

The Department of Resources manages the fair and responsible use of Queensland's land, vegetation, and mineral resources through the administration of a range of legislation that governs how these resources are accessed and used. Each year we identify our highest priorities and areas of greatest risk to ensure our regulatory approach is targeted and proportionate.

This document outlines the focus areas identified for 2022–23 to provide a transparent and consistent approach to meet our regulatory responsibilities for this financial year. We will continue to regulate across all functions within our regulatory business areas including georesources, land, vegetation, natural resources programs, state valuation service and cadastral survey operations.



FOCUS AREA	TARGET INDUSTRIES AND ACTIVITIES	OUTCOMES	TARGETS
<p><b>Vegetation Management</b></p> <p>Since 2000, native vegetation clearing in Queensland has been regulated under the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> (VMA) and the <i>Planning Act 2016</i> and its predecessor Acts.</p> <p>With the recent release of the Statewide Landcover and Tree Study for 2018–19 using enhanced methods and the review of this report by an independent Native Vegetation Scientific Expert Panel, monitoring and understanding motives for clearing plays an important role on how we target education and promote compliance.</p> <p>The VMA continues to form an important part of the State's policy framework, protecting Queensland's vegetation and associated biodiversity while allowing for economic development to occur.</p>	<p><b>Stakeholder group:</b> Landholders <b>Activity:</b> clearing of regulated vegetation.</p> <p><b>Stakeholder group:</b> Renewable energy industry <b>Activity:</b> major development impacting on regulated vegetation areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clients have a clear channel of communication to discuss vegetation management obligations.</li> <li>• The department is active and present in the community to educate and promote a culture of compliance.</li> <li>• Informed stakeholders comply with the vegetation management framework.</li> <li>• Enforcement is used to deter non-compliance with the vegetation management framework.</li> <li>• Stakeholders who are non-compliant with the Vegetation Management Framework are held to account.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Vegetation Hub is serviced to provide information and clarity to our customers and stakeholders.</li> <li>2. 30 Proactive audits of authorised clearing are undertaken</li> <li>3. 30 Group stakeholder engagement activities attended</li> <li>4. The Early Detection System is utilised to monitor vegetation cover change across the state and proportionate action is taken for non-compliance.</li> <li>5. Provide timely pre-lodgement advice for major projects that is fit for purpose.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Great Barrier Reef Island Resorts on leasehold land</b></p> <p>There are 36 island tourism resorts located on leasehold land administered under the <i>Land Act 1994</i> (Land Act).</p> <p>There are 14 island resorts that are non-operational and in various forms of dilapidation.</p> <p>The Lands Division of the Department of Resources continues to utilise the relevant provisions of the Land Act to educate and ensure compliance with lease conditions on which these non-operating island resorts are located.</p> <p>The Land Act continues to form an important part of the State's legislative framework, by enabling land administration outcomes that contribute to Queensland's tourism industry, and particularly for regional economies.</p>	<p><b>Stakeholder group:</b> Tourism industry <b>Activity:</b> both current and future investors with an interest in operational tourism leases.</p> <p><b>Stakeholder group:</b> Government agencies comprising Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (DTIS), Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC), Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP), Department of Environment and Science (DES) and Queensland Treasury. <b>Activity:</b> to strategize a way forward, develop approaches for island redevelopment and to provide coordinated facilitation service to investors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The department is active and present in the community to educate and promote a culture of compliance.</li> <li>• Informed stakeholders comply with the legislative requirements of the Land Act.</li> <li>• Regulatory tools are used to deter non-compliance with the Land Act.</li> <li>• Stakeholders who are non-compliant with the Land Act are held to account.</li> <li>• Amplify uniquely Queensland attributes, whilst delivering tourism experiences that contemporary travellers from both Australia, and the world, value most—engaging, regenerative tourism experiences in naturally beautiful environments.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Audit of 5 major non-operating Island tourism leases completed and recorded by 30 June 2023.</li> <li>2. Tourism Industry stakeholders are informed about their obligations under the Land Act.</li> <li>3. Non-compliance with the Land Act is managed in accordance with the Department of Resources risk based regulatory approach.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Coal Seam Gas industry compliance with the coexistence framework</b></p> <p>The Queensland Government's coexistence framework seeks to balance the rights and interests of the resource sector with those of landholders so that resource activities can effectively coexist with agricultural activities and other land uses. Resources companies are encouraged to engage early and regularly with affected landholders, comply with the Land Access Code, and to enter into conduct and compensation agreements or provide certain notifications prior to entering land, prior to commencing the drilling of wells, and at the completion of drilling.</p>	<p><b>Stakeholder group:</b> Coal seam gas industry <b>Activity:</b> undertaking gas development activities in agricultural areas in accordance with the Land Access framework.</p> <p><b>Stakeholder group:</b> Landholders <b>Activity:</b> undertaking agricultural activities in areas being targeted by coal seam gas industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved coexistence outcomes and associated relationships in the key coal seam gas development areas such as the Surat Basin.</li> <li>• Greater confidence in the Queensland Government to respond to landholder concerns on compliance of coal seam gas companies when undertaking petroleum activities, including directional drilling activities.</li> <li>• Decrease in the number of enquiries and complaints received in relation to land access.</li> <li>• A well-known coexistence pathway for companies and landholders in areas facing future coal seam gas development.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A 6-month compliance audit commenced in April 2022 will continue for targeted coal seam gas wells in the Surat Basin.</li> <li>2. Non-compliance action will be proportionate and commensurate with the risk of that non-compliance.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Unauthorised/unlawful mining activities</b></p> <p>We operate on the assumption that most resource authority holders try to do the right thing, most of the time. From time to time however we become aware of some areas where a small minority of people are doing things that are inconsistent with, or in contravention of, the legislative requirements of the <i>Minerals Resources Act 1989</i>.</p> <p>The Georesources Division uses proactive and reactive methods to identify high-risk areas that may be undergoing unauthorised or unlawful mining activities, such as via complaints or remote sensing. Georesources will investigate these instances of alleged unauthorised or unlawful mining in these high-risk areas.</p>	<p><b>Stakeholder group:</b> Mining operators undertaking activities in high-risk areas <b>Activity:</b> Mining activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that mining operations are authorised by the <i>Mineral Resources Act 1989</i>.</li> <li>• Any non-compliance action taken following an investigation to act as a deterrent to other mining operators.</li> <li>• Greater confidence in the Queensland Government to respond to concerns in relation to unauthorised mining.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two proactive audits of high-risk areas will be undertaken based on emerging intelligence holdings.</li> <li>2. Non-compliance action will be proportionate and commensurate with the risk of that non-compliance</li> </ol>