



Australian Government



Queensland Government

Bioregional planning – Engagement snapshot

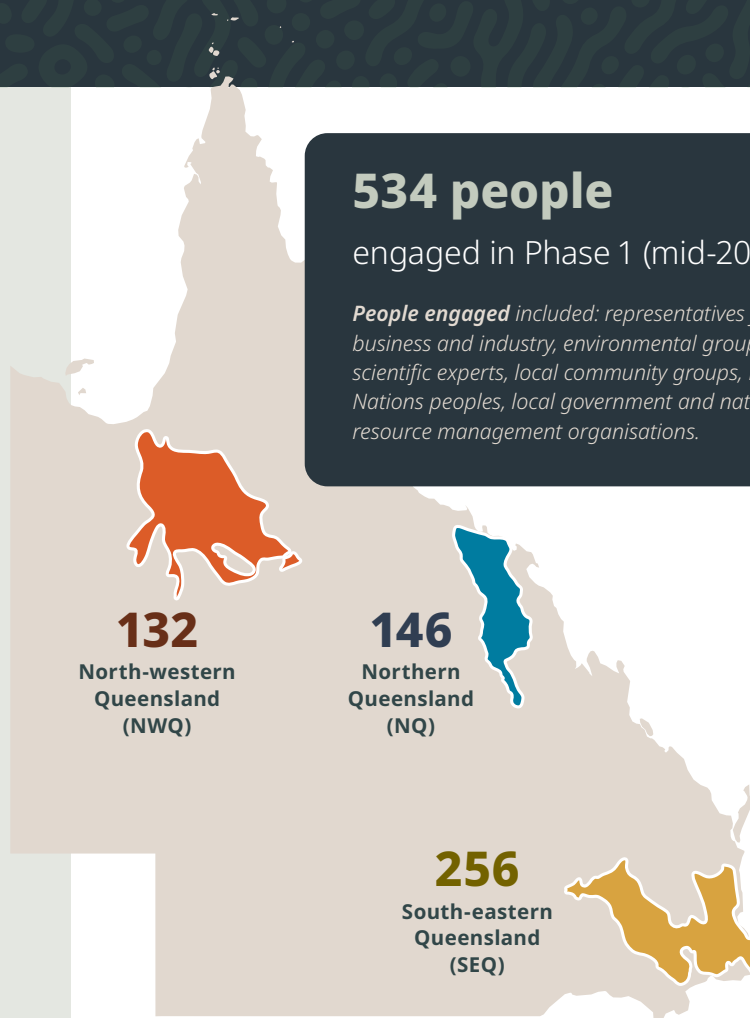
NOVEMBER 2025

The Queensland Government is collaborating with the Australian Government to develop bioregional guidance plans in three pilot locations across Queensland.

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

The plans 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* (EPBC Act).

534 people were engaged in mid-2025 (phase 1) across all pilot plan areas including north-western Queensland (NWQ), northern Queensland (NQ) and south-eastern Queensland (SEQ).



534 people

engaged in Phase 1 (mid-2025)

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.

What you told us and how we've used it

Overall, stakeholders were supportive of the bioregional planning process but recognised the need for regulatory plans to go beyond guidance.

So far, feedback has been used to validate findings from other information sources, identify areas for further investigation and ensure critical issues raised by stakeholders are not overlooked in developing the plans.

What bioregional plans should include

Common feedback from stakeholders across all sectors about what bioregional guidance plans should contain included:

- Improved guidance on areas suitable for development as well as areas that are environmentally, socially, culturally or economically sensitive or important for local communities
- Improved information and mapping of MNES and key environmental and cultural values
- Guidance on offset and mitigation opportunities
- Guidance on best practice for developers or project proponents.

Key social, cultural, economic and environmental themes identified by stakeholders

Stakeholders were asked to rate the importance of a list of social, cultural, economic and environmental themes in each plan area.

Biodiversity and ecosystem health rated amongst the most important in all three plan locations.

First Nations leadership, knowledge and culture was a key theme in smaller group meetings.

Top five social, cultural, economic and environmental themes as rated by stakeholders:

SEQ



Waterways, wetlands and marine environments



Natural disaster mitigation and adaptation



Climate change mitigation and adaptation



Scenic amenity, iconic landscapes and green spaces



Public health including environmental health

NWQ



Natural disaster mitigation and adaptation



Grazing and agriculture



Water security



Soil health and erosion management



Waterways, wetlands and marine environments

NQ



Waterways, wetlands and marine environments



Water security



Soil health and erosion management



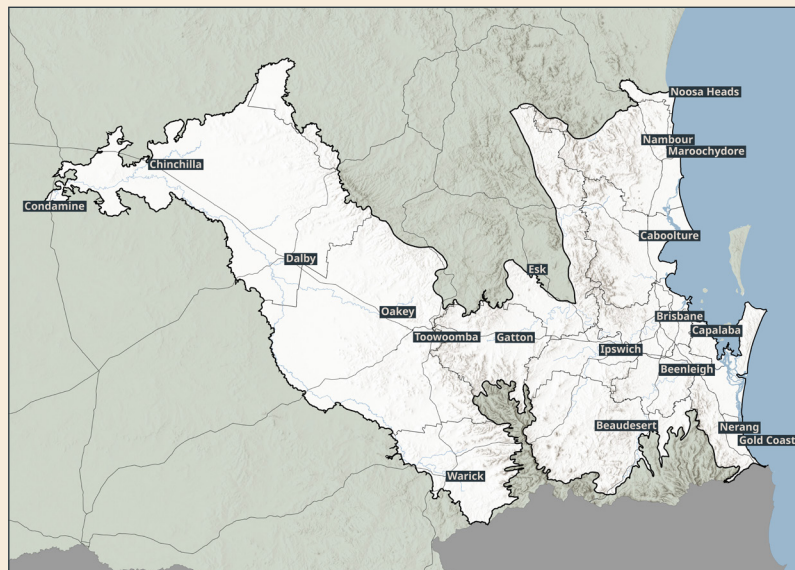
Infrastructure, energy and utilities



Economic opportunity and employment

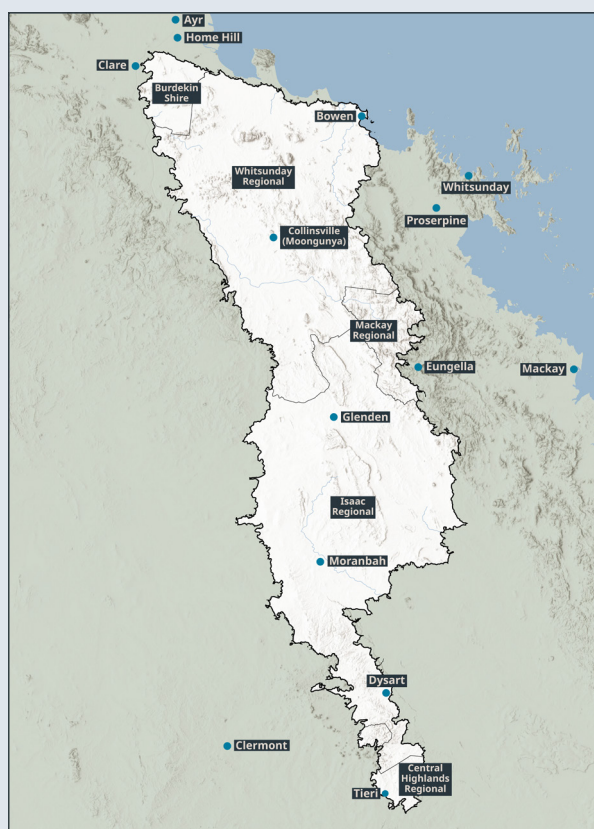
Local MNES priorities and important areas

Stakeholders identified the most important MNES places, flora and fauna to protect in each of the plan areas. These have been used to validate other information sources.



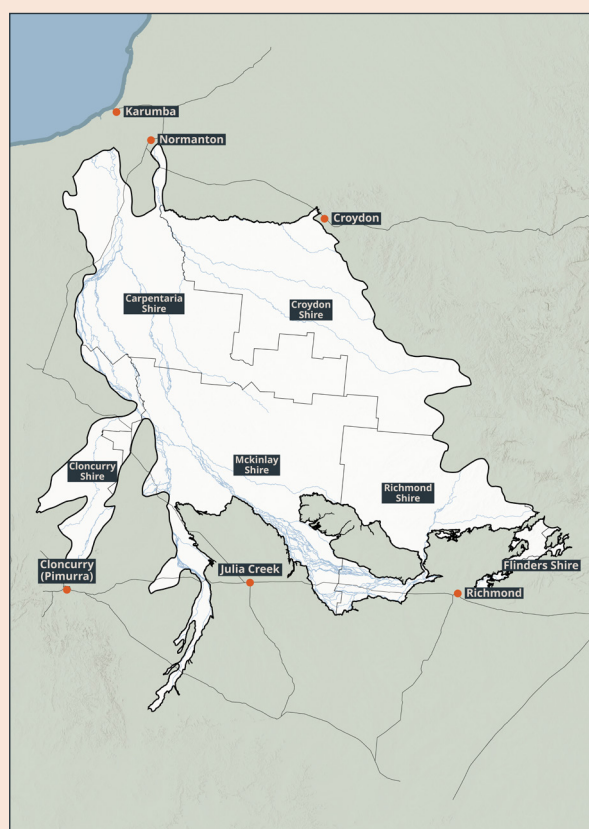
SEQ

- Moreton Bay RAMSAR Wetland
- Gondwana Rainforests
- Koalas
- Greater Gliders
- Water Mouse/False Water Rat/Yirrkoo



NQ

- Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- Migratory species
- Vine thickets
- Northern Quoll



NWQ

- Great Artesian Basin
- Julia Creek Dunnart

Key pressures and threats to MNES

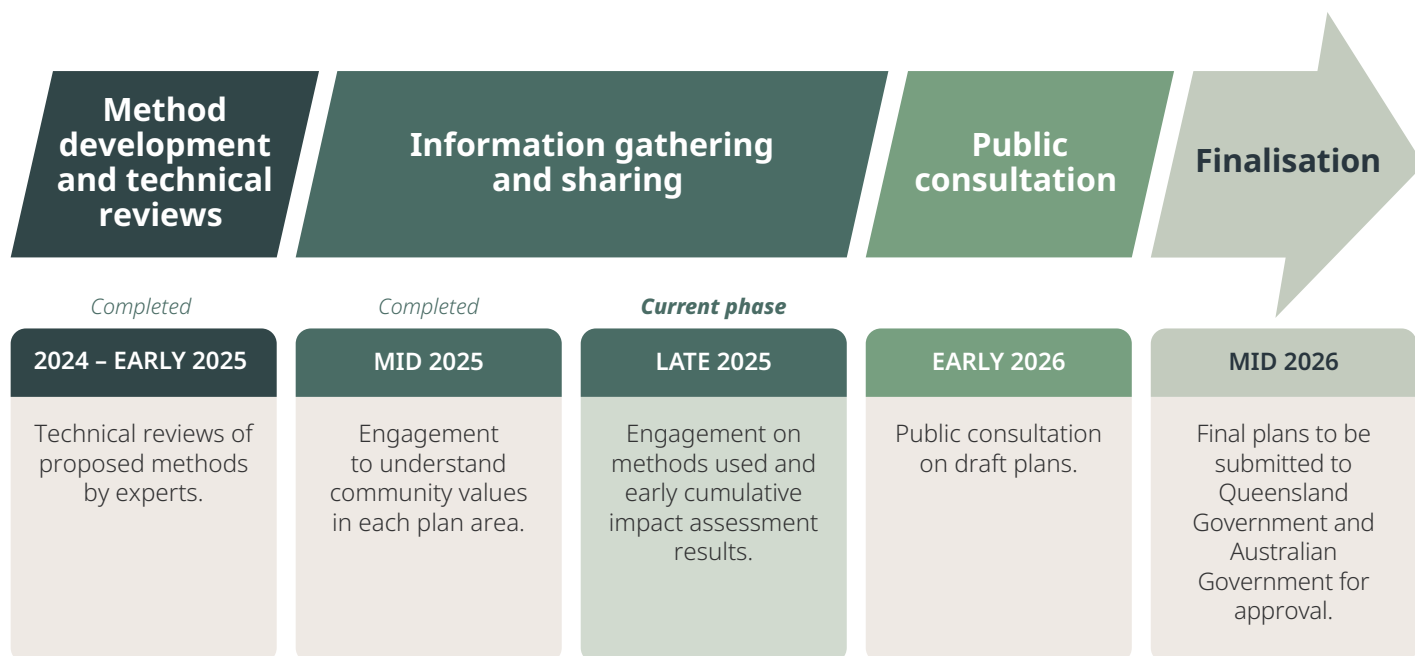
Stakeholders were asked what they consider the key pressures and threats to MNES. Responses have been used to validate other information sources.

* The focus industry for each of the pilots is: urban development (SEQ), wind farms (NQ) and minerals mining (NWQ).

Key pressures to MNES identified by stakeholders		SEQ	NWQ	NQ
	Climate change	◆	◆	◆
	Pests and weeds	◆	◆	◆
	Urban development	◆		
	Other development (excluding focus industry)*			◆
	Natural disasters		◆	
	Minerals mining		◆	
Key threats to MNES identified by stakeholders		SEQ	NWQ	NQ
	Habitat loss or degradation	◆	◆	◆
	Pests and weeds	◆	◆	
	Pathogens or disease	◆		
	Changes in water regimes		◆	◆
	Erosion & sedimentation			◆
	Adverse fire regimes			◆

How Queensland bioregional guidance plans are being developed

Project and engagement phases



Next steps and more information

In November 2025, the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation will conduct further engagement to provide an update on our work and seek feedback on some early draft advice that may be included in the pilot bioregional guidance plans.

For information about bioregional plans in Queensland visit [Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation \(DETSI\)](https://www.detsi.qld.gov.au) website or contact us at bioregional.planning@detsi.qld.gov.au.

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



Australian Government



Queensland Government