

Natural Resources Compliance Framework– Queensland 2016-19

The Queensland Government is committed to the responsible and sustainable management of Queensland's natural resources - water, land, minerals and energy - for the benefit of current and future generations of Queenslanders.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) administers a wide variety of legislation that governs access to, and use of, Queensland's natural resources. The legislation requires DNRM to have effective mechanisms to meet its regulatory requirements and also monitor and respond to identified risks to Queensland's natural resources and respond accordingly.

This document sets out the framework to guide the delivery of consistent and professional compliance activities in relation to the management of our natural resources, including land and property services.

For the purposes of this framework 'natural resources' refers to land use, vegetation management, water use, state valuations, land and spatial information services and titles registry.

Natural resource legislation

The following Acts are relevant to the compliance of natural resources in Queensland, and are administered by DNRM. For more information on these Acts visit the Office of Queensland Parliamentary Counsel website (<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au>).

- *Aboriginal Land Act 1991*
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013*
- *Biosecurity Act 2014*
- *Electronic Conveyancing National Law (Queensland) Act 2013*
- *Forestry Act 1959*
- *Land Act 1994*
- *Land Title Act 1994*
- *Land Valuation Act 2010*
- *Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993*
- *Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991*
- *Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Act 2003*
- *Soil Conservation Act 1986*
- *Stock Route Management Act 2002*
- *Sustainable Planning Act 2009/Planning Act 2016*
- *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*
- *Vegetation Management Act 1999*
- *Valuers Registration Act 1992*
- *Water Act 2000*

The compliance framework

The compliance approach is proactive, focusing on early intervention, and applying a rigorous framework to address non-compliance matters transparently.

The compliance framework provides a common set of principles for how natural resources compliance functions will be undertaken by DNRM. It also sets out our commitment for how this will be delivered across the different areas of business.

The framework's key components drive DNRM's commitment to:

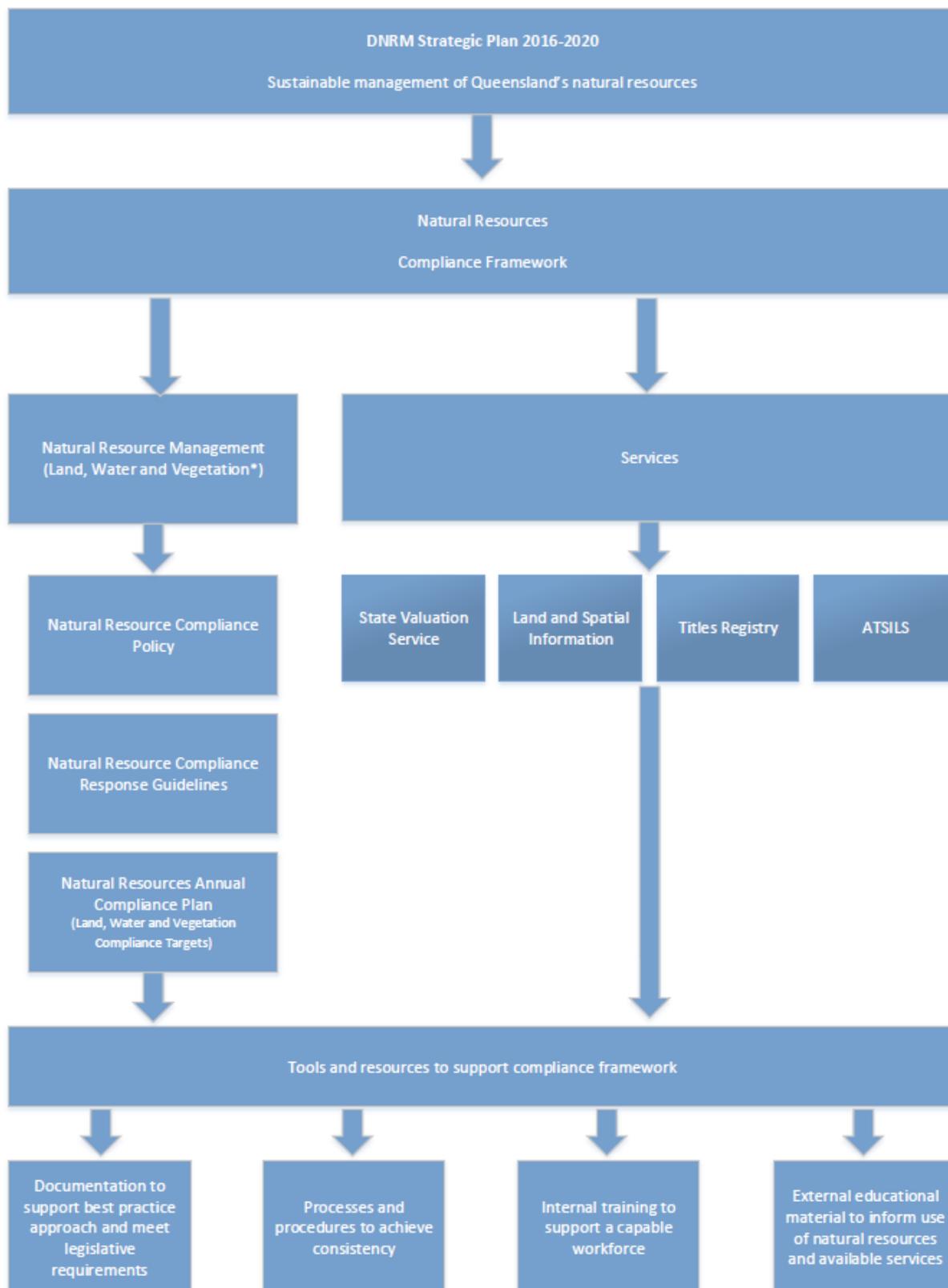
- Encourage responsible behaviour
- Proactively manage and monitor the sustainable management of Queensland's natural resources
- Respond to risks and impacts to Queensland's natural resources.

Delivering the compliance framework

The compliance framework is supported by a number of tools that assist with the management of risks to natural resources; as well decision making in relation to responding to those risks and the delivery of services.

All of the tools work together to set the compliance direction and approach under the framework.

Figure 1 – Natural Resources compliance framework



*Under the following Acts and associated regulations: *Land Act 1994, Water Act 2000, Vegetation Management Act 1999, Planning Act 2016.*

Land Services are delivered by Titles Registry, State Valuations, Land and Spatial Information and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Services. They provide accurate and timely services to the State of Queensland.

Natural Resources Management deliver a responsive workforce for the sustainable management of Queensland's natural resources. They do so proactively, consistently and effectively when addressing identified risks and taking appropriate action.

Principles

The following principles strengthen and inform the delivery of quality front line services, in the sustainable management of our state's natural resources, to maintain public confidence.

Consistency	A consistent approach in responding to incidents of alleged non-compliance will provide certainty to businesses and individuals. Not all decisions will be the same, however a similar approach in similar circumstances will be undertaken to achieve similar ends.
Transparency	Businesses and individuals will be informed of expectations and how the department will behave as a regulator. Non-compliance will be managed in an open and transparent manner, unless constrained by legislative requirements.
Accountability	Compliance decisions and actions will be explained.
Defensibility	Legal principles relevant to matters of alleged non-compliance will be adequately communicated and demonstrated.
Proportionality	Enforcement activities will be proportionate to the level of risk and the seriousness of the non-compliance.
Timeliness	Compliance responses will be actioned in accordance with established service standards and performance measures and statutory timeframes to achieve effective outcomes.
Procedural Fairness	Impartiality, balance and integrity will be demonstrated at all times. Established principles of natural justice will be applied when making compliance decisions.
Public Interest	Acting in the interest of the public
Safety and Wellbeing	Safety and wellbeing of all persons involved in compliance matters is held as a primary consideration.

More information

- Visit www.dnrm.qld.gov.au or call 13QGOV