Environmental offsets

November 2026

Environmental offsets under the EPBC Act

Environmental offsets compensate for significant environmental impacts that remain after reasonable measures to avoid and reduce them have been applied.

They do not reduce the impacts themselves or replace the need to avoid and minimise impacts first.

What did the Draft Public Environment Report find?

The Draft Public Environment Report (PER) identifies significant impacts likely to remain on 3 threatened ecological communities, 3 threatened plant species and 6 threatened wildlife species after measures to avoid and reduce them. These impacts are outlined in the Matters of National Environmental Significance fact sheet.

Offsets are required for these remaining significant impacts. The proposed offset package includes land-based offsets and targeted research. It will be assessed through the Australian Government's process under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). Offsets are not proposed where impacts are not significant or can be adequately avoided or reduced.

How offsets will be developed

Avoiding and reducing impacts first

Offsets are the final step in the project's approach to managing environmental impacts.

The project will:

- avoid environmental impacts wherever reasonably possible.
- minimise and manage impacts that cannot be avoided.

Rehabilitating temporary work areas

Rehabilitation will be tailored to each location, its condition before construction and its intended long-term use. Measures include:

- progressively stabilising and rehabilitating areas once they are no longer needed for construction
- reinstating the shape of the land and drainage, and using planting, natural regrowth, waterway bank restoration or habitat features where appropriate
- using locally appropriate native species and managing soil, weeds and disease-causing organisms
- monitoring vegetation cover, ground stability, native plant condition and new growth, weeds and diseases, and how habitat is functioning, with further work where required.

Providing long-term conservation benefits

Proposed offsets will be tailored to the affected ecological community or species and the type of impact. The approach includes:

- prioritising land-based offsets where suitable sites can protect or improve relevant habitat

- considering research or other compensatory measures where these can provide a stronger conservation outcome and are accepted through the EPBC Act assessment process
- setting measurable targets, monitoring and reporting requirements, and actions to take if measures are not achieving the intended results
- providing long-term protection and management so conservation benefits are lasting and additional to what would otherwise occur.

What happens next

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is committed to securing an offset package that meets all the project's offset requirements.

The combination of offset sites and other compensatory measures will be refined and secured through the EPBC Act assessment process, in accordance with the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy and any conditions of approval.

Find out more

Read The Wave – Stages 1 and 2 (Rail) Draft PER for the detailed findings and proposed environmental management measures.

Stay up to date

Search for 'The Wave' at www.tmr.qld.gov.au

Email us at thewaverail@tmr.qld.gov.au

Call us on 1800 407 533

(9am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday)

Write to us at PO Box 5043, Maroochydore BC, QLD 4558

For more information, **scan the QR code.**

www.tmr.qld.gov.au/thewaverail