, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

During the year, the EPA investigated a total of 4652 complaints (see table 10, below). This is a reduction when compared with the previous year. There was a reduction in complaints received over all complaint categories during the year. The major reduction was in the area of air-related complaints, followed by smaller reductions in the number of noise and water-related complaints.

Table 10: Summary of complaints received

Authority	EPA	DPIF	Local government	Total
Air	1,876	103	503	2,482
Water	910	7	3,195	4,112
Noise	1,188	6	10,537	11,731
Waste	300	11	2,457	2,768
Other	378	14	4,229	4,621
Total	4,652	141	20,921	25,714



The main air-related complaints received by the EPA were prompted by dust and odour. Within the water category, major contributing sources were sewage effluent, oil contamination and sediment. Industrial, construction and demolition noises were some of the major reasons for noise complaints investigated by the EPA. Most waste-related complaints involved the illegal dumping of waste materials, including construction and demolition materials. Lighting and complaints regarding potential breaches of licence conditions were identified as the significant contributors to the other category.

During the year, the EPA investigated 16 incidents involving fish kills. Reports on these incidents are available on the EPA's web site at www.epa.qld.gov.au.

From the investigation of many incidents resulting in material or serious environmental harm, the EPA has observed a key trend that many spills could have been avoided by the development and implementation of an inspection and preventative maintenance program, as well as early-detection systems for pipeline systems.

It is also worth noting that the Queensland Police Service and the Liquor Licensing Division investigate many after-hours nuisance complaints.

In relation to complaints received by local government, the majority of noise-related complaints were associated with animal noise. These accounted for 7780 of the total noise complaints received by local governments. For the water category, 2847 complaints were attributed to sections 31 and 32 of the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997. Waste complaints were dominated by complaints about littering, which accounted for 1168 of these complaints.

Responses to incidents and major monitoring programs

While most complaints are resolved quickly, some complaints require the EPA to commit substantial resources to the investigation or prevention of serious environmental harm. Table 11 highlights this commitment in managing significant events. Examples of responses to a major monitoring program and a major incident are provided below.

	Major incidents	Major monitoring programs	Total
Number of major incidents and monitoring programs	40	17	57
Resources committed – days	253	171	424

Major monitoring programs

Palmer River catchment monitoring project—Northern Region

The Palmer River catchment project aims to contribute to the understanding of the possible environmental effects of alluvial gold mining within the Palmer River catchment.

Consideration is given to the consequences of alluvial dredging in regards to sediment transport, landform, river channel geometry, water quality, channelisation and the effects on vegetation and biota. The implementation of the monitoring program, which is in its second year, will ultimately examine the effects of alluvial gold mining practices on ecosystem integrity and the effectiveness of post-mining rehabilitation processes within the Palmer River catchment.

The monitoring program has been conducted annually from August 2003 and will continue over a four-year period. The project is a collaborative project with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM). Monitoring incorporates the State of the Rivers program, Queensland Herbarium vegetation assessments, macro invertebrate study and physical assessment of erosion at various sampling sites.

Major incidents

DPIF attended four major incidents and committed the equivalent of 12 days in managing the incidents. During the year, the EPA responded to 40 major incidents and committed the equivalent of 253 staff days in responding to and investigating the incidents. One such incident is outlined below:





North Ipswich Rail Yards—underground fire

The EPA participated in a co-ordinated response to an underground fire that broke out in an old landfill on the banks of the Bremer River at the North Ipswich Rail Yards on 3 November 2003. It took 10 days to extinguish the fire.

The fire was burning underground on an embankment of the Bremer River. This presented challenges to the response team in extinguishing the fire. It was considered that strategic excavation of the embankment combined with water dousing would be the most effective way to extinguish the fire and manage any potential impacts on nearby residences and the environment.

Smoke and odour nuisance was a potential impact on nearby residential areas. There was also a concern that asbestos was buried at the site and that particulates could be released to the air if not managed appropriately. Plenty of water had to be used to ensure any asbestos material was fully saturated. Air monitoring stations were set up to monitor air quality in the area and a specialist asbestos removal company was engaged to remove any asbestos unearthed.

To prevent the release of contaminated firewater into the Bremer River, a bunded catch drain was constructed at the bottom of the slope to intercept any firewater. A pump was provided so that the firewater could be irrigated to land or recycled for fire fighting purposes if the dam became full.

This incident involved the implementation of a fire-fighting plan developed by Queensland Rail in consultation with all relevant agencies. The successful management of the incident demonstrates the effectiveness of pre-planning and documenting emergency responses and contingency plans.

Strategic compliance management plan

The EPA has developed a strategic compliance management plan that describes the EPA's approach to compliance management under the Act.

The EPA's compliance management program comprises:

- area inspection programs;
- industry sector inspection programs; and
- a licensed activity inspection program.

These programs are designed to focus on protecting and enhancing the quality of our air and water and avoiding land contamination. While the number of inspections during 2003–04 is an increase on previous years, the total number of area and industry-sector inspections in any year will fluctuate due to:

- the complexity of inspection programs;
- the number and complexity of major incidents and monitoring programs;
- adverse weather conditions that preclude access to sites;
- the number and distribution of nuisance and other complaints across the state;
- the environmental performance of licensed activities; or
- a significant increase in assessment and authorisation of new development.

Area inspections

The area inspection program consists of compliance inspections of premises within a selected area, for example, an industrial estate or the catchment of a creek or river. The program focuses on the key environmental issues in the particular area, and this is reflected by the nature of the inspections carried out. For example, water quality in a creek may be a particular issue, and so inspections would focus on potential sources of water pollution.

If local governments or other State Government departments regulate some of the activities in a particular area, the EPA will look to local governments or these other departments to partner with the EPA in carrying out the area inspection program. A partnership approach provides the maximum benefit for the environment.

At the completion of each program, the EPA collates findings into a report that assesses levels of compliance with the Act within each area. A report in relation to the Louisa Creek area inspection program conducted with officers from Townsville City Council will be published on the EPA web site.



Table 12 (below) lists the areas inspected and the number of inspections carried out in 2003–04.

Table 12: Compliance inspections undertaken in selected areas	
Area	Number of inspections
Wivenhoe Dam catchment	52
Myall Creek	31
Port Curtis catchment	18
North-west sewage treatment plants	12
Palmer River alluvial gold mining	11
Proposed State Development area at Stuart	117
Louisa Creek, Townsville	45
Total	286

Industry sector inspections

The industry sector inspection program consists of compliance inspections of premises within a selected industry sector. The program focuses on the key environmental issues relating to the particular industry sector.

Similar to the area inspection program, industry sector programs may be carried out in partnership with other regulatory authorities for the particular industry. Industry bodies have also been involved and have encouraged their members to conform to recognised environmental standards.

An industry sector program aims to ensure that business activities are complying with approval conditions. At the completion of each program, the EPA collates its findings into a report that provides an insight into the overall compliance performance. Reports in relation to the marine storage and fuel refuelling and opal mining industry inspections carried out in 2003–04 will be published on the EPA web site.

Table 13 (below) identifies the number of industry sector inspections done in the 2003–04.

Table 13: Compliance inspections in selected industry sectors	
Industry sector	Number of inspections
Marine storage and fuel refuelling	122
Soil conditioner manufacturing	99
Pig farming and cattle feedlots	35
Opal mining – Winton to Quilpie	17
Dredging (Gold Coast only)	40
Extraction (Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast only)	40
Petroleum product storage (ERA 11)	30
Total	383

Licensed activity inspection

The licensed activity inspection program occurs on a proactive basis. Inspections are initiated by the EPA and can be conducted on any business licensed by the EPA. The program ensures that businesses are inspected to determine compliance with approval conditions as well as environmental performance. An inspection can be initiated in response to a complaint and or incident reported to the EPA.

The frequency and the level of licensed activity inspections takes into account the:

- nature of the activities carried out;
- inherent risk of causing environmental harm;
- location of the business and the sensitivity of the receiving environment; and
- past performance of the licence holder and any other relevant matter that needs to be considered.



Based on the above factors, businesses are inspected either annually, biannually or as issues arise through complaints or incidents reported to the EPA. During 2003–04 the EPA undertook 2616 inspections.

Compliance

A decision to initiate enforcement action is made in accordance with the EPA's Enforcement Guidelines, which is available on the EPA web site at www.epa.qld.gov.au.

To ensure compliance with the Act after the investigation of a complaint or as a result of an inspection program, the administering authority has available a range of enforcement tools further outlined below.

It is estimated that industry spent about \$40 million during 2003–04 on environmental improvements due to statutory tools completed under the Act.

Some examples of environmental management programs resulting in significant environmental improvements include:

- A sugar mill in northern Queensland invested an estimated \$500,000 in improvements to stormwater and wastewater containment infrastructure (including a new storage pond) for recycling and irrigation of the wastewater to land.
- A smelter in central Queensland invested an estimated \$1.3 million on engineering works to reduce particulate emissions from the site.
- A landfill in southern Queensland invested an estimated \$3.6 million to construct a specially designed monocell to effectively dispose of contaminated material.

As well as the above examples, industry volunteered numerous improvements that were facilitated by the EPA without the use of statutory compliance tools.

Environmental evaluations

Environmental investigations and audits

The administering authority can require a person to carry out an environmental evaluation to decide the source, cause or extent of environmental harm caused, or likely to be caused by an activity. Typically, an environmental evaluation is required where the cause or solution to an environmental issue is not obvious. The results of an evaluation can be used to decide whether an environmental management program is needed. When requiring an environmental evaluation, the administering authority will identify the relevant matters for the evaluation. The evaluation can be either an environmental audit or an environmental investigation. Details of environmental evaluations for 2003–04 are summarised in table 14 (see below).

An environmental audit can be required where there is non-compliance with licence conditions; development approval conditions; an environmental protection policy; or environmental management program.

An environmental investigation can be required where an event, activity or proposed activity is causing or is likely to cause serious or material environmental harm.

Table 14: Environmental evaluations (EEs) required

Agency	EEs
DPIF	0
DNRM	Not reported for 2003–04
EPA ⁶	17
Local government	4
Total	21



Environmental protection orders

An environmental protection order (EPO) is an order that the administering authority can use to impose a reasonable requirement to prevent or minimise environmental harm. Typically, an EPO is issued where the cause of environmental harm is known or what has to be done is clear. An EPO will require a person to undertake certain actions usually within a specified timeframe. An EPO can be issued:

- if a person does not comply with a requirement to submit an environmental evaluation or environmental management program (EMP); or
- where an environmental evaluation indicates environmental harm needs to be addressed; or
- to secure compliance with the general environmental duty, an environmental protection policy, a condition of an environmental authority, a development condition of a development approval, condition of a site management plan, an audit notice, or a notice to surrender an environmental authority.

The issuing of an EPO is a strategy used to prevent or deal quickly with environmental harm. EPOs are an alternative to prosecution and are usually used after an environmental incident to ensure remedial measures are undertaken. EPOs issued during 2003–04 are summarised in table 15 (see below).

Agency	EPOs
DPIF	0
DNRM	Not reported for 2003–04
EPA	34
Local government	12
Total	46

Environmental management programs

An environmental management program (EMP) is a specific program that the administering authority can require to achieve compliance with the Act. The program can either be designed to reduce environmental harm or detail a transition to an environmental standard, such as when a new Environmental Protection Policy commences. An EMP provides a legally binding commitment to bring an operation into compliance and provides protection from prosecution provided commitments are met. An EMP may also be submitted voluntarily.

An EMP must state:

- the objectives;
- how the objectives will be achieved;
- the milestones for achieving the objectives;
- performance indicators; and
- provisions about monitoring and compliance reporting.

EMPs approved during 2003–04 are summarised in table 16 (see below).

Agency	EMPs
DPIF	1
DNRM	Not reported for 2003–04
EPA	67
Local government	21
Total	89



Court action

Prosecutions and restraint orders

The EPA finalised eight prosecutions under the Act during 2003–04 (see attachment 1, page 96). Fines imposed by courts totalled \$565,000 and defendants were ordered to pay court costs and compensation of \$88,890.62. In addition, \$496,136.95 in clean-up costs was paid in relation to the matter of Stratton v Moonie Pipeline Company Pty Ltd.

Eight EPA prosecutions remained unfinalised at 30 June 2004 (see attachment 2, page 102).

During the past two years, the EPA has commenced court proceedings against four entities in relation to the discharge of contaminants resulting from pipeline failure:

- Caboolture Shire Council (Caboolture Magistrates Court, 6 December 2002). A rising main ruptured resulting in discharge of 18 million litres of raw sewage to Burpengary Creek. The council failed to adequately investigate low flows observed at the treatment plant until five days after the low flow was first observed. Fined \$30,000.
- Bundaberg Sugar Ltd (Planning and Environment Court, 30 July 2003). During routine maintenance, an underground pipeline carrying wastewater to the treatment pond system failed resulting in a discharge of an unknown volume of wastewater into a tributary of the South Johnstone River. A restraint order was obtained requiring measures to be taken to prevent or minimise future risks of environmental harm.

- Malanda Dairyfoods Ltd (Cairns Magistrates Court, 18 August 2003). The company experienced two failures within a six-month period of pipes in its effluent irrigation system, resulting in separate discharges to the North Johnstone River. Fined a total of \$65,000.
- Moonie Pipeline Company Pty Ltd (Brisbane Magistrates Court, 10 September 2003). An oil transfer from Moonie to Lytton was initiated to facilitate an intelligent pigging operation to test the integrity of the pipeline. The pipeline ruptured, resulting in the discharge of 1.9 million litres of oil. The oil spill was contained, preventing discharge to the Brisbane River. Fined \$300,000.

The action taken by the EPA has provided a deterrent to other pipeline operators and highlighted the need to:

- have preventative maintenance programs;
- implement appropriate risk assessment and management systems; and
- develop appropriate contingency plans to respond to incidents.

Local government (see attachment 1, page 96)⁷ finalised 19 and commenced 10 prosecutions during 2003–04. Fines imposed by courts totalled \$38,550.

DPIF finalised one prosecution during 2003–04 (see attachment 1, page 96). The court imposed a fine of \$2000.

Planning and Environment Court orders

The Planning and Environment Court may issue orders to remedy or restrain an offence that has been or will be committed against the Act. A person who does not comply with an order commits an offence against the Act. The court may make an order restraining the use of plant or equipment; or requiring the demolition or removal of plant or equipment, a structure or another thing; or requiring the rehabilitation or restoration of the environment.

A person may apply to the court for an order to remedy or restrain the commission of an offence where the court is satisfied that an offence has or will be committed unless stopped. The EPA was granted three restraint orders during 2003–04.

Details of the three restraint orders obtained by the EPA are found in attachment 1, page 96.

Infringement notices

Authorised persons under the Act are able to issue penalty infringement notices (commonly known as "PINs") for more than 100 offences under the Act and its subordinate legislation. Infringement notices are appropriate where:

- the breach is minor;
- the facts are apparently indisputable;
- the breach is a one-off situation easily remedied;
- inspection discovers a breach that normal operating procedures should have prevented; and
- the issuing of an infringement notice is likely to be a deterrent.

Table 17 (page 94) provides data on infringement notices issued by EPA, DPIF and local government.



Table 17: Infringement notices issued

Agency	Infringement notices
DPIF	0
DNRM	Not reported for 2003–04
EPA	
—Breach of a licence condition	56
—Release of contaminant to water	12
—Nuisance	9
—Release of waste	0
—Other	18
Total EPA	95
Local government	
—Breach of a licence condition	22
—Release of contaminant to water	647
—Nuisance	54
—Release of waste	98
—Other	2
Total reported by local government	823
Total	918

Emergency directions

To secure compliance or prevent environmental harm or restore the environment, an emergency direction may be issued with specific conditions. An emergency direction requires an occupier to take all reasonable and practicable precautions to prevent or minimise environmental harm and to comply with the requirements of the direction within set timeframes. The use of these powers is summarised in table 18 (see below).

Table 18: Emergency directions issued

Authority	EPA	DPIF	Local government	Total
Emergency directions	2	0	Not reported for 2003–04	2

James Purtill

**Director-General
Environmental Protection Agency**

Endnotes

¹ The number of environmental authorities does not correlate with the number of sites or the number of environmentally relevant activities. Some sites have multiple licences but it is more common for several sites or several environmentally relevant activities to be covered by one environmental authority.

² Environmental authorities include licences, approvals and non-standard and standard mining activities.

³ Level 1 activities are those that have a higher risk of causing environmental harm. Level 1 activities include level 1 environmentally relevant activities and non-standard mining activities. Some transitional mining authorities that are either tenement based or standard mining activities that have not converted to a mining project or standard mining authority are included here, together with environmental authorities that are multiple authorities without an integrated environmental management system.

⁴ Level 2 activities are those that have a lower risk of causing environmental harm. Level 2 activities include level 2 environmentally relevant activities and standard mining activities.

⁵ Local government data is not segregated into sub-categories.

⁶ Includes environmental audits and environmental investigations.

⁷ Not all case data has been supplied.





Snapshot

EPA secures order to remove regulated waste



Main: The Wulkuraka site after the clean-up. Photo: Chris Hanlon.

Inset: The stockpile of waste at Lifnexus Pty Ltd's Enterprise St site in Wulkuraka before a court-ordered clean-up. Photo: Chris Hanlon.

The Environmental Protection Agency was made aware of the storage of a large amount of regulated waste (waste oil and slack wax) in drums at Wulkuraka, near Ipswich. The EPA obtained a restraining order in the Planning and Environment Court against Lifnexus Pty Ltd and other parties in October 2003. The order required proper disposal of the waste stored at the Enterprise Street site.

One of the parties responsible for the waste lawfully removed 2353 drums from the site during the final week in October as part of the clean-up. The requirements of the restraining order were fulfilled and the site is currently listed on the Environmental Management Register.



Attachment 1: Finalised prosecutions and restraint orders under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* in 2003–04

Party	Offence	Nature of offence	Plea	Date and place of judgement	Court order
Environmental Protection Agency					
Orman v Aargus Pty Ltd	s 480 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Giving the administering authority a validation report that Aargus Pty Ltd knew was incomplete in a material particular, namely that surface samples had not been taken of the former location of the abrasive blasting area.	Guilty	30/07/2003; Brisbane Magistrates Court	Fined \$10,000. Ordered to pay \$680.35 analysis costs, plus \$60 court costs, plus \$250 professional costs. Allowed two months to pay.
Little v Malanda Dairyfoods Ltd	s 443 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> (two charges)	Placing wastewater in a place where it could reasonably be expected to cause environmental harm (to North Johnstone River).	Guilty	18/08/2003; Cairns Magistrates Court	Fined \$25,000 and \$40,000. Ordered to pay \$5906.84 analysis costs plus \$250 professional costs. No conviction recorded.
Stratton v Moonie Pipeline Company Pty Ltd	s 437 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Causing serious environmental harm by allowing 1.9 million litres of crude oil to escape to waterways in Lytton.	Guilty	10/09/2003; Brisbane Magistrates Court	Fined \$300,000. Ordered to pay \$45,906.25 analysis costs and \$10,000 professional costs. No conviction recorded.
Dodd v Karreman Quarries Pty Ltd	s 443 & s 426 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Carrying out ERA without a licence and placing a contaminant (sediment) in a place where it might cause environmental harm.	Guilty	10/10/2003; Cleveland Magistrates Court	Fined \$25,000 (s 443) and \$20,000 (s 426). Ordered to pay \$12,500 legal and investigative costs plus \$62.20 court costs. No conviction recorded.
McLean v Thomas Borthwicks & Sons (Australia) Pty Ltd	s 430 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Contravening a condition of an environmental authority.	Guilty	31/03/2004; Brisbane Magistrates Court	Fined \$40,000. No conviction recorded.
Wills v Wastetek Pty Ltd	s 430 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Contravening a condition of an environmental authority.	Ex parte	10/05/2004; Ipswich Magistrates Court	Fined \$50,000. Ordered to pay costs of \$13,274.98.



Party	Offence	Nature of offence	Plea	Date and place of judgement	Court order
Environmental Protection Agency (continued)					
Halliday v W.H. Heck and Sons Pty Ltd	s 443 & s 320 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Placing a contaminant in a position where it might reasonably cause serious environmental harm; and failing to notify the EPA of the event.	Guilty	28/06/2004; Beenleigh Magistrates Court	Fined \$55,000. No conviction recorded
Carr v Marshall	s 6ZF(2) of the Environmental Protection Regulation 1998	Allowing a powerboat engine to be operated in a way that made audible noise on a public holiday before 8am.	Not guilty	15/04/2004 Maroochydore Magistrates Court	Charges dismissed. EPA ordered to pay \$1000 in professional costs.
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries					
DPIF v Desmond Claude Watts	s 438 (2) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Unlawfully causing material environmental harm by allowing effluent from a piggery to be released into Westbrook Creek.	Guilty	21/10/2003; Toowoomba Magistrates Court	Fined \$2000. Ordered to pay costs of \$62. No conviction recorded.
Caloundra City Council					
Caloundra City Council v Watts	s 426(1) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	A person must not carry out a level 1 ERA unless the person holds, or is acting under: (a) a non-standard environmental authority (mining activities) if the activity is a mining activity; or (b) a licence or a level 1 approval, if the activity is not a mining activity.	Failed to appear	08/01/2004; Caloundra Magistrates Court	Fined \$5000. Ordered to pay costs of \$311.60.
Gold Coast City Council					
GCCC v Shutterbug Blinds	s 427 (1) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Carrying out a level 2 ERA without approval.		07/06/2004; Southport Magistrates Court – withdrawn	Charges dismissed. Shutterbug Blinds was ordered to pay professional costs of \$1280.
GCCC v Dargush	s 426 (1) (b) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Carrying out a level 1 ERA without a licence.	Ex parte	19/01/2004; Southport Magistrates Court	Fined \$800. Ordered to pay costs of \$62.10.

Environmental Protection Agency



Party	Offence	Nature of offence	Plea	Date and place of judgement	Court order
Gold Coast City Council (continued)					
GCCC v Bermingham	s 426 (1) (b) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Carrying out a level 1 ERA without a licence.	Guilty	19/01/2004; Southport Magistrates Court	Fined \$800. Ordered to pay costs of \$62.10. No conviction recorded.
GCCC v Marshall	s 426 (1) (b) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Carrying out a level 1 ERA without a licence.	Guilty	20/01/2004; Southport Magistrates Court	Fined \$800. Ordered to pay costs of \$62.10.
GCCC v Crumin	s 426 (1) (b) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Carrying out a level 1 ERA without a licence.	Guilty	21/01/2004; Southport Magistrates Court	Fined \$800. Ordered to pay costs of \$62.10.
GCCC v Tomlinson	s 426 (1) (b) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Carrying out a level 1 ERA without a licence.	Guilty	06/02/2004; Beenleigh Magistrates Court	Fined \$800. Ordered to pay costs of \$62.10. No conviction recorded.
Brisbane City Council					
Caren Gwen Jenkins v Chris Michael	s 426 (1) (b) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Carrying out a level 1 ERA (motor vehicle workshop) without a licence or approval.	Guilty	25/07/2003; Holland Park Magistrates Court	Fined \$1000. Ordered to pay professional costs of \$250. Outlays \$64.90. No conviction recorded.
Tanya Maree Favero v Maingain Pty Ltd	s 426 (1) (b) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> s 493 (1) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Carrying out a level 1 ERA (motor vehicle workshop) without a licence or approval. Failure to ensure that the company complied with the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .	Ex parte	28/01/2004; Central Magistrates Court, Brisbane	Fined \$1500. Ordered to pay professional costs of \$250. Outlays \$66.
Tanya Maree Favero v James David Smith	s 426 (1) (b) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> s 493 (1) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Carrying out a level 1 ERA (motor vehicle workshop) without a licence or approval. Failure to ensure that the company complied with the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .	Ex parte	28/01/2004; Central Magistrates Court, Brisbane	Fined \$750. Ordered to pay professional costs of \$150. Outlays \$66.



Party	Offence	Nature of offence	Plea	Date and place of judgement	Court order
Brisbane City Council (continued)					
Tanya Maree Favero v Christine Lee Smith	s 426 (1) (b) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> s 493 (1) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Carrying on a level 1 ERA (motor vehicle workshop) without a licence or approval. Failure to ensure that the company complied with the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .	Ex parte	28/01/2004; Central Magistrates Court, Brisbane	Fined \$750. Ordered to pay professional costs of \$150. Outlays: \$66
Peter Joseph Stevens v Patrick Autocare Pty Ltd	Breach of licence conditions	Installation of a diesel fuel line system and recycling tank without prior approval of council; failure to ensure that the delivery nozzle for the diesel dispenser was fitted with an automatic shut off device; failure to ensure that the bunded compound drain valve was kept closed and locked and release of oil into a water without authorisation.	Guilty	26/05/2004; Central Magistrates Court, Brisbane	Fined \$22,500. Ordered to pay costs of \$6000. No conviction recorded.
Peter Weston v Tetra & Associates Pty Ltd	Environmental Protection (Water) Policy			18/07/2003; Western Districts Magistrates Court	Fined \$350. Ordered to pay professional costs of \$312.50.
Glen Morgan v P. Shaw	Environmental Protection (Water) Policy			24/10/2003; Holland Park Magistrates Court	Fined \$400. Ordered to pay professional costs of \$400. Outlays \$64.90. No conviction recorded.
Glen Morgan v C. Schooling	Environmental Protection (Water) Policy		Ex parte	21/11/2003; Inala Magistrates Court	Fined \$500. Ordered to pay professional costs of \$364.30.
Mark Brown v S. McDonnell	Environmental Protection (Water) Policy			12/12/2003; Inala Magistrates Court	Fined \$1000. Ordered to pay costs of \$464.90.



Party	Offence	Nature of offence	Plea	Date and place of judgement	Court order
Brisbane City Council <i>(continued)</i>					
Antonya Browning v PMB Enterprises Pty Ltd	s 32 (1) (b) (i) and s 32 (1) (b) (ii) of the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy			23/06/2003; Sandgate Magistrates Court	Fined \$800. Ordered to pay professional costs of \$96.33. Outlays \$500.
Glen Morgan v GFK Developments Pty Ltd	Environmental Protection (Water) Policy		Not guilty	03/03/2004; Holland Park Magistrates Court	Charges dismissed.
Robert Kingsford v Oakridge Pty Ltd	Environmental Protection (Water) Policy		Not guilty	21/01/2004; Central Magistrates Court Brisbane	Case lost. Costs of \$20 awarded.



Party	Order	Reason for order	Date and place of judgment	Details of the order
Environmental Protection Agency – Restraint orders				
Bundaberg Sugar Ltd	s 505 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	An underground pipeline carrying wastewater to the treatment pond system failed resulting in discharge of wastewater into a tributary of the South Johnstone River.	30/07/2003	Measures were required to be taken to prevent or minimise future risks of environmental harm.
Lifnax Pty Ltd, John Dalzell Mare, Eleanor Mare, John Graham Etchells, Charles Luke Caminiti, Harry Norman Fox and Nola Fox (deceased estate)	s 505 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Storage of regulated waste without a licence.	09/10/2003; Planning and Environment Court, Brisbane	Removal of regulated waste to a licensed facility within three months.
Landfix Pty Ltd	s 505 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Alleged wilful serious environmental harm.	31/10/2003; Planning and Environment Court, Brisbane	Stop receiving, recycling or reprocessing of regulated waste and remove regulated waste.
Caloundra City Council – Restraint orders				
Watts	s 505 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	A person must not carry out a level 1 ERA unless the person holds, or is acting under: (a) if the activity is a mining activity – a non-standard environmental authority (mining activities); or (b) if the activity is not a mining activity – a licence or a level 1 approval.	30/01/2004; Planning and Environment Court	Ordered to be restrained from conducting a motor vehicle workshop until he obtains a licence and meets the licence conditions or face a monetary penalty of up to \$225,000 or imprisonment for two years.



Attachment 2: Prosecutions and restraint-order applications commenced, but not completed, under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* in 2003–04

Party	Charge	Allegation	Status at 30 June 2004
Environmental Protection Agency			
Paul Orwin (EPA) v Landfix & Ors	s 437 (1) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Ammonia emissions causing serious environmental harm; leaching from stockpile causing serious environmental harm.	The magistrate dismissed the indictable charges; however, the matter is with the Director of Public Prosecutions for consideration to recommence the indictable proceedings.
Paul Orwin (EPA) v Landfix Pty Ltd	s 440 – environmental nuisance s 430 – breach of licence conditions s 443 – placing a contaminant where it could be expected to cause harm	Ammonia emissions to adjacent business; operating outside licensed area; stockpiling fines where they could be expected to wash into the ocean.	Charges adjourned to the registry pending completion of s 347 proceedings.
Paul Orwin (EPA) v Taylor	s 437 (1) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Ammonia emissions causing serious environmental harm; leaching from stockpile causing serious environmental harm.	The magistrate dismissed the indictable charges; however, the matter is with the Director of Public Prosecutions for consideration to recommence the indictable proceedings.
Paul Orwin (EPA) v Taylor	s 440 – environmental nuisance s 430 – breach of licence conditions s 443 – placing a contaminant where it could be expected to cause harm	Ammonia emissions to adjacent business; operating outside licensed area; stockpiling fines where they could be expected to wash into the ocean.	Charges adjourned to the registry pending completion of s 347 proceedings.
Paul Orwin (EPA) v Welbourne	s 437 (1) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Ammonia emissions causing serious environmental harm; leaching from stockpile causing serious environmental harm.	The magistrate dismissed the indictable charges, however, the matter is with the Director of Public Prosecutions for consideration to recommence the indictable proceedings.
Paul Orwin (EPA) v Welbourne	s 440 – environmental nuisance s 430 – breach of licence conditions s 443 – placing a contaminant where it could be expected to cause harm	Ammonia emissions to adjacent business; operating outside licensed area; stockpiling fines where could be expected to wash into the ocean.	Charges adjourned to the registry pending completion of s 347 proceedings.



Party	Charge	Allegation	Status at 30 June 2004
Environmental Protection Agency <i>(continued)</i>			
Genevieve Halliday (EPA) v Stanwell Ltd	s 320 – failure to notify environmental harm s 437 – causing serious environmental harm s 443 – placing a contaminant where it could be expected to cause harm	Failure to notify the EPA of the fact that biomass was being stored in an unbanded fashion. The serious environmental harm is aquatic pollution and water contamination. Storing biomass in circumstances where no effective system (of bunds or ponds or otherwise) was made for the retention of such leachate to prevent it from leaving the defendant's premises.	Submission to Beenleigh Magistrates Court on 2 September 2004
Genevieve Halliday (EPA) v WMI Fuels P/L	s 320 – failure to notify environmental harm s 437 – causing serious environmental harm	Failure to notify the EPA of the fact that biomass was being stored in an unbanded fashion. The serious environmental harm is aquatic pollution and water contamination.	To be mentioned in the District Court in Brisbane on 17 September 2004.
Caboolture Shire Council			
Caboolture Shire Council v Ricciardi	s 16 Interim Waste Regulations 1996	Deposition of construction and or demolition waste without approval	Complaint issued
Pine Rivers Shire Council			
Burton v Proformers	s 361 (2) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Breach of environmental protection order (noise nuisance)	Complaint issued
Burton v Proformers	s 361 (2) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Breach of environmental protection order (dust nuisance)	Complaint issued
Gold Coast City Council			
GCCC v Hill	s 426 (1) (b) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Carrying out a level 1 ERA without a licence	Complaint issued



Party	Charge	Allegation	Status at 30 June 2004
Brisbane City Council			
Peter Joseph Stevens v Juneholm Pty Ltd	s 320 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> ; s 431 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Failure to give written notice of the event of material or serious environmental harm to the administering authority as soon as reasonably practical after being aware of the event; causing serious environmental harm	Mentioned for further hearing on 8–19 November 2004
Peter Joseph Stevens v Mobil Oil Australia Pty Ltd	s 320 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> ; s 431 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Failure to give written notice of the event of material or serious environmental harm to the administering authority as soon as reasonably practical after being aware of the event; causing serious environmental harm	Mentioned for further hearing on 8–19 November 2004
Peter Joseph Stevens v Strasburger Enterprises (Properties) Pty Ltd	s 320 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> ; s 431 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Failure to give written notice of the event of material or serious environmental harm to the administering authority as soon as reasonably practical after being aware of the event; causing serious environmental harm	Mentioned for further hearing on 8–19 November 2004
Tanya Maree Favero v FRH Group Pty Ltd	s 32 (1) (b) (ii) of the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy		To be heard for first mention on 22 October 2004
John Rutter v Giovanni Ciavarella	s 32 (1) (b) (ii) of the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy		To be heard on 12 August 2004
Mark Brown v Peter Jackson	s 32 (1) (b) (ii) and s 31 (2) (b) of the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy		First mention on 23 July 2004



Attachment 3: Summary of ERAs for which environmental authorities were issued

Environmentally relevant activity	EPA	DNRM	DPI	Local government	Total	Environmentally relevant activity	EPA	DNRM	DPI	Local government	Total
Aquaculture	98	0	0	0	98	Battery manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0
Cattle feedlotting	2	0	441	0	443	Crushing, milling or grinding	28	0	0	0	28
Pig farming	1	0	127	0	128	Mushroom growing or substrate growing	1	0	0	0	1
Poultry farming	0	0	0	99	99	Pet, stock or aquaculture food manufacturing	5	0	0	74	79
Alcohol distilling	21	0	0	0	21	Plaster manufacturing	5	0	0	0	5
Chemical manufacturing, processing or mixing	124	0	0	0	124	Pulp or paper manufacturing	4	0	0	0	4
Chemical storage	116	0	0	0	116	Rendering operation	9	0	0	0	9
Coke producing	39	0	0	0	39	Plastic manufacturing	5	0	0	263	268
Gas producing	4	0	0	0	4	Printing	3	0	0	265	268
Paint manufacturing	28	0	0	0	28	Soil conditioner manufacturing	64	0	0	0	64
Crude oil or petroleum product storing	263	0	0	707	970	Tanning	9	0	0	0	9
Oil refining or processing	3	0	0	0	3	Textile manufacturing	4	0	0	0	4
Fuel gas refining or processing	1	0	0	0	1	Tobacco processing	0	0	0	0	0
Crematorium	5	0	0	33	38	Tyre manufacturing	12	0	0	0	12
Sewage treatment	776	0	0	0	776	Asbestos products manufacturing	1	0	0	0	1
Municipal water treatment plant	186	0	0	0	186	Asphalt manufacturing	27	0	0	22	49

Environmental Protection Agency



Environmentally relevant activity	EPA	DNRM	DPI	Local government	Total	Environmentally relevant activity	EPA	DNRM	DPI	Local government	Total
Fuel burning	167	0	0	0	167	Cement manufacturing	3	0	0	0	3
Power station	58	0	0	0	58	Clay or ceramic products manufacturing	26	0	0	0	26
Dredging material	415	0	0	0	415	Concrete batching	63	0	0	271	334
Extracting rock or other material	890	0	0	58	948	Glass or glass fibre manufacturing	1	0	0	0	1
Mining— <i>Petroleum Act 1923</i>	2	0	0	0	2	Mineral wool or ceramic fibre manufacturing	1	0	0	0	1
Mining— <i>Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982</i>	0	0	0	0	0	Motor racing	2	0	0	32	34
Screening etc. materials	583	0	0	27	610	Chemically treating timber	54	0	0	0	54
Abrasive blasting	108	0	0	156	264	Sawmilling or woodchipping	143	0	0	0	143
Boiler-making or engineering	33	0	0	1,156	1,189	Wooden product manufacturing	24	0	0	1127	1,151
Metal surface coating	109	0	0	381	490	Boat maintaining or repairing facility	9	0	0	190	199
Metal forming	25	0	0	538	563	Heliport	4	0	0	10	14
Metal recovery	28	0	0	229	257	Port	10	0	0	0	10
Motor vehicle workshop	424	0	0	5,401	5,825	Railway facility	25	0	0	0	25
Beverage production	19	0	0	0	19	Marina or seaplane mooring	15	0	0	33	48
Edible oil processing	3	0	0	0	3	Stockpiling, loading or unloading goods in bulk	82	0	0	0	82
Flour milling	13	0	0	0	13	Waste disposal	536	0	0	0	536
Meat processing	55	0	0	0	55	Incinerating waste	41	0	0	2	43
Milk processing	12	0	0	0	12	Battery recycling	1	0	0	0	1
Seafood processing	39	0	0	0	39	Chemical or oil recycling	20	0	0	0	20



Environmentally relevant activity	EPA	DNRM	DPI	Local government	Total	Environmentally relevant activity	EPA	DNRM	DPI	Local government	Total
Smoking, drying or curing works	9	0	0	0	9	Drum reconditioning*	7	0	0	0	7
Sugar milling or refining	51	0	0	0	51	Tyre recycling	14	0	0	0	14
Bottling or canning	5	0	0	0	5	Recycling or reprocessing regulated waste	19	0	0	0	19
Metal foundry	52	0	0	0	52	Waste transfer station	29	0	0	0	29
Metal works	7	0	0	0	7	Regulated waste transport	466	0	0	0	466
Mineral processing	36	0	0	0	36	Regulated waste storage	166	0	0	0	166
Animal housing	38	0	0	264	302	Regulated waste treatment	40	0	0	0	40
Prospecting permits	0	168	0	0	168	Mineral development lease—non-standard	6	0	0	0	6
Mining claims	0	958	0	0	958	Mining lease—standard	351	0	0	0	351
Exploration permit—standard	952	0	0	0	952	Mining lease—non-standard	121	0	0	0	121
Exploration permit—non-standard	20	0	0	0	20	Mining project—standard	56	0	0	0	56
Mineral development lease—standard	47	0	0	0	47	Mining project—non-standard	149	0	0	0	149
						Transitional authority—mining	191	0	0	0	191
						Total	8,719	1,126	568	11,338	21,751

* The number of drum reconditioning environmental authorities was not reported for 2003–04. Drum reconditioning figures included are those recorded for the 2002–03 financial year.



Appendices

5 – Report on the administration of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*

Introduction

The *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (the Act) aims to achieve an integrated and comprehensive approach to the conservation of nature. It provides a legislative basis for research, community education, the dedication, declaration and management of protected areas, and the protection of native wildlife and habitat. The Act allows for the ecologically sustainable use of wildlife and protected areas, and recognises the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in nature and their co-operative involvement in its conservation. The roles of landholders and the community are recognised and the Act encourages their involvement in conserving nature through voluntary agreements and sustainable use of land and natural resources.

At 30 June 2004, the only section of the Act not proclaimed was section 93, which deals with the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to take, use or keep protected wildlife under Aboriginal tradition or Island custom. The *Native Title Act 1983*, section 211, makes proclamation of section 93 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* unnecessary.

The Act provides for proclamation of subordinate legislation in the form of regulations and conservation plans. These are detailed in this report.

At 30 June 2004, the chief executive officer of the Environmental Protection Agency was responsible for administration of the legislation. All powers legally possible to delegate were delegated to the Executive Director, Parks, and the Executive Director, Conservation Services.

Funding

In 2003–04, \$186.5 million (including an operating budget of \$176 million and capital budget of \$10.5 million) was allocated in the Agency's budget to administer the Act. These funds were used to acquire and manage protected areas, undertake research, manage sustainable wildlife use, educate the community and encourage community nature conservation.

The total above includes capital, equity and depreciation, but excludes allocations to the Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

The significant increase from the previous financial year can be attributed to the increase in equity and depreciation after an asset revaluation process.

Amendments

The Nature Conservation Amendment Bill 2004 was passed by Parliament on 16 June 2004. This Bill introduces revised categories for protected wildlife more consistent with those recognised by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. The revised categories are "least concern", "near threatened", "vulnerable", "endangered" and "extinct in the wild". The existing "rare" category will be retained during a five-year phase-out period while species currently listed as rare are amended to the most appropriate revised category.

Due to the passage of the Nature Conservation Amendment Bill 2004, consequential amendments to the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994, the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 1994 and the Nature Conservation (Protected Plants) Conservation

Plan 2000 will be made to ensure consistency with the amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. The Act will start on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

Regulations

Four regulations operate under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

The Nature Conservation Regulation 1994 establishes a licensing and permitting system and provides the regulatory provisions necessary to operate the Act on a day-to-day basis. The regulatory provisions cover activities in protected areas and the taking, keeping and use of protected wildlife outside protected areas.

The Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2003 amended the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994. The changes, which came into force on 1 March 2004, streamline the licensing and permitting function of the Act by reducing administrative processes associated with licensing activities. These changes will save money for many clients.

At the same time, the changes strengthen protection for species that are the subject of increased trade or where there is evidence of increasing levels of illegal trapping.

The Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 1994 gives effect to Division 2 of Part 5 of the Act. The Governor-in-Council amended the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 1994 three times during 2003–04.

The Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Regulation 1994 establishes protected areas. This regulation was amended by the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation No. 1, notified in the *Government Gazette*





of 8 August 2003, to dedicate one new conservation park, extend the area of two national parks and to amend the name of Currimundi Lake Conservation Park to Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park.

The regulation was further amended by the Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation No. 2, notified in the gazette of 3 October 2003, to declare 15 new nature refuges and amend the area of two existing nature refuges.

The regulation was also amended by the Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation No. 3, notified in the gazette of 10 October 2003. This amendment allowed the dedication of two new national parks and a resources reserve, the extension of the area of two other national parks, and the insertion of a new tenure schedule into the regulation for the dedication of Nairana National Park (Recovery), the first dedication to this tenure.

The regulation was again amended by the Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation No. 2, notified in the gazette of 31 October 2003, to dedicate one new national park and one new conservation park.

The regulation was also amended by the Forestry and Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation No. 1, notified in the gazette of 12 December 2003, to extend the area of one national park and one conservation park and to amend the name of Lumholtz National Park to Girringun National Park.

The regulation was further amended by the Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation No. 1, notified in the gazette of 18 June 2004, to declare 15 new nature refuges and extend the area of two existing nature refuges.

The Nature Conservation (Forest Reserves) Regulation 2000 allows for the dedication of areas within State forests, timber reserves or Land Act reserves as forest reserves. This is an interim measure to assist in the dedication of these areas as protected areas.

This regulation was amended by the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation No. 1, notified in the gazette of 8 August 2003, to extend the area of Emu Vale Forest Reserve by a small amount. This amendment is not reflected in the accompanying tables, as the area was less than one hectare.

Protected areas

The Act provides for areas to be dedicated or declared in order to conserve nature. In 2003–04, the number of conservation parks increased by two and nature reserves by 30. The number of resources reserves increased by one. There was one new gazettal for a national park (recovery).

Changes to the status of protected areas during 2003–04 are given in table A (page 113).

Permits, authorities

The Nature Conservation Regulation 1994 allows for activities to be undertaken on protected areas by permit or authority for varying periods.

A summary of permits granted in 2003–04 and related information is given in table B (page 115).

Authorities are required for an individual to take, use, keep, or interfere with a cultural or natural resource of a protected area under Aboriginal tradition or Island custom. In 2003–04, no authorities were granted.

Leases and other authorities

Sections 34–38 of the Nature Conservation Act authorise the granting of authorities for the use of protected areas. This includes the granting of authorities that cover leases issued under the Land Act and authorised under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* before the enactment of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

Under the provisions of the legislation, leases and authorities can be issued for reasons that include, but are not restricted to, grazing, tourism, communications and water extraction.

Further information is contained in table C (page 116).

Forest reserves

There were no new gazettals made for forest reserves in 2003–04 (see table D, page 117).

Trustees

Section 31 of the Act provides that a conservation park or resources reserve may be placed under the management of trustees. Trustees are listed in schedules 3A and 4 of the Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Regulation 1994. During the year no trustees were appointed for conservation parks.

Section 63 agreements

The Nature Conservation Regulation 1994 allows for activities to be undertaken on protected areas. The regulation also includes the capacity to issue agreements over all or part of a protected area. Protected areas affected are listed in table E (page 118).



Moratoriums

The Nature Conservation Regulation 1994 allows for activities to be undertaken on protected areas. The regulation also includes the capacity to establish a moratorium over all or part of a protected area. A moratorium on new commercial activity permits is in place for Daintree.

Entry prohibited and restricted access

The Nature Conservation Regulation 1994 allows for activities to be undertaken on protected areas. The regulation also includes the capacity to prohibit entry and to restrict access to all or part of a protected area. Protected areas affected are listed in table F (page 120).

Wildlife

The Governor-in-Council may prescribe native wildlife as:

- presumed extinct;
- endangered;
- rare;
- vulnerable; or
- common.

During 2003–04, the Governor-in-Council made the following declarations concerning native wildlife under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 1994:

- The status of 20 species and the names of 30 plant species were amended under Subordinate Legislation 2003 No. 329 (which commenced on 12 December 2003) (see table G, page 122).
- The status of the grey nurse shark (*Carcharias taurus*) was amended from “common” to “endangered” under Subordinate Legislation 2003 No. 376 (which commenced on 8 March 2004).

- The status of the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) in the south-east Queensland bioregion was amended from “common” to “vulnerable” under Subordinate Legislation 2004 No. 9 (which commenced on 5 March 2004). The koala remains listed as “common” in the rest of the state.

The Governor-in-Council may also declare plants or animals with international significance under the Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as international wildlife. At 30 June 2004, two species were identified as international wildlife: the eclectus parrot (*Eclectus roratus macgillivrayi*) and the green python (*Morelia viridis*).

The Governor-in-Council may also declare animals or plants that pose a threat to protected wildlife or wildlife habitat as prohibited wildlife. In 2003–04, the Governor-in-Council declared four extra species of birds as prohibited wildlife: chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*); Eurasian tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*); rainbow lorikeet other than Australian subspecies (*Trichoglossus haematodus* other than *T.h. haematodus* or *T.h. rubritorquatus*); and yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*).

Harvest period notices

The chief executive approved the Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period) Notice 2003 on 15 December 2003 and advertised the notice in the Government Gazette on 19 December 2003.

The chief executive approved the Nature Conservation (Protected Plants Harvest Period) Notice on 22 March 2004 and advertised the notice in the Government Gazette on 26 March 2004.

Conservation plans

Sections 112–119 of the Act set out the process for preparing conservation plans. The process includes an opportunity for public consultation. As at 30 June 2004, the status of conservation plans is given in table H (page 124).

The Minister did not make or advertise any new conservation plans during 2003–04.

The Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvesting) Conservation Plan 1994 will expire in 2004. The Minister is developing a new plan.

The Minister is preparing the following conservation plans:

- Nature Conservation (Flying Fox) Conservation Plan;
- Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan; and
- Nature Conservation (Crocodile) Conservation Plan.

Declarations

“Migaloo” the white humpback whale was declared a whale of special interest under the Nature Conservation (Whales and Dolphins) Conservation Plan 1977. The declaration was made to protect the whale from harassment and in the interests of public safety. The declaration increased the area of restriction around the whale from 300m to 500m for sea vessels and 100ft to 200ft for fixed-wing aircraft. It also increased the maximum penalty for an offence from \$9000 to \$12,375.

Conservation agreements

Provision is made under s45 of the Act for the State to enter into voluntary conservation agreements with landholders to help conserve land and wildlife. Table I (page 124) lists the new nature refuges gazetted during 2003–04.



Critical habitat and areas of major interest

No area of major interest was determined during the year.

Interim conservation orders

No interim conservation order was made during the year. At 30 June 2004, no interim conservation order was in force.

Licences, permits and authorities

Licences, permits and authorities are required for the taking and use of protected wildlife. This ensures that such use is ecologically sustainable and that wild populations are protected. Duration of permits varies from up to two months to six years.

Summaries of licences, permits and authorities granted, not issued, suspended or cancelled for the taking and use of wildlife are set out in tables J, K and L (page 126).

There was no duck and quail harvest in 2003–04. However, 332 ducks were taken under damage mitigation permits.

Scientific purposes permits were issued to research and assessment organisations including universities and government departments.

Guidelines for the issue of damage mitigation permits for spectacled, grey-headed, black and little red flying foxes were in force for the 2003–04 fruit-growing season. One hundred and forty-six permits were issued. The reported total take was just under half of the permitted total.

Records and returns

The Nature Conservation Regulation requires licensees to keep record books and supply returns of operations and, where applicable, pay any outstanding fees.

Staff continued to monitor records and requirements. Some licensees were tardy in submitting returns and payments. Follow-up action was taken.

Conservation officers

At 30 June 2004, 515 QPWS staff were conservation officers – appointments made on position, name and employment number to have responsibilities and powers automatically under the Nature Conservation Act.

Offences and prosecutions

Enforcement of the Act resulted in the imposition of \$10,000 in fines from seven prosecutions.

Under the Act, 98 infringement notices were issued resulting in fines totalling \$10,500. Two infringement notices involving a total of \$225 are proceeding to court.

Advisory committees

Section 132 of the Act provides for the appointment of advisory committees for the purpose of assisting with the administration of the Act. The following committees operated during the year:

- Duck and Quail Management Advisory Committee;
- Recreational and Commercial Animal Management Advisory Committee;

- Scientific Advisory Committee; and
- Waanyi (Lawn Hill National Park) Advisory Committee.

Committees including the Crocodile Management Advisory Committee, Macropod Management Advisory Committee and Protected Plants Management Advisory Committee expired before the start of the year. During 2003, a review of their composition and roles was completed and at the end of the financial year, these committees were in the process of being re-established.

Table M (pages 127–129) gives details of the membership and terms of reference for each advisory committee.

Conclusion

The Act, with the object of the conservation of nature, continues to work well with a high level of public support. Its value in conserving the nature of Queensland is firmly established.

James Purtill
Director-General
Environmental Protection Agency



Snapshot

Research vital to crocodile management



QPWS staff prepare to remove a 4.35m male estuarine crocodile from a floating trap at Cooktown. This crocodile, nicknamed Charles, was the first crocodile to receive a satellite transmitter as part of an Agency research program. Photo: Gordon Grigg.

Conducting management-related research is critical to understanding how the Agency should manage protected and potentially dangerous native species. Agency researchers have gained a better understanding of how large estuarine crocodiles use space over time by attaching satellite transmitters to several animals, and then following their movement patterns via the Internet. This information will be used to produce predictive models to allow wildlife managers to better manage crocodiles living around urban areas.

Satellite transmitters were attached to six crocodiles in 2003, with another eight satellite transmitters to be attached to crocodiles in 2004. This exciting research is being conducted through QPWS's Northern Region, in partnership with researchers from the University of Queensland and Australia Zoo.



Table A: Changes to the status of protected areas during 2003–04

Type	Date	Action	Gazetted area (ha)	Total number	Total area (ha) (rounded)
National park (scientific)					
National park (scientific)	01/07/2003	No additions		7	52,181
National park (scientific)	30/06/2004			7	52,181
National park					
National park	01/07/2003			212	6,657,768
Error adjustment		Adjustment	587		
Curtis Island NP	08/08/2003	Amended	180		
Grey Peaks NP	08/08/2003	Addition	165		
Keppel Bay Islands NP	08/08/2003	Addition	69		
Kinrara NP	10/10/2003	New dedication	7,580		
Nairana NP	10/10/2003	New dedication	9,520		
Noosa NP	10/10/2003	Addition	303		
Undara Volcanic NP	10/10/2003	Addition	4,300		
Finucane Island NP	31/10/2003	New dedication	7,610		
Clump Mountain NP	12/12/2003	Addition	1		
Girringun NP (formerly Lumholz))	12/12/2003	Amended	Nil		
National park	30/06/2004			215	6,688,083
National park (recovery)	01/07/2003				Nil
Nairana NP	10/10/2003	New dedication	9,880	1	
National park (recovery)	30/06/2004			1	9,880
Conservation park					
Conservation park	01/07/2003			176	42,299
Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) CP	08/08/2003	Amendment	Nil		
Maroochy Wetlands CP	08/08/2003	New dedication	66		
Weyba Creek CP	10/10/2003	Amendment	19		
Sandringham Bay CP	31/10/2003	New dedication	534		
Bakers Creek CP	12/12/2003	Addition	526		
Conservation park	30/06/2004			178	43,444
Resources reserve					
Resources reserve	01/07/2003			35	347,857
Noosa RR	10/10/2003	New dedication	1		
Resources reserve	30/06/2004			36	347,858



Table A: Changes to the status of protected areas during 2003–04 (continued)

Type	Date	Action	Gazetted area (ha)	Total number	Total area (ha) (rounded)
Nature refuge					
Nature refuge	01/07/2003			97	61,352
Alectura NR	03/10/2003	New dedication	84		
Avocet NR	03/10/2003	Amendment	555		
Baralba Corridor NR	03/10/2003	New dedication	3		
Billaboo NR	03/10/2003	New dedication	7,456		
Blackjack Mountain NR	03/10/2003	New dedication	200		
Cornubia Forest NR	03/10/2002	New dedication	133		
Eaglefield Creek NR	03/10/2003	New dedication	93		
Ightham NR	03/10/2003	New dedication	1,634		
Incanto NR	03/10/2003	New dedication	42		
Kenmare NR	03/10/2003	New dedication	777		
Mahogany Glider NR	03/10/2003	Amendment	1		
Melomys NR	03/10/2003	New dedication	40		
Mount Monty Rainforest NR	03/10/2003	New dedication	13		
Palm Valley NR	03/10/2003	New dedication	288		
Taravale NR	03/10/2003	New dedication	21,729		
Trigona NR	03/10/2003	New dedication	65		
Wooroonooran NR	03/10/2003	New dedication	54		
Baralba Corridor NR	18/06/2004	Addition	1		
Bartopia NR	18/06/2004	New dedication	106		
Beefalo Valley NR	18/06/2004	New dedication	69		
Boggomoss NR	18/06/2004	New dedication	100		
Burrawingee NR	18/06/2004	New dedication	9		
Chakoro NR	18/06/2004	Addition	3		
Forest Park NR	18/06/2004	New dedication	19		
Griffiths NR	18/06/2004	New dedication	4		
Homehaven NR	18/06/2004	New dedication	181		
Kemmis Creek NR	18/06/2004	New dedication	1,471		
Koolkuna NR	18/06/2004	New dedication	19		
Manani NR	18/06/2004	New dedication	8		
Mount Rose NR	18/06/2004	New dedication	105		
Reedy Creek NR	18/06/2004	New dedication	467		
South Endeavour NR	18/06/2004	New dedication	4,148		
Toomba NR	18/06/2004	New dedication	47,136		
Xanthorroea NR	18/06/2004	New dedication	98		
Nature refuge	30/06/2004			127	148,463
Co-ordinated conservation area					
Co-ordinated conservation area	01/07/2003	No additions		1	1,170
Co-ordinated conservation area	30/06/2004			1	1,170



Table B: Protected area authorities/permits granted and suspended/cancelled, and applications refused in the year to 30 June 2004

Category	No. granted	No. refused	No. suspended/ cancelled
Aboriginal Traditional Authority	0	0	0
Island Custom Authority	0	0	0
Camping ¹	134,828	0	0
Restricted access area	1	0	0
Taking, using, keeping or interfering with cultural or natural resources:			
• apiary location	0	0	0
• taking of water	0	0	0
• scientific purpose	215	0	0
• another purpose (educational)	19	0	0
Stock grazing	9	0	0
Stock mustering	32	0	0
Travelling stock	1	0	0
Entering a national park (scientific)	38	0	0
Commercial activity ²	438	7	8
Soliciting donations or information	0	0	0
Group activity	306	3	4
Using recreational craft	1	0	0
Special activities	5	0	0

¹ Estimate. Includes permits issued under the Recreation Areas Management Act for camping in Great Sandy National Park in the Fraser Island Recreation Area and in Moreton Island National Park in the Moreton Island Recreation Area. Includes permits for a person in a national park to prepare a claim to, or management plan for the national park under the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* or *Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991*. Excludes camping undertaken under commercial activity permits.

² Includes permits issued under the Recreation Areas Management Act for activities in Green Island, Great Sandy and Moreton Island national parks in the Green Island, Fraser Island and Moreton Island recreation areas respectively.

Details of selected categories of some protected area permits granted in the year to 30 June 2004

Number of people camping ³	404,484
Average stay (days)	2.6
Average group size	3
Camper nights	978,209
Number of operators with commercial activity permits	499
Commercial deeds of agreement entered (including common law deeds)	0
Commercial deeds of agreement entered (under s63(1)b)	15
New commercial filming/photography permits	115
Filming/photography permits renewed	10
Filming deeds of agreement entered	0
Filming deeds of agreement entered (under s63(1)b)	6

³ Estimate. Includes people camping on Great Sandy National Park in the Fraser Island Recreation Area and on Moreton Island National Park in the Moreton Island Recreation Area. Excludes children aged under five.



Table C: Permitted uses in prescribed national parks

Type	Activity	Area (ha)
Barron Gorge National Park	Water extraction	
Brampton Islands National Park	Tourist facility	
Cape Capricorn Conservation Park	Tourist facility	1.52
Capricornia Cays National Park	Field research station	
Capricornia Cays National Park	Field research station	2.316
Capricornia Cays National Park	Tourist resort	5.24
Currawinya National Park	Communications tower	
Daintree National Park	Communications tower	
Dularcha National Park	Sewerage pipeline	
Great Sandy National Park	Communications cable	
Great Sandy National Park	Communications cable	
Great Sandy National Park	Electricity cable	
Great Sandy National Park	Communications tower	
Goold Island National Park	Communications tower	
Lizard Island National Park	Field research station	
Noosa Resources Reserve	Sewerage pipeline	0.248
Northumberland Islands National Park	Communications tower	0.005
Pioneer Peaks National Park	Communications tower	1.385
Whitsunday Islands National Park	Tourist facility	
Archer Point Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.814
Bowling Green Bay Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.814
Bowling Green Bay Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.0094
Bowling Green Bay Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.1062
Bustard Head Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.0801
Bustard Head Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.032
Cape Capricorn Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.0498
Cape Moreton Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.019
Cape Moreton Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.06
Capricornia Cays National Park	Marine navigation use	0.0676
Capricornia Cays National Park	Marine navigation use	0.06
Claremont Isles National Park	Marine navigation use	0.0267
Denham Group National Park	Marine navigation use	0.1682
Double Island Point Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.0042
Double Island Point Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.0792
Flinders Group National Park	Marine navigation use	0.0282
Holbourne Island National Park	Marine navigation use	0.0203
Howick Group National Park	Marine navigation use	0.0212
Lizard Island National Park	Marine navigation use	0.022
Orpheus Island National Park	Marine navigation use	0.0326
Percy Isles National Park	Marine navigation use	0.0235



Table C: Permitted uses in prescribed national parks (continued)

Type	Activity	Area (ha)
Percy Isles National Park	Marine navigation use	0.0319
Possession Island National Park	Marine navigation use	4.4515
Restoration Island National Park	Marine navigation use	0.2023
Round Island Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.161
Round Island Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.0105
Round Island Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.0109
Sandy Cape Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.0295
Sandy Cape Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.0694
Sandy Cape Conservation Park	Marine navigation use	0.0068
Three Islands Group National Park	Marine navigation use	0.0406
Turtle Group National Park	Marine navigation use	0.0235
Whitsunday Islands National Park	Marine navigation use	0.0261
Whitsunday Islands National Park	Marine navigation use	0.0392
Wild Cattle Island National Park	Marine navigation use	

Table D: Changes to the status of forest reserves during 2003–04

Type	Date	Action	Gazetted area (ha)	Total number	Total area (ha) (rounded)
Forest reserve	01/07/2003			169	872,867
		No additions			
Forest reserve	30/06/2003			169	872,867



Table E: Section 63 agreement over protected areas during 2003–04

Company	Protected area	Section	Activity type	Expiry dates
Mr Keith Jones (trading as Bush'N'Back Tours)	Springbrook NP	Natural Bridge	Guided tours	01/01/2004
National Tour Company	Springbrook NP	Natural Bridge	Guided tours	01/04/2009
Aries Tours Pty Ltd	Springbrook NP	Natural Bridge	Guided night tours (glow worms)	01/04/2009
Aries Tours Pty Ltd	Springbrook NP	Natural Bridge	Guided sunset tour	01/04/2009
Mr Jean-Luc Lejaille (trading as Rainbow Paragliding)	Great Sandy NP	Cooloola	Paragliding	31/07/2003
Mr David Andrew Cookman	Great Sandy NP	Cooloola	Hang gliding	31/07/2003
Withyman Stephenson Family (trading as Aussie Sea Kayak Company)	Great Sandy NP	Cooloola	Sea kayak guided safari	31/08/2005
Mr Scott Crawford (trading as Ecstasea Safari)	Great Sandy NP	Cooloola	Vessel-based guided day tours	31/08/2005
Mr Ian Stuart (Coolman Pty Ltd) (trading as Blue Planet Tours)	Great Sandy NP	Cooloola	Canoe-based guided day tours	31/08/2005
G. & J. Burke (Billabong Offroad Centre Pty Ltd)	Great Sandy NP	Cooloola	Vehicle-based guided day tours	31/08/2005
B. & L. Schutte (Noosa Sands of Time Pty Ltd) (trading as Noosa 4WD Eco Tours)	Great Sandy NP	Cooloola	Vehicle-based guided day tours	31/01/2006
Mr Mark Burgess (Surf & Sand Safaris)	Great Sandy NP	Cooloola	Vehicle-based guided day tours	31/08/2005
Mr Sid Smith & Ms Susan Perry (Cooloola Munchmobile)	Great Sandy NP	Cooloola	Mobile vending operations with saleable items	30/09/2005
Mr Ian & Mrs Marilyn Dean (Dean's Iceworx)	Great Sandy NP	Cooloola	Mobile vending operations with saleable items	30/09/2005
Elanda Point Pty Ltd	Great Sandy NP		Canoeing	30/09/2006
Mr Andrew Betteridge Orkgold Pty Ltd (Rainbow Beach Ice & Bait)	Great Sandy NP		Mobile vending operations with saleable items	30/09/2005
Sunshine State Paragliding Centre	Great Sandy NP		Parasailing	31/03/2007
Robert Pitman (Rob's Vantastic Food)	Mon Repos CP	Mon Repos Information Centre	Mobile vending operations with saleable items	30/10/2003
Resort Graphics Pty Ltd	Whitsunday Islands NP	Whitsunday islands	Guided commercial camping tours	15/07/2004
Derwent Hunter Yacht Charters Pty Ltd	Whitsunday Islands NP	Whitsunday islands	Guided commercial camping tours	16/07/2004
Rodney Withyman & Natalie Stephenson (Aussie Sea Kayak Company)	Whitsunday Islands NP	Whitsunday islands	Guided commercial camping tours	15/07/2004



Table E: Section 63 agreement over protected areas during 2003-04 (continued)

Company	Protected area	Section	Activity type	Expiry dates
Whitsunday Sightseeing Pty Ltd (Whitsunday Island Adventure Camping Tours)	Whitsunday Islands NP	Whitsunday islands	Guided commercial camping tours	15/07/2004
Ozesail Charter Yachts Pty Ltd	Whitsunday Islands NP	Whitsunday islands	Guided commercial camping tours	15/07/2004
Neill Kennedy and Hayley Kennedy (Salty Dog Sea Kayaking)	Whitsunday Islands NP	Whitsunday islands	Guided commercial camping tours	15/07/2004
Hamilton Island Enterprises	Whitsunday Islands NP		Interpretation services	04/12/2006
Mr Ian Wright	Eungella NP	Broken River	Commercial kiosk	25/07/2006
Heron Island Pty Ltd	Capricornia Cays NP	Heron Island	Commercial tours	06/12/2011
Hinchinbrook Wilderness Safaris	Hinchinbrook Island NP	George Point	Passenger transfer service for campers (ferry)	14/08/2005
J. & T. Evans	Chillagoe- Mungana Caves NP	Chillagoe Caves	Cave ticket sales	28/11/2007
Isuzu Challenge	Daintree NP		Guided tours	31/10/2003
Mardja Pty Ltd (trading as Cape Trib Connections)	Undara Volcanic NP		Guided tours	23/06/2008
Bedrock Village	Undara Volcanic NP		Guided tours	29/06/2008
Dutana Pty Ltd	Undara Volcanic NP		Guided tours	12/10/2008



Table F: Prohibited and restricted access to protected areas 2003–04

Area*	Prohibited	Comments regarding restriction
Barnard Islands Group NP (Stephens Island [except sand spit and camping area])	01/09/2003 – 31/03/2004	Bird breeding
Barnard Islands Group NP (Sisters Island)	01/09/2003 – 31/03/2004	Bird breeding
Border Island tracks	Permanent closure	Illegal walking trails
South Brook Island	01/10/2003 – 31/03/2004	Bird breeding
Blue Lake NP	August 2003 to June 2004	Safety concerns
Bustard Head lightstation	Restricted at all times	Access to buildings
Cape Hillsborough Lookout	Permanent closure	Safety concerns
Capricorn Cays NP (includes Lady Musgrave, North West and Masthead islands)	Closed to camping 01/10/2003 – Easter 2004	Nesting seabirds and turtle hatchlings
Cedar Bay NP (Rattlesnake Point)	Restricted at all times	Cultural purposes
Daintree National Park (Cowley Beach)	Restricted at all times	Cultural purposes
Eungella National Park (Broken River west car park)	Temporary closure (six weeks)	Construction of new car park
Eungella National Park (Peases Lookout)	Temporary closure	Safety concerns
Eungella National Park (Rangeview Lookout)	Temporary closure	Safety concerns
Finch Hatton Gorge NP (Araluen Falls)	Temporary closure	Reconstruction works
Fort Lytton NP	Business-hours-access only	
Glasshouse Mountains NP (Mt Coonowrin)	Restricted at all times	Safety concerns
Great Sandy NP (Cherry Venture)	Restricted at all times	Safety concerns
Great Sandy NP (Maheno)	Restricted at all times	Safety concerns
Hell Hole Gorge NP	Restricted at all times	No road access
Hinchinbrook Island NP (Mulligan Falls)	Restricted at all times	Top of falls
Hinchinbrook Island (Missionary Bay)	Restricted at all times	Cultural purposes
Islands listed under Whitsunday Plan of Management	Temporary closures (1 October to 31 March each year)	Significant bird sites
Islands listed under Whitsunday Plan of Management	All-year restrictions	Significant bird sites
Lakefield National Park (Jane Table Hill)	Restricted at all times	Cultural purposes
Lamington National Park (Green Mountains – Snake Ridge)	Restricted access	Construction works
Michaelmas and Upolo Cays NP (Michaelmas Cay)	Restricted at all times	
Mt Barney NP (Mt Maroon)	Restricted access	
Mt Moffatt NP (Kenniffs Cave)	Restricted at all times	
Newry Island NP (campground)	Temporary closure	Construction works





Table F: Prohibited and restricted access to protected areas 2003–04 (continued)

Area*	Prohibited	Comments regarding restriction
Sundown Resources Reserve	Restricted at all times	Old mine sites
St Helena NP	Restricted at all times	Precinct around buildings
Southern Long Island tracks	Permanent closure	Illegal walking trails
Springbrook NP (Natural Bridge section)	Restricted at all times	
Springbrook NP (Poondahra Cliffs)	Restricted at all times	
Tamborine NP (Cedar Creek)	Restricted at all times	Jumping from cliff area
Tamborine NP (Curtis Falls)	Restricted at all times	Beyond viewing platform
White Haven Beach dune systems	Restricted at all times	Dune protection
Whitsunday Island (Dugong Beach track)	Permanent closure	Construction works
Whitsunday Island campground (Joe's Beach)	Temporary closure	Dangerous tree/safety concerns
Wooroonooran NP (Josephine Falls)	Temporary closure	Falls area beyond viewing platform
Wooroonooran NP (Top Camp)	Restricted at all times	Cultural purposes
Wooroonooran NP (Jiya Cave)	Restricted at all times	Cultural purposes

*Note: National parks (scientific) are automatically restricted.



Table G: Status amendments under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation

Category of animal	Scientific name	Common name in NC(W)R	New schedule	Commencement
Bird	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Southern giant petrel	Endangered	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Bird	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	Northern giant petrel	Vulnerable	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Bird	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift parrot	Endangered	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Bird	<i>Epthianura crocea crocea</i>	Yellow chat (gulf)	No change	Currently in effect – no change
Bird	<i>Epthianura crocea macgregori</i>	Yellow chat (Dawson)	Endangered	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Bird	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	Painted snipe	Vulnerable	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Mammal	<i>Bettongia gaimardi</i>	Eastern bettong	Presumed extinct	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Mammal	<i>Artocephalus tropicalis</i>	Sub-Antarctic fur seal	Vulnerable	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Mammal	<i>Hipposideros semoni</i>	Semon's leaf-nosed bat	Endangered	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Mammal	<i>Nyctophilus timoriensis</i>	Eastern long-eared bat	Vulnerable	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Mammal	<i>Rhinolophus philippinensis</i>	Greater large-eared horseshoe bat	Endangered	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Mammal	<i>Saccolaimus saccolaimus</i>	Bare-rumped sheath-tail bat	Endangered	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Amphibian	<i>Litoria pearsoniana</i>	Cascade treefrog	Endangered	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Amphibian	<i>Taudactylus pleione</i>	Kroombit tinkerfrog	Endangered	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Amphibian	<i>Adelotus brevis</i>	Tusked frog	Vulnerable	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Reptile	<i>Elusor macrurus</i>	Mary River tortoise	Endangered	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	<i>Dodonaea biloba</i>	No change	Common	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	<i>Dodonaea macrossanii</i>	No change	Common	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	<i>Vallisneria nana</i>	No change	Common	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	<i>Acianthus ledwardii</i> *	No change	Presumed extinct – deleted	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Mammal	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (south-east Queensland bioregion)	koala	Vulnerable	05/03/2004 SL No.9
Mammal	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	koala	Common	Currently in effect – no change
Fish	<i>Carcharias taurus</i>	grey nurse shark	Endangered	08/03/2004 SL No. 376

*Note: The taxonomy of *Acianthus ledwardii* has been reviewed and found to be conspecific with *Acianthus fornicatus*, a common and widespread species.

Plant nomenclature amendments

Category of wildlife	Current schedule	Existing scientific name	Proposed scientific name	Commencement
Plant	Endangered	<i>Decaspermum</i> sp. (Mt Morgan N.Hoy AQ455657)	<i>Decaspermum struckoiligum</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Endangered	<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp. (Brovinia A.R.Bean 11911)	<i>Eucalyptus broviniensis</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Endangered	<i>Macrozamia</i> sp. (Marlborough P.I.Forster+ PIF12269A)	<i>Macrozamia serpentina</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329

Table G: Status amendments under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation

Plant nomenclature amendments (continued)

Category of wildlife	Current schedule	Existing scientific name	Proposed scientific name	Commencement
Plant	Endangered	<i>Myriophyllum</i> sp. (Aramac B.A.Wilson 110)	<i>Myriophyllum artesium</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Endangered	<i>Phalaenopsis rosenstromii</i>	<i>Phalaenopsis amabilis</i> subsp. <i>rosenstromii</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Vulnerable	<i>Amorphospermum whitei</i>	<i>Niemeyera whitei</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Vulnerable	<i>Canthium costatum</i>	<i>Cyclophyllum costatum</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Vulnerable	<i>Euodia</i> sp. (Oliver Creek L.J.Webb+ 10897)	<i>Euodia pubifolia</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Vulnerable	<i>Rhinerrhiza moorei</i>	<i>Rhinerrhizopsis moorei</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Vulnerable	<i>Stylidium</i> sp. (Wakooka J.R.Clarkson 5382)	<i>Stylidium longissimum</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Rare	<i>Apatophyllum</i> sp. (Bull Creek A.R.Bean 2225)	<i>Apatophyllum flavovirens</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Rare	<i>Apatophyllum</i> sp. (Expedition Range E.J.Thompson AQ440723)	<i>Apatophyllum teretifolium</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Rare	<i>Corybas neocaledonicus</i>	<i>Corybas cerasinus</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Rare	<i>Euodia</i> sp. (Noah Creek B.P.Hyland 5987)	<i>Euodia hylandii</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Rare	<i>Livistona</i> sp. (Cooktown A.K.Irvine 2178)	<i>Livistona concinna</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Rare	<i>Melaleuca tamariscina</i> subsp. <i>irbyana</i>	<i>Melaleuca irbyana</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Rare	<i>Oreodendron biflorum</i>	<i>Phaleria biflora</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Rare	<i>Uromyrtus</i> sp. (McPherson Range G.P.Guymer 2000)	<i>Uromyrtus lamingtonensis</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Endangered	<i>Hemigenia clotteniana</i>	<i>Prostanthera clotteniana</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Endangered	<i>Bertya</i> sp. (Beeron Holding P.I.Forster+ PIF5753)	<i>Bertya granitica</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Endangered	<i>Zieria furfuracea</i> subsp. (Belmont Scrub unknown AQ152898)	<i>Zieria furfuracea</i> subsp. <i>gymnocarpa</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Vulnerable	<i>Bertya</i> sp. (Mt Ernest G.Leiper AQ507685)	<i>Bertya ernestiana</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Vulnerable	<i>Bertya</i> sp. (Winneba D.Jermyn 31)	<i>Bertya calycina</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Vulnerable	<i>Zieria aspalathoides</i> var. <i>ovata</i>	<i>Zieria obovate</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Vulnerable	<i>Zieria</i> sp. (Monogorilby P.I.Forster PIF1004)	<i>Zieria verrucosa</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Vulnerable	<i>Lepiderema</i> sp. (Topaz P.I.Forster+ PIF15478)	<i>Cupaniopsis cooperorum</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Rare	<i>Zieria granulata</i> var. <i>adenodonta</i>	<i>Zieria adenodonta</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Rare	<i>Prostanthera atroviolacea</i>	<i>Prostanthera clotteniana</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Rare	<i>Bertya</i> sp. (Amiens L.Pedley 1488)	<i>Bertya recurvata</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329
Plant	Rare	Gen. (AQ95272) sp. (Boonjie B.P.Hyland 6589)	<i>Stockwellia quadrifida</i>	12/12/2003 SL No. 329

Note that the names *Hemigenia clotteniana* and *Prostanthera atroviolacea* had been used for the same species under the current Regulation. The correct name is now *Prostanthera clotteniana* (endangered).



Table H: Status of conservation plans as at 30 June 2004

Conservation plan approved by the Governor in Council (s119):
No conservation plan was approved in 2003–04
Conservation plans in force:
Nature Conservation (Duck and Quail) Conservation Plan 1995
Nature Conservation (Dugong) Conservation Plan 1999
Nature Conservation (Eulo Lizard Races) Conservation Plan 1995
Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvesting) Conservation Plan 1994
Nature Conservation (Problem Crocodiles) Conservation Plan 1995
Nature Conservation (Protected Plants) Conservation Plan 2000
Nature Conservation (Whales and Dolphins) Conservation Plan 1997

Table I: Conservation agreements signed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* during 2003–04

Name	Date	Comments	Area (ha) (rounded)	Local government
Ballantyne	18/06/2004	Conserves two “of concern” regional ecosystems and habitat for the vulnerable glossy black-cockatoo	21	Hervey Bay
Baralba Corridor	25/02/2004	Additions for amalgamation with the existing nature refuge	2	Douglas
Bartopia	11/12/2003	Provides a vegetated corridor between two sections of Mount Barney National Park with several regional ecosystems including sclerophyll and wet sclerophyll forest, dry vine forest and subtropical rainforest	105	Boonah
Beefalo Valley	22/09/2003	Conserves suitable habitat for the endangered Proserpine rock-wallaby and the vulnerable tree <i>Corymbia clandestina</i> , as well as other rare or vulnerable plants and animal species	69	Whitsunday
Boggomoss	23/03/2004	Conserves an area containing a significant number of artesian mound springs in freshwater wetlands, commonly known as boggomosses	100	Taroom
Burrawingee	22/09/2003	Provides protection for the upper part of Coles Creek that flows into the Mary River, and two regional ecosystems with a low extent of conservation in protected areas	9	Noosa
Forest Park	23/03/2004	Protects habitat suitable for the endangered southern cassowary and the cultural and natural resources of areas of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and Daintree National Park adjoining the nature refuge	19	Douglas
Galadji	30/06/2004	Represents part of an important wildlife corridor for rare and threatened species between Wooroonooran and Topaz Road national parks	22	Eacham
Griffiths	23/03/2004	Protects habitat suitable for three rare plant species and the cultural and natural resources of the adjoining Nicoll Scrub National Park	4	Gold Coast
Homehaven	23/09/2003	Conserves remnant eucalypt and dry vine forest, and the cultural and natural resources of the adjoining Mount Aberdeen National Park	181	Bowen



Table I: Conservation agreements signed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* during 2003–04 (continued)

Name	Date	Comments	Area (ha) (rounded)	Local government
Kemmis Creek	23/03/2004	Provides habitat for a diverse range of plant species and several rare and threatened animal species	1,471	Nebo
Koolkuna	22/09/2003	Supports one “endangered” and one “of concern” regional ecosystem as well as providing watershed protection for Baffle Creek	19	Miriam Vale
Manani	27/04/2004	Conserves remnant areas of an “endangered” regional ecosystem and habitat suitable for the endangered southern cassowary adjoining the Cape Tribulation section of Daintree National Park and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area	8	Douglas
Mount Monty Rainforest	27/06/2003	Supports regional ecosystems providing habitat for rare and vulnerable plants and the cultural and natural resources on land adjoining the nature refuge	14	Cooloola
Mount Rose	11/12/2003	Conserves an “of concern” regional ecosystem containing artesian mound springs, commonly known as boggomosses	105	Taroom
Mount Zero-Taravale	30/06/2004	Amalgamates the Mount Zero Holding with the existing Taravale Nature Refuge and protects habitat for several rare and threatened species across two bioregions	38,579	Dalrymple
Reedy Creek	25/05/2004	Supports remnant areas of an “endangered” and two “of concern” regional ecosystems and provides a buffer between Deepwater National Park and residential development at Agnes Water	467	Miriam Vale
South Endeavour	23/03/2004	Supports three “of concern” regional ecosystems and provides watershed protection for the Endeavour River	4,148	Cook
The Point	18/06/2004	Protects a bioregional wildlife corridor of State significance and intact riparian vegetation on the Burrum River	8	Hervey Bay
Toomba	02/10/2003	Provides a vegetation corridor between two sections of the Great Basalt Wall National Park with permanent and seasonal water bodies that provide habitat for frogs and waterbirds	47,136	Dalrymple
Xanthorrhoea	07/05/2004	Protects remnant areas of an “endangered” regional ecosystem and habitat suitable for a number of rare and threatened plants and animal species, including the vulnerable koala fern and the vulnerable glossy black-cockatoo	98	Gatton



Table J: Summary of information regarding wildlife licences in the year to 30 June 2004

Category	No. issued	No. suspended	No. cancelled	No. refused
Commercial wildlife	148	0	0	4
Recreational wildlife	6,232	0	37	3
Recreational wildlife (specialist)	269	1	1	0
International wildlife	239	0	0	0
Commercial wildlife harvesting	36	0	0	0
Recreational wildlife harvesting	14	0	0	0
Wildlife demonstrator	28	0	0	0
Wildlife exhibitor	54	0	0	0
Wildlife farming	15	0	0	0
Museum	0	0	0	0
Herbarium	1	0	0	0

Table K: Details of selected categories of some licences current at 30 June 2004

Category	No. issued	No. suspended	No. cancelled	No. refused
Commercial wildlife (macropods)	204	0	0	0
Commercial wildlife (other wildlife)	50	0	1	0
Commercial wildlife harvesting (macropods)	1,460	0	0	1
Commercial wildlife harvesting (other wildlife)	72	0	0	0

Table L: Summary of information relating to wildlife permits in the year to 30 June 2004

Category	No. issued	No. suspended	No. cancelled	No. refused
Educational purposes	29	0	0	0
Keep protected wildlife	8	0	0	0
Keep prohibited wildlife	0	0	0	0
Rescue	1,027	0	0	0
Scientific purposes	263	0	0	0
Wildlife movement	629	0	0	0
Clearing	16	0	0	0
Take, use, keep or interfere (scientific purpose)	10	0	0	0
Take, use, keep or interfere (educational purpose)	0	0	0	0



Table M: Advisory committees**Protected Plants Management Advisory Committee**

Term:	Lapsed in May 2003; in the process of being re-established
Terms of reference:	<p>Under s132 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>, the function of the committee is to provide the Minister with advice on issues concerning the conservation and management (trading and keeping) of native plants in Queensland.</p> <p>The Minister may consider the advice of the committee when formulating and/or evaluating policies and procedures that relate to the protection of native plants in Queensland.</p> <p>Members are chosen as representatives of groups with an interest in plant management, control, and trade.</p>

Recreational and Commercial Animal Management Advisory Committee

Term:	Appointed 23 May 2000 to 22 May 2003
Meetings:	Met once, November 2003
Membership:	<p>Chair: Mr Des Spittall</p> <p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ms Leslie Shirreffs, Director, Wildlife Conservation, QPWS – Mr Adrian Caneris, Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland – Dr Mike Owen, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council – Mr David Brownsdon, Queensland Council of Bird Societies – Mr Kevin Bradley, Queensland Wildlife Parks Association – Mr Rob Friend, Queensland Conservation Council
Terms of reference:	<p>Under s132 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>, the function of the committee is to provide the Minister with advice on issues affecting the conservation management of wildlife in Queensland, in particular (but not limited to) the recreational and commercial trade and keeping of birds, amphibians and reptiles.</p> <p>The Minister will consider the advice of the committee when formulating or evaluating policies and procedures that relate to wildlife (trade and keeping) management in Queensland.</p> <p>Members of the committee will be chosen as representatives of groups with an interest in wildlife management, control and trade.</p>



Table M: Advisory committees (continued)

Duck and Quail Management Advisory Committee

Term:	Appointed 1 March 2002 to 31 December 2005 unless otherwise advised
Meetings:	Met twice, February and June 2004
Membership:	<p>Chair: Dr Greg Baxter</p> <p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ms Leslie Shirreffs, Director, Wildlife Conservation, QPWS – Dr David Carter, Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Qld) – Mr Steve Matthews, Field and Game Federation of Australia, Queensland – Mr Des Boyland, Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland – Mr Don Nicol, Canine Control Council (Queensland) – Mrs Dawn Muir, Birds Queensland – Dr Anne Covill, RSPCA Qld
Terms of reference:	<p>Under s132 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>, the function of the committee is to provide the Minister with advice on issues affecting duck and quail conservation and management in Queensland, including (but not limited to) the setting of seasonal recreational harvest periods, providing reports on the prevalence of duck and quail species throughout the state, and to assist in an evaluation of a harvest period after the close of the harvest.</p> <p>The Minister will consider the advice of the committee when formulating or evaluating policies and procedures that relate to duck and quail management in Queensland.</p> <p>Members are chosen as representatives of industry, government, tourism, conservation and recreation groups with an interest in duck and quail management.</p>

Macropod Management Advisory Committee

Term:	Lapsed in June 2003; in the process of being re-established
Terms of reference:	<p>Under s132 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>, the function of the committee is to provide the Minister with advice on issues affecting macropod management and conservation in Queensland, in particular (but not confined to) harvest period conditions, and conservation plan and management program provisions.</p> <p>The advice of the committee will be considered in the administration of the Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvesting) Conservation Plan 1994 when formulating and/or evaluating policies and procedures that relate to macropod management in Queensland.</p> <p>Members are chosen as representatives of groups with an interest in wildlife management, control, harvest and trade.</p>

Crocodile Management Advisory Committee

Term:	Lapsed in May 2003; in the process of being re-established
Terms of reference:	<p>Under s132 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>, the function of the committee is to provide the Minister with advice on conservation and management issues affecting crocodiles <i>Crocodylus porosus</i> and <i>C. johnstoni</i> in Queensland. Such advice may include (but not be limited to) public education, public safety, “problem” crocodiles, commercial use of crocodiles and crocodile research.</p> <p>The Minister may consider the advice of the committee when formulating and/or evaluating policies and procedures that relate to crocodiles in Queensland.</p> <p>Members are chosen as representatives of industry, government, tourism, conservation and recreation groups with an interest in crocodile management.</p>



Table M: Advisory committees (continued)

Scientific Advisory Committee	
Term:	Appointments were made to 31 December 2004
Meetings:	Met twice, 2 September 2003 and 31 May 2004
Membership:	<p>Chair: Dr Russell Reichelt, CRC Reef Research Centre, James Cook University.</p> <p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Professor Hugh Possingham, Director, Centre for Population and Conservation Biology, University of Queensland – Dr Chris Johnson, Senior Lecturer, Department of Zoology and Tropical Ecology, James Cook University – Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Director, Centre for Marine Studies, University of Queensland – Dr Darryl Jones, Senior Lecturer, Australian School of Environmental Studies, Griffith University – Associate Prof Myron Zalucki, Deputy Head, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Queensland – Associate Professor Jane Hughes, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Griffith University – Dr Jill Landsberg, QPWS, Northern Region – Professor Gordon Grigg, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Queensland – Dr David Lamb, Senior Lecturer, Department of Botany, University of Queensland – Mr Chris Roberts, Cape York Land Council, Cairns
Terms of reference:	<p>Under s132 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>, the committee is to provide the Minister with advice on scientific issues concerned with the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> and the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994 and other relevant Queensland legislation.</p> <p>Issues on which the committee may advise the Minister include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protection of biodiversity; • management principles for protected wildlife; • research priorities for protected wildlife; • classification of wildlife (plants and animals) into categories defined by the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>; • review of conservation plans for particular species of wildlife, and • other matters referred by the Minister or executive of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.
Waanyi Advisory Committee (Lawn Hill National Park)	
Meetings:	28–29 July 2003 and 13–14 May 2004 (executive meetings)
Membership:	<p>Members:</p> <p>Mr Henry Aplin; Mr Keith Beardsley; Mr Peter Bell; Mrs Clara Bob; Mr Richard Brookdale; Ms Dell Burgen; Mr Lawrence Burgen; Mrs Mary Cameron; Mr Desmond Carlton; Mrs Nancy Carlton; Mr Reggie Carlton; Mrs Ethel Clark; Mr Jackson Diamond; Mr Barry Dick; Mr Noel Doolan; Mr Gordon Douglas; Mr Bobby George; Mr Don George; Ms Nancy George; Mrs Nancy Gregory; Mr Rex Gregory; Ms Everyl Johnny; Mr Eric King; Mr Maxwell King; Mr Billy Kooraburra; Mr Joseph Moreland; Ms Dianne O’Keefe; Ms Eunice O’Keefe; Mr Peter O’Keefe; Mrs Sally O’Keefe; Mrs Mavis Rockland; Mr Roy Seccin; Mrs Nancy Wilson; Mr Sidney Wilson.</p>
Terms of reference:	<p>The primary function of the committee is to provide the Minister with advice concerning the administration of aspects of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>, and in particular Aboriginal cultural matters relating to the management of Lawn Hill National Park.</p> <p>The Minister will have regard to the advice of the committee when implementing the Act and formulating or evaluating policies and procedures relating to Lawn Hill National Park.</p>



Appendices

6 – Additional reporting requirements

Community engagement

The Agency has responsibilities for consultation with communities, stakeholder groups, industry and local government. Divisions within the Agency conduct most of the consultation activities under statutory, policy and operational requirements. Programs for consultation include coastal protection and management, water and rivers, biodiversity and sustainability.

Consultation was carried out on a diverse range of matters during 2003–04 including:

- Creek-to-Coral Water Quality;
- Curtis Coast Regional Coastal Management Plan;
- eco-tourism;
- Queensland Greenhouse Strategy;
- Queensland Biodiversity Policy Framework;
- “Looking After Country Together” framework; and
- mining rehabilitation

The Agency provides information and feedback to its communities. For example, regional communities were made aware of the outcomes of the *State of the Environment Report 2003* and the National Pollutant Inventory through workshops held in Emerald, Cairns, Mt Isa, Bundaberg, Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Rockhampton, Mackay and Gladstone, as well as in Brisbane.

The Agency also seeks the views of its industry partners. For example, the Sustainable Industries Division conducted a forum for the solar hot water industry to seek views from its stakeholders about how to improve services, issues concerning solar hot water and the impact of new regulations. The forum was attended by representatives

from manufacturing industries, suppliers and other State Government departments.

Sponsorships

Innovation in environmental sustainability, best practice and industry programs were supported by the Agency through sponsorships during 2003–04. Sponsorship arrangements included the following events and topics:

- major conservation and environmental conferences;
- an exhibition showcasing sub-tropical housing;
- urban design;
- organic production;
- the Clean Beach Challenge; and
- the River Festival.

Agency divisions work with industry and communities to achieve effective dissemination of information through sponsorship programs. Sustainable Industries Division’s Ecobiz program, for example, has been developed to include a sponsorship component that fosters partnerships with industry and helps industry associations to present new trends and innovations to their members. Examples of projects that were supported are the promotion of resource efficiency for priority industry sectors, research for ethanol trials in the Cairns area and water recycling.

Sponsorships are a two-way process. In late June 2004, Powerlink provided a substantial sponsorship to the Great Walks’ Art Built-in project to develop art and community art skills in the regional areas of the Wet Tropics, the Gold Coast hinterland and the Mackay Highlands.

Whistleblowers Protection Act 1994

The Agency received no public interest disclosures, nor were any prior disclosures released during the reporting period.

Regional activities

While Agency functions are managed through the nine divisions based in Brisbane, service delivery is provided to regional and rural areas through our regions and districts. The Agency manages 430 protected areas, many in regional areas, and its 2200 staff are spread across more than 200 administrative locations.

Among the many activities conducted in regional areas during 2003–04, the Agency:

- established the first national park (recovery) at Nairana, a former 25,000ha Central Highlands property
- developed four pilot ecosystem management profiles for semi-evergreen thicket regional ecosystems and Great Artesian Basin spring wetlands
- progressed the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area forest transfers
- listed the koala as “vulnerable” in south-east Queensland
- developed a master plan for David Fleay Wildlife Park at Burleigh
- trained Indigenous community rangers at Aurukun and Mapoon land and sea centres in turtle monitoring techniques
- continued the successful implementation of the “Croc-wise” education campaign in north Queensland, including launch of new brochures and posters





- conducted the annual central Queensland FrogSearches, to monitor known populations of threatened frog species and to search potential habitat for new populations
 - completed fauna surveys at Bendidee, Sundown, Girraween, Cooloola, Wondul Range, Mt Walsh and Crows Nest national parks
 - managed wildfire risk and protected biodiversity by conducting more than 525,000ha of planned burns on parks and forests across the state
 - completed the Bribie Island and Fraser Island fire management strategies
 - conducted feral animal control programs on Lake Bindegolly, Sundown, Goodedulla, South Percy Island and Hinchinbrook Island national parks and Conway State Forest
 - completed weed control on Great Sandy National Park islands and Tuan and Conway State forests
 - conducted a pilot project under the Rural Homesteads Program involving Conservation Volunteers Australia and produced a promotional film to attract future business sponsorship
 - completed Aspiration of Traditional Owners documents for Eidsvold, Hervey Bay and Eurimbula National Park
 - completed and implemented regional coastal management plans for the Curtis Coast, Cardwell-Hinchinbrook and Wet Tropical Coast regions
 - contributed to the development of the Cabinet-endorsed Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, for improved management of Great Barrier Reef water quality
 - implemented the Solar Schools Goes Bush program, targeting remote, Indigenous communities' schools; and installed three of the 11 five-kilowatt solar-power systems—at Cairns Distance Education, and the Lakeland and Laura areas
 - assessed harvesting plans for Herberton, Ingham, Atherton, the south west, Maryborough and Monto areas
 - completed the Fraser Island and Whitsunday Great Walks
 - improved visitor facilities at Bribie Island, Kondalilla, Noosa, Crows Nest, Fraser Island, Capricorn Coast, Whitsunday Islands, Lakefield, Mt Cook, Iron Range and Chillagoe Mungana Caves, Lamington and Carnarvon national parks and Heathlands Resource Reserve
 - provided interpretive signs at Noosa, Glass House Mountains, Crows Nest, Bunya Mountains, Fraser Island, Mt Walsh, Mt Moffat and Carnarvon Gorge
 - finalised the assessment of environmental impact statements for seven major projects, leading to ecologically sustainable development approvals for projects such as a new coal mine in central Queensland, a marina development in the Whitsunday area and chemical/ industrial plants in Gladstone
- More information about our regional operations can be found in the "How we manage" section of this report, while a full description of activities is listed in the "Our performance" section.

Waste management and consumption

The Agency's Strategic Waste Management Plan has now been operating for a second year. The plan includes a review of current measurement and monitoring systems and processes to support the identification and reduction of the Agency's waste impact. The focus of the review is not only on solid-waste-management activities, but also on water, electricity and fuel consumption. In conjunction with the Government Energy Management Strategy, future energy usage proposals will be co-ordinated by the Agency's Corporate Development Division to ensure the reporting requirements of both programs are met.

The 2002–03 financial year was the first time any form of data collection was done. While it was intended that this would provide the benchmark year for future evaluation, a review of the information gathered has identified inconsistencies in the measurement processes and consequential inaccuracies in this data have resulted. Given the implementation of improved data collection practices, the data gathered for the 2003–04 year will now be used as the benchmark against which future years will be measured.

The current year has focused on ensuring basic recycling systems are in place across the Agency's major offices, and on raising the level of awareness and use of these systems. This strategy is proving to be successful, with an almost 10 percent increase in material recycled compared with the previous year.



The Agency's performance for 2003–04 on a per-employee basis is as follows:

Carbon dioxide emitted	5288kg
Electricity consumed	2783kWh
Solid waste generated	31kg
Recyclables generated	78kg
Paper consumed	10.3 reams
Water consumed	117kL
Total resource cost	\$1253

Among the specific achievements for 2003–04, the Agency:

- expanded recycling systems within Central Office and major regional offices, contributing to an increase in recycling levels of almost 10 percent;
- introduced a standardised toner cartridge recycling program;
- introduced a packaging “take back” program with the Agency's office products supplier;
- developed an integrated energy management system for the Agency's computer network;
- increased the volume of environmentally friendly products across the Agency and mandated the use of office products made from recycled paper; and
- included environmental requirements in offer documents, with the initial focus on cleaning services and mandating the use of environmentally safe products.

Consultancy expenditure

Category	\$ 2002-03*	\$ 2003-04*
Information technology	234,929	86,428
Management	31,500	85,440
Financial	13,430	4,642
Scientific and technical	579,083	529,849
Human resource management	Nil	97,128
Communications	42,305	164,628
Total	901,247	968,115

*Figures rounded to nearest dollar; figures do not include GST



Appendices

7 – Publications list 2003–04

Corporate

- Annual Report 2002–03
- EQ newsletter. Issue 21, August 2003. Issue 22, October 2003. Issue 23, December 2003. Issue 24, March 2004. Issue 25, June 2004.
- Statement of Affairs August 2003
- Strategic Plan 2004–2007

Books, reports and plans

- Air emissions inventory south-east Queensland region
- Ambient air quality monitoring in Queensland: 2001 annual summary and trend report
- Ambient air quality monitoring in Queensland: 2002 annual summary and trend report
- Bribie Island fire strategy draft
- Bribie Island fire strategy
- Camping in Queensland 8th ed.
- Canal Component of the Castle Hill Estate – The Lodge Precinct, Murrumba Downs, South-East Queensland
- Cardwell-Hinchinbrook regional coastal management plan
- Curragh North Coal Project: Bowen Basin, central Queensland, EIS assessment report
- Compliance Inspection Program Report: Extractive industry sector (Redland Shire) inspection program (March–April 2003)
- Compliance Inspection Program Report: Extractive industry sector (Oxley Creek catchment) inspection program (July–September 2002)
- Compliance Inspection Program Report: Saltwater Creek (Narangba Industrial Estate) inspection program (May–August 2002)
- Compliance Inspection Program Report: Extractive industry sector (Brisbane North and Pine Rivers catchment) inspection program (September–November 2002)
- Curtis Coast regional coastal management plan
- Determining the movement patterns of adult estuarine crocodiles using satellite telemetry
- Draft terms of reference for an environmental impact statement (EIS): Proposed coal mine titled Dawson South Stage 2 Coal Project
- Environmental economic evaluation: An introductory guide for policy-makers and practitioners
- Environmental impact monitoring: A guide for tourism operators
- Evaluation of dingo education strategy and programs for Fraser Island; and, Literature review: Communicating to the public about potentially dangerous wildlife in natural settings
- Exploring Queensland's parks and forests
- Gladstone Harbour Protection and Enhancement Strategy
- Green Island Recreation Area and Green Island National Park management plans
- How to compost
- Koalas in Pine Rivers Shire: Distribution, abundance and management
- Management guidelines for golden-shouldered parrot conservation
- Marine wildlife stranding and mortality database annual report 2001: II. Cetacean and pinniped
- Marine wildlife stranding and mortality database annual report 2002: II. Cetacean and pinniped
- Marine wildlife stranding and mortality database annual report 2002: I. Dugong
- Marine wildlife stranding and mortality database annual report 2002: III Marine turtles
- Migratory characteristics of humpback whales
- Moreton Island National Park and Cape Moreton Conservation Park draft management plan; Moreton Island Recreation Area preliminary management plan
- Photovoltaic rebate program: Guidelines
- Queensland biodiversity policy framework: Sustaining our natural wealth
- Queensland greenhouse gas inventory 1999
- Queensland greenhouse strategy
- Queensland guidelines for the safe use of recycled water
- Raine Island Corporation research report, v.2 1999–2001 (including bibliography 1994–2001)
- Regional nature conservation strategy for south-east Queensland 2003–2008
- Regional nature conservation strategy for south-east Queensland 2003–2008: Summary action plan
- Regional nature conservation strategy for south-east Queensland 2003–2008: Community partnerships
- Regional nature conservation strategy for south-east Queensland 2003–2008: Decision support tools
- Remnant vegetation in Queensland: Analysis of remnant vegetation 1997–99 to 2000–01, including regional ecosystem information
- State of the Environment Queensland 2003
- State of the Environment Queensland 2003: Implementing the legislation
- State of waste and recycling in Queensland 2003



- Terms of reference for the proposed canal component of the Castle Hill Canal Estate – The Lodge
- Terms of reference for the proposed Roseby Copper Project
- Terms of reference for the proposed Vermont Coal Project
- Theodore stage 2 coal project: Draft terms of reference for the environmental impact statement
- Wave data recording program Dunk Island 1998–2002
- Wave data recording program: Queensland wave climate annual summary for season 2001–02
- Wave data recording program: Queensland wave climate annual summary for season 2002–03
- Wet Tropical Coast regional coastal management plan

Brochures and fact sheets

- Be dingo-aware! Camping with children
- Case study: Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund
 - High-efficiency solar-powered streetlights
 - Diesohol for road transport
 - Low-cost solar water heater
- Case study: Renewable energy
 - Reliable power for Juno Downs: 21st century technology for working properties
- Experience Brisbane's colonial yesterdays
- Explore forests and national parks
 - Bribie Island National Park
 - Gympie environs
 - Upper Mary Valley (Amamoor State Forest and Forest Reserve)
 - Upper Mary Valley (Imbil State Forest and Forest Reserve)
 - Upper Mary Valley (Jimna State Forest and Forest Reserve)

- Upper Mary Valley (Kenilworth State Forest and Forest Reserve)
- Fact sheet: Urban development and built environment
- Design principles for improved residential development
- Great walk! Fraser Island
- Great walk! Wet Tropics
- Nature refuges
- Non-toxic shot for duck hunting
- Park guides
 - Benarkin and Yarraman State Forests
 - Bribie Island National Park
 - Bunya Mountains National Park
 - Girraween National Park
 - Gympie forests: Brooyar State Forest, Woondum Forest Reserve
 - Mt Moffatt section Carnarvon National Park
 - South Molle Island: Molle Islands National Park
 - Sunshine Coast hinterland: Upper Mary Valley
 - Turtle watching guide: Mon Repos Conservation Park
- Quail identification
- Queensland's nuisance laws
- Trail guide
 - Mt Bartle Frere trail: Wooroonooran National Park
 - Visitor information
 - Access for people with a disability
 - Auburn River National Park
 - Bowling Green Bay National Park: Mount Elliot section
 - Bunya Mountains National Park
 - Cape Tribulation section Daintree National Park
 - Cooloola section Great Sandy National Park
 - Crows Nest National Park
 - Deepwater National Park
 - Eurimbula National Park
 - Fraser Island World Heritage Area

- Girringun National Park: Mt Fox section
- Girringun National Park: Wallaman Falls section
- Goodnight Scrub
- Inskip Peninsula Recreation Area
- Kauri Creek, Tuan State Forest
- Kinkuna section, Burrum Coast National Park
- Kondalilla and Mapleton Falls national parks
- Michaelmas Cay National Park and Marine Park
- Main Range National Park
- Mt Walsh National Park
- Paluma Range National Park: Jourama Falls section
- Paluma Range National Park: Mt Spec section
- Porcupine Gorge National Park
- Woodgate section, Burrum Coast National Park
- Walking track guide
 - Main Range: Main Range National Park and Goomburra Forest Reserve
 - Lamington National Park: Binna Burra and Green Mountains sections
- Wildlife information
 - Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in the Hervey Bay and Whitsunday regions, Queensland

Codes

- Code of Practice Wildlife: Aviculture
- Code of Practice Wildlife: Care of orphaned, sick or injured protected animals
- Code of Practice Wildlife: Captive reptile and amphibian husbandry
- Code of Practice Wildlife: Crocodile farming
- Code of Practice Wildlife: Emu farming
- Code of Practice Wildlife: Minimum standards for exhibiting wildlife in Queensland



Guidelines

- Coastal development: Allocation of quarry material
- Coastal development: Amendment of permits for QPWS-managed areas
- Coastal development: Approval of a dredge management plan
- Coastal development: Approvals under the Harbours Act, Beach Protection Act and Canals Act
- Coastal development: Assessable development under the Coastal Act
- Coastal development: Building work seaward of a coastal building line
- Coastal development: Constructing tidal works
- Coastal development: Development involving an artificial waterway
- Coastal development: Disposing of material in tidal water
- Coastal development: Material change of use in a coastal management district
- Coastal development: Operational work on state coastal land
- Coastal development: Owner's consent for development assessed under the Coastal Act
- Coastal development: Preparing a water allocation area for tidal works
- Coastal development: Reclaiming land under tidal water
- Coastal development: Reconfiguring a lot in a coastal management district
- Coastal development: Removing or interfering with coastal dunes
- Coastal development: Works to establish a ponded pasture
- Consideration of the State Coastal Management Plan when undertaking development assessment
- Consideration of the State Coastal Management Plan in the preparation of IPA planning schemes
- Cultural heritage: Changes to the Queensland Heritage Act
- Environmental management of mining activities: Final rehabilitation and audit statement for non-standard exploration and mineral development projects
- Environmental management of mining activities: Final rehabilitation and audit statement for non-standard mining lease projects: Financial assurance for mining activities
- Environmental management of mining activities: Impact assessment process for standard mining and exploration activities
- Environmental management of mining activities: Introduction to policies and guidelines for impact assessment
- Environmental management of mining activities: Issue identification and community consultation
- Environmental management of mining activities: Mining industry regulatory framework
- Environmental management of mining activities: Non-standard mining and exploration activities
- Environmental management of mining activities: EIS process for non-standard mining projects
- Environmental operations: Landfill siting, design, operation and rehabilitation: Waste disposal
- Environmental operations: Monitoring systems for waste disposal facilities
- Environmental operations: Recording, interpretation and analysis of monitoring results: Waste disposal
- Environmental operations: Sampling monitoring bores for waste disposal facilities
- Environmental operations: Sewage treatment works and peak design capacity
- Noise: Abatement of nuisance noise from the use of fireworks
- Noise: Noise control measures for using scare guns
- Photovoltaic rebate program
- Wildlife: Authorisation to cultivate – Queensland
- Wildlife: Authorisation to propagate – Queensland
- Wildlife: Damage mitigation permits for ducks
- Wildlife: Damage mitigation permits for flying foxes
- Wildlife management: Allocation of icon crocodiles
- Wildlife management: Classification and removal of problem crocodiles
- Wildlife management: Commercial wildlife harvesting licence (macropods)
- Wildlife management: Commercial wildlife licence (macropods)
- Wildlife management: Disposal and allocation of problem crocodiles
- Wildlife management: Storage and movement of commercially harvested macropods



Information sheets

- Administration: Amendment of permits for QPWS managed areas
- Administration: What to do if you find unexploded ordnance (UXO)
- Coastal development: Amendments to coastal legislation
- Coastal development: Assessment of building work in an erosion prone area or seaward of a coastal building line
- Coastal development: Electronically paying coastal development application fees to the EPA
- Coastal development: Fees and royalties payable under the Coastal Act
- Corporate management: Camping and vehicle service permit fee refunds
- Cultural heritage: Application for approval for historical archaeological studies
- Cultural heritage: Changes to the Queensland Heritage Act
- Environmental nuisance laws: Abatement notices
- Environmental nuisance laws: Barking dogs
- Environmental nuisance laws: General information
- Environmental nuisance laws: Power boats and jet skis
- Environmental nuisance laws: Power tools (including lawn mowers) and building works
- Environmental nuisance laws: Swimming pool and spa pumps
- Environmental Operations: Activities delegated to DPI
- Environmental Operations: Clinical or related waste management
- Environmental Operations: Environmentally relevant activities devolved to local government
- Environmental Operations: Information to be provided with an application for an ERA
- Environmental Operations: Waste disposal
- Environmental Sciences Division (Coastal Services): Coastal Services monitor storm event, March 2004
- Environmental Sciences Division (Coastal Services): Coastal Services monitor tropical cyclone Grace, March 2004
- Moreton Bay Marine Park (Personal Water Craft): Personal water craft in Moreton Bay Marine Park
- Moreton Bay Marine Park (Personal Water Craft): turtle and dugong go-slow areas in Moreton Bay Marine Park
- Moreton Bay Marine Park (Personal Water Craft): Moreton Bay Marine Park zones and personal water craft
- Moreton Bay Marine Park (Personal Water Craft): Shorebirds in Moreton Bay Marine Park
- Moreton Bay Marine Park (Personal Water Craft): Whales, dolphins and personal water craft use in Moreton Bay Marine Park
- Visitor management: Permits for military exercises and supporting information needed
- Waste management: Waste management laws
- Wildlife: Commercial wildlife licence (dead macropods)
- Wildlife: Commercial wildlife licence (dead protected wildlife)
- Wildlife: Commercial wildlife licence (birds)
- Wildlife: Commercial wildlife licence (macropods)
- Wildlife: Commercial whale watching permit
- Wildlife: Permit to keep prohibited wildlife
- Wildlife: Permit to keep protected wildlife
- Wildlife: Recreational wildlife (specialist) licence (birds)
- Wildlife: Recreational wildlife (specialist) licence (reptiles and amphibians)
- Wildlife: Recreational wildlife harvesting licence (Cunnamulla – Eulo Lizard races)
- Wildlife: Recreational wildlife harvesting licence (macropods)
- Wildlife: Recreational wildlife harvesting licence (duck or quail)
- Wildlife: Recreational wildlife licence (birds)
- Wildlife: Recreational wildlife licence (reptiles and amphibians)
- Wildlife: Wildlife demonstrator licence
- Wildlife: Wildlife exhibitor licence
- Wildlife: Wildlife farming licence (butterflies, crocodiles, emus, snakes)
- Wildlife management: Authorised cultivator – Queensland
- Wildlife management: Commercial wildlife licence (protected plants)
- Wildlife management: Commercial wildlife harvesting licence (protected plants)
- Wildlife management: Commercial wildlife harvesting licence (macropods): Firearms competency certification
- Wildlife management: Commercial wildlife harvesting licence (macropods): TAFE course
- Wildlife management: Recreational wildlife licence (protected plants)
- Wildlife management: Recreational wildlife harvesting licence (protected plants)
- Wildlife management: Scientific research and educational purposes permit



Multimedia (CD-ROMs)

- Queensland greenhouse gas inventory 1999
- Remnant vegetation in Queensland: Analysis of remnant vegetation 1997–1999 to 2000–2001, including regional ecosystem information
- State of the environment Queensland 2003

Newsletters and journals

- Air quality bulletins: Central Queensland
- Air quality bulletins: North Queensland
- Air quality bulletins: South-east Queensland
- Austrobaileya
- Community nature news
- The compass: New directions in Queensland industry
- Croc news
- Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program
- EK news: Essentially koala
- EQ newsletter. Issue 21, August 2003. Issue 22, October 2003. Issue 23, December 2003. Issue 24, March 2004. Issue 25, June 2004.
- Great Walks of Queensland quarterly update
- Healthy Waterways Happenings
- Lyngbya update newsletter
- Nature calls
- Newsletter for the Land for Wildlife program, Queensland
- PestNews
- Rainforest Aboriginal News
- Rehabilitation and Release (R'n'R): A newsletter for wildlife carers
- Southern snippets

- Time and Place
- Tropical Topics
- Wild Times
- Yarning Up

Operational policies

- Administration: Amendment of permits for QPWS-managed areas
- Coastal development: Building and engineering standards for tidal works
- Coastal development: Jurisdiction when acting as a concurrence agency under IPA
- Corporate management: Camping and vehicle service permit fee and pre-paid booking refunds
- Environmental operations: Licensing mine sites for quarrying and screening
- Environmental operations: Licensing requirements for a waste transfer station (ERA 82) at a waste disposal facility (ERA 75(a))
- Natural resource management: Mosquito and biting midge control
- Natural resource management: Wild dog management
- Parks: Improvements and tree clearing on term (special) leases for grazing purposes
- Parks: Risk management of hazardous trees
- Visitor management: Approval to take a live animal into a protected area
- Visitor management: Hang-gliding and paragliding in QPWS-managed areas
- Visitor management: Military exercises in QPWS-managed areas
- Visitor management: Permit to enter or remain in a national park (scientific)

Policies

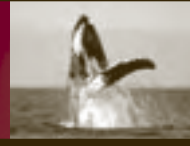
- State interest planning policy for State forests, timber reserves and forest reserves in planning schemes

Procedural guides

- Administration: Amendment of permits for QPWS-managed areas
- Administration: Pest control reporting requirements to Central Office
- Natural resource management: Using the Allen Activity Index to measure wild dog activity
- Natural resource management: Wild dog baiting with 1080 in potential spotted-tailed quoll habitat
- Parks: Control actions for risks from hazardous trees
- Parks: Hazardous tree identification
- Visitor management: Concessions for educational excursions in recreation areas
- Visitor management: Hang-gliding and paragliding in QPWS-managed areas
- Visitor management: Mobile food vending on protected areas
- Visitor management: Permit to enter or remain in a national park (scientific)
- Visitor management: Using the landscape classification system for visitor management

Note: Many of these publications are available in full text on the Agency's web site, www.epa.qld.gov.au.

For more information about these and other Environmental Protection Agency publications, contact Library Services on (07) 3227 7701 or e-mail library@epa.qld.gov.au.



Snapshot

Art part of new Wanggoolba Creek boardwalk



Totems have been incorporated into the new Wanggoolba Creek boardwalk on Fraser Island. The totems represent: (from left): rainforest relics ("king fern" and tree frogs); a carpet snake, representing all the animals of the creek; and a strangler fig, with a flying fox. Each totem has Braille text describing these themes.

Wanggoolba Creek is one of Fraser Island's permanent freshwater creeks, flowing to its western beach. Renowned for its clear waters and a white sandy creek bed, the creek is a drawcard for more than 160,000 visitors a year.

The new \$1 million Wanggoolba Creek boardwalk was completed ahead of schedule, allowing visitors to once again explore Wanggoolba Creek and gain access to walking tracks to Basin Lake and Pile Valley. Visitors can now experience the wonders of the rainforest and Wanggoolba Creek with minimal impact on the environment. The boardwalk is designed to accommodate people in wheelchairs.

The boardwalk also features some distinctive artwork. Artist Monika Bayer moulded and sculpted three totems, representing natural features of the creek, as part of the Art Built-in component of the project. Art Built-in, an initiative of the Queensland Government, requires an art contribution for all capital works projects.



Appendices

8 – Sustainability Charter report 2003-04

Environmental performance

Required outcome: The impact of EPA's operations on the environment is reduced.

Objective – reduce pollution

Action areas	Indicator of achievement/ performance	Results
Waste management		
For the EPA to minimise and better manage its waste outputs, it should be guided by its own Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Policy 2000.	Strategic Waste Management Plan is adopted, including annual public reporting of the Agency's performance.	Achieved – data has been included in the Agency's annual report. Internally reports are presented to executive management biannually. Awareness of the Strategic Waste Management Plan and practical examples of what can be achieved in the workplace are included within the Agency's orientation program.
The EPA should minimise the environmental impact of building and maintaining its structures.	Construction, renovation and demolition projects worth \$20,000 or more have waste reduction and disposal plans (target: 50 percent by June 2005).	Achieved – currently addressed with all office accommodation projects.
Hazardous/toxic substances		
The Agency must ensure hazardous and toxic substances, including fuels, pesticides, herbicides, fertilisers, solvents, detergents and lubricants are stored, used and disposed of properly. It must ensure that all substances are used in accordance with recommended application or dosage rates.	Staff required to use hazardous or toxic substances are trained to do so (target: 100 percent by June 2004).	EPA staff access current information and training to apply current principles and practices in their work.
	The Agency's purchasing procedures require that a Materials Safety Data Sheet must be provided when purchasing all hazardous and toxic products.	The EPA will implement an Agency wide Hazardous substances management system over the next 3 years.
Air emissions		
Carbon dioxide – equivalent (CO ₂ -e) abatement is a primary target of the EPA and the Queensland Government. Measurable CO ₂ -e abatement can be achieved by reducing energy use, fuel consumption, and waste disposal. The Agency should select and efficiently operate equipment to reduce CO ₂ -e emissions.	* CO ₂ -e emitted, for each employee, is reduced (target: five percent in 2003-04).	From the measured parameters the average estimated CO ₂ emissions from Agency activities is equivalent to 5.2 tonnes of CO ₂ per employee this year. This represents a 10 percent increase in the CO ₂ generation of the Agency. Measured parameters were from electricity consumption and fuel use for motor vehicles and generators. CO ₂ emissions linked to air travel, or to the use of gas have not been included. This increase is due to both an increase in fuel and electricity consumption.



Objective – reduce pollution		
Action areas	Indicator of achievement/ performance	Results
Air emissions <i>(continued)</i>		
The diverse nature of the Agency's operations relies on a high level of usage of motor vehicles with much of the work conducted in regional and rural Queensland, often in remote areas. As part of the Agency's policy, the fleet uses ethanol-supplemented fuels where possible, or conventional petrol or diesel fuel. The Agency should select and efficiently operate motor vehicles to reduce CO ₂ -e emissions.	Average motor vehicle fleet fuel usage is measured annually: The number of low emission vehicles leased as a proportion of total vehicles leased is monitored and reported.	Passenger vehicles: 9.0 litres/100km Commercial 2WD vehicles: 10.7 litres/100km Commercial 4WD vehicles: 11.8 litres/100km Fleet Average Total: 11.2 litres/100km

Objective – use resources efficiently		
Energy consumption		
The Agency minimises electricity consumption through selection of advantageous tariff rates, selection of energy efficient equipment and management of after-hours air conditioning, computer usage and lighting. A benchmark was recorded during 2002–03 against which future consumption rates will be compared.	*An annual reduction in energy use is achieved (target: five percent).	Electricity consumption has risen by 10 percent over the past year. Average consumption is now 2783 kWh per employee. This year the Agency has developed computer energy management systems to assist in future reductions in energy consumption. Additionally energy audits have been conducted for the six largest usage sites to allow energy efficient strategies to be developed and implemented in the future.
Energy generation		
The Agency generates as much of its power requirements as possible using renewable energy sources.	The Agency generates power from renewable sources. Note: Kilowatts of electricity; this indicator will reveal trends over time.	1.19 million kWh sourced from "green" and self-generated sources. The figure for self-generated energy will not have changed from last year as the Agency has neither commissioned nor decommissioned any renewable energy systems. The Agency is currently in the process of installing up to 30 solar hot water systems on park residences and facilities. An average solar hot water system displaces an amount of energy equivalent to 3 MWh annually.



Objective – use resources efficiently *(continued)*

Action areas	Indicator of achievement/ performance	Results
Water consumption		
The Agency will ensure that new EPA-owned and leased (where negotiated) facilities have water-efficient devices installed or retro-fitted as part of development.	*Reduce per-employee water usage (target: five percent, beginning with benchmark year).	117 KL for each employee used during 2003–04. Benchmark measurements and data collection methodologies are being refined to support future reporting.
Paper and packaging		
Office paper use is a significant issue for the EPA. Minimisation initiatives include replacing single-sided printing with duplexing printers and Multi Function Devices. Mandating the purchase of recycled A4 office paper and other office products made from recycled materials. Specifications for purchasing include the minimisation of packaging, the use of recycled packaging materials and supplier “take back” of cardboard cartons.	*The total number of reams of paper purchased is reduced. *Multi Function Devices and printers purchased must be capable of duplex printing.	There has been more than a 20 percent reduction in the consumption of office paper in central office that now averages at approximately 10.3 reams for each employee.
The Agency should improve its capacity to eliminate, return or recycle material currently disposed of as general waste.	*Clean office paper is segregated and recycled (target: five percent increase by 2003–04, based on 2002–03 benchmark).	50.7kg for each employee during 2003–04.

*Also a performance indicator under the EPA’s Strategic Waste Management Plan for 2002–03

Social performance

Required outcome: The best possible workforce and workplace practices are established and maintained.

Objective – Foster continuous learning

Personal learning/training/education		
Career management requires each person to take some personal responsibility. Staff are encouraged to use personal learning plans. Personal learning plans can include training courses, study programs, work experience, mentoring and a range of targeted activities. Planned career development increases staff skills, retains professional experience and aids job satisfaction.	Proportion of EPA staffing costs dedicated to continuing training/education (percentage, as trend).	4 percent of salary spent on training during 2003–04.
	Staff have personal learning plans (target: more than 90 percent of permanent staff by 30 June 2005).	86 percent.
	Staff have completed the Agency orientation program within three months of commencement (target: more than 95 percent by 30 June 2005).	93 percent during benchmark year 2003–04.



Objective – Recognise and promote diversity

Action areas	Indicator of achievement/ performance	Results
Equal employment opportunity		
Employment opportunities for women, Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, people with a disability and people from non-English speaking backgrounds within the Agency should recognise their representation within the broader Queensland community, and practices that give effect to this recognition need to be actively pursued. Similarly, practical support mechanisms relevant to the particular needs and interests of these groups are essential.	*More women are appointed to senior management positions, meeting the Agency's EEO commitment (target: 25 percent by 2005).	19.7 percent of SES/SO positions held by female employees as of 30 June 2004.
	*More women hold positions across all levels of employment, meeting the Agency's EEO commitment (target: a minimum of 35 percent by 2005).	26.4 percent of positions held by female employees as of 30 June 2004.
	*2.4 percent of the total staff in the EPA identify as Indigenous by 2005; by 2010 the number of Indigenous staff across all salary levels meets the Agency's EEO target of 2.4 percent.	3.2 percent of employees identified as being Indigenous as of 30 June 2004.
	*The number of staff with a disability meets the Agency's EEO commitment (target: 15 percent by 2005).	10.4 percent of positions were held by employees with disabilities as of 30 June 2004.
	*The number of staff from non-English speaking backgrounds meets the Agency's EEO commitment (target: 13.5 percent by 2005).	5.8 percent of positions were held by employees from non-English speak backgrounds as of 30 June 2004.
Cross-cultural awareness		
The EPA provides services to the full spectrum of cultures within the State. Staff should be aware of cultural differences and undertake their duties with sensitivity to different perspectives.	Staff have undertaken Indigenous awareness and cultural diversity training (target: 40 percent by 2005).	40 percent.
Anti-discrimination		
EPA staff work in an environment that values their contribution and must be free from bias, discrimination and harassment.	Staff training undertaken to understand and appreciate a work environment free from discrimination and harassment.	Distributed CD Rom and undertook face to face diversity training with 903 staff. Code of Conduct training undertaken by 942 staff.

*Also a performance indicator under the EPA's Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan.



Objective – Maintain a healthy and safe workplace

Action areas	Indicator of achievement/ performance	Results
Health and safety		
The EPA is faced with an unusually wide range of health and safety considerations because of the varied nature of its activities that take place all over Queensland – from handling chemical spills to handling crocodiles. The Agency's comprehensive health and safety policy sets out protocols for a wide range of situations, with staff responsibilities and obligations clearly designated.	Lost time accidents are reduced (target: zero accidents).	42 lost-time accidents during 2003–04.

Objective – Provide for work-life balance

Work and life balance		
When staff resign voluntarily, for whatever reason, there is a regrettable loss of experience and corporate memory. However, staff turnover is also a source of "new blood" and rejuvenation. It is a challenge to strike a balance between retention and replacement, and to ensure that the workforce is dynamic, while encouraging staff to feel confident about potential career development. The EPA remains committed to its workforce and understands the importance of security of tenure, and accommodation of staff with temporary difficulties balancing their job and their life outside work.	Percentage of workforce with temporary status for more than 12 months.	2.2 percent.
	Percentage of permanent staff who leave within two years of appointment to EPA.	7.5 percent.

Objective – Foster partnerships and engagement

Sustainable workforce		
Ensuring the viability and sustainability of the EPA workforce to deliver on the Agency's statutory role and obligations.	Develop and implement strategies to ensure EPA staff continue to have the skills, capability and motivation to achieve required outcomes.	The Agency will be producing 2–3 major reports per year – with the next report being on Labour Market trends due in September 2004.
Partnership and engagement		
The EPA is committed to working beneficially with community and partners. Staff are encouraged to contribute by implementing best practices, participating in environmental initiatives wherever possible, and by providing comments and proposals through the intranet site.	Percentage of employees based in EPA regions.	60.7 percent.
	Number of volunteers who partner with the Agency.	1990 volunteers.



Economic performance

Required outcome: Taxpayers' money is used efficiently and effectively.

Objective: Support green and ethical procurement		
Action areas	Indicator of achievement/ performance	Results
<p>The EPA's Corporate Procurement Plan and Purchasing Policies focus on sustainable purchasing practices.</p> <p>Tender specifications include preferences for environmentally friendly products and that suppliers and manufacturers have current Environmental Management Plans.</p>	<p>The Agency's Standing Offer Arrangement for the supply of office products has a large range of products that are made from recycled materials.</p>	<p>Approximately 98 percent of office paper purchased has 50 percent recycled content from pre and post consumer waste.</p>
	<p>Percentage of energy purchased from renewable resources.</p>	<p>Currently aligning our energy purchasing from renewable resources with the EPA's Strategic Waste Management Plan.</p>

Objective: Maintain fiscal responsibility		
<p>The EPA will stay committed to efficacy, probity and continued organisational performance to deliver maximum benefits from the use of its financial resources.</p>	<p>Staff salaries as a proportion of operating costs (excluding depreciation, equity return, asset write downs, grants and subsidies).</p>	<p>64 percent.</p>
	<p>The EPA's operating and maintenance budgets will be fully expended during the fiscal year.</p>	<p>94 percent.</p>
	<p>The EPA's capital budget will be fully expended during the fiscal year.</p>	<p>90 percent.</p>
	<p>Operating costs as proportion of total budget or total costs (excluding depreciation, equity return, asset write downs, grants and subsidies which, along with capital costs, are part of total costs).</p>	<p>56 percent.</p>
	<p>Percentage of budget (total costs) spent on utilities and consumables (total costs include depreciation, equity return, asset write downs, grants and, subsidies as well as capital costs).</p>	<p>3 percent.</p>





Contacts

General enquiries

www.epa.qld.gov.au

Naturally Queensland Information Centre

Ph: (07) 3227 8185

E-mail: nqic@epa.qld.gov.au

Environmental Protection Agency

(incorporating the
Queensland Parks
and Wildlife Service)

Central Office

160 Ann Street, Brisbane
PO Box 155,
Brisbane Albert Street QLD 4002
Ph: (07) 3227 8185
Fax: (07) 3227 8749

Divisions

Conservation Services

Level 8, 160 Ann Street, Brisbane
PO Box 155,
Brisbane Albert Street QLD 4002
Ph: (07) 3224 8092
Fax: (07) 3227 6386

Corporate Development

Level 16, 160 Ann Street, Brisbane
PO Box 155,
Brisbane Albert Street QLD 4002
Ph: (07) 3227 8872
Fax: (07) 3227 6534

Environmental Operations

Level 11, 160 Ann Street, Brisbane
PO Box 155,
Brisbane Albert Street QLD 4002
Ph: (07) 3227 6435
Fax: (07) 3227 7677

Environmental Sciences

Level 9, 160 Ann Street, Brisbane
PO Box 155,
Brisbane Albert Street QLD 4002
Ph: (07) 3225 2639
Fax: (07) 3220 3542

Office of the Director-General

Level 17, 160 Ann Street, Brisbane
PO Box 155,
Brisbane Albert Street QLD 4002
Ph: (07) 3227 8850
Fax: (07) 3227 6485

Parks

Level 7, 160 Ann Street, Brisbane
PO Box 155,
Brisbane Albert Street QLD 4002
Ph: (07) 3235 9037
Fax: (07) 3227 7676

Planning

Level 6, 160 Ann Street, Brisbane
PO Box 155,
Brisbane Albert Street QLD 4002
Ph: (07) 3227 6784
Fax: (07) 3227 7988

Policy

Level 12, 160 Ann Street, Brisbane
PO Box 155,
Brisbane Albert Street QLD 4002
Ph: (07) 3227 6398
Fax: (07) 3225 8029

Sustainable Industries

Level 4, 160 Ann Street, Brisbane
PO Box 155,
Brisbane Albert Street QLD 4002
Ph: (07) 3238 3632
Fax: (07) 3227 8341

Regional services Environmental management

Northern Region

Old Quarantine Station,
Cape Pallarenda Road
PO Box 5391,
Townsville MC QLD 4810
Ph: (07) 4722 5212
Fax: (07) 4722 5222

Central Region

61 Yeppoon Road,
North Rockhampton
PO Box 3130,
Rockhampton Shopping Fair
QLD 4701
Ph: (07) 4936 0531
Fax: (07) 4936 3022

Southern Region

Level 23, 288 Edward Street
GPO Box 2771, Brisbane QLD 4001
Ph: (07) 3225 8485
Fax: (07) 3225 8495

Regional services Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Northern Region

Floor 1, 5B Sheridan Street, Cairns
PO Box 2066, Cairns QLD 4870
Ph: (07) 4046 6601
Fax: (07) 4046 6604

Central Region

Cnr Yeppoon and Norman roads,
North Rockhampton
PO Box 3130,
Rockhampton Shopping Fair
QLD 4701
Ph: (07) 4936 0511
Fax: (07) 4936 2212

Southern Region

55 Priors Pocket Road, Moggill
PO Box 42,
Kenmore QLD 4069
Ph: (07) 3202 0236
Fax: (07) 3202 6844

EPA Pollution Hotline

1300 130 372



Queensland
Government

Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.qld.gov.au