

Biodiversity Program

1. Program Scope

The Biodiversity Management Program for The University of Queensland covers:

- Management of Native and Non Native Birds
- Management of Possums
- Management of Weeds.

2. Objectives

Environment Australia describes biodiversity as “the variety of all life forms: the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, their genes and the ecosystems of which they are apart”.

The National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia’s Biological Diversity provides the framework for protecting Australia’s Biodiversity. The Strategy’s stated aim is: “to bridge the gap between current activities and those measures necessary to ensure the effective identification, conservation and ecologically sustainable use of Australia’s biological diversity”.

The University of Queensland’s Biodiversity Program aims to provide a set of procedures which will effectively address biodiversity issues on University campuses and sites. Within this policy statement, the University of Queensland will:

- Identify key biodiversity issues requiring control measures.
- Develop and implement strategies to manage the impacts of biodiversity issues that are ecologically sustainable, financially rewarding and technically feasible in accordance with The University of Queensland’s Environmental Policy;
- Ensure compliance with environmental legislation through monitoring processes as appropriate; and
- Implement biodiversity management procedures, subject to available resources.

3. Biodiversity Management Program

3.1 Ecologically Sustainable Principles

Ecologically sustainable principles aim at allowing development and activities of an organisation such as the University whilst conserving resources such that the ecological processes and environment, are maintained to meet the needs of future generations. The principles used by The University of Queensland are discussed below.

3.1.1 Biodiversity

Fauna and flora shall be managed and maintained in a way to enhance the diversity of favoured species and eradication of weeds and pests (if it can be done without negative impact on the ecosystem).

3.1.2 Community Participation

The Sustainability Steering Committee represents stakeholders in order to enhance the environmental decision-making process including biodiversity management issues.

3.2 *Biodiversity Management Strategies*

3.2.1 Strategies

- Identify all processes that are threatening and/or reducing biodiversity (such as feral weeds and animals)
- Increase biodiversity over the long term by targeting and reducing those species and processes identified as responsible for reducing biodiversity.
- Protect and manage native flora and fauna through revegetation practices.
- When required, remove species threatening biodiversity in a humane way.

3.2.2 Application

The following is a list of current procedures:

- Management of native and non native birds
- Management of possums
- Management of weeds

3.3 *Legislation*

Permits may be required to relocate wildlife or guidelines may be available on the management of biodiversity issues. Information may be obtained from:

- Nature Conservation Act 1992
- Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000
- National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity
- Environment Australia
- National Parks and Wildlife
- RSPCA

3.4 *Audits and Monitoring*

Audits and monitoring programs will be set as required.

It is the responsibility of the Sustainability Manager of the Property and Facilities Division to set up audit and monitoring programs on the University campuses.

4. Training

It is the responsibility of the Heads of Schools and Centres, Managers of Farms and Research Stations and other Senior Officers to ensure that their personnel are adequately trained in environmental management issues.

Refer to the training program for further information.

5. Budget

It is the responsibility of the Property and Facilities Division to allocate the necessary resources to the Biodiversity management program on a yearly basis.

6. Records

All documents issued with respect to biodiversity are held by the Property and Facilities Division and/or farm and research stations as appropriate. The term documents for the purpose of the biodiversity program includes the following:

- Contracts;
- Operational Procedures;
- Checklists;
- Notes;
- Letters;
- Memoranda;
- Invoices; and
- Reports.