

COMMUNITY SUMMARY

Queensland's Protected Area Strategy 2020–2030

Protecting our world-class natural and cultural values



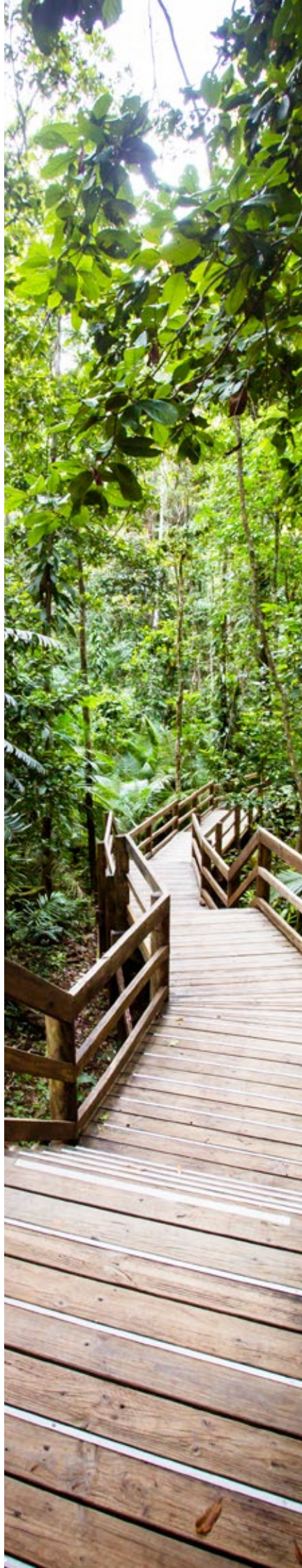


Image: Jindalpa Boardwalk, Daintree National Park

Queensland is home to some of the most naturally diverse places on earth, boasting incredibly unique and important ecosystems and wildlife. We are rich in culture and history, and our lands hold stories of the oldest continuing cultures on earth.

For thousands of generations, Queenslanders have enjoyed the benefits of this environment and culture.

It is central to our identity, to our shared history and experience. It contributes to our health and wellbeing, and enables us to enjoy an outdoor lifestyle that is fundamental to our way of life. It also contributes to Queensland's ongoing prosperity as the cornerstone of a vibrant tourism industry, supporting jobs in our regions.

To ensure we protect these unique natural and cultural values for future generations, Queensland has a plan to build on our extensive network of protected areas.

Guided by traditional knowledge and expertise, global best practice and community needs, Queensland's Protected Area Strategy provides a framework that places Queensland at the forefront of conservation innovation.

Image: Jelluragal Wlakabout Tour, Burleigh Heads | © Queensland Government





Fast *facts*

Queensland's protected areas:



cover an area that's double the size of Tasmania



protect some of Queensland's most iconic places, including our Daintree Rainforest



are home to 72% of Queensland's threatened species



contain samples of 82% of Queensland's endangered or of-concern regional ecosystems



help protect two unique Indigenous cultures—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Why are protected areas so important?

Climate change

Acting as carbon sinks and providing habitat for native wildlife.

Threatened species and biodiversity

Providing the highest level of protection.

Healthy ecosystems

Essential to providing things like clean air and water, pollination and flood control.

Connection to Country

Safeguarding cultural values, and supporting First Nations peoples' connection to their land.

Health and wellbeing

Having access to, and spending time in nature is essential to happy and healthy communities.

Economic dividends

Creating thousands of jobs and contributing to our economy—in 2018 at least \$297 million in national park generated spending by visitors alone.



A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a light-colored short-sleeved button-down shirt, and olive green cargo pants stands in a dry, scrubby landscape. The ground is covered with low-lying, yellowish-brown bushes and dry grass. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is warm and natural.

Our ***vision***

Queensland's protected areas are world-class
for people, culture and nature.

Our *goals*



Grow

An expanded Queensland protected area system that safeguards biodiversity and cultural values, protects threatened species, and builds climate change resilience while creating economic benefits.



Care

Protected areas will be managed in partnership with First Nations peoples, landholders and other land managers to deliver global best practice in conserving natural and cultural values.



Connect

Queenslanders are aware of and appreciate the state's protected area system, and support investment in the expansion and management of protected areas to conserve natural and cultural values.





Image: Laura Ranger at rock art site, Cape York | © Queensland Government

Taking action to ***preserve nature***

Effective environmental management is a complex and evolving task. As such, the strategy's longer-term actions have been designed to evolve over time, and adapt to a changing climate, environmental conditions, science, research and innovations.

Key actions include:

- growing the protected area system to further protect natural, cultural and heritage values
- partnering with First Nations peoples to deliver the best Care for Country through traditional knowledge and expertise, and introducing new co-stewardship arrangements
- prioritising protection and recovery of threatened species in protected areas
- creating new and enhanced nature tourism opportunities and visitor experiences, including visitor centre upgrades
- building partnerships to secure land that provides the highest level of conservation outcomes
- implementing an adaptive management model for protected areas, based on an area's values.



Image: Dolphin Point lookout, Noosa National Park

Image: Walkabout Creek Discovery Centre © Queensland Government



What can *you do?*

All Queenslanders are encouraged to get out and enjoy our national parks and other protected areas.

They offer amazing nature-based experiences, improve our general health and wellbeing, and provide opportunities to learn about First Nations peoples, culture and history—while protecting Queensland's unique biodiversity and wildlife.

For more on Queensland's Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030, visit www.qld.gov.au/ProtectedAreaStrategy



Image: Bunya Mountains National Park | © Tourism and Events Queensland

