



Australian Government



Queensland Government

Bioregional guidance planning – Engagement snapshot

MAY 2026

The Queensland Government is collaborating with the Australian Government to undertake bioregional guidance planning in three pilot areas across Queensland.

Pilot bioregional guidance planning will consider cumulative impacts of development on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), rather than just project-by-project impacts.

Bioregional guidance planning will provide greater certainty for industry and better protect the environment through improved information, strategic planning and guidance to support project assessments under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act).

In late-2025, the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Innovation and Science (DETSI) undertook Phase 2 of consultation seeking feedback on the draft Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA), biodiversity values mapping, now referred to as Spatial Conservation Analyses (SCA), and proposed industry and community mitigation measures.



534 people

engaged in Phase 1 (mid-2025) to understand the community values in each plan area.

191 people

engaged in Phase 2 (late-2025) on methods used and early cumulative impact assessment results.

People engaged included: representatives from business and industry, environmental groups, scientific experts, local community groups, First Nations peoples, local government and natural resource management organisations.

Engagement Snapshot – Phase 2

The Queensland Government engaged over 190 participants during Phase 2 (late-2025). Engagement activities included:

- Two external information sessions attended by over 100 participants.
- An online survey completed by 26 participants, focusing on industry and community mitigation strategies and biodiversity values mapping.
- Two in-person meetings and additional telephone consultations with First Nations stakeholders across the three plan areas. First Nations-owned business Iscariot Media facilitated these engagements.
- Nearly 40 participants attending five individual stakeholder meetings, including representatives from a broad range of sectors and industries.
- Four written submissions provided.

The engagement activities provided an opportunity to update stakeholders on the project, introduce key components such as the CIA and SCA methodology, and gather detailed feedback to inform the draft bioregional guidance plans..

Sentiment and Feedback Outcomes

The overall sentiment towards the bioregional guidance planning process was positive. Stakeholders expressed support for the initiative, particularly its potential to strengthen environmental protections and provide clearer guidance for industry.

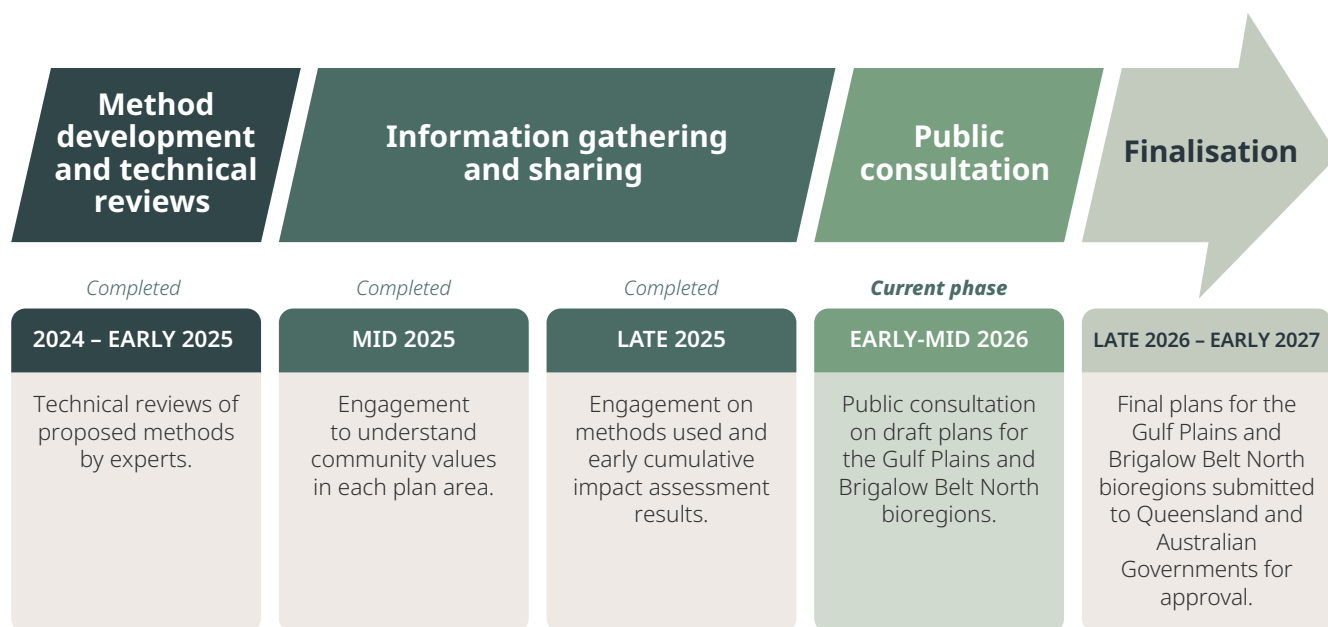
Key feedback themes included:

- Stakeholders requested clearer guidance on offset opportunities.
- Calls for more specific data and improved mapping/modelling of MNES and other critical environmental and cultural values.
- Recommendations for clearer guidance on best practice for project proponents engaging with stakeholders.
- Requests for clarity on how bioregional guidance planning aligns with state and federal processes, such as the *Planning Act 2016* (Qld) and regional plans.
- Concerns about how bioregional guidance planning will be applied in practice without legislative enforcement.

First Nations stakeholders provided valuable feedback on value statements, suggesting the language be further refined to reflect clear, strong, and actionable commitments. They emphasised the importance of cultural awareness, recognition of protocols, and acknowledgment of Country boundaries. Additionally, they recommended defining “early engagement” with First Nations groups to ensure meaningful participation.

How Queensland bioregional guidance plans are being developed

Project and engagement phases



Next steps and more information

In early-mid 2026, DETSI will be undertaking public consultation on draft bioregional guidance plans. The final plans are due for Queensland and Australian government approvals in late 2026 – early 2027.

For information about bioregional guidance planning in Queensland visit [DETSI](https://detsi.qld.gov.au) website or contact us at bioregional.planning@detsi.qld.gov.au.

For information about Australian Government bioregional planning visit [Bioregional planning: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(DCCEEW\)](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/bioregional-planning).



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