

Environmental Offsets Review team
Department of Environment and Science
Sent via email only: offsetsreview@des.qld.gov.au

17 April 2019

Dear Offsets Review Team,

Submission to Review of the Queensland Biodiversity Offset Framework

We would like the Queensland Government to commit to the following changes;

1. **Clearly identified prevention methods of impacts** on our most vulnerable environmental values, with the ultimate outcome of making the offset unnecessary;
2. Assessment procedures ensuring that impacts can be offset **PRIOR** to a decision being made on whether to approve a project, and if it can't the project should be declined;
3. **Scientifically valid ratios for offsets** required to be provided, such as those described by Associate Professor Martine Maron, Megan Evans and Professor Hugh Possingham.¹
4. Instead of 'no net loss', or 'net gain', we need a framework that leads to losses being **counteracted with quantifiable increases in the percentage of the species impacted**;
5. **Removal of exemptions from the offset framework** such as those which have resulted in extensive tree clearing and urban development across Queensland being allowed and the species impacts not requiring an offset;
6. **Better accountability, transparency, security and enforceability of offsets are required**, ensuring effectively delivery;
7. The Department of Environment and Science needs to be given **concurrence agency power for all decisions involving assessment of proposed environmental impacts and offsets where state assessment is triggered**.

Regarding the Offsets register, we would like to see it upgraded to a comprehensive database with mapping included to assist with transparency and ease of access.

We look forward to the government making these changes to increase protection of our valuable environmental values.

Sincerely,

Sherie Jeanette Bruce

Sherie Bruce
Acting Coordinator
Capricorn Conservation Council

¹ <https://cbcs.centre.uq.edu.au/project/supporting-development-decisions-offsets-calculator>