



# SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION FRAMEWORK:

## CODE OF PRACTICE

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The South East Queensland Ecological Restoration Framework consists of three documents being the:

1. Code of Practice
2. Guideline
3. Manual

The Framework will be subject to periodic review. If you have any suggestions for improvement we invite your feedback.

Please provide feedback to SEQ Catchments, PO Box 13204, Brisbane, Qld, 4003.

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PREPARED BY:



ON BEHALF OF:



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

*“Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed.”*



## 1.1 PURPOSE OF SEQ ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION FRAMEWORK

The South East Queensland (SEQ) Ecological Restoration Framework Project was originally proposed by the Environmental Managers Technical Reference Group (EMTRG), a group of environmental managers representing SEQ Councils. The EMTRG recognised that the high growth experienced in SEQ, combined with the diversity of stakeholders undertaking ecological restoration, required the development of a standard to ensure consistent ecological restoration delivery. In April 2011, the Council of Mayors (SEQ) subsequently endorsed the Framework as a regional standard for undertaking restoration projects. Ultimately, ecological restoration projects delivered under the Framework will:

- Conserve and enhance biodiversity through increasing the extent and improving the condition of native vegetation;
- Ensure long-term environmental and economic sustainability; and
- Ensure ongoing improvement and maintenance of ecosystem services.

The SEQ region, as defined by the SEQ Regional Plan 2009 – 2031 is made up of 11 Local Government Areas, including:

- Brisbane City Council
- Gold Coast City Council
- Ipswich City Council
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Logan City Council
- Moreton Bay Regional Council
- Redland City Council
- Scenic Rim Regional Council
- Somerset Regional Council
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- Toowoomba Regional Council

The Framework is comprised of three key documents to guide the delivery of vegetation/ecological restoration works in the SEQ region including:

- **Code of Practice** – a policy document providing a head of power for the subsequent Guidelines and Manual. The code of practice reflects the SEQ policy environments where it is to be housed.
- **Guideline** – a decision making tool to guide users to the most appropriate course of action in their project. This document guides application of the policy and links to current best practice and examples demonstrated in the Manual element.
- **Manual** – a technical but easy to use guide to all aspects of ecological restoration. This document is reflective of current best practice, and provides the minimum acceptable solutions to ecological restoration.

## 1.2 THE CODE OF PRACTICE

This document constitutes the Code of Practice component of the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework.

### 1.2.1 PURPOSE

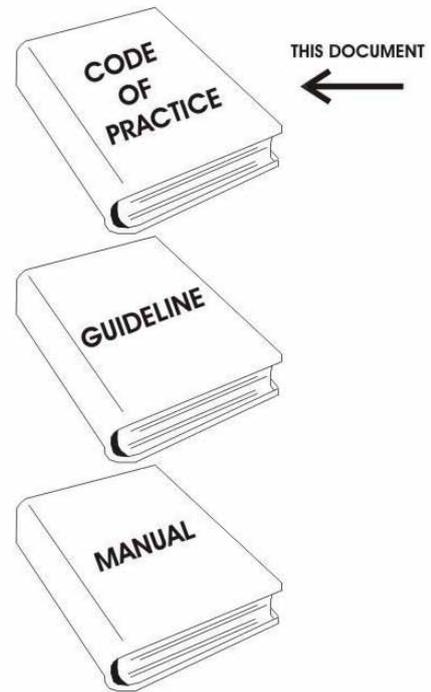
The purpose of the Code of Practice is to achieve regional consistency in the standard and outcomes of ecological restoration by:

- Endorsement by local governments to adopt and implement this Code and accompanying Guideline and Manual; and
- Encouraging adoption and implementation of this Code and accompanying guidelines and manual by all stakeholders in the region.

### 1.2.2 APPLICATION

This Code of Practice provides a policy framework for Local Government to implement and adopt the 'SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework' to all ecological restoration works undertaken on their behalf or under their jurisdiction.

## SEQ ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION FRAMEWORK



## 1.3 WHAT IS ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION?

For the purpose of the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework the definition of Ecological Restoration applied by the Society for Ecological Restoration International (SERI) has been utilised. Specifically:

*“Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed.”*

The term ecological restoration embodies a wide range of activities that have been variously described as revegetation, rehabilitation, bush regeneration or native vegetation restoration. Although the term does not extend to landscaping or encompass all forms of planting per se, ecological principles can still be used to inform such activities.

## 2 EXISTING POLICY FRAMEWORK

*"...there are at least 67 different stakeholders responsible for or undertaking ecological restoration in the region."*



Ecological restoration has been undertaken in SEQ for many years by a wide range of individuals and organisations. These projects have included a variety of aims, ecological restoration approaches, outcomes and successes. A recent assessment indicates that there are at least 67 different stakeholders responsible for undertaking ecological restoration in the region. There are numerous motivating factors for undertaking ecological restoration including those projects undertaken in direct response to legislative, policy and/or strategy requirements.

A review of the current policy and legislative framework at the Federal, State, regional and local levels influencing ecological restoration in the region is presented in Appendix A. Although all statutory documents reviewed influence or potentially influence ecological restoration activities, the most relevant to the region is the SEQ Regional Plan. The SEQ Regional Plan 2009-2031 provides consistent and targeted reference to ecological restoration outcomes and environmental offset arrangements which are embodied in several of its policies and programs. Given this targeted impetus for ecological restoration, the SEQ Regional Plan provides the head of power for a policy/code that guides ecological restoration activities in the region.



The policy and legislative framework is dynamic and it is for this reason that users of the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework need to be aware of and familiar with the most recent versions of statutory documents.

# 3 SEQ ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION POLICY

*“Restored ecosystems are self sustaining to the same degree as a reference ecosystem, such that they are resilient to normal periodic stress”*



## 3.1 ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION POLICY STATEMENT

Ecological restoration in SEQ is to be undertaken to achieve the following best practice principles:

1. Restored ecosystems incorporate assemblages of species reflecting those in reference ecosystems and have the potential to recruit further species by natural means;
2. Restored ecosystems support the same structure and function as reference ecosystems;
3. Restored ecosystems consist of indigenous species of local provenance to the greatest extent practicable. That is, exotic and invasive species that would otherwise degrade ecosystem health are absent;
4. Restored ecosystems are self sustaining to the same degree as a reference ecosystem, such that they are resilient to normal periodic stress; and
5. Restored ecosystems interact with the surrounding landscape and contribute to ecosystem services.

## 3.2 IMPLEMENTATION POLICY STATEMENT

In order to achieve the best practice principles of ecological restoration it will be necessary to:

1. Educate all stakeholders involved with ecological restoration regarding the use of the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework;
2. Update planning schemes to reflect the requirements of the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework;
3. Undertake monitoring and evaluation to determine ecological success of ecological restoration projects;
4. Undertake auditing and compliance to ensure ecological restoration plans are met; and
5. Review the SEQ Code of Practice of the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework every 5 years by the Councils subject to the SEQ Regional Plan or as triggered by critical changes in the legislative framework.

# 4 PLANNING SCHEMES

“...planning scheme codes should be reflective of the principles contained within the Framework.”



## 4.1 BACKGROUND

SEQ planning schemes address the requirement for ecological restoration in various codes and planning scheme policies (refer to *Appendix A*). The specific requirements for ecological restoration planning and implementation within the schemes vary greatly, with some codes only making brief reference to the need for ecological restoration and making no guidance as to how this should occur.

Given the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework establishes a standard for the delivery of ecological restoration projects in the region, planning scheme codes should be reflective of the principles contained within the Framework.

The Local Government Association of Queensland has recently completed the document “Integrating Natural Resource Management into Planning Schemes - Generic Code Provisions for Queensland Local Governments”. The document is aimed at providing local government planners and environmental professionals a starting point for the development of locally specific natural resource management codes and includes generic code provisions to assist in this purpose. The generic codes incorporate performance outcomes that specifically address ecological restoration. The document represents an opportunity to incorporate reference to the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework to facilitate the uptake of best practice ecological restoration planning and implementation via planning schemes.

## 4.2 DRAFT CODE PROVISION FOR SCHEMES

The following provides an example of a code provision that links with the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework and its intent.

<b>COLUMN 1 PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES</b>	<b>COLUMN 2 ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS</b>
Ecological restoration is planned and implemented according to the current version of the <i>SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework</i> .	No acceptable solution.

# GLOSSARY

**Ecological restoration:** The process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed.

**Code of Practice:** A policy document forming part of the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework providing a head of power for the subsequent guidelines and manual. The code of practice reflects the SEQ policy environments where it is to be housed.

**Compliance:** Confirmation that ecological restoration outcomes conform with ecological restoration plans.

**Guidelines:** A decision making tool forming part of the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework to guide users to the most appropriate course of action in their project. This document guides application of the policy and links to current best practice and examples demonstrated in the Manual element.

**Indigenous species:** The biota that occur in a particular location such as in a reference ecosystem (see also *Local provenance*).

**Local provenance:** Indigenous species established from the seed sourced from natural populations within a particular site or area (see also *Indigenous species*).

**Manual:** A technical guide to all aspects of ecological restoration forming part of the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework. This document is reflective of current best practice, and provides the minimum acceptable solutions to restoration.

**Stakeholders:** For the purpose of this document, includes those individuals or organisations required to and/or actively involved in the planning and delivery of ecological restoration.

**Ecosystem:** Consists of the biota (plants, animals, microorganisms) within a given area, the environment that sustains it, and their interactions.

**Reference ecosystem:** An ecosystem that serves as the model for planning an ecological restoration project and as a reference against which the success of the project can be evaluated. The reference ecosystem must not have been subject to extensive past disturbance.

**Structure:** All vegetative elements within an ecosystem either dead or alive including, but not limited to, trees, shrubs, ground covers, lianes, logs and leaf litter.

**Succession:** Step-wise development of vegetation through stages of maturity, following disturbance or on a newly colonised site.

# ACRONYMS

**EMTRG:** Environmental Managers Technical Reference Group

**EPBC Act:** *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

**QGEOP:** Queensland Government Environmental Offsets Policy 2008

**SEQ:** South East Queensland

**SERI:** Society for Ecological Restoration International

**SEWPC:** Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

**VMA:** *Vegetation Management Act 1999*

# APPENDIX A

## REVIEW OF CURRENT STATUTORY AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

## A1 - INTRODUCTION

A review of the current statutory framework (2012) was undertaken to ascertain the key documents that guide restoration outcomes in South East Queensland. The review considered statutory documents that trigger restoration at the:

- Federal;
- State;
- Regional; and
- Local levels.

## A2 - FEDERAL

The primary legislative mechanism through which the Commonwealth can impose requirements for restoration is via the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) administered by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPC). The Act aims to protect matters of national significance.

The Draft Policy Statement "Use of environmental offsets under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, August 2007" identifies SEWPC's approach to the use of offsets. 'Direct offsets' are identified as a mechanism by which on-ground maintenance and improvement of habitat or landscape values can be made. These might include restoration or rehabilitation of existing degraded habitat or re-establishing habitat. Offsets required should be equal in quantity and quality to the area to be impacted, but preferably of greater quantity and/or higher quality and should be 'like for like' for the values being impacted.

## A3 - STATE

### A3.1 LEGISLATION

The statutory framework at the State level includes several acts of parliament including the:

- *Nature Conservation Act 1992*;
- *Fisheries Act 1994*;
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994*;
- *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*;
- *Vegetation Management Act 1999*;
- *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*; and
- *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011*.

These are briefly discussed as follows:

- ***Nature Conservation Act 1992***

The purpose of this act is to inform the following:

- Gathering of information and community education etc.;
- Dedication and declaration of protected areas;
- Management of protected areas;
- Protection of native wildlife and its habitat;
- Use of protected wildlife and areas to be ecologically sustainable;
- Recognition of interest of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in nature and their cooperative involvement in its conservation; and
- Cooperative involvement of landholders.

Of particular relevance is the licencing and other protocols associated with collection of propagules from protected estate that may support ecological restoration activities. It is best practice to check with the regulating authority, prior to any interaction with protected and managed lands in support of your project delivery, to ensure it is compliant and properly licenced for the intended interaction.

- **Fisheries Act 1994**

Similar to the *Vegetation Management Act 1999 (VMA 1999)*, the *Fisheries Act 1994 (FA 1994)* does not include specific reference to restoration. However under the provisions of the *FA 1994* and *Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (SPA 2009)* offset measures for marine fish habitat loss can be used to balance the remaining or residual impact of approved losses. The mechanism against which suitable offsets are assessed is the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries “Fish Habitat Management Operational Policy FHMOP005”. The policy incorporates the capacity to restore, rehabilitate or create fish habitat and includes some guidance as to how this is to be undertaken (e.g. proposals must include ecological monitoring).

- **Environmental Protection Act 1994;**

The premise of this Act in many ways empowers and supports the actions articulated in the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework, with the purpose of the Act defined as:

*“The object of this Act is to protect Queensland’s environment while allowing for development that improves the 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).”*

Whilst supportive, the Act also entails many provisions and licencing requirements to ensure activity is not contrary to the definition, which may include regulation of indirect pollutants, site access, and waste to name a few. Dependant on the scale and type of activity being undertaken, the Act also entails requirement for Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and detailed planning and reporting, both prior too and over the period of the activity. It is prudent to seek advice from your relevant local government to help explain the requirements of this Act on a particular project during your planning phase.

- **Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995**

The primary delivery mechanism enacting the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 (CPMA 1995)* is the Queensland Coastal Plan (2012). As well as providing direction for natural resource management decision-makers about land on the coast, including coastal reserves, beaches, esplanades and tidal areas, it also includes a state planning policy under the *SPA 2009* outlining specific criteria regarding land use and development assessment.

The Coastal Management Plan should be consulted whilst undertaking ecological restoration activities in the coastal zone, to ensure the aims of your project align with the overall intent of the plan, and also with regulatory requirements where applicable.

- **Vegetation Management Act 1999**

Although the *VMA 1999* does not include specific reference to restoration per se, Part 2 of the Act allows for the purpose of the Act to be achieved through codes relating to the clearing of vegetation via applications under the Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS). These codes, such as the Regional Vegetation Management Code for South East Queensland Bioregion and the Regrowth Vegetation Code allow for the provision, in certain circumstances, for offsets to be provided in accordance with the Policy for Vegetation Management Offsets (Vers. 2.4 2009). The policy identifies 7 criteria for the provision of offsets amongst which are those pertaining to restoration. Specifically, Criterion 3 “Obtaining ecological equivalence” and Criterion 4 “Ensuring ongoing management” guide where and how restoration should be undertaken.

- ***Sustainable Planning Act 2009***

Chapter 1 Part 2 defines the purpose of the Act:

The purpose of this Act is to seek to achieve **Ecological Sustainability** by -

- (a) managing the process by which development takes place, including ensuring the process is accountable, effective and efficient and delivers sustainable outcomes; and
- (b) managing the effects of development on the environment, including managing the use of premises; and
- (c) continuing the coordination and integration of planning at the local, regional and State levels.

**Ecological Sustainability** is defined under Chapter 1 Division 2 Section 8 of the Act:

Ecological sustainability is a balance that integrates -

- (a) protection of **ecological processes** and **natural systems** at local, regional, State and wider levels; and
- (b) economic development; and
- (c) maintenance of the cultural, economic, physical and social wellbeing of people and communities.

Chapter 1 Part 3 Section 11 provides an explanation of the term protection of ecological processes and natural systems as they relate to ecological sustainability:

- (a) ecological processes and natural systems are protected if -
  - (i) the life-supporting capacities of air, ecosystems, soil and water are conserved, **enhanced** or **restored** for present and future generations; and
  - (ii) biological diversity is protected.

Chapter 6 Part 5s 346A outlines Environmental Offset provisions and details the ability to require works or activities, which counterbalance the impact of a development. Restoration activities are one example that a council may seek through an agreement with an applicant.

As such, restoration is embodied in the purposes of the *SPA 2009*. Planning schemes should therefore include provisions to ensure ecological sustainability is achieved by enhancing and restoring ecological processes and natural systems.

- ***Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011***

The *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011 (SCLA 2011)* enables regulatory mapping and policy to protect areas of high value for cropping activity, and to prevent incompatible land uses that might impact on the long term sustainability of this resource. Ecological restoration activities should have regard for this over-riding intent and ensure that the long term project outcome is compatible, whether it is part of a development approval process or not.

- ***Queensland Government Environmental Offsets Policy 2008***

The purpose of the Queensland Government Environmental Offsets Policy (QGEOP) is to provide supporting framework, principles and guidelines for using environmental offsets in Queensland and provide guidance on when offsets should and should not be considered. Under this policy an environmental offset is "An action taken to counterbalance unavoidable, negative environmental impacts that result from an activity or a development". An offset may be located within or outside the geographic site of impact.

The QGEOP is based on several policy principles guiding the way offsets are to be used to contribute to ecologically sustainable development.

Specific-issue offsets policies are:

- Vegetation management - Policy for Vegetation Management Offsets Version 2.4 2009
- Marine fish habitat - Mitigation and Compensation for Works or Activities Causing Marine Fish Habitat Loss
- Koala habitat - Offsets for Net Gain of Koala Habitat in South East Queensland Policy.
- Biodiversity Offsets – Policy to increase the long-term viability of the state’s biodiversity where residual impacts from development on an area possessing state significant biodiversity values cannot be avoided or minimised.

## **A4 - SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND REGION**

### **A4.1 SEQ REGIONAL PLAN**

The purpose of the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009 – 2031 (SEQ Regional Plan) is to manage regional growth and change in the most sustainable way to protect and enhance quality of life in the region.

Embodied in the plan are a set of Regional Policies. The Regional Policies set out the desired regional outcomes, principles, policies and programs to address growth and management of the region. To achieve the desired regional outcomes policy statements indicate what must be done for the principles to have effect and the required actions necessary under specific programs. Notably, local government schemes must be consistent with the intent of the desired regional outcomes, principles and policies.

Of particular relevance to the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework is the Desired Regional Outcomes (DRO) for Sustainability and climate change, Natural environment and Water management. The key aspects of these are highlighted below:

#### ***DRO 1: Sustainability and climate change***

*The region grows and changes in a sustainable manner - generating prosperity, maintaining and enhancing quality of life, minimising the use of resources, providing high levels of environmental protection, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and becoming resilient to natural hazards including the projected effects of climate change and oil supply vulnerability.*

- ▶ Principle 1.3 Reducing greenhouse gas emissions – Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from development, land management and other planning decisions in the region.
  - ▶ Policy 1.3.5 Increase stored carbon through the retention or planting of trees or other vegetation and other land management practices that also provide sustainability and amenity outcomes.

#### ***DRO 2: Natural environment***

*A healthy and resilient natural environment is protected, maintained and restored to sustainably support the region’s rich biodiversity and ecosystem services including clean air and water, outdoor lifestyles and other community needs that critically underpin economic and social development.*

- ▶ Principle 2.1 Biodiversity - Protect, manage and enhance the region’s biodiversity values and associated ecosystem services and maximise the resilience of ecosystems to the impacts of climate change.
  - ▶ Policy 2.1.4 Where impacts on areas with significant biodiversity values cannot be avoided, offset impacts in accordance with the principles of the Queensland Government Environmental Offsets Policy and relevant specific issue offset policies.
  - ▶ Policy 2.1.5 Within biodiversity networks, protect significant biodiversity values, improve ecological connectivity, enhance habitat extent and condition, and rehabilitate degraded areas.

- ▶ Policy 2.1.6 Optimise biodiversity conservation outcomes by locating environmental and carbon offsets within identified biodiversity networks and other suitable areas, giving a high priority to the protection or rehabilitation of significant biodiversity values.
- ▶ Program 2.1.7 In partnership with private and public landholders, identify and manage regional and local biodiversity networks, including areas with existing values and areas suitable for rehabilitation as habitat or biodiversity corridors.
- ▶ Program 2.1.9 Implement actions to help achieve the nature conservation targets in the South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Plan 2009 – 2031 (SEQ Natural Resource Management Plan).
- ▶ Program 2.1.10 In consultation with governments, industry and the community, develop and implement a regional environmental offsets framework to coordinate state and local offset policies and programs.
- ▶ Principle 2.2 Koala conservation - Koala populations in the region are enhanced through the protection, management and the achievement of a net gain in bushland koala habitat and through managing conflict with urban development.
  - ▶ Policy 2.2.2 Ensure development impacts on koala habitat throughout SEQ are offset through the delivery of a net benefit to koalas, including through the expansion of habitat on lands identified as suitable for rehabilitation.
  - ▶ Policy 2.2.3 Ensure planning and development caters for koala movement between conserved areas of bushland koala habitat.
  - ▶ Policy 2.2.4 Prioritise the protection and rehabilitation of koala habitat areas outside the Urban Footprint as a key source of long-term habitat for the region's koala population.
  - ▶ Policy 2.2.5 Ensure planning and development seeks to maintain or enhance koala habitat values in areas of bushland habitat, areas suitable for rehabilitation and other areas of value to koalas.
  - ▶ Program 2.2.6 Identify existing and potential koala habitat areas suitable for protection, transfer, acquisition and rehabilitation in a State Planning Policy for koala conservation.

#### **DRO 11: Water management**

*Water in the region is managed on a sustainable and total water cycle basis to provide sufficient quantity and quality of water for human uses and to protect ecosystem health.*

- ▶ Principle 11.4 Waterway health - Protect and enhance the ecological health, environmental values and water quality of surface and groundwater, including waterways, wetlands, estuaries and Moreton Bay.
  - ▶ Program 11.4.8 Protect, manage and rehabilitate riparian areas to maintain and enhance their water quality, scenic, biodiversity, ecological, recreational and corridor values.
  - ▶ Program 11.4.10 Implement actions to achieve the targets in the SEQ Natural Resource Management Plan, including Actions in the SEQ Healthy Waterways Strategy

### **A4.2 SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2009 – 2031**

The South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Plan 2009–2031 is regarded as the pre-eminent, non-statutory environment and natural resource management plan for the region. Incorporated in the plan are measurable targets for the condition and extent of environment and natural resources that are aligned to desired regional outcomes (DRO) and policies of the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009 – 2031.

Although there is not a specific regional target that pertains to ecological restoration, there are several targets that require restoration work to ensure they can be achieved. The main targets that require restoration work include:

#### **Coastal and marine**

- ▶ CM 3 – Beaches
  - ▶ By 2031, the condition of open coastlines (headlands, beaches and dunes) will be at or better than in 2006.
- ▶ CM 7 – Coastal wetlands
  - ▶ By 2031, the condition and extent of SEQ coastal wetlands, particularly those connecting fresh and estuarine/marine habitat (including fish passage), will be equal to or greater than that in 2007.

#### **Nature conservation**

- ▶ NC 1 – Remnant and woody vegetation
  - ▶ By 2031, the 2001 extent of regional vegetation cover - including both remnant vegetation (35%) and additional non-remnant woody vegetation (22%) - will be maintained or increased.
- ▶ NC 2 – Vegetation fragmentation and connectivity
  - ▶ By 2031, there will be no net fragmentation of larger tracts (greater than 5000 ha), and 20% of priority smaller tracts (less than 5000 ha) will be better connected than the 2003 baseline.
- ▶ NC 3 – Wetlands
  - ▶ By 2031, the 2008 extent and condition of SEQ wetlands will be maintained or increased.

#### **Water**

- ▶ W 7 – Waterway restoration
  - ▶ By 2031, waterways classified as ranging from slightly to moderately disturbed and/or highly disturbed will have ecosystem health and ecological processes restored.

### **A4.3 KOALA PLAN**

There are two primary documents that regulate the interaction of koalas and development in South East Queensland:

1. State Planning Policy 2/10: Koala Conservation in South East Queensland (SPP); and
2. South East Queensland Koala Conservation State Planning Regulatory Provisions (SPRP).

Both documents include the provision of vegetation offsets and/or habitat restoration.

With reference to making or amending a planning instrument and designating land for community infrastructure the SPP identifies that “...*habitat connectivity is ...enhanced to maintain koala population viability*” and “*a net gain in bushland habitat is achieved through the use of environmental offsets and other mechanisms...*”. Development assessment codes developed in accordance with the SPP must be consistent with various principles including “*the offsetting the clearing of non-juvenile koala habitat trees, at a minimum incorporating requirements of the Queensland Government Offsets for Net Gain of Koala Habitat in South East Queensland Policy*”. Under the policy, the planning Minister may also declare an area to be a biodiversity development offset area.

The SPRP requires that “*Landscaping activities provide food, shelter and movement opportunities for koalas consistent with site design*” under the Assessment criteria for assessable development in Tables 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

#### **A4.4 DRAFT SEQ CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2009 - 2031**

The document is currently in draft format and has the potential to influence restoration activities in the region through implementation of its draft actions, specifically including:

***Draft action 15:***

- ▶ Identify and map areas suitable for carbon sequestration through vegetation retention or enhancement; and

***Draft action 16:***

- ▶ Increase carbon sequestration through vegetation retention or enhancement.

#### **A5 - LOCAL**

By and large, ecological restoration required by local government is dictated through planning schemes. Some local governments address restoration through additional policies and strategies. Table 1, on the following pages, is a summary of some of the primary measures adopted by local government in the region.

Table 1. Overview of Council Policies and Strategies

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	PLANNING SCHEME			POLICIES	STRATEGIES
	DEOS	CODES	PLANNING SCHEME POLICIES		
Brisbane City Council	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity Code</li> <li>Waterway Code</li> <li>Wetland Code</li> <li>Landscape Code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brisbane River Corridor Planning Scheme Policy</li> <li>Environmental Impact Assessment Planning Scheme Policy</li> </ul>		
Gold Coast City Council	1.0 DEO Ecol.1 and 2.0 DEO Ecol.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Wetland Areas and Natural Waterways Constraint Code</li> <li>Nature Conservation Constraint Code</li> <li>Landscape Code</li> <li>Vegetation Management Code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy 8: Ecological Assessment Guidelines</li> <li>Policy 10: Guidelines for Preparing Management Plans and Plans of Development</li> <li>Policy 15: Management of Coastal Dune Areas</li> </ul>		
Ipswich City Council	3(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development Constraints Overlays:</li> <li>Land Affected by Key Resource Areas, Haul Routes and Existing Mines</li> <li>Buffers to Highways and Regional Transport Corridors</li> <li>Rail Corridor Noise Impact Management</li> </ul>			
Lockyer Valley Regional Council		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity Overlay Code</li> <li>Landscaping Code</li> </ul>	<p><i>Gatton:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PSP 1 – Biodiversity</li> </ul> <p><i>Laidley:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning Scheme Policy No. 3 – Preparation of Environmental Management Plans</li> </ul>		

Table 1. Overview of Council Policies and Strategies cont'd

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	PLANNING SCHEME			POLICIES	STRATEGIES
	DEOS	CODES	PLANNING SCHEME POLICIES		
Brisbane City Council	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity Code</li> <li>• Waterway Code</li> <li>• Wetland Code</li> <li>• Landscape Code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brisbane River Corridor Planning Scheme Policy</li> <li>• Environmental Impact Assessment Planning Scheme Policy</li> </ul>		
Gold Coast City Council	1.0 DEO Ecol.1 and 2.0 DEO Ecol.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Wetland Areas and Natural Waterways Constraint Code</li> <li>• Nature Conservation Constraint Code</li> <li>• Landscape Code</li> <li>• Vegetation Management Code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy 8: Ecological Assessment Guidelines</li> <li>• Policy 10: Guidelines for Preparing Management Plans and Plans of Development</li> <li>• Policy 15: Management of Coastal Dune Areas</li> </ul>		
Ipswich City Council	3(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Constraints Overlays:</li> <li>• Land Affected by Key Resource Areas, Haul Routes and Existing Mines</li> <li>• Buffers to Highways and Regional Transport Corridors</li> <li>• Rail Corridor Noise Impact Management</li> </ul>			
Lockyer Valley Regional Council		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity Overlay Code</li> <li>• Landscaping Code</li> </ul>	<p><i>Gatton:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSP 1 – Biodiversity</li> </ul> <p><i>Laidley:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Scheme Policy No. 3 – Preparation of Environmental Management Plans</li> </ul>		

**Table 1. Overview of Council Policies and Strategies cont'd**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	PLANNING SCHEME			POLICIES	STRATEGIES
	DEOS	CODES	PLANNING SCHEME POLICIES		
Logan City Council	1(h) 2(a) 2(c) and 3(k)	<p><i>Logan:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation Management Area</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterway Area Code</li> <li>• Flood Plain Management Area</li> <li>• Acid Sulphate Soils Area</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterway Area</li> <li>• Landscaping code</li> </ul> <p><i>Beaudesert:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Conservation Overlay - Conservation</li> <li>• Nature Conservation Overlay - Landscape Amenity</li> <li>• Nature Conservation Overlay - Vegetation Management Area</li> </ul> <p><i>Gold Coast:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catchment Management, Waterways and Wetlands Overlay</li> <li>• Development Constraints Overlay - Flood and Landslide Hazard</li> </ul> <p><i>Gold Coast:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape Work Code</li> <li>• Vegetation Management</li> <li>• Natural Wetland Area and Natural Waterways</li> <li>• Nature Conservation</li> <li>• Sediment and Erosion Control</li> <li>• Conservation Strategy Plan</li> <li>• Public Open Space Management</li> </ul>	<p><i>Logan:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSP2 - Development of Application of Work</li> <li>• PSP5 - Design and Construction of Work</li> <li>• PS6 - Standards for Flood Plain Management Area</li> </ul> <p><i>Beaudesert:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecological Assessment Reporting</li> <li>• Building and Conservation Envelopes</li> <li>• Vegetation Management Plan</li> <li>• Landscape Species</li> </ul> <p><i>Gold Coast:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy 8 - Guidelines for Ecological Assessment</li> <li>• Policy 11 - Land Development Guidelines</li> <li>• Policy 12 - Landscape Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Conservation Strategy</li> <li>• Koala Conservation Strategy</li> <li>• Community education and workshop program</li> <li>• Bushcare Program</li> <li>• Land for Wildlife Program</li> <li>• Voluntary Conservation Agreement</li> <li>• Voluntary Conservation Covenant</li> <li>• Designing a water sensitive future strategy</li> <li>• City directions 2026</li> <li>• Free trees Program</li> <li>• EnviroGrants Program</li> <li>• Waterways Management Program</li> </ul>	

Table 1. Overview of Council Policies and Strategies cont'd

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	PLANNING SCHEME			POLICIES	STRATEGIES
	DEOS	CODES	PLANNING SCHEME POLICIES		
Moreton Bay Regional Council	<p><i>Caboolture:</i> (i) and (xiv)</p> <p><i>Pine Rivers:</i> 3.2 3.4 and 3.5</p> <p><i>Redcliffe:</i> (B)</p>	<p><i>Caboolture:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catchment Protection Overlay Code</li> <li>Koala Conservation Overlay</li> <li>Nature Conservation Overlay</li> </ul> <p><i>Pine Rivers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity Overlay Code</li> <li>Waterways Overlay Code</li> </ul> <p><i>Redcliffe:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Features or Resources Overlay Code</li> <li>Natural Values Code</li> </ul>	<p><i>Caboolture:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PSP6: Ecological Assessment</li> <li>PSP11: Forest Practice</li> <li>PSP13: Koala Conservation</li> <li>PSP14: Landscaping</li> </ul> <p><i>Pine Rivers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PSP30: Landscape Design</li> <li>PSP31 – Demonstrating Compliance with the Biodiversity and Waterways Overlay Codes</li> </ul> <p><i>Redcliffe:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PSP7: Suggested plant species list</li> </ul>	<p><i>Pine Rivers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PRSC Reafforestation Policy WS PK.21</li> <li>PRSC Environmental Levy Policy No. 35-2150-01</li> <li>PRSC Propagation and use of native and endemic plants Policy No. 52-2150-01</li> <li>PRSC Trees on Council Land Policy WS PK.19</li> </ul> <p><i>Caboolture:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSC Farm Forestry Policy No. 407/02</li> <li>CSC Community Nurseries Policy No. 423/05</li> <li>CSC Tree Planting and Landscaping Guidelines</li> </ul> <p>LOCAL LAWS</p> <p><i>Pine Rivers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LL No. 45 (Tree Preservation)</li> </ul> <p><i>Redcliffe:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LL No. 17 (Control of Pests)</li> <li>LL No. 20 (Protection of Vegetation)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bushcare Program</li> <li>Land for Wildlife Program</li> <li>Voluntary Conservation Agreement Program</li> <li>Environmental Education</li> <li>Activity/Workshop Program</li> </ul>
Redland City Council	2.3.8 (a) and (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conservation Zone Code</li> <li>Environmental Protection Zone Code</li> <li>Habitat Protection Overlay Code</li> <li>Waterways, Wetlands and Moreton Bay Overlay Code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning Scheme Policy 4 – Ecological Impacts</li> <li>Planning Scheme Policy 14 – Waterways, Wetlands and Moreton Bay</li> </ul>		

Table 1. Overview of Council Policies and Strategies cont'd

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	PLANNING SCHEME			POLICIES	STRATEGIES
	DEOS	CODES	PLANNING SCHEME POLICIES		
Scenic Rim Regional Council	<p><i>Beaudesert:</i> 1(b); 1(e); 1(g) and 1(h)</p> <p><i>Boonah:</i> C(16) and C(17)</p> <p><i>Ipswich:</i> C(16) and C(17)</p>	<p><i>Beaudesert:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Conservation</li> <li>• Catchment Management, Waterways and Wetlands</li> </ul> <p><i>Boonah:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Features Overlay Code</li> </ul> <p><i>Ipswich:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Features Overlay Code</li> </ul>	<p><i>Beaudesert:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Scheme Policy 4: Vegetation Management Plan</li> </ul>		
Somerset Regional Council	<p><i>Esk:</i> (a) and (e)</p> <p><i>Kilcoy:</i> 3(5) and 3(7)</p>	<p><i>Esk:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity and Scenic Amenity Overlay Code</li> <li>• Catchment Management Overlay Code</li> </ul> <p><i>Kilcoy:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Features and Resources Overlay</li> </ul>	<p><i>Kilcoy:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Scheme Policy 3: Environmental Management Plans</li> </ul>		
Sunshine Coast Regional Council	<p><i>Caloundra:</i> 3(a)</p> <p><i>Maroochy:</i> (1) and (2)</p> <p><i>Noosa:</i> (g)</p>	<p><i>Caloundra:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat and Biodiversity Code</li> <li>• Natural Waterways and Wetlands Code</li> </ul> <p><i>Maroochy:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Conservation and Biodiversity</li> <li>• Waterways and Wetlands</li> </ul> <p><i>Noosa:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscaping Code</li> <li>• Biodiversity Overlay Code</li> </ul>	<p><i>Maroochy:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Scheme Policy 3: Rehabilitation Plans</li> <li>• Planning Scheme Policy 12: Biodiversity</li> </ul> <p><i>Noosa:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Scheme Policy 3 – Landscaping Plants and Guidelines</li> <li>• Planning Scheme Policy 18 – Ecological Assessment Guidelines</li> </ul>		

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	PLANNING SCHEME			POLICIES	STRATEGIES
	DEOS	CODES	PLANNING SCHEME POLICIES		
Toowoomba Regional Council	<p><i>Toowoomba:</i> 2.5</p> <p><i>Crows Nest:</i> (5) and (8)</p> <p><i>Rosalie:</i> 3.1</p> <p><i>Jondaryan:</i> (3)</p> <p><i>Cambooya:</i> 3.1.1 and 3.1.2</p>	<p><i>Toowoomba:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park Residential Zone</li> <li>• Open Space Zone – Environmental Precinct</li> <li>• Landscaping Code</li> </ul> <p><i>Crows Nest:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Features and Resources Overlay Code</li> <li>• Landscape and Buffer Code</li> <li>• Catchment Management Code</li> </ul> <p><i>Rosalie:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Development Code</li> <li>• Extractive Industry Code</li> <li>• Intensive Animal Industry Code</li> </ul> <p><i>Jondaryan:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Overlays Code</li> </ul> <p><i>Cambooya:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extractive Industry Code</li> <li>• Rural Development Code</li> </ul>			

