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queensland™



Environmental offsets: good outcomes for biodiversity and income opportunities for landholders

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Initiative of the Queensland Government



**Queensland
Government**

Topics

- Introduction to Ecofund
- Ecofund's Vision
- Environmental Offsets
- Outcomes for biodiversity
- Opportunities for landholders
- Case Study




Introduction to Ecofund

- Initiative of the Queensland Government
- Ecofund was established to :
 - expand protected areas in Queensland
 - meet Queensland's demand for environmental and carbon offsets
 - facilitate the revegetation of degraded land
 - develop the carbon industry in Queensland
- Ecofund is an adviser, broker and educator in the carbon, renewable energy and environmental offset markets

Introduction to Ecofund



- Commenced in January 2009 with Government clients:
 - Government Departments and statutory authorities
 - Government companies, local governments and SEQ water authorities
- Ecofund was established as a Pty Ltd company on 12 March 2010
- The State is Ecofund's sole shareholder
- Services government, private sector, NGOs and households on a cost effective basis



Ecofund's vision is to expand Queensland's protected areas and national parks to 20 million hectares by 2020.

**Ecofund can assist clients with meeting all
their environmental offset needs ...**



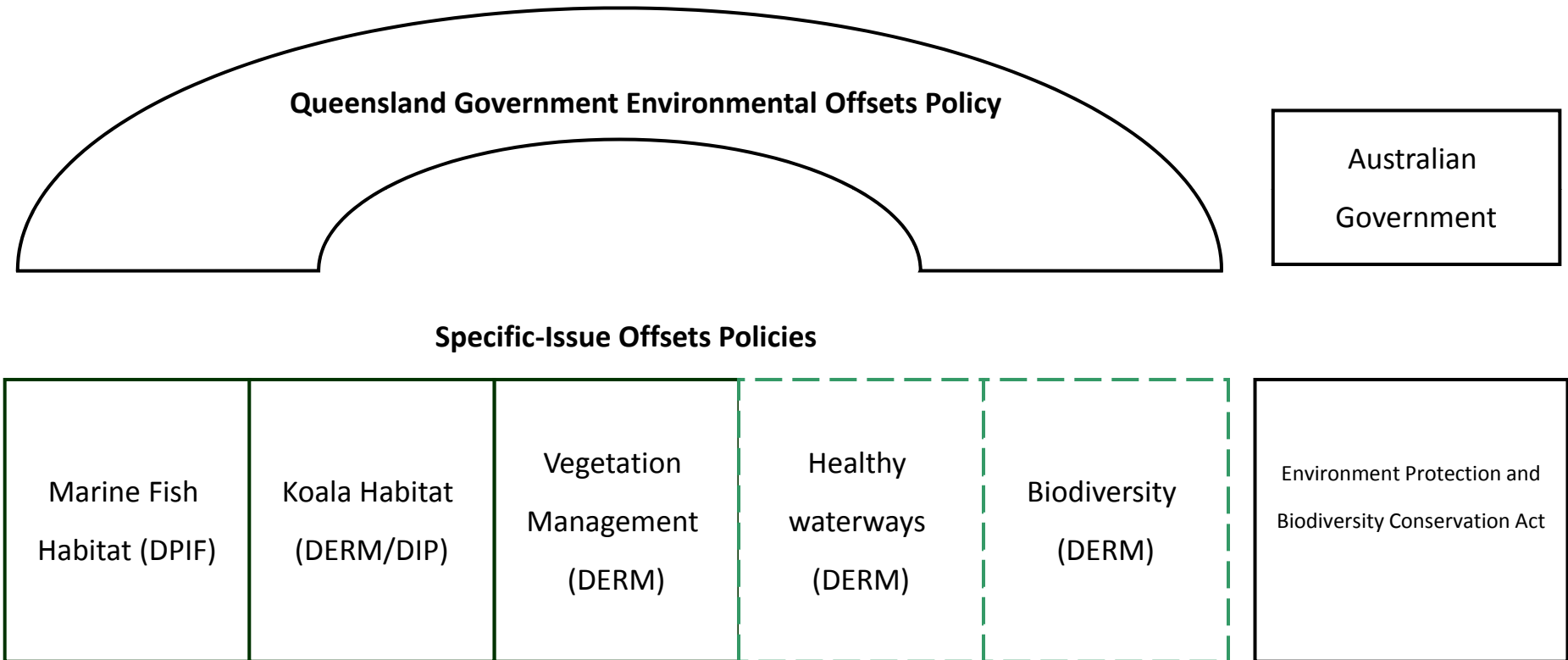
What is an Environmental Offset?



An action taken to counterbalance unavoidable, negative environmental impacts that result from an activity or a development

All reasonable attempts should be made to avoid and then minimise impacts before considering the use of offsets

Environmental offsets regulatory framework



Environmental Offsets

- To deliver environmental offsets:
 - identify suitable offset options and landholders
 - liaise with regulators to ensure compliance with offset policies
 - apply offset delivery model that includes:
 - ❖ offset establishment costs
 - ❖ ongoing offset management
 - ❖ contingency risk
 - ❖ administration costs



Offset establishment

- Land acquisition
 - Gazetted as protected area
- Conservation agreement with landholder
 - Legally secured as Nature Refuges, Covenants, Voluntary Conservation Agreements



Ongoing offset management

- Fencing
- Weed management
- Fire management
- Pest animal management
- Revegetation
- Removal of threatening processes
- Fauna and flora surveys
- Compliance monitoring and reporting



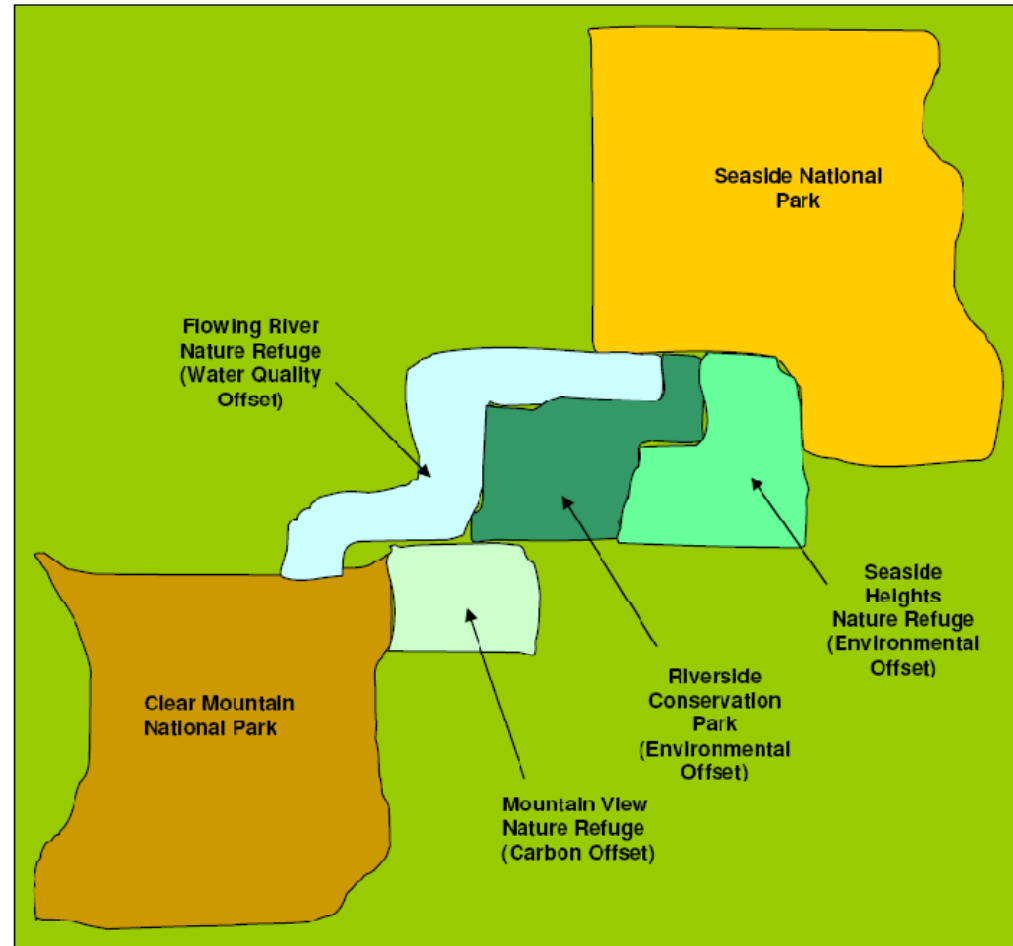
On-ground offset management

- Utilise local organisations and community groups
- Support local businesses
- Sourced materials locally
- Cost effective
- Community ownership
- Ensures funds are used to support the local community



Strategic Outcomes

Ecofund strategically locates offsets to maximise environmental benefits by creating corridors that link existing protected areas



Good outcomes for biodiversity



Biodiversity offsets

- To ensure an equivalent or better biodiversity outcomes where biodiversity values are lost to impacts from development
- To improve the long-term protection and viability of the Queensland's biodiversity
- To increase the area of habitat restored and enhanced
- To ensure development in Queensland is ecologically sustainable



Biodiversity Outcomes

- Offsets can be strategically located to add to and buffer national parks and establish biodiversity corridors throughout Queensland
- Offset projects can expand protected natural areas in Queensland to minimise the effects of climate change and to enhance biodiversity values
- Offsets result in the revegetation of cleared landscapes, the reestablishment of wildlife habitat and contribute to improvements in the water quality of Queensland's creeks and rivers



Opportunities for landholders



Offset opportunities for landholders

Landholders can benefit by:

- Financial rewards
- Income for otherwise unproductive or marginal land
- Financial assistance for land management actions such as weeding, fencing, pest control and fire management
- Extend leases under the Delbessie Agreement



Offset opportunities for landholders

- Access to resources, technical advice and support
- Recognition of your actions and achievements
- Protecting habitats for threatened species
- Securing the environmental values of your property
- Assisting in the protection of Queensland's biodiversity
- Maintaining a balance between protecting the environment and agricultural production



Land suitable for environmental offsets

- Regrowth vegetation
- Remnant vegetation
- Cleared land that contains or is connected to:
 - habitat for threatened plant and animal species
 - movement corridors for native animals, especially those linking areas of remnant vegetation or existing conservation areas
 - remnant vegetation
 - existing protected areas or national parks
 - wetlands



Becoming an offset provider

- Contact Ecofund
- Assess the potential of your land
- List your property on our register for potential offsets
- Contact you when the values on your land match an offset requirement
- Ecofund will work with you to provide the information you need to make a decision that is right for you



Case Study

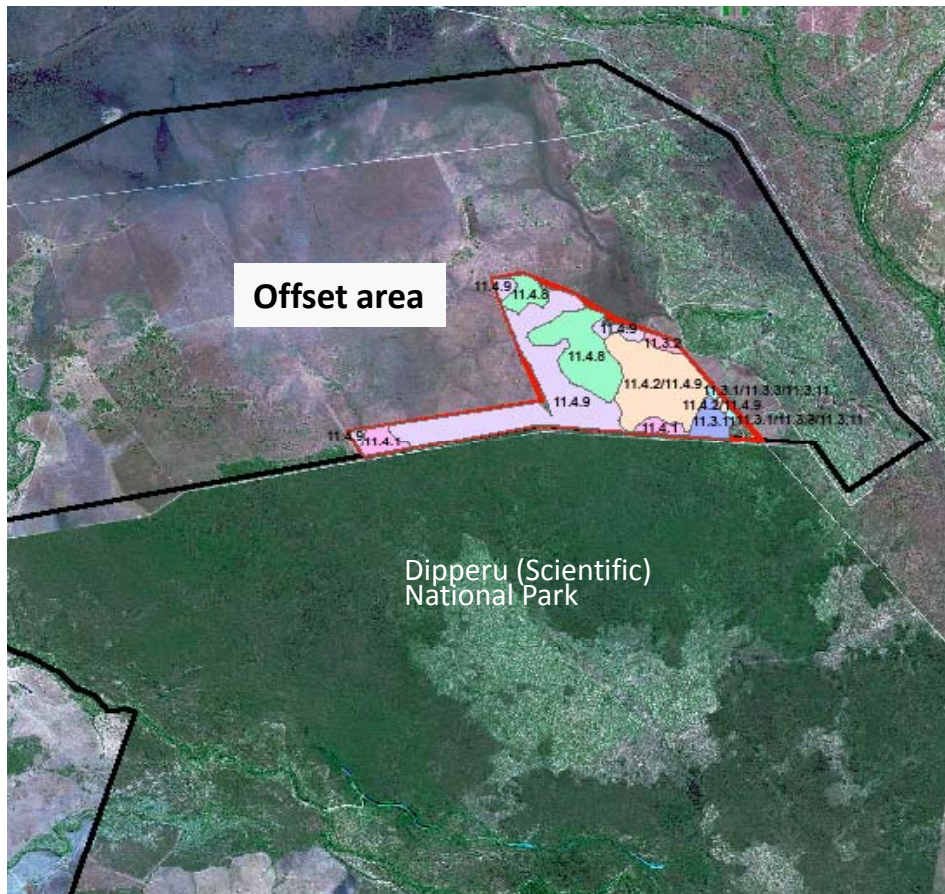


Case Study

- Approximately 220 hectares of remnant and regrowth Brigalow ecological community to be impacted by coal mine
- The Brigalow ecological community is listed as Endangered under the Australian Government's *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) Act 1999*
- Discussions with landholders centred on ecological values, landholder acceptability, cost, land management requirements, and legal issues
- After these discussions, an offer was made to a landholder
- The landholder received an up-front payment to cover access and foregone production and also receives ongoing management payments

Case Study

- approximately 770ha offset
- protects endangered Brigalow ecological community
- habitat for threatened fauna e.g. yakka skink, ornamental snake, squatter pigeon
- adjacent to existing National Park
- protected via Nature Refuge agreement with landholder



Case Study

- Ecofund developed an offset management plan for Australian Government approval
- The plan details actions to improve the environmental values of Brigalow ecological community permanently and in perpetuity
- These actions include measures for weed and Buffel grass management, managing access by livestock, fire management, feral animal control and reporting and monitoring
- The offset will be secured in perpetuity through a Nature Refuge agreement
- The management plan was approved in February 2010



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Ecofund is an innovative advisory service that specialises in the carbon offset, renewable energy and environmental offsets markets.

Ecofund is an initiative of the Queensland Government to help increase protected areas in Queensland from 8 million to 20 million hectares by 2020.

Ecofund plays a pivotal role in developing the carbon, renewable energy and environmental offset industry within Queensland.



Initiative of the Queensland Government