

BUILDING RESILIENT LANDSCAPES & OPTIMISTIC COMMUNITIES THROUGH EFFECTIVE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM)



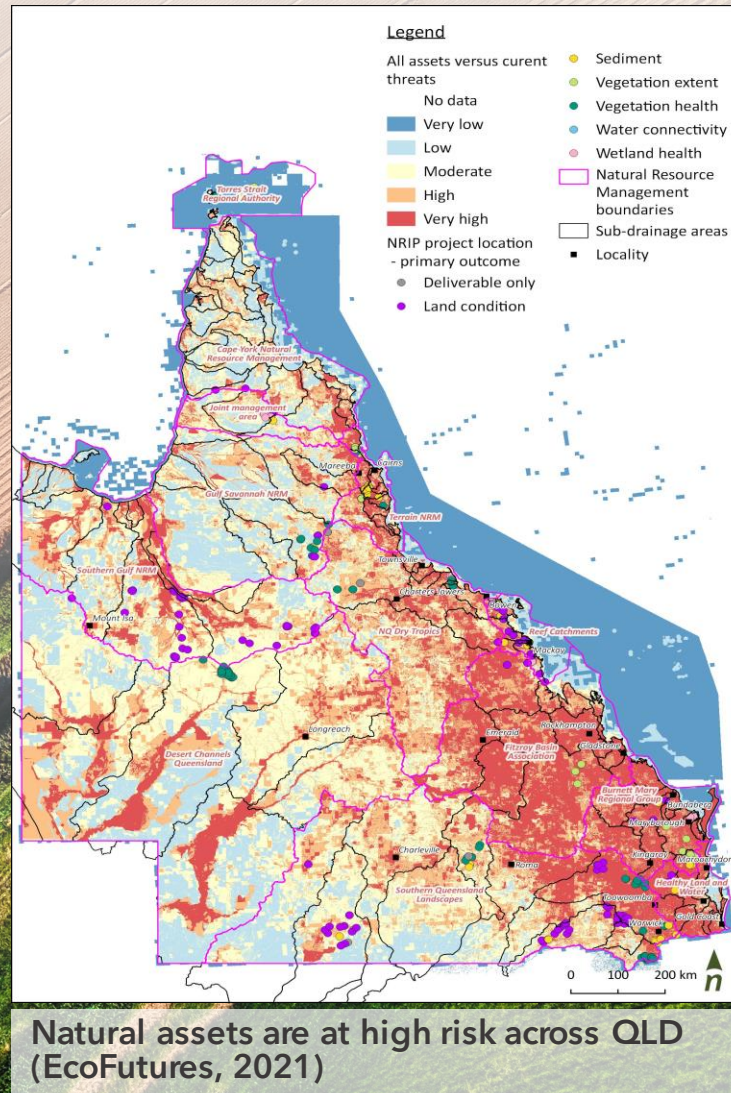
Healthy natural resources provide the foundation for Australia's prosperity and liveability and are critical for the continued success of our agriculture, mining, research, tourism and fisheries sectors.

QLD's natural assets are currently under significant threat

46% of the natural assets in Queensland are under threat from water extraction, droughts and climate variability, habitat fragmentation, natural disasters, land use pressures and invasive species¹.

1. EcoFutures, 2021, Conduct analysis of landscape priorities across Queensland for the Natural Resource Investment Program (NRIP), report prepared for NRMRO, Toowoomba, QLD.

Cost effective investment in the future protection of our natural assets is vital



Regional NRM bodies in QLD have a track record building skills and capacity in regional communities. They provide local knowledge and the regional relationships required to enable government funds to achieve the best return on investment.

Regional NRM bodies form an intrinsic part of community support networks will play an increasing role as the cost of recovering from natural disasters, which is projected to be \$32 billion per year by 2050 (Ernst and Young 2021).

Regional NRM bodies in QLD deliver unique economic, social and environmental benefits

Economic benefits

Increased regional employment opportunities and development of on ground skills.

Enhancing the natural asset base underpinning the industries leading to economic migration to QLD.

NRM projects increase economic resilience through improving asset health and allow quicker recovery from threats.

Social benefits

Increased community partnerships and improved community networks.

NRM bodies build increased collaboration and engagement with governments, landholders and communities.

Environmental benefits

Project directly address environmental threats.

Increased native vegetation.

Improvements in grazing land condition.

Reduced sediment entering waterways.

NRM projects have achieved measurable improvements in natural resource asset condition.

QLD's regional NRM bodies contribute approximately **\$183 million** to the economy and support **635 jobs** annually.²

Federal government investment in regional NRM bodies in Queensland is vital to create more jobs, build skills and capacity to ensure the health and resilience of natural assets and ensure Australia's ongoing prosperity.

The regional NRM bodies are seeking \$120 million dollars over 5 years from the Federal government to continue the enhancement and protection of natural assets in QLD.

For every \$1 of Government funding, \$4.2 is leveraged. This includes in-kind contributions.²

2. Ernst and Young (EY) 2021, Economic contribution, unique benefits and skills assessment of Regional NRM bodies, report prepared by EY for NRMRO, Toowoomba, QLD.

FUTURE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH QUEENSLAND'S REGIONAL NRM BODIES

Tackling transformative invasive weeds in the Rangelands

This project will tackle highly invasive weeds that degrade land condition of iconic outback rangelands, reducing agricultural productivity and nature-based tourism income.

These weeds are a direct threat to the natural, productive and cultural values of the Australian outback, as if left unchecked they can transform the outback by out-competing native species and reducing the biodiversity and fodder value of native pastures.

The project will establish a network of Outback Recovery Teams embedded in the Regional NRM Bodies and work in collaboration with indigenous rangers, Landcare groups and local governments.

The project will increase current and future capacity for on ground weed control works, increase local employment for young people and indigenous people and improve land condition.

1. Further details of these projects are available in the National Recovery and Resilience Agency Project Submissions from Queensland's regional NRM bodies (NRMRO 2021).

Enhancing resilience through protecting our critical natural and cultural assets

This project will be focused on South East Queensland (SEQ) and will be led by Healthy Land and Water (HLW).

The project will focus on:

1. Improving waterway and catchment health underpinning liveability and water quality = \$3.2M and delivering approx. 45 jobs.
2. Enhancing biodiversity values fundamental for a prosperous society and economy = \$9.0M and delivering approx. 40 jobs.
3. Building landscape resilience to safeguard communities and values = \$2.8M and delivering approx. 45 jobs.

The project will enhance values associated with internationally significant coastal habitats and rainforests, deliver strategic threatened species recovery, and implement predator and pest species control activities.

Rebuilding tourism potential and diversifying economies

This project will be focused on the catchments of the Great Barrier Reef and delivered by Burnett-Mary Regional Group, Fitzroy Basin, Reef Catchments, NQ Dry Tropics, Terrain, and Cape York NRM bodies.

The project will focus on:

1. Improving the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef catchments including World Heritage Areas through improved water quality = \$46.11M/yr
2. Supporting threatened species recovery and viability = \$34.315M/yr
3. Building skills & capacity in indigenous communities and native plant and coral stock (nurseries) = \$9.455M/yr

Projects will be delivered by over 50 project partners and will complement and build upon existing NRM projects.

Queensland's regional NRM bodies are seeking an investment of \$17M to provide approximately \$40M of economic benefits and 170 jobs in regional communities

Queensland's regional NRM bodies are seeking an investment of \$15M¹ per year working with 250 project partners and delivering jobs to 130 people in regional communities.

Queensland's regional NRM bodies are seeking an investment of \$90M per year to provide meaningful jobs for over 1,360 workers in one of the most environmentally sensitive and COVID-affected areas of Australia.

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