

Our regulatory priorities 2025-26

Our regulatory improvement activities	
Establish clear and accessible external reporting to strengthen transparency and accountability.	
Build, maintain and actively engage in partnerships with industry, stakeholders and customers, to support mutual understanding of requirements.	
Ensure regulatory actions are proportionate and minimise unnecessary burden on industry, stakeholders and customers through effective governance and oversight.	
Investigate and evaluate options for storing regulatory data across the department.	

Our strategic regulatory focus areas			
Focus area	Target industries and activities	Outcomes	Targets
Lands Division			
Vegetation Management The Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development is responsible for the implementation of the vegetation management framework in Queensland. The department utilises the Early Detection System to identify changes in vegetation cover and ensure that changes are lawful. The department received an additional \$9.8 Million in the 2023–24 State budget to be invested over four years, focussed on enhanced education and compliance, which will support restoration and the ongoing land sector contribution to emissions reduction targets. In 2025-26 the project will focus on increasing engagement with the regulated community to promote voluntary compliance with the framework	Stakeholder group: Landholders, industry groups. Activity: - Vegetation clearing. - Enhanced education and engagement. - Authorised clearing in high conservation value areas. - Restoration of native vegetation through statutory tools.	Accurate and timely information and advice is provided to our stakeholders through engagement to promote voluntary compliance with the legislative framework. Areas with high conservation value are prioritised for engagement and compliance monitoring activities. Areas of unauthorised clearing are restored wherever possible.	60 group stakeholder engagement activities attended to increase landholder awareness and voluntary compliance with the legislative framework. 40 audits of category A declared and restoration notice areas conducted to ensure restoration outcomes are achieved. 20 proactive audits of authorised clearing conducted, focussing on areas of high conservation value.

State Land - Land Risk Management and Unauthorised Use Less than 1% of Queensland is unallocated state land, which is managed by the department. The department identifies and manages risks associated with this land, including unauthorised use.	Stakeholder group: Persons accessing managed state land. Activity: Unauthorised use of managed state land.	Risks associated with the unauthorised use of managed state land are effectively addressed through compliance and enforcement activities.	1. 100 parcels of managed state land in regional and urban areas across Queensland are inspected to detect any unauthorised use. 2. 10 customer engagement activities (including awareness and training events, groups supported and partnerships.)
State Land - Tenure Management. Queensland’s state-owned land portfolio covers more than 60 per cent of the state, with most held as leasehold. The department administers over 18 000 leases on state land and regulates 29 island resorts across 25 islands in the Great Barrier Reef.	Stakeholder group: Lessees of Land Act Leases. Activity: Compliance with lease conditions. Stakeholder group: Lessees of tourism leases on Great Barrier Reef Islands. Activity: Compliance with tourism island leases.	Lessees comply with their lease conditions. The department works with lessees to leverage its regulatory expertise to ensure non-operational island resorts can return to delivering tourism outcomes for Queensland.	1. A risk-based sampling approach is applied to identify and conduct audits of 10 high risk leases. 2. Undertake targeted audits of 3 non-operational resorts on Great Barrier Reef Islands 3. All reasonable actions available under the <i>Land Act 1994</i>, are taken to address non-compliance with conditions of tourism island resort leases.
Surveying A key responsibility of the department is to maintain the integrity of the cadastre (land boundary system) which underpins Queensland’s economic development. We do this through legislation such as the <i>Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Act 2003</i> (SMI) and its regulations, by publishing the Cadastral Survey Requirements (CSR), auditing cadastral surveys for compliance with the SMI and CSR, providing advice on land boundary and tenure matters; and delivering information and education sessions to industry.	Stakeholder group: Surveyors conducting cadastral surveys within Queensland. Activity: Completion of cadastral surveys in accordance with CSR.	The integrity of the cadastre is maintained and enhanced. Surveyors are aware of current processes, procedures and legislation, and have an opportunity to provide input into changes to legislation, procedures and standards. Surveying Services has identified the highest areas of non-compliance, through risk-based audits and is addressing them by focusing on these topics in industry presentations.	1. A risk-based sampling approach is applied to identify and audit at least 150 surveys including the survey plan and field components. 2. Conduct a minimum of 10 stakeholder engagement activities to educate industry and keep them informed of any changes to legislation, procedures and standards. Activities may include presentations at conferences and webinars, distribution of Surveying Alerts (newsletters) to industry and consultation with surveying strategic and reference groups comprising industry representatives.

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Georesources Division			
Growing our awareness of the operational environment of the resource activities we regulate We regulate more effectively when we understand – the critical pathways proponents take to establish projects, and the specific challenges faced. We will continue to build awareness of the resources sector through targeted engagement and familiarisation activities.	Stakeholder group: Mining and petroleum companies operating in Queensland. Activity: - Cross-departmental and collaborative site visits to discuss complex challenges in a specific operational setting. - Other engagement activities such as industry briefings and forums.	- Continue to build strong partnerships with other departments to streamline regulatory approvals for the same projects. - Enhanced understanding of resources industry processes within relevant departmental teams.	- Four site visits - Two AHR forums - One industry forum.
Pursue ideas to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden on the resource activities we regulate aligned with the Resources Cabinet Committee priorities We are committed to improving efficiencies and findings better ways to regulate the resources sector – including simplifying approval processes where appropriate and making our regulatory framework more responsive to industry needs. We will also look for opportunities to remove barriers to investment.	Stakeholder group: Mining and petroleum companies operating in Queensland. Activity: - Develop project plans for possible streamlining initiatives for resource authority approvals. - Review likely outcomes of possible streamlining initiatives. - Seek approval for implementation of streamlining projects that have shown likely positive impacts.	- We will have streamlined some approval pathways for resource projects where shown to be useful. - There will be a reduction in regulatory burden on the resources sector. - Our regulatory framework is streamlined, consistent and enables investment.	- Embedded new and streamlined processes within assessment teams. - Faster average approval timeframes compared to previous years.
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Manufacturing, and Regional and Rural Development Division			
Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) Establishing the department's new role as the oversight and governance of QRIDA via the <i>Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994 (RRA Act)</i> . The RRA Act is currently under a targeted review which will also have implications for the RRA Regulation.	Stakeholder group: QRIDA Board and Executive, Minister's Office and other relevant state government agencies. Activity: Continue to implement the operating agreement including governance and oversight systems, processes and procedures. Ongoing regulatory amendments required to establish new QRIDA schemes of financial assistance and amend existing schemes. Ongoing meeting with government agencies with programs delivered by QRIDA via the establishment of formal consultative processes. For example, the Disaster Funding Coordination Committee convened by NRMMRRD during disasters to facilitate the administration of QRIDA delivered DRFA programs.	- The RRA Act imposes reporting requirements on QRIDA. Robust governance and reporting structures established between NRMMRRD and QRIDA that meet these requirements. - The RRA Act and Regulation are reviewed per legislative requirements and to align with the objectives of the current Government.	- Reports and plans that are required to be submitted by QRIDA are submitted within statutory timeframes with 100% compliance. - New QRIDA schemes and amendments to existing schemes approved in a timely way through required regulatory process.