

# **Holding the line, reversing biodiversity decline and a climate ready region**

I'd like to pay my respects to the first nations people on country where we meet. I also acknowledge the work of QCC, HLW and former colleagues Melissa Walker, Dr Grace Muriuki, Andrew Davidson, Mik Petter, and many others.

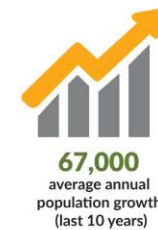


# South East Queensland

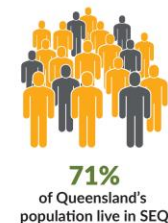


South East Queensland is known for its:

- Weather and warm climate
- Lifestyle
- Sense of community and friendly people
- Natural assets such as World class beaches, Gondwana Rainforests, Moreton Bay Ramsar, some of Australia's best soils 'Lockyer Food-bowl', diversity of ecosystems, rare and threatened species (koalas, greater gliders, Eastern curlew, platypus, spotted tail quoll)
- One of the fastest growing regions in Australia!

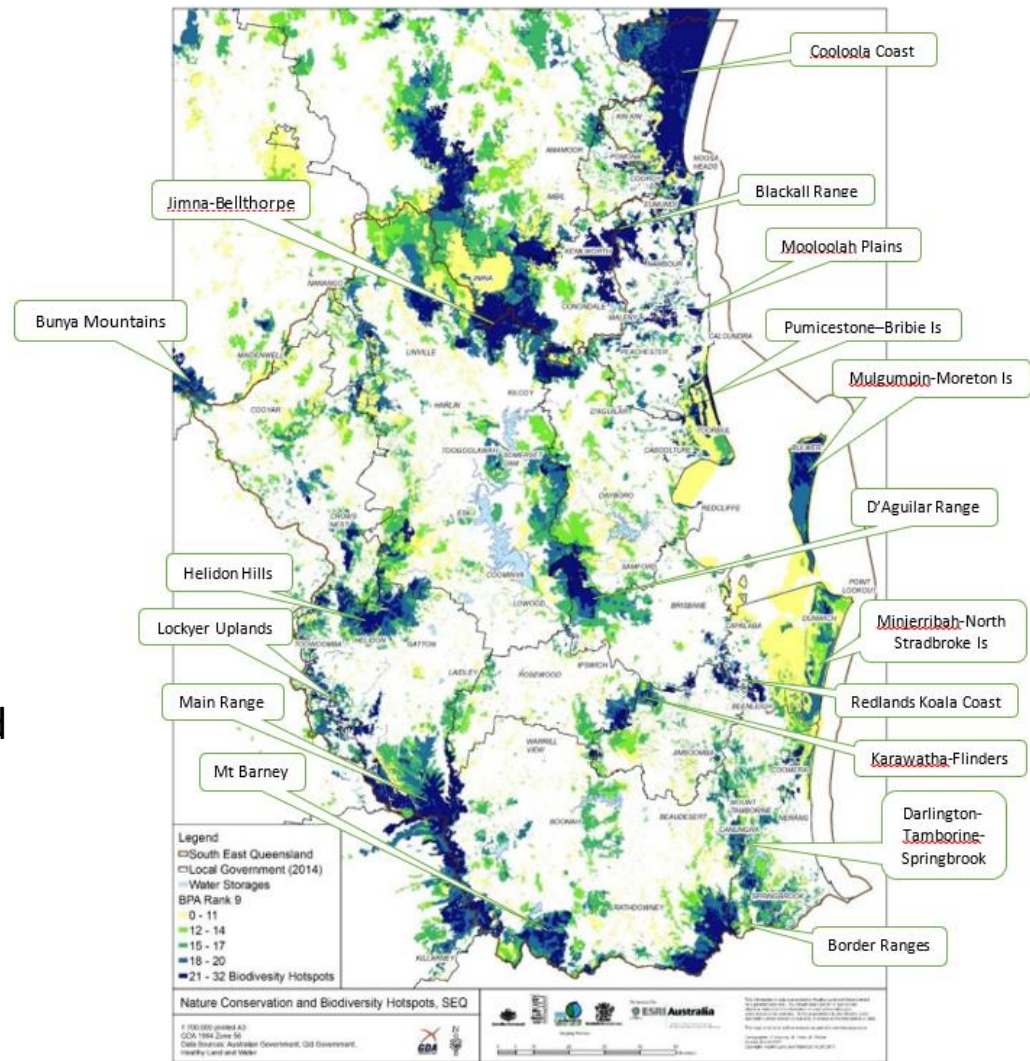


home to around 40% of Queensland's  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander population



# Forests, biodiversity and habitats

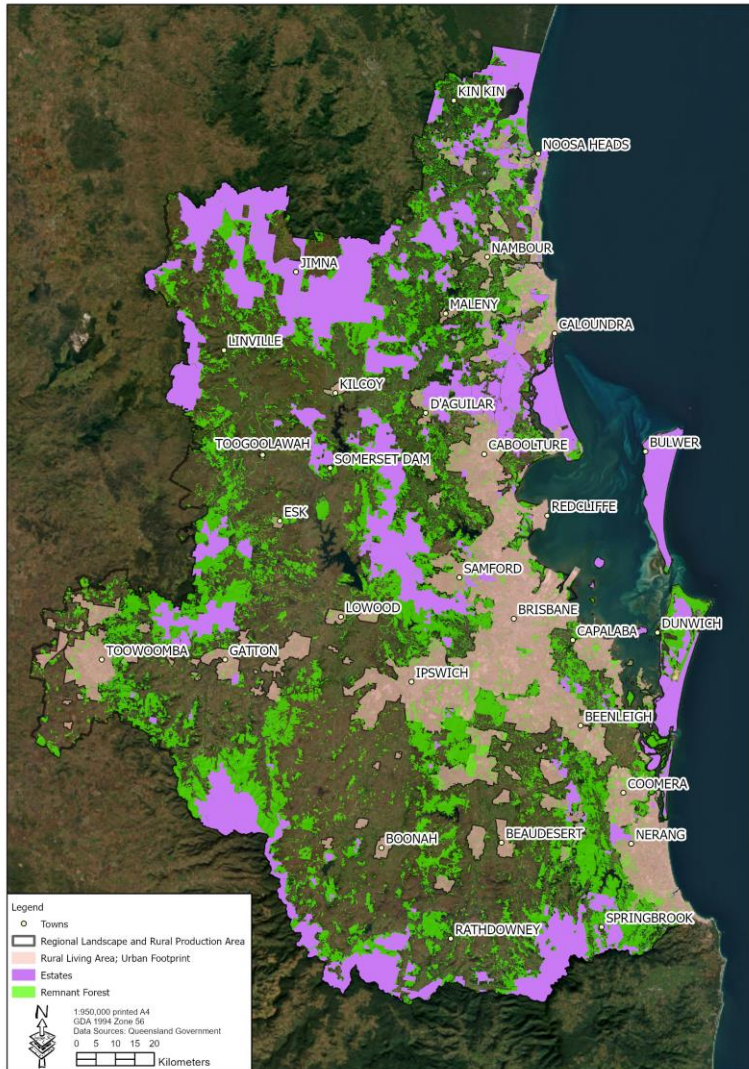
- Currently, SEQ has a remnant bushland cover of 35%
- The region has been recognized as a national biodiversity hotspot for species richness
- Koala habitat is at 31%, with declining populations from ongoing threats
- Since 2017, a further 3,000 ha of koala habitat cleared and degraded
- As a region we don't want to drop below 30% forest cover and we need to be working towards 40% for koalas



QCC, 2023 - Holding the line, reversing biodiversity decline; SEQC, 2017

SEQ is part of a national forest and a critical link between the south and the north of the continent.

# What's left map?



ShapingSEQ Sub region	Council	Council Area (ha)	Percentage of remnant vegetation in SEQ (%)	Percentage of total woody vegetation in SEQ (%)	Percentage of LGA that is remnant vegetation (%)
Metro	Brisbane City	134,604	6.7	7.4	40
	Logan City	95,717	3.3	11.5	27
	Moreton Bay Regional	202,655	8.5	21.5	34
	Redland City	52,102	3.8	3.9	58
<b>Metro Subtotals</b>		<b>485,078</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>28.5</b>	
Southern	Gold Coast City	130,841	7.5	4.7	46
ShapingSEQ Sub region	Council	Council Area (ha)	Percentage of remnant vegetation in SEQ (%)	Percentage of total woody vegetation in SEQ (%)	Percentage of LGA that is remnant vegetation (%)
Western	Ipswich City	109,315	2.9	5.1	21
	Lockyer Valley Regional	226,739	11.4	8.0	40
	Scenic Rim Regional	423,957	15.4	16.5	29
	Somerset Regional	536,979	23.9	21.8	36
<b>Western Subtotals</b>		<b>1,296,989</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>51.3</b>	
Northern	Sunshine Coast Regional	225,858	11.6	11.6	41
	Noosa Shire	86,968	5.0	3.9	46
<b>Northern Subtotals</b>		<b>312,826</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>15.5</b>	

QCC, 2023 - Holding the line, reversing biodiversity decline

# Progress against headline targets in SEQ Natural Resource Management Plan

Source: HLW, 2022

- ☹️ 1. Air Quality: pollutants  $\leq$  EPP (Air) 2008 quality objectives
- ☹️ 2. Seagrass, Saltmarsh & Mangroves: extent & condition  $\geq$  1988 / 2001
- 🤔 3. Open Coastlines(Beaches): condition  $\geq$  2006
- ☹️ 4. Agricultural Land:  $\geq$  90% 2004 extent
- ☹️ 5. Remnant & Woody Vegetation: extent  $\geq$  57% SEQ
- ☹️ 6. Wetlands: extent & condition  $\geq$  2008
- ☹️ 7. Waterways: condition  $\geq$  EPP (Water) 2009 objectives
- 😊 8. Outdoor Recreation Settings: extent  $\geq$  2011
- 😊 9. Regionally High Scenic Amenity: extent  $\geq$  2004
- 🤔 10. Community: resourced & working together



# The region's pressures

Flooding 2011, 2013, 2017, 2022

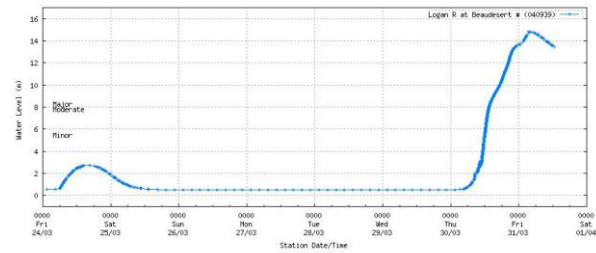
## Latest River Heights for Logan R at Beaudesert #

Issued at 12:42 pm EST Friday 31 March 2017

[About river height plots](#) | [About this Plot](#)

Station details: Station Number: 040939 Name: Logan R at Beaudesert # Owner: BOM:145918  
Flood levels: Minor: 5.50 Moderate: 7.80 Major: 8.30

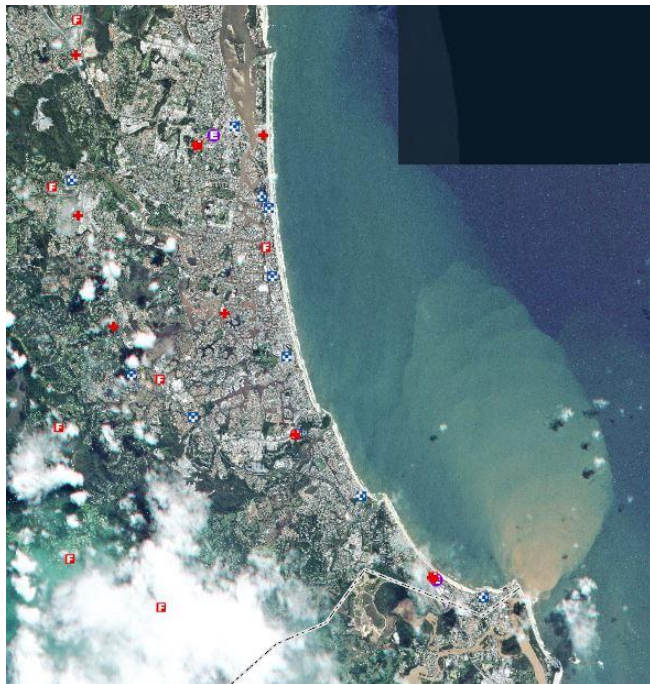
Data from the previous 7 days



Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology

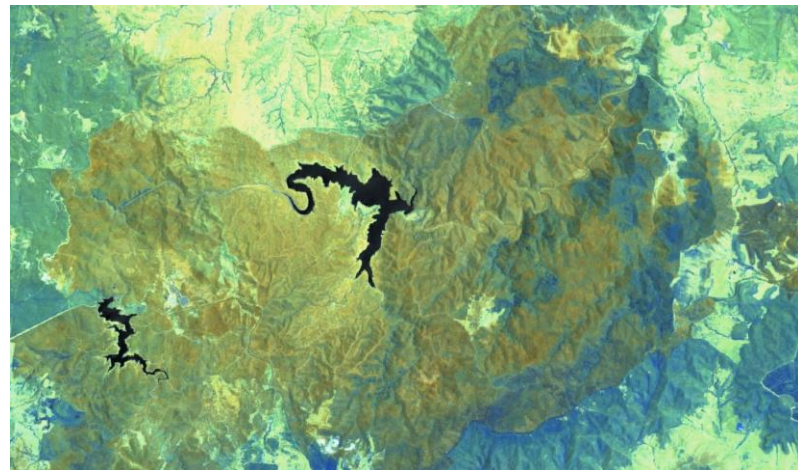
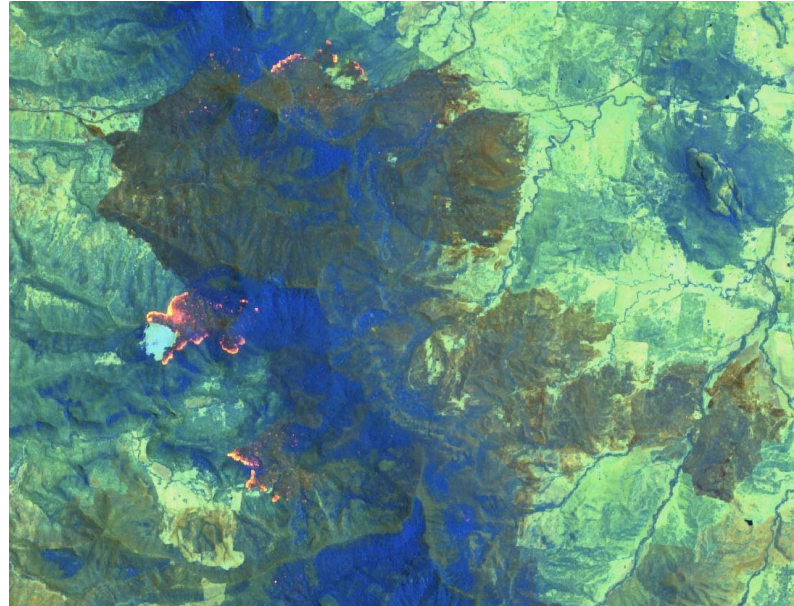
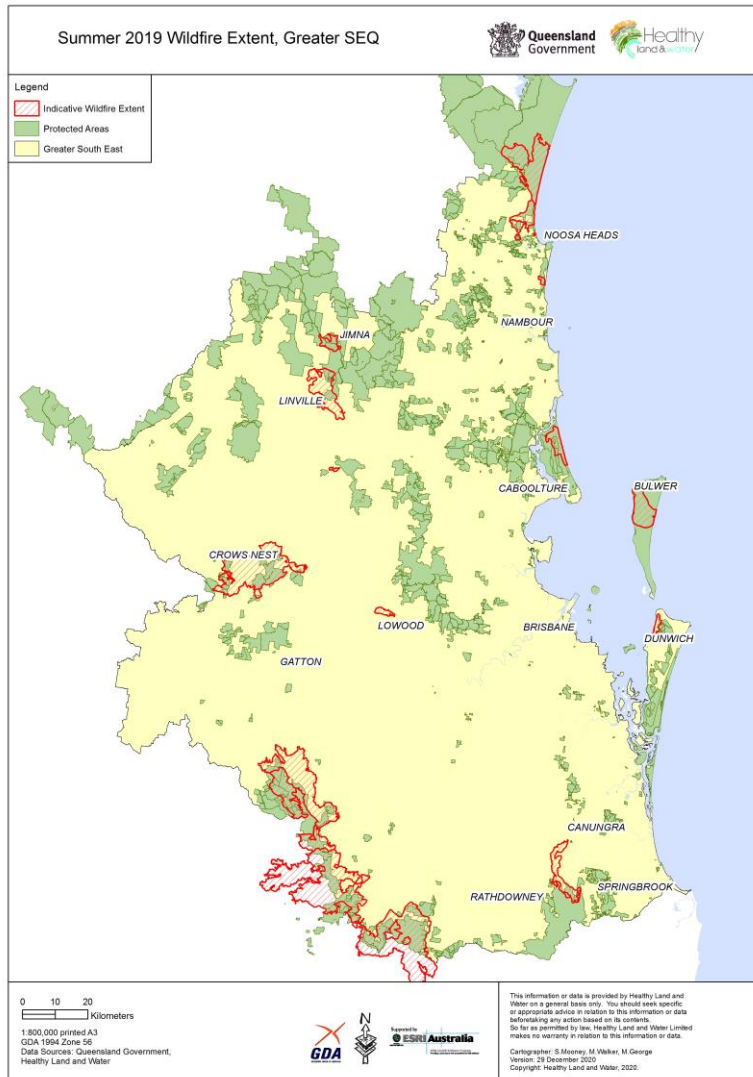
(Generated: 31/03/2017 12:42:13)

[Data as Table](#) | [Previous Station](#) | [Next Station](#) | [Back to Bulletin](#)

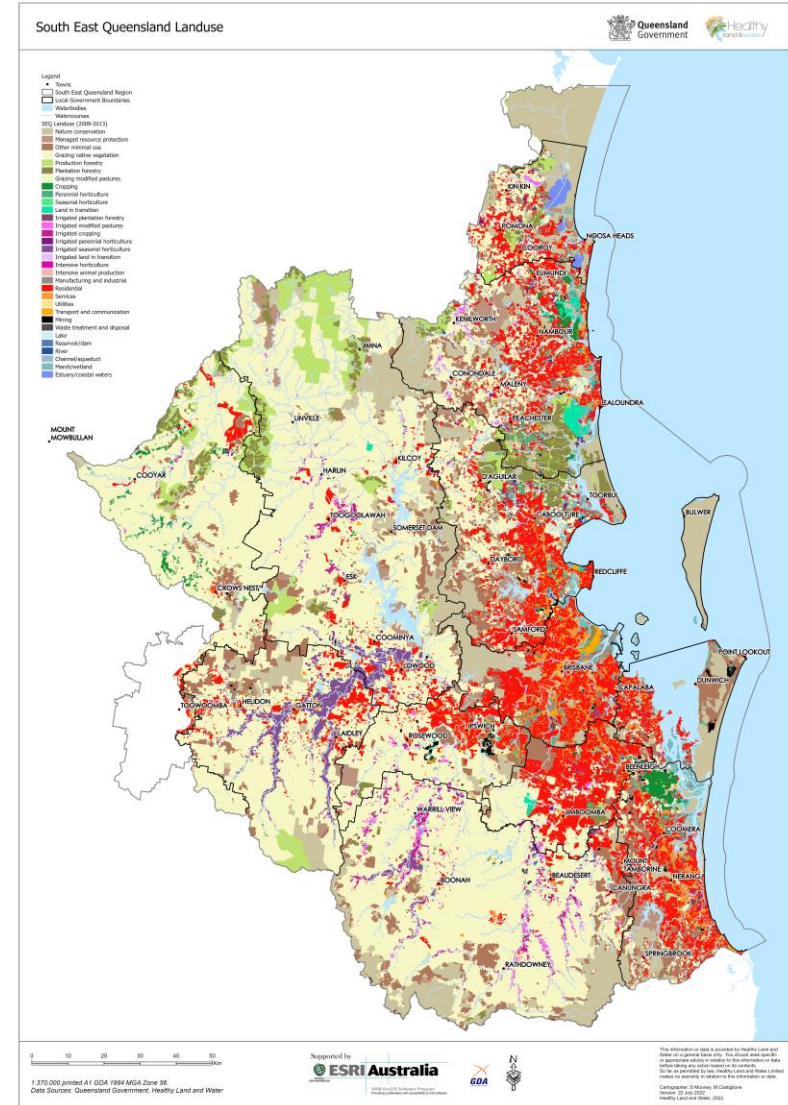
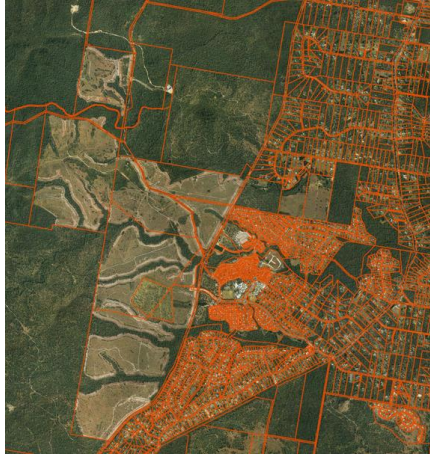


Source: BOM, Google Globe, HLW

# Fires 2019 – mapped fire footprint over 100,000 ha



Inappropriate Landuse change – on steep slopes, adjacent and within forested areas, on flood plains and arable lands.





# SEQ Community Innovation

- SEQ Ecosystem Services Framework
- Integrated Catchment Management – 30+ years
- Catchment Action Plans and City Deal
- Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program – 20+ years
- Land for Wildlife Program – 20+ years
- Developed LiDAR Change for 2011 Flood Recovery
- Fire Planning and Township Fire Management Strategies for Fire Recovery and Preparedness
- Climate Change Refuge and Adaptation Zones
- Thermal and Heat-island mapping
- Sunshine Coast Blue Heart Program
- To name a few...



# SEQ Community Innovation

- SEQ Natural Resource Management Plan, key climate ready targets include:
  - Seagrass and Mangroves (CM1)
  - Beaches (CM3)
  - Wetlands and Coastal Wetlands (CM7, NC3)
  - Soil Organic Matter (L4)
  - Grazing Land Condition, 'Good' cover (L7)
  - Remnant and Woody Vegetation (NC1)
  - Vegetation Fragmentation and Connectivity (NC2)
  - Outdoor Recreation Demand (RLA3)
  - Environmental Flows (W1)
  - Waterway Restoration (W7)
  - Traditional Owners and Community (TO1 and C1)



# Planning Opportunities

- SEQ Region expected to grow to 6 million people by 2046
- How do we plan for this growth while looking after our unique landscapes, habitats and ecosystems that make the region highly desirable and livable
- Containing growth within the Urban Footprint preferred but not at the expense of further habitat loss – 6% remnant forest.
- Current remnant forest extent is at 35%, must avoid the 30% minimum threshold for ecosystem health
- To avoid the collapse of key habitats of iconic species like the koala, the target for bushland cover is 40%
- This target can be achieved through private landholder conservation programs, council reserves and state parks, and appropriate zoning in council planning schemes
- Requires more funding and resources \$\$\$, compliance and enforcement support.



# Improving ShapingSEQ



Fulfilling the vision: SEQ offers subtropical climate resilient living where choice allows everyone to lead productive and fulfilling lives



Consolidate and buffer existing remnant forest and koala habitat to ensure connectivity and ecological function is maintained



Focus ecological restoration in riparian and along waterways, connecting forests, along coastlines and on hillslopes



Biodiversity opportunities within subregion planning areas, including lands available for community greenspace and other multiple benefits



Apply strategic planning approach to integrate 'green' infrastructure into the state government infrastructure supplement (public reserves, corridors, fauna crossings, walking trail networks)



Greater integration of the SEQ Natural Resource Management Plan and key targets



Develop a regional planning scheme overlay to collaborate and coordinate local land use intent to enhance regional nature conservation



All mapped biodiversity within designated Development Areas, Urban Footprint and Rural Living Areas should be protected to provide greenspace for community health and wellbeing.