

# Information sheet

## Assessing environmental offset obligations *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*

### Exemptions – where offsets cannot be required

*An environmental offset can only be conditioned for a prescribed environmental matter. Schedule 2 of the Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014 lists all matters of state environmental significance (MSES) that are prescribed environmental matters. Section 5(3) of the Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014 lists MSES that are not prescribed environmental matters to the extent the MSES is in an urban area. This information sheet provides a reference table of all MSES that are prescribed environmental matters, and details which MSES are prescribed environmental matters in urban areas and non-urban areas.*

Note that the State Planning Policy refers to MSES and requires that all impacts to these MSES are avoided and mitigated. However, not all MSES listed in the State Planning Policy are prescribed environmental matters under the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.

The following values are MSES in the State Planning Policy but are not prescribed environmental matters under the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*:

- Category C (high-value regrowth) areas on the regulated vegetation management map that are endangered and of concern regional ecosystems;
- Category R (watercourse and drainage feature regrowth) areas on the regulated vegetation management map;
- Category A, C and R areas on the regulated vegetation management map that intersect a wetland on the vegetation management wetlands map;
- Category A, C and R areas on the regulated vegetation management map that are located within a defined distance from the defining banks of a relevant watercourse identified on the vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map.

Matters of State Environmental Significance (Schedule 2 <i>Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014</i> )		Prescribed environmental matter in urban areas?	Prescribed environmental matter non-urban areas?
1	Endangered regional ecosystems	Y	Y
2	Of concern regional ecosystems	N	Y
3	Prescribed regional ecosystems <sup>1</sup>	N	Y
4		N	Y
5		N	Y
6		N	Y
7	A wetland in a wetland protection area	Y	Y
8	A wetland of high ecological significance (HES) on the map of referable wetlands	Y	Y
9	A wetland or watercourse in high ecological value (HEV) waters	Y	Y
10	A designated precinct in a strategic environmental area	N	Y
11	An area that is a "high risk area" on the flora survey trigger map and that contains plants that are endangered or vulnerable	Y	Y
12	An area that is not a "high risk area" on the flora survey trigger map to the extent the area contains plants that are endangered or vulnerable	Y	Y
13	A koala habitat area	Y	Y
14	Habitat for an animal that is endangered or vulnerable wildlife or a special least concern animal	Y	Y
15	Protected areas	Y	Y
16	Highly protected zones of State marine parks	Y	Y
17	Fish habitat areas	Y	Y
18	Waterway providing for fish passage	N	Y

<sup>1</sup> Prescribed regional ecosystems are regional ecosystems that are mapped as category B - remnant vegetation on the vegetation management map, other than regional ecosystems mentioned in schedule 5 of the *Vegetation Management Regulation 2012* (certain grassland regional ecosystems).

Matters of State Environmental Significance (Schedule 2 <i>Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014</i> )		Prescribed environmental matter in urban areas?	Prescribed environmental matter non-urban areas?
19	Marine plants	N	Y
20	Legally secured offset areas	Y	Y

**Approved by:**

Erin Fentiman

Signature

A/Director,  
Conservation Policy and Planning  
Department of Environment and Science

14<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Date

**Enquiries:**  
Offsets Policy Team  
Department of Environment and Science  
Email: [offsets@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:offsets@des.qld.gov.au)

**Version history**

Version	Effective date	Description of changes
1.02	14 February 2020	Consequential amendments resulting from the <i>Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Koala Protection) Amendment Regulation 2020</i>
1.01	10 December 2018	Changed name of information sheet to better reflect content and added clarification that MSES are listed in the SPP and not all of MSES are prescribed environmental matters.
1.00	27 June 2018	Original version approved.