Appendix 1: Existing plans, strategies and programs

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1  State and regional planning

NSW Biodiversity certification

In NSW, biodiversity certification enables the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment to certify environmental planning instruments if they provide for the maintenance of, or overall improvement in, biodiversity values. Certification can 'switch off' the need for threatened species assessment under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, thus providing more certainty for local government, development applicants and other stakeholders.

NSW Biodiversity banking and offsets scheme

The Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme (or BioBanking) has been established under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (NSW TSC Act) to help address the loss of biodiversity and promote the recovery of threatened species. It is a market-based offsetting scheme that enables 'biodiversity credits' to be generated by landowners who commit to enhance and protect biodiversity values on their land through a BioBanking agreement. These credits can then be sold, generating funds for the management of the site. Credits can be used to counterbalance (or offset) the impacts on biodiversity values that are likely to occur as a result of development. The credits can also be sold to those seeking to invest in conservation outcomes, including philanthropic organisations and government.

NSW Far North Coast Regional Strategy

The Far North Coast Regional Strategy for 2006–2031 (Department of Planning 2006) guides local landuse planning in the local government areas of Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed. It will be reviewed every five years. The Strategy:

- caters for 60,400 more people expected to be living in the region by 2031, with up to 51,000 additional homes being needed
- protects coastal areas from increasing development pressure
- locates future settlement around existing centres and towns
- promotes sustainable growth for inland areas
supports 32,500 extra jobs through ensuring a sufficient supply of employment land. Industries will be attracted to well-located sites with ready access to capital cities and ports by road, rail and air.

South-east Queensland Regional Plan 2009–2031

The South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009–2031 (Department of Infrastructure and Planning 2009) supersedes the previous South East Queensland Regional Plan 2005–2026 (Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation 2005). It is a statutory planning instrument that guides sustainable growth and development in the region. It is the major planning document of south-east Queensland, with precedence over all other planning instruments. Any plans, policies and codes being prepared or amended by Queensland state agencies that relate to the region must reflect and align with the regional plan. It also informs local government plans and policies. The Regional Plan is given statutory effect by:

- its inclusion in the statutory processes of the Integrated Planning Act 1997
- the desired regional outcomes, which establish principles and policies that must be followed for the Regional Plan to achieve the vision
- the subregional narratives, which inform delivery of the Regional Plan through strategic frameworks, structure planning for development areas, and investigations required for development decisions
- the urban growth boundary that sets out the urban footprint
- a regional landuse map that indicates which areas are protected
- regulations that restrict urban development outside the urban footprint
- the identification of development areas in the urban footprint
- the process within the Integrated Planning Act 1997 for development of development areas.

South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Plan 2009–2031

The South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Plan 2009–2031 (DERM 2009) is a non-statutory plan aligned to the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009–2031 (Department of Infrastructure and Planning 2009). The South East Regional Coordination Group developed it with input from technical advisory groups and stakeholders to establish a single set of measurable regional targets for the condition and extent of environment and natural resources aligned to the desired regional outcomes of the Regional Plan. It has also been prepared to coordinate the efforts of people from the region working in the environment and natural resource management field.


The Regional Nature Conservation Strategy (QEPA 2003) was developed by the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) through an inclusive, collaborative process involving State and local governments, peak industry groups, community groups and Indigenous traditional owners. The Strategy aims to develop and implement actions that lead to all stakeholders meeting their obligations to conserve and sustainably use the region’s biodiversity. It does not alter the existing common law or use rights attached to property within the region. The Strategy’s vision states:
‘South East Queensland’s rich biodiversity is better understood, valued and conserved through co-operative processes, so that it thrives and continues to underpin improved ecological, social and cultural well-being, and allows the indigenous traditional owners to continue their living culture until the end of time.’

**South-east Queensland Regional Coastal Management Plan**

The *South-east Queensland Regional Coastal Management Plan* (QEPA 2006) was developed by DERM and builds on the *State Coastal Plan* and the *South-east Queensland Regional Plan*. It is used to guide local government planning schemes and development assessment and includes policies to manage the environmental effects of development, recreation and tourism. It also provides strategies to balance the management of erosion-prone areas while providing public access to the coast.

**NSW State environmental planning policies**

State environmental planning policies (SEPPs) are designed to address significant planning issues within NSW. Of particular relevance to this Plan are: SEPP No. 26 – Littoral Rainforest which requires that an assessment of the impacts of a proposed development be considered on mapped littoral rainforest (including a buffer); and SEPP No. 71 = Coastal Protection which requires that development in the NSW coastal zone is appropriate and suitably located to ensure that there is a consistent and strategic approach to coastal planning and management.

**Healthy Land – Our Future**

*Healthy Land – Our Future* (South East Queensland Western Catchments Group 2005) is an integrated natural resource management plan prepared for the western catchments of south-east Queensland. It was prepared through the contributions of a wide cross-section of the western catchments community and identifies key natural resource assets and priority actions to direct investment towards those assets most valued by the community, and to those actions that derive the most benefit.

**The Future in Balance**

*The Future in Balance* (Natural Resource Management SEQ 2005) establishes a basis for investment in natural resource management and conservation across south-east Queensland. It promotes a coordinated approach to this investment by identifying a number of targets, actions and priorities.

**Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan**

The *Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan* (CAP) is a 10-year plan that identifies the strategic direction for natural resource management activities and investment in the Northern Rivers region of NSW. The CAP provides catchment targets that reflect statewide goals established by the Natural Resources Commission aimed at improving the condition of natural resources across the State. The CAP also identifies management targets designed to meet these goals (Northern Rivers CMA 2007).
Draft NSW Invasive Species Plan 2007–2015

The draft *NSW Invasive Species Plan* (Department of Primary Industries 2007) sets overall goals and direction for management of invasive weeds, vertebrate pests and invertebrate pests in NSW. It does this by providing a framework for cooperative management that aims to prevent new invasions, contain existing populations and adaptively manage existing widespread species. It determines responsible parties for specific goals and identifies cross-agency mechanisms for communication and implementation.

Northern Rivers Catchment Pest Animal Strategy 2008–2013

This strategy provides an overview of pest animal species within the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) management area, their distribution and status, and their impacts on biodiversity (Northern Rivers CMA 2008). The strategy aims to ensure that new and emerging pest animal species are strategically managed to prevent their establishment and to minimise their impacts on threatened species and high conservation value ecosystems. In regard to established pest animal species, it aims to manage them at all scales to reduce their long-term impacts on threatened species and high conservation value ecosystems.

Draft Northern Rivers Invasive Plants Action Strategy 2008–2013

This draft strategy (Northern Rivers CMA & North Coast Weeds 2008) provides direction for the future management of weeds in the Northern Rivers CMA by addressing specific catchment targets within the CAP as well as providing weed authorities with specific actions for meeting requirements under the NSW *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*. It aims to promote a coordinated approach to weed management across the region through the use of a decision-making system based on prioritisation of weed species and sites. The Strategies’ goals include preventing new weed problems (early detection); reducing the impact of existing weeds; increasing awareness, education and training; improving weed management coordination; enhancing the use of legislation and enforcement; and improving monitoring and evaluation.

The Strategy was prepared in collaboration with a number of weed advisory committees, local governments, State government agencies and stakeholder consultation. The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW) is developing a database identifying specific site priorities for existing weeds affecting biodiversity (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/cmaweeds](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/cmaweeds)).


The *Queensland Weeds Strategy 2002–2006* (Department of Natural Resources and Mines 2002) establishes a statewide framework to provide a coordinated approach to weed management by government, community, industry and individuals throughout the State. The *Queensland Weed Spread Prevention Strategy* (Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries 2008) continues the implementation of the weed spread prevention objectives of the Queensland Weeds Strategy.

In NSW, the draft *Far North Coast Weeds Management Plan* (Far North Coast Weeds 2008) identifies the major activities of Far North Coast Weeds (business name of the Far North Coast County Council). These activities include the management of noxious weeds, many of which are also environmental weeds. The plan also identifies strategies to reduce the environmental effects of weed control undertaken by Far North Coast Weeds.

**NSW Flying-fox Camp Management Policy**

The *NSW Flying-fox Camp Management Policy* (DECC 2007a) provides guidelines for conserving and managing flying-foxes and their camps. It applies to all flying-fox camps in NSW across public and privately-owned land and helps stakeholders to understand their legal responsibilities in regard to camps in NSW. The policy also provides guidelines to assist in forward planning so that inappropriate landuse conflicts near flying-fox camps can be avoided or mitigated.

2 Local government planning

Local governments fulfil an important role in managing areas for development, recreation, public open space and environmental protection. They also undertake substantial environmental restoration work and implement state planning policies and strategies.

Local government plans

In NSW, local environment plans guide development at the local government level. They set appropriate zonings and zoning provisions for all land within a local government area and provide criteria for land use and development standards. Local governments prepare the plans which are then approved by the Minister for Planning after appropriate public exhibition and consultation.

The Queensland *Integrated Planning Act 1997* forms the foundation of planning and development assessment legislation in the State. The purpose of the Act is to balance community well-being, economic development and the protection of the natural environment by providing a framework for managing growth and change. The main elements of this framework are a single system for all development-related assessments by the State and local governments (the Integrated Development Assessment System, or IDAS), and local government-based planning as the major instrument for planning and development assessment.

Local government biodiversity strategies

Some local governments prepare management plans or strategies for the conservation and management of environmentally sensitive land. These plans can guide development as well as provide a basis for on-ground work and investment. See, for example, *Byron Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* (Byron Shire Council 2004) and *Gold Coast City Council Nature Conservation Strategy* (Gold Coast City Council 1998).
3  Protected area planning – NSW

DECCW regional pest management strategies

DECCW regional pest management strategies for the Northern Rivers Region and North Coast Region (DECC 2007b, 2007c) aim to minimise adverse impacts of pests (both animals and plants) on biodiversity and other DECCW estate values. Other objectives include the management of pests to minimise impacts on neighbours, increase community understanding of adverse impacts of threats, and the support of cooperative approaches in pest management.

Each strategy identifies the distribution of pest species throughout DECCW estate within the respective National Parks and Wildlife region. They detail priorities for pest management programs and link to other relevant pest management documents such as threat abatement plans. Criteria are provided in the strategies for the prioritisation of programs, which are identified as either critical, high, medium or low priority. In addition, pest management and rehabilitation plans are often prepared for individual conservation reserves or particular pests. See, for example, the NSW ‘Northern Rivers Regional Bitou Bush Management Strategy’ (DEC 2006a).

Plans of management

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 requires that a plan of management be prepared for each reserve managed by DECCW. A plan of management is a legal document that outlines how a reserve will be managed. It details the values of the reserve, management objectives and management strategies. The plans of management relevant to the Plan in NSW are provided in Table 1. This table also indicates that all NSW reserves relevant to the Plan are subject to fire management strategies prepared in accordance with the NSW Rural Fires Act 1997. Some of the older fire management strategies are to be reviewed and updated to the newer and simpler format of more recent strategies.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Plan of Management</th>
<th>Restoration &amp; Rehabilitation Plans</th>
<th>Fire Management Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Johnston Big Scrub NR</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arakwal NP</td>
<td>X(^2)</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boatharbour NR</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken Head NR</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Brunswick Heads NR</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>Reserve</td>
<td>Plan of Management</td>
<td>Restoration &amp; Rehabilitation Plans</td>
<td>Fire Management Strategy</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Byron SCA</td>
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<td>Captains Creek NR</td>
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<td>Duroby NR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goonengerry NP</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Inner Pocket NR</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Limpinwood NR</td>
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<tr>
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<td>X¹</td>
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<td>Marshalls Creek NR</td>
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<td>Mebbin NP</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Mount Clunie NP</td>
<td>X⁴</td>
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<td>Mount Jerusalem NP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mount Nothofagus NP</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Mount Nullum NR</td>
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<td>Mount Pikapene NP</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>X</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Nightcap NP</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Numinbah NR</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richmond Range NP</td>
<td>X⁴</td>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond River NR</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snows Gully NR</td>
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<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stotts Island NR</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tooloom NP</td>
<td>X⁴</td>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toonumbar NP</td>
<td>X⁴</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toonumbar SCA</td>
<td>X⁴</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tucki Tucki NR</td>
<td>X¹</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyagarah NR</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukerrebagh NR</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urala NR</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Park NR</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whian Whian SCA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson NR</td>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wollumbin NP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wollumbin SCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wooyung NR</td>
<td>X¹</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yabbra NP</td>
<td>X⁴</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4 Protected area planning – Queensland

The Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* provides the legislative framework for declaring and preserving the natural condition of national parks and other protected areas in Queensland. Under this Act, the *Master Plan for Queensland’s Park System* (QEPA 2001) outlines the directions for management of all protected areas in Queensland until 2021. The master plan prescribes that a management plan will be prepared for each national park to identify the special values of the park and determine ways to ensure those values are preserved and enhanced. Table 2 identifies the Queensland national parks within the Border Ranges region that have management plans completed or in development. The management plans for these national park areas prescribe specific management actions including the development and implementation of individual fire and pest management strategies and measures to protect threatened species and important habitats, all of which are relevant to this Plan. Not all Queensland protected areas in the region have plans of management, although most have natural integrity statements which are brief plans of management.


### Table 2 Queensland protected areas relevant to the Border Ranges region with management plans completed or in development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Plan of Management</th>
<th>Fire Management Strategy²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austinville FR 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>X¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austinville FR 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>X¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austinville FR 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>X¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buccan CP</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burleigh Knoll CP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burleigh Head NP</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage Tree Point CP</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canungra CP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clagiraba FR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coombabah Lake CP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currumbin Hill CP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fleays CP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fleays Wildlife Park CP</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamington NP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main Range NP</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moogerah Peaks NP</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mount Barney NP</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mount Beau Brummell CP</td>
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<td>Mount Chinghee NP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nerang FR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserve</td>
<td>Plan of Management</td>
<td>Fire Management Strategy&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicoll Scrub NP</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Numinbah FR</td>
<td></td>
<td>X&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pimpama CP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pine Ridge CP</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Plunkett CP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosins Lookout CP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saltwater Creek CP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarabah NP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Moreton Bay Islands NP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spicers Gap Road CP</td>
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<td>Springbrook FR</td>
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<td>Tamborine FR</td>
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<td>Tamborine NP</td>
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<td>Tomewin CP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wickham FR</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woongoolba CP</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Draft in preparation

2 All reserves have at least a Statements of Fire Management Intent completed as a precursor to development of a full Fire Management Strategy

CP = Conservation Park; FR = Forest Reserve; NP = National Park

5 Protected area planning – World Heritage

A strategic overview of management for the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area has been prepared in accordance with Australia’s international responsibilities under the World Heritage Convention (Department of the Environment and Heritage 2000). The overview ensures that appropriate consideration is given to world heritage values by managers when undertaking planning and management for reserves that occur within the World Heritage Area. The overview does not provide detailed prescriptions for individual reserves, but rather, ensures that reserve planning and management is developed and implemented in a consistent and coordinated way.

6 Threat abatement plans and other strategies

Psittacine beak and feather disease

Beak and feather disease is widespread in Australia and continually present within many parrot species. Therefore, eradication is not possible and the goals of the national Threat Abatement Plan for Beak and Feather Disease Affecting Endangered Psittacine Species (Department of the Environment and Heritage 2005a) are directed toward minimising the impact on psittacine species already with the disease, as well as trying to minimise its spread to other psittacine species (Department of the Environment and Heritage 2005a). On this basis, the threat abatement plan (TAP) is relevant to the Planning Area even though no priority species of the Plan are identified in the TAP as being directly under threat from the disease.
Feral Pigs

The national Threat Abatement Plan for Predation, Habitat Degradation, Competition and Disease Transmission by Feral Pigs (Department of the Environment and Heritage 2005b) provides an outline of current control methods for Pigs across Australia, while at the same time recommending an adaptive approach to pest management in general. This can be particularly relevant to the Planning Area due to the potential for Pigs to spread pathogens such as Phytophthora cinnamomi and chytrid. The TAP also outlines the existing roles and responsibilities of governments, communities and landholders in controlling threats from Pigs, while at the same time acknowledging the resource value of feral Pigs, particularly within some Indigenous communities. The TAP states the importance of identifying and understanding the local attitudes and issues toward pigs.

The TAP identifies several priority rainforest species relevant to the Planning Area as being under threat from pigs, including the Eastern Bristlebird, Fleay's Barred Frog, Giant Barred Frog and Black-breasted Button-quail. Many other species of flora and fauna are also affected by the direct and indirect effects of pigs.

Tramp ants

The national Threat Abatement Plan to Reduce the Impacts of Tramp Ants on Biodiversity in Australia and its Territories (Department of the Environment and Heritage 2006a) provides a national framework to coordinate Australia’s response to invasive alien tramp ant species. Six ant species are the focus of the TAP, including the two species listed as key threatened processes at the NSW or national level (Red Fire Ant, Yellow Crazy Ant), both of which have been recorded near the Planning Area. The TAP also includes the more widespread African Big-headed Ant, which is known from the Planning Area.

The Eastern Bristlebird and Black-breasted Button-quail are both identified in the TAP as being potentially at risk from the Red Fire and Yellow Crazy Ant. Fauna groups identified as potentially under threat include butterflies and moths, land snails, pigeons/doves, Mygalolomorph spiders and flightless carabid beetles. Amongst the broader biodiversity of the Planning Area that are potentially part of these groups, specific priority species include the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly, Mitchell’s Rainforest Snail, Wompoo Fruit-dove, Rose-crowned Fruit-dove, Superb Fruit-dove, Burleigh Heads Spider Nameria insularis, Atlas Rainforest Ground-beetle Nurus atlas and Shorter Rainforest Ground-beetle N. brevis.

Chytrid fungus

The national Threat Abatement Plan for Infection of Amphibians with Chytrid Fungus Resulting in Chytridiomycosis (Department of the Environment and Heritage 2006b) aims to minimise the impact of chytridiomycosis on Australian amphibian populations. In trying to achieve this it outlines the broad goals of, firstly, preventing amphibian populations or regions that are currently chytrid-free from becoming infected and, secondly, decreasing the impact of infection with the amphibian chytrid fungus on populations that are currently infected.

In NSW, a statement of intent for infection of frogs by chytrid (DECCW 2009a) has been prepared. This statement outlines the approach that NSW will take to manage the impact of chytrid fungus on amphibians between 2009 and 2014. The statement of intent is consistent with the approach of the national TAP.

Phytophthora cinnamomi

The national Threat Abatement Plan for Dieback Caused By the Root-Rot Fungus Phytophthora cinnamomi (Environment Australia 2001) establishes the framework for an integrated national
response necessary to manage \( \text{P. cinnamomi} \). While the Planning Area is currently not considered a priority for susceptibility to disease due to \( \text{P. cinnamomi} \), the pathogen has been recorded in Nightcap National Park and Whian Whian State Conservation Area, both of which are part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area.

In NSW, DECCW has prepared a statement of intent for infection of native plants by \( \text{P. cinnamomi} \) (DECC 2008). This statement outlines DECCW's approach to implementing a broad program of actions between 2008 and 2013 to manage the threat and minimise the impact of \( \text{P. cinnamomi} \) on the biodiversity of NSW. The statement is consistent with the national draft TAP and any DECCW initiatives will be developed and implemented in conjunction with the national approach.

**Feral Cats**

The national *Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats* (DEWHA 2008a) replaces the national feral Cat TAP published in 1999 (Environment Australia 1999a) and provides an outline for coordinated feral Cat management in Australia. It identifies several priority rainforest species of the Planning Area as being under threat from feral Cats, including Eastern Bristlebird, Black-breasted Button-quail, Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby and Hastings River Mouse. As with other threats and associated TAPs, however, feral Cats negatively affect many other species of the Planning Area and any form of abatement will benefit these species as well.

**Feral Goats**

The national *Threat Abatement Plan for Competition and Land Degradation by Unmanaged Goats* (DEWHA 2008b) replaces the national feral Goat TAP published in 1999 (Environment Australia 1999b). It aims to guide the responsible use of public resources and provide the best outcome for wildlife threatened by competition and land degradation caused by feral Goat. The TAP seeks to achieve these by focusing management on appropriate abatement of impacts of established populations rather than prevention and preparedness. Priority rainforest species of the Planning Area identified by the TAP as being under threat from feral Goat are the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby and *Sarcochilus hartmannii*.

**Feral Rabbits**

The draft national *Threat Abatement Plan for Competition and Land Degradation by Feral Rabbits* (DEWHA 2008c) replaces the national feral Rabbit TAP published in 1999 (Environment Australia 1999c). The goal of this TAP is to minimise the impact of feral Rabbit competition and land degradation on biodiversity in Australia by protecting threatened species and ecological communities and preventing further species and ecological communities from becoming threatened. The Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby is the only priority species of the Planning Area identified by the TAP as being under threat from feral Rabbits, although many other species and ecological communities of the Planning Area are directly and indirectly impacted upon by the effects of rabbits.

**European Red Fox**

The NSW *Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by the European Red Fox* (NPWS 2001a) identifies species and sites across NSW considered priorities for fox control. The TAP has identified Albert's Lyrebird as a high priority species for fox control, while the Spotted-tailed Quoll has been identified a medium priority. Although no other rainforest fauna of the Planning Area are identified as priorities for fox control, there are sites occurring within the Border Ranges region identified as fox control priorities for non-rainforest fauna. Any form of fox control at these sites will benefit many of the
rainforest fauna species of the Planning Area. The TAP also provides best-practice guidelines for fox control aimed at reducing the impact of control programs on non-target species, particularly Spotted-tailed Quoll.

The national *Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by the European Red Fox* (DEWHA 2008d) also identifies native fauna adversely affected by predation from foxes. Seven priority fauna species are included in this, although no prioritisation of species has been undertaken and priority sites have not been identified. It replaces the national fox TAP published in 1999 (Environment Australia 1999d).

**Bitou Bush and Boneseed**

The NSW threat abatement plan for Bitou Bush and Boneseed (DEC 2006b) proposes actions to reduce the impacts of Bitou Bush and Boneseed on biodiversity, particularly threatened species, populations and ecological communities. The TAP identifies priorities for collaborative Bitou Bush control across public and private land in NSW. This includes 25 priority sites within littoral rainforest endangered ecological community in the Planning Area, covering 11 priority flora species: *Acronychia littoralis*, *Archidendron hendersonii*, *Arthraxon hispidus*, *Cryptocarya foetida*, *Fontainea oraria*, *Grevillea hilliana*, *Niemeyera chartacea*, *Melicope vitiflora*, *Syzygium hodgkinsoniae*, *S. moorei* and *Xylosma terra-reginae*. Control at these sites for these species will provide broader biodiversity benefits to the rainforests of the Planning Area.

The Bitou Bush and Boneseed Plan notes that the priorities identified are not definitive and the control of Bitou Bush at lower priority sites and for lower priority species is the responsibility of local land managers and other strategies. This Plan supports this approach whereby local priorities are not excluded from Bitou Bush control programs. The TAP provides information on the control of Bitou Bush in general and, as such, can be utilised as a resource document in these situations.

DECCW’s ‘Northern Rivers Region Bitou Bush Strategy for 2007–2012’ (DEC 2006a) prioritises Bitou Bush management and sites in the Northern Rivers Region.

The Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, through Biosecurity Queensland, and DECCW are currently developing a national plan to manage the threat posed by Lantana to biodiversity. This Lantana plan will be based on the approach used in the Bitou Bush and Boneseed TAP in developing conservation priorities for control.

**Plague Minnow**

The NSW *Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Gambusia holbrooki* (NPWS 2003a) provides guidance on the amelioration of the impacts of Plague Minnow on priority threatened frog species within NSW. Although none of the TAP priority frogs are priority species in the Border Ranges, any management of Plague Minnow within the Planning Area would benefit biodiversity in general, particularly other native frogs, native fish and macro-invertebrates. In relation to stream frogs of the Planning Area, Hines and SEQTFRT (2002) state that introduced fish have not played a role in the decline of stream breeding frogs but management of introduced fish in general should still be considered as a precautionary task to protect populations of stream frogs from future introductions.

**Cane Toads**

The DECCW *Cane Toad Management Policy* (DECC 2007d) is a NSW-wide policy that guides management of Cane Toads by DECCW. It includes a policy framework and procedural guidelines on management, potential partnerships, community awareness and operating procedures relating to Cane Toads.
The DECCW *Northern Branch Cane Toad Management Strategy* (DECC n.d.) is a guide to DECCW staff on the management of Cane Toads on DECCW estate in north-east NSW and implements the objectives of the DECCW Cane Toad Policy (DECC 2007d). It contains actions to address management of Cane Toad populations already on DECCW estate and also those populations with the potential to invade DECCW estate.

**Bell Miner Associated Dieback Strategy**

The 'Bell Minor Associated Dieback Strategy' (Bell Miner Associated Dieback Working Group 2004) is an agreed suite of actions designed to address prevention, control and remediation of dieback-affected and potentially affected forests across all land tenures in north-east NSW. The strategy identifies the main areas of the NSW component of the Planning Area under threat from dieback, including Border Ranges National Park; Murray Scrub and Dome Mountain in Toonumbar National Park; Bungdoozle and Cambridge Plateau in Richmond Range National Park; and Mt Nothofagus, Kooreelah and Mt Clunie National Parks.

**Wild Dogs**

In NSW, wild Dog management plans are prepared by Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (formerly Rural Lands Protection Boards) in collaboration with DECCW, Forests NSW and other stakeholders. Management plans are prepared in accordance with the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998* and address the management of wild Dogs on private lands, conservation reserves and state forests. These plans also address the conservation of Dingo in declared Dingo management areas on DECCW estate that are listed in Schedule 2 of the Act. Wild Dog management plans relevant to the Planning Area include those of the Tweed-Lismore, Casino and Northern New England Board areas.

7 Recovery plans, action statements and profiles

**Draft NSW Northern Rivers Regional Biodiversity Management Plan**

The *Draft NSW Northern Rivers Regional Biodiversity Management Plan* (DECC 2009) is a multi-species recovery plan that incorporates actions to be taken to ensure the long-term viability of threatened species in the Northern Rivers region of NSW. The geographic coverage of the Border Ranges Planning Area and the Northern Rivers region overlap and, as such, the Plans complement each other in their approach to biodiversity management in north-east NSW. The Northern Rivers Regional Plan addresses threatened entities that occur outside of rainforest in the Border Ranges area as well as those rainforest species of the Border Ranges area whose range extends beyond the Border Ranges Planning Area to other parts of the Northern Rivers region.
Recovery plans

A number of national and state recovery plans for threatened species and ecological communities currently exist that are relevant to the Border Ranges region. Additionally, in NSW the TSC Act and Fisheries Management Act 1994 both provide for the preparation of a Priorities Action Statement that identifies the strategies and specific actions for each threatened species and key threatening process in the state.

The NSW TSC Act Priorities Action Statement is available at:  
http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au

The NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994 Priorities Action Statement is available at:  

National recovery plans can include those species listed under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and usually constitute the recovery plan for the states in which these species occur. In some instances, a national recovery plan will only cover a particular state's distribution of a nationally listed species.

Nationally exhibited draft recovery plans relevant to the rainforest and related vegetation of the Planning Area exist for the following:

- Grey-headed Flying-fox (DECCW 2009b)
- Native Jute Corchorus cunninghamii in NSW (DEC 2004a) – covers the NSW distribution of the species
- Hairy Quandong Elaeocarpus williamsianus (DEC 2004b)
- Coastal Fontainea Fontainea oraria (DEC 2005a)
- Semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar bioregions ecological community (McDonald 2007)
- Black-breasted Button-quail (Mathieson & Smith 2008)
- Eastern Bristlebird, northern population (Stewart 2001) – covers both the NSW and Queensland component of the northern population of the species
- Large-eared Pied Bat Chalinolobus dwyeri (QEPA 2007)

Nationally approved recovery plans relevant to the rainforest and related vegetation of the Planning Area exist for the following:

- Native Jute Corchorus cunninghamii in Queensland (Saunders 2001) – covers the Queensland distribution of the species
- Davidson's Plum Davidsonia jerseyana (DEC 2004c)
- Smooth Davidsonia Davidsonia johnsonii (DEC 2004d)
- Small-leaved Tamarind Diploglottis campbellii (DEC 2004e)
- Nightcap Oak Eidothea hardeniana (DEC 2004f)
- Minyon Quandong Elaeocarpus sp. Rocky Creek (NPWS 2003b)
- Crystal Creek Walnut Endiandra floydii (DEC 2004g)
- Spiny Gardenia Randia moorei (DEC 2004h)
• Ripple-leaf Muttonwood *Rapanea* species A Richmond River (DEC 2004i) – synonym of *Myrsine richmondensis*

• Peach Myrtle *Uromyrtus australis* (DEC 2005b)

• Mitchell’s Rainforest Snail (NPWS 2001b)

• Eastern (Freshwater) Cod (NSW Fisheries 2004)

• Mary River Cod (Simpson & Jackson n.d.) includes a research plan

• Stream frogs of south-east Queensland (Hines & SEQTFRT 2002) covers the Queensland distribution of species that include the Cascade Tree Frog, Fleay’s Barred Frog and Giant Barred Frog

• Coxen's Fig-parrot (Coxen’s Fig-parrot Recovery Team 2001)

• Hastings River Mouse (DEC 2005c).

In NSW, recovery plans can be prepared for species listed under the NSW TSC Act but not necessarily under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Therefore, there are some instances where a widely-occurring species may be subject to a recovery plan for the NSW distribution of that species only. Approved NSW-only recovery plans relevant to the rainforest and related vegetation of the Planning Area are:

• Giant Fern *Angiopteris evecta* (NPWS 2001c)

• Green-leaved Rose Walnut *Endiandra muelleri* subsp. *bracteata* and Rusty Rose Walnut *Endiandra hayesii* (DEC 2004j)

• Coxen’s Fig-parrot (NPWS 2002a)

• Large forest owls (DEC 2006c) – includes the NSW distribution of the Sooty Owl

• Red Goshawk (NPWS 2002b).

Recovery plans at the Queensland level relevant to the rainforest and related vegetation of the Planning Area are:

• Draft *South-east Queensland Rainforest Recovery Plan* (WWF-Australia 2005)

• South-east Queensland Back on Track Biodiversity Action Plan (QEPA 2008).

All recovery plans contain a date or time period for the operation of the plan, after which a review of the plan is recommended. A number of the recovery plans identified above have passed this date or time period and the remainder will reach it during the 10-year life of this Border Ranges Plan. New recovery plans may also be prepared during the life of this Plan which will provide complementary management to these new plans.

**Information profiles**

Information profiles are available for species and ecological communities listed under Commonwealth, NSW and Queensland jurisdictions. These can be accessed at the following locations:


8 Existing management programs

This Plan has identified a range of existing programs that target recovery actions towards rainforest and related vegetation, and aims to integrate their implementation to improve cost-effectiveness and overall outcomes and efficiency. Inevitably, there will be other plans, strategies and related on-ground programs that have not been identified. The Plan acknowledges the existence of these and the potential benefits they have to the biodiversity of the Planning Area and the Border Ranges region of NSW and Queensland in general.

Cooperative cross-border management of conservation reserves

A memorandum of understanding currently exists between NSW and Queensland in regard to complementary management of conservation reserves adjoining each other at the NSW–Queensland border. In particular, the memorandum and its associated operational agreement provides for state conservation agencies to exchange information, ideas and expertise relevant to the protection of the region’s special values. Under the memorandum, each agency meets at least annually to facilitate development, coordination and implementation of cooperative management programs.

The memorandum of understanding applies to NSW and Queensland conservation reserves within the Planning Area. In Queensland, these are Mount Barney, Springbrook, Lamington, Main Range and Mount Chinghee National Parks. In NSW, these are Limpinwood Nature Reserve, and Border Ranges, Mount Nothofagus, Mount Clunie and Koreelah National Parks.

Integrated Border Ranges Biodiversity Management Program

From 2005 to 2007 a Border Ranges Integrated Biodiversity Planning and Implementation Program was funded by the Natural Heritage Trust. This program was administered through the Northern Rivers CMA in collaboration with a steering committee that included representation from the CMA, South East Queensland Catchments, DECCW, Australian Department of Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts, Gondwanan Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area and the community. A total of $2.2 million was expended in delivering planning and on-ground biodiversity programs across north-east NSW and south-east Queensland. On-ground programs targeted high conservation value ecosystems including rainforest, old growth sclerophyll forests, heath, wetlands and threatened species habitat.

Great Eastern Ranges Initiative

The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative is a national conservation project intended to enhance vegetation connectivity through the Great Dividing Range, escarpment and associated ranges from the Australian Alps in Victoria to Atherton in Queensland. The project has been initiated in NSW and, consequently, DECCW is the agency responsible for coordinating this initiative in the State. Nationally, an interstate government agency working group has formed to progress the initiative across its entire range. The Planning Area is one of five target areas for implementing this initiative.
9 Research, survey and inventories

A range of research projects and inventories relevant to the biodiversity of the Planning Area have been undertaken or are in progress. These projects include:

- A Bibliography for the World Heritage Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia (Reis 2005).

- *IBISCA – Queensland.* An international collaborative project to quantify changes in biodiversity along an altitudinal gradient in contiguous subtropical rainforest in Lamington National Park and determine the groups of organisms that best predict climate change at different altitudinal zones. A series of reports for this project are planned to be published in a peer-reviewed journal in the near future.


- Southeast Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium provides information and research on fire ecology for south-east Queensland. See: www.griffith.edu.au/environment-planning/southeast-queensland-fire-biodiversity-consortium.


- Initiatives of the Australian Macadamia Society through the Macadamia Conservation Committee. See: http://www.macadamias.org/.

References


DEC – see Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)

DECC – see Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW)

DECCW – see Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (NSW)

Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW) n.d. *Northern Branch Cane Toad Management Strategy*, DECC, Coffs Harbour.


Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW) 2009, *Draft Northern Rivers Regional Biodiversity Management Plan*, DECC, Sydney.


Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries 2008, *Queensland Weed Spread Prevention Strategy*, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Brisbane. Available at:


DERM – see Department of Environment and Resource Management

DEWHA – see Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts


Hines and SEQTFTRT - see Hines and South-east Queensland Threatened Frogs Recovery Team.


Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority 2007, Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan, Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, Grafton.

Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority 2008, Northern Rivers Pest Animal Management Strategy 2008–2013, Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, Grafton.

Northern Rivers CMA – see Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority

NPWS – see National Parks and Wildlife Service


QEPA - see Queensland Environmental Protection Agency.


### Acronyms

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAP</td>
<td>Catchment Action Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMA</td>
<td>Catchment Management Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>DECCW</td>
<td>Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW</td>
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<td>DERM</td>
<td>Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (incorporating the former Queensland Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Natural Resources and Water)</td>
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<td>NSW TSC Act</td>
<td>NSW <em>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</em></td>
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<td>SEPP</td>
<td>State environmental planning policy (NSW)</td>
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<td>TAP</td>
<td>Threat abatement plan</td>
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