

# **Queensland Agricultural Land Audit**

**Annual Addendum 2017**

**October 2017**

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## **Introduction**

Since its release in May 2013, the Queensland Agricultural Land Audit (the Audit) has been used as a key reference tool to guide investment decisions and has been increasingly relied upon to support a range of government policy. As a result of the influence of the Audit, periodic updates to the Audit information were deemed necessary to ensure that accuracy and currency of the Audit is maintained.

The purpose of the annual addendum is to highlight major information updates at the state and regional scale. The annual addendum will cover major:

- policy changes
- proposed, on-going and completed infrastructure projects and issues
- data updates and resource studies
- changed or proposed changes to regional plans
- changed or proposed changes to water plans
- changes to relevant socio-economic data.

It is not intended that any current or potential agricultural land use maps will be generated or updated in this or any future annual addendum. New spatial datasets and analysis may be generated pending future Audit review.

## **Audit Tools and Information**

Since the release of the Audit, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has continued to update tools to assist the dissemination of Audit and land use information. Updated datasets, where relevant have been incorporated into the Web-based Agricultural Land Information (WALI) web map and the Agricultural Values Assessment tool.

## **Web Mapping**

Table 1 outlines the map layers that have been updated or added to WALI since the 2016 addendum.

**Table 1: Updated map layers**

Updated map layer	Further information
State electoral boundaries	Layer has been updated to reflect the distribution current to 2017. Dataset is shown in WALI under the Agricultural Land Audit / Boundaries group.
Water plan boundaries Great Artesian Basin management area	Water plan boundary layer has been updated to the latest version. It also reflects policy changes, including a change from the previous name "Water resource plan". Great Artesian Basin management area layer has been updated and is now part of a state-wide dataset covering all 25 management areas. Both layers are shown in WALI under the Agricultural Land Audit / Water planning and infrastructure group.
Current sheep feedlots Current poultry farms Current piggeries Current cattle feedlots that are ERA's	The current sheep feedlots was added, along with updates to Current poultry farms, Current piggeries and Current cattle feedlots. These layers are available in WALI under the Agricultural Land Audit / Current agriculture group.
Queensland Land Use Mapping Program (QLUMP)	QLUMP land use mapping data has been updated to 2016 for the Desert Channels and Mackay Whitsundays regions. The 2016 data continues to include a 'commodity' field used to classify specific horticulture tree crops including bananas, mangoes, avocados and macadamias. The land use layer is available in WALI under the Land use (QLUMP) group. This dataset is used in the Audit to show current cropping, sugar cane, and annual and perennial horticulture.
Priority Living Areas (PLAs) Priority Agricultural Land (PAAs)	The Priority Living Areas dataset has been updated. The Priority Agricultural Land dataset now includes the ShapingSEQ Regional Plan boundaries, plus a modification to previous boundaries. These datasets are available in WALI under the Agricultural Land Audit / State planning policy and regional interests group.
Protected areas	Dataset has been updated with a modification to some classification names. Dataset is available in WALI under the Agricultural Land Audit / Environmental management group.
Grazing	A map layer group for Grazing datasets has been added to WALI. It includes Current pasture production, Potential pasture production, and Current and potential sown pasture. Available in the Grazing group.
Bioindustries resources	As part of the Australian Biomass for Bioenergy Assessment (ABBA) project, three sub-groups of datasets have been added to WALI. These are Forestry residues (including Plantation softwood and Native forests datasets), Intensive livestock residues (showing Manure production by LGA for cattle feedlots, pigs and poultry), and Urban waste (including Biosolids and Solid waste). Available in the Bioindustries resources group in WALI.
Drought declaration boundaries	Drought declaration boundaries have been updated and are available in WALI for full and partially drought declared local government areas. Found in the Drought Declaration boundaries group in WALI.

Updated versions of the map layers are available to download from the Queensland Spatial Catalogue ([QSpatial](#)) and the Queensland Government Open Data portal ([Open data](#)). The updated map layers are also displayed on the [WALI](#) mapping tool.

For more information on drought declarations see the [Long Paddock website](#) [<https://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/queenslanddroughtmonitor/queenslanddroughtreport/>] and the [Business and Industry Portal](#) [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/drought/declarations-revocations>].

## National Updates

### Murray Darling Basin – Northern Basin Review

In November 2016, the Murray–Darling Basin Authority published the [Northern Basin Review](#), [<https://www.mdba.gov.au/publications/mdba-reports/northern-basin-review-report>] following investigations into environmental flows and socio-economic studies, regarding possible impacts to Queensland and northern New South Wales communities.

The review proposed to reset the amount of water to be recovered from the northern basin from 390 GL to 320 GL via a proposed amendment to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. The Authority recommended commitments from the Australian, Queensland and New South Wales governments to implement a number of 'toolkit measures' in addition to continued support for communities strongly affected by changes resulting from the Basin Plan. Proposed toolkit measures include:

- the protection (shepherding) of environmental flows to ensure they are not inadvertently extracted downstream
- targeted recovery of water to meet a larger amount of environmental indicators than presently occurs
- event-based mechanisms such as temporary trading to take advantage of climatic conditions such as rainfall events
- works to improve in-stream health and native fish passage.

The report recommendations have yet to be signed off the by Australian Government.

More information regarding the Northern Basin Review can be found [here](#) [<https://www.mdba.gov.au/basin-plan-roll-out/basin-plan-amendments>].

## Statewide Updates

This section outlines major information updates that apply to the whole of Queensland and can subsequently affect all chapters of the Audit.

### Queensland Climate Change Response

Queensland's Climate Change response is comprised of two components which address adaptation and mitigation methods to cope with the increasing effects of climate change on the state's communities, industries and economy.

In July 2017, the State government released the [Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy; Pathways to a climate resilient Queensland 2017–2030](#) (Q-CAS) [<https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/assets/documents/climate/qld-climate-adaptation-strategy.pdf>], following consultation feedback gathered from the Queensland Climate Adaptation Directions Statement. The Q-CAS presents implementation plans for integrating adaptation measures across communities, industry and businesses. The Q-CAS calls for climate adaptation considerations to be integrated into

policies and processes, and for collaboration to occur across industries and society in order to achieve effective climate adaptation.

As part of the Q-CAS, State government will work with industry, business and non-government organisations to develop sector adaptation plans to identify specific adaptation needs of core economic sectors, including agriculture. The Agriculture Sector Adaptation Plan (Ag-SAP) [<https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/assets/documents/climate/agricultural-sector-adaption-plan.pdf>] released in August 2017, identifies priority activities required to help the agriculture industry members identify and adapt to climate hazards that present a risk to their productivity and sustainable profitability.

In July 2017, the State government released the [Queensland Climate Transition Strategy; Pathways to a clean growth economy](https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/assets/documents/climate/qld-climate-transition-strategy.pdf) (Q-CTS) [<https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/assets/documents/climate/qld-climate-transition-strategy.pdf>], following consultation feedback gathered from the discussion paper; Advancing Climate Action in Queensland: Making the transition to a low carbon future. The QCTS outlines actions across three pathways to steer Queensland towards a zero net emissions economy; creating an environment for investment shift and innovation, facilitating existing Queensland industries to transition, and through working with Queensland's regional communities to transition.

More information on Q-CAS, Q-CTS and supporting resources are available here [<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/climate/response>].

## **The Queensland Bulk Water Opportunities Statement**

In July 2017, the State government released the [Queensland Bulk Water Opportunities Statement](https://www.dews.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1266883/qld-bulk-water-opportunities-statement.pdf) [[https://www.dews.qld.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/1266883/qld-bulk-water-opportunities-statement.pdf](https://www.dews.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1266883/qld-bulk-water-opportunities-statement.pdf)] (QBWOS), presenting the future strategy for bulk water security in Queensland.

The aim of QBWOS is to get the right balance between using existing bulk water infrastructure and committing to new projects for the future. The statement provides objectives for bulk water supply infrastructure when considering the broader competition for public funds, discusses potential water allocations from existing infrastructure, and investment decision making frameworks.

The statement will be reviewed and updated annually to incorporate new information and the results of stakeholder and community feedback, as well as providing information to the community about the progress of proposed initiatives and investments under consideration.

More information on QBWOS is available here [<https://www.dews.qld.gov.au/water/initiatives/bulk-water-statement>].

## **Updates to state-wide water legislation**

The *Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2015* was passed in November 2016, which included:

- the reinstatement of the principles of “ecological sustainable development”, which were removed from the *Water Act 2000* by the former Newman Government
- the prevention of the former Newman Government’s “water development options” which granted large amounts of water without regard to the water plan, and unregulated amounts of water would not be allowed to be taken from rivers and streams
- that all mines currently under development in Queensland, and which will have an impact on groundwater, will be required to obtain an “associated water licence” under the *Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill* passed in November 2016.

## Protecting the Great Barrier Reef

In March 2017, the State Government released the discussion paper [Enhancing regulations to ensure clean water for a healthy Great Barrier Reef and a prosperous Queensland](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/assets/documents/reef/gbr-discussion-paper.pdf) [http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/assets/documents/reef/gbr-discussion-paper.pdf] for feedback. The paper outlined a number of high level proposals to enhance the existing reef protection regulations to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution across key industries in Great Barrier Reef catchments.

The State government released the [2017 Scientific Consensus Statement](http://www.reefplan.qld.gov.au/about/scientific-consensus-statement/) [http://www.reefplan.qld.gov.au/about/scientific-consensus-statement/] providing a review of the significant advances in scientific knowledge of water quality issues in the Great Barrier Reef, and a consensus on the current understanding of the system.

Feedback from the discussion paper and the latest scientific data contributed to the [Broadening and Enhancing Reef protection Regulations Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/assets/documents/reef/enhancing-reef-protection-regulations-ris.pdf) (RIS) [http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/assets/documents/reef/enhancing-reef-protection-regulations-ris.pdf] released for public consultation by the State Government in September 2017.

The consultation RIS outlines and assesses the costs and benefits of the proposals, which are to:

- set nutrient and sediment pollution load limits for each reef catchment to target responses for managing risks to water quality
- provide the ability to apply minimum practice standards targeting nutrient and sediment pollution for key industries in reef catchments
- require fertiliser re-sellers to keep and produce records on request, of nutrient application advice provided to their clients to improve nutrient management outcomes
- establish a water quality offset framework that can apply across industry sectors as a measure to manage water quality impacts for new, expanded or intensified development in the context of the new catchment pollution load limits.

More information on measures to protect the Great Barrier Reef is available [here](https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/coasts-waterways/reef) [https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/coasts-waterways/reef].

## Planning Reform

The new [Planning Act 2016](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/act-2016-025) [https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/act-2016-025] came into effect on 3 July 2017, replacing the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. It retains the same general rights, roles and responsibilities but has moved the processes into other statutory documents. The new [Planning and Environment Court Act 2016](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/2017-07-03/act-2016-026) [https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/2017-07-03/act-2016-026], which governs the constitution, composition, jurisdiction and powers of the Planning and Environment Court, and the [Planning \(Consequential\) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/asmade/act-2016-027) [https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/asmade/act-2016-027] commenced at the same time.

The new planning system comprises three main elements: plan making, development assessment and dispute resolution, with state and local government sharing the responsibility in delivery. The system is performance based, which allows for innovation and flexibility in how development can be achieved, which also responds to community needs and expectations.

More information on Planning Reform is available [here](http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/planning-reform.html) [http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/planning-reform.html].

## **State Infrastructure Plan**

In July 2017, the State government released the [State Infrastructure Plan Part B: Program – 2017 Update](http://dilgp.qld.gov.au/resources/plan/sip/sip-part-b-2017.pdf) [http://dilgp.qld.gov.au/resources/plan/sip/sip-part-b-2017.pdf]. The State Infrastructure Plan outlines the Queensland Government's strategic direction for the planning, investment and delivery of infrastructure in Queensland, supplied in two parts; Part A: Strategy, which is updated every five years; and Part B: Program, updated annually.

The 2017 Update contains updates on the implementation of the State Infrastructure Plan's priorities and objectives, and includes land and water infrastructure opportunities to improve agricultural supply chains and support agricultural growth in northern Queensland.

More information on the State Infrastructure Plan can be found [here](http://dilgp.qld.gov.au/infrastructure/state-infrastructure-plan.html) [http://dilgp.qld.gov.au/infrastructure/state-infrastructure-plan.html].

## **Regional Updates**

This section outlines major information updates that apply to a specific region and will subsequently affect a specific chapter of the Audit.

### **Chapter 4: Cape York**

#### **Infrastructure**

The sealing of the Peninsula Development Road between Laura and the Rio Tinto Boundary is underway which will improve access for freight, residents and tourists, and expected to be completed in 2019. Approximately 150 km has been completed to October 2017.

### **Chapter 5: Gulf and North West**

#### **Water resources**

##### **Great Artesian Basin water plan**

See Great Artesian Basin water plan under Chapter 9: Central West and South West.

##### **Gulf water plan**

In August 2017, unallocated water was made available for purchase from the general reserves in the Cloncurry (7 500 ML) and Gilbert (85 000 ML) catchments. The water is being made available in specified lots and at a set price. The water will be available until sold out.

In September 2017, 92 000 ML of water allocation tendered for in 2016 was released.

More information on the Gulf water plan can be found [here](https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/water/catchments-planning/unallocated-water/gulf) [https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/water/catchments-planning/unallocated-water/gulf].

## **Chapter 6: Far North Queensland**

### **Water resources**

#### **Barron water plan**

In December 2016, the [Barron Water Management Protocol](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1255468/Barron-Water-Management-Protocol.pdf) [https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0004/1255468/Barron-Water-Management-Protocol.pdf] commenced, with amendments made in June 2017, to correct groundwater levels for one bore in the north western zone.

Details of the amendment can be viewed [here](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1256141/Statement-of-changes-made-to-barron-protocol_June17.pdf) [https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0020/1256141/Statement-of-changes-made-to-barron-protocol\_June17.pdf].

#### **Mitchell water plan**

In December 2016, the [Mitchell Water Management Protocol](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1076038/mitchell-protocol.pdf) [https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0007/1076038/mitchell-protocol.pdf] commenced.

## **Chapter 7: Charters Towers**

### **Water resources**

#### **Burdekin water plan**

In December 2016, the [Burdekin Basin Water Management Protocol](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1253090/burdekin-basin-water-management-protocol.pdf) [https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0020/1253090/burdekin-basin-water-management-protocol.pdf] commenced.

#### **Lower Burdekin Groundwater Strategy**

In August 2017, a discussion paper for the draft Lower Burdekin Groundwater Strategy was released, addressing issues relating to rising groundwater and salinity in the Burdekin Haughton Water Supply Scheme Area.

The consultation period for the discussion paper has now closed, but the paper can still be accessed [here](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1274781/lower-burdekin-groundwater-discussion.pdf) [https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0003/1274781/lower-burdekin-groundwater-discussion.pdf].

## **Chapter 8: Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday**

### **Water resources**

#### **Fitzroy Basin water plan**

See Fitzroy Basin water plan under Chapter 10: Central Queensland.

### **Infrastructure**

#### **Vines Creek Bridges Project**

In May 2017, construction commenced on the \$28 million Vines Creek Bridges project, replacing two bridges for B Double access to Mackay Port, providing a more efficient and reliable link for heavy vehicles and support transport of commodities including fuel, sugar, mining equipment and grain to and from the Port.

More information on the Vines Creek Bridge Project can be found [here](https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/V/Vines-Creek-Bridges-replacement) [https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/V/Vines-Creek-Bridges-replacement].

### **Eton Range Realignment Project**

In March 2017, work on the \$189 million Eton Range Realignment Project on the Peak Downs Highway west of Mackay sustained significant damage during Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, reducing the range to single lane operation until July 2017. By making improvements to road geometry and grade, the Eton Range is being upgraded to a standard capable of accommodating type 1 road trains (vehicles up to 36.5 metres in length). Completion is expected in 2019.

More information on the Eton Range Realignment Project can be found [here](https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/E/Eton-Range-Peak-Downs-Highway) [https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/E/Eton-Range-Peak-Downs-Highway].

## **Chapter 9: Central West and South West**

### **Water resources**

#### **Great Artesian Basin water plan**

On 2 September 2017, the [Water Plan \(Great Artesian Basin and Other Regional Aquifers\) 2017](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/2017-09-02/sl-2017-0164) [https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/2017-09-02/sl-2017-0164] commenced, replacing the previous Great Artesian Basin water plan which expired on 1 September 2017.

There are now new requirements for capping and piping uncontrolled bores and drains. If a bore that has ceased to flow begins to reflow, the Queensland Government must be notified. Owners of uncontrolled bores and bore drains must either cap and pipe and notify the Queensland Government of the works, or complete a bore management statement, by September 2018. Further information on bore management statements will be available early 2018.

The final water plan provides an additional 4 400 ML of unallocated water in general reserves in the Eromanga and Carpentaria aquifers, resulting in general reserves of unallocated water of 10 015 ML, which may be used for agricultural purposes.

The water plan is implemented through the Great Artesian Basin water management protocol which was finalised in September 2017. Explanatory notes may be viewed [here](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Documents/TableOffice/TabledPapers/2017/5517T1504.pdf) [http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Documents/TableOffice/TabledPapers/2017/5517T1504.pdf].

### **Infrastructure**

#### **Morven – rail hub**

In August 2017, the Federal Government committed \$4.18 million towards the new Morven rail hub, under the Building Better Regions Fund. The rail upgrade will make transporting livestock from Western Queensland to the Darling Downs for processing easier, with the new facility providing road-train loading and unloading facilities, cattle yards for drafting and spelling of cattle and a cattle weighing facility.

More information on the Building Better Regions Fund can be found [here](https://www.business.gov.au/Assistance/Building-Better-Regions-Fund) [https://www.business.gov.au/Assistance/Building-Better-Regions-Fund].

#### **Western Roads Upgrade Program**

Throughout 2017, road widening and sealing works were completed improving safety and efficiency between key routes linking western Queensland communities, funded by the \$40 million Queensland Government's Western Roads Upgrade Program.

More information on the Western Roads Upgrade Program can be found [here](#) [<https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/W/Western-Roads-Upgrade-Program-WRUP>].

### **Barcaldine South Upgrade**

In May 2017, drainage, rehabilitation and widening works commenced on sections of the Landsborough Highway from Barcaldine to Blackall. The upgrade has joint funding of \$12.5 million from the Australian and Queensland Governments.

More information can be found [here](#) [<https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/B/Barcaldine-South-Upgrade>].

## **Chapter 10: Central Queensland**

### **Water resources**

#### **Baffle Creek water plan**

In December 2016, the [Baffle Creek Water Management Protocol](#) [[https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/1076048/baffle-creek-protocol.pdf](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1076048/baffle-creek-protocol.pdf)] commenced, containing water sharing rules, water allocation dealing and seasonal water assignment rules for unsupplemented water in the water plan area, which were previously contained in the now superseded Resource Operations Plan.

#### **Boyne River Basin water plan**

In December 2016, the [Boyne River Basin Water Management Protocol](#) [[https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/249699/boyne-river-protocol.pdf](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0012/249699/boyne-river-protocol.pdf)] commenced containing water allocation dealing rules for supplemented water and information for granting unallocated water reserved in the plan area. In March 2017, the protocol was amended to correct section numbering errors.

The seasonal water assignment rules for particular water licences are contained in the water management protocol, whilst the supplemented rules are contained in the [Awonga River Supply Scheme Operations Manual](#) [[https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/249697/awoonga-operations-manual.pdf](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/249697/awoonga-operations-manual.pdf)].

More information on the Boyne River Basin can be found [here](#) [<https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/boyne-river-basin>].

#### **Calliope River Basin water plan**

On 18 August 2017, a public notice was released postponing the expiry date of the Calliope River Basin water plan to 14 December 2026.

In December 2016, the [Calliope River Basin Water Management Protocol](#) [[https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/249704/calliope-protocol.pdf](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/249704/calliope-protocol.pdf)] commenced containing water sharing, water allocation dealing and seasonal water assignment rules for unsupplemented water in the plan area.

More information on the Calliope River Basin water plan can be found [here](#) [<https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/calliope-river>].

## **Fitzroy Basin water plan**

Tenders for general reserve unallocated surface water and groundwater in sub-catchment areas of the Fitzroy Basin closed on 23 February 2017. The first tranche of licences are yet to be granted.

More information on the Fitzroy River Basin water plan can be found [here](https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/water/catchments-planning/unallocated-water/fitzroy-basin)  
[https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/water/catchments-planning/unallocated-water/fitzroy-basin].

## **Infrastructure**

### **Rockhampton Northern Access Road Upgrade**

In late 2016, the Rockhampton Northern Access Road Upgrade received a joint funding commitment of \$121 million by the Australian and Queensland Governments. This duplication of the Bruce Highway north of Rockhampton will cater for increasing traffic demand for adjacent industrial, commercial and residential developments and provide amenity, access and road safety outcomes for all road users.

More information on the Rockhampton Northern Access Road can be found [here](https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/B/Bruce-Highway-Rockhampton-Northern-Access-Upgrade)  
[https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/B/Bruce-Highway-Rockhampton-Northern-Access-Upgrade].

### **Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Programme**

In May 2016, works commenced on the Gregory Highway north of Emerald to upgrade intersections and construct overtaking lanes with joint funding of \$25.5 million by the Australian and Queensland Governments, enhancing the capacity of existing roads and improving connections to freight networks.

More information on the Gregory Highway upgrades can be found [here](https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/G/Gregory-Highway-Heavy-Vehicle-Safety-and-Productivity-Programme)  
[https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/G/Gregory-Highway-Heavy-Vehicle-Safety-and-Productivity-Programme].

### **Northern Oil Advanced Biofuels Pilot Plant**

In July 2017, the \$18 million Northern Oil Advanced Biofuels Pilot Plant was opened in Gladstone. It is Australia's first biofuels pilot plant and aims to produce one million litres of fuel for use in operations by the Defence Force, heavy road transport and the agricultural and aviation sectors within three years.

More information on the Northern Oil Biofuels Plant can be found [here](http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2017/6/1/new-gladstone-plant-a-boost-for-biofuel-industry-in-queensland)  
[http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2017/6/1/new-gladstone-plant-a-boost-for-biofuel-industry-in-queensland].

### **Building our Regions Funding Program**

In July 2017, \$4.415 million in funding for the CQ Inland Port at Yamala near Emerald was committed under the Queensland Government Building our Regions Program. This will enable the development of an intermodal inland port with its own rail siding, major road upgrades and a state-of-the-art grain handling facility.

In July 2017, \$790 000 was committed to the Central Highlands Regional Floodways Program for the construction of concrete floodways at 24 sites in the Emerald region. This will provide safe crossing during wet weather.

More information on the Building our Regions funding program can be found [here](https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/regional-development/building-our-regions.html)  
[https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/regional-development/building-our-regions.html].

## **Chapter 11: Wide Bay Burnett**

### **Water resources**

#### **Moreton water plan**

See Moreton water plan under Chapter 13: South East Queensland.

## **Chapter 12: Darling Downs**

### **Infrastructure**

#### **Inland Rail**

The 1 700 kilometre long inland rail designed to connect Brisbane to Melbourne has now had the path determined and the formal process to obtain planning approval for three of the four sections in Queensland is underway.

The Queensland route between Yelarbon through to Kagaru will be a mix of both new and old lines. Construction for the network is due to start in 2021 for completion in 2024.

More information can be found [here](https://inlandrail.artc.com.au/route) [https://inlandrail.artc.com.au/route].

## **Chapter 13: South East Queensland**

### **Water resources**

#### **Great Artesian Basin water plan**

See Chapter 9: Central West and South West.

#### **Gold Coast water plan**

On 25 Nov 2016, a public notice was released postponing the expiry of the Gold Coast water plan to 14 December 2026.

#### **Logan Basin water plan**

On 25 Nov 2016, a public notice was released postponing the expiry date of the Logan Basin water plan to 14 December 2026.

#### **Moreton water plan**

On 25 November 2016, a public notice was released to postpone the expiry of the Moreton water plan to 14 December 2026.

On 29 September 2017, the Moreton water plan was amended to reflect the new water planning framework. The water plan may be viewed [here](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2007-0031) [https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2007-0031].

### **South East Queensland (SEQ) Regional Plan 2017 – ShapingSEQ**

On 11 August 2017, [ShapingSEQ - the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2017](https://dilgpprd.blob.core.windows.net/general/shapingseq.pdf) [https://dilgpprd.blob.core.windows.net/general/shapingseq.pdf] was given effect as the new regional plan for South East Queensland. ShapingSEQ replaced the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009–2031.

ShapingSEQ maps Agricultural Land (classes A and B) and Important Agricultural Areas as regionally significant natural resources to be protected from loss and fragmentation. In addition, ShapingSEQ contains policies supported by mapping to address the requirements of the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 (RPI Act). Specifically, ShapingSEQ maps Priority Agricultural Areas (PAA) throughout SEQ that capture significant contiguous clusters of Priority Agricultural Land Uses (PALU) and reflects the major agricultural activities within SEQ. Resource activities proposing to locate within a PAA, and where affecting a PALU, will require a development approval under the RPI Act. In a PAA, agriculture is the priority land use and PALU are to be protected.

ShapingSEQ continues the policy position from the former SEQ Regional Plan around the ability for local governments to propose rural precincts - defined rural areas that have undergone planning and consultation to create sustainable and economically diverse rural areas. A new guideline on the development of rural precincts is proposed to be published in 2018.

More information about ShapingSEQ can be found [here](https://planning.dilgp.qld.gov.au/planning/better-planning/state-planning/regional-plans/seqrp) [https://planning.dilgp.qld.gov.au/planning/better-planning/state-planning/regional-plans/seqrp].