# Queensland Environmental Offsets Framework

**Direct Benefit Management Plan Checklist**

Note: This checklist is designed to assist proponents and technical officers in determining whether or not a proposed Direct Benefit Management Plan (DBMP) provides actions sufficient to counterbalance the impacts of future prescribed activities on prescribed environmental matters; and the management actions are best achieved through actions in a DBMP.

**Table 1 – Requirements for DBMPs**

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| **Requirements for DBMP** | **Yes** | **No** | **Not applicable** |
| Does the DBMP list the *prescribed environmental matters* the DBMP will offset? Note, where the DBMP is for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), have the relevant actions applying to MNES been endorsed by the Commonwealth? |[ ] [ ] [x]
| Does the DBMP identify the current status of the prescribed matters and their presence in the area? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the DBMP list the main factors contributing to the decline of the prescribed matter/s in the area and extent of impact on the prescribed matter/s with the DBMP area? Note, the DBMP should identify:* What are the key threats?
* How significant/extensive are these threats?
* List the major threats in priority order.
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the DBMP list the range of actions that will be undertaken to address the key threat/s on the prescribed matter? * Have all available actions been identified and considered?
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the DBMP provide a map (preferably digital) that clearly identifies the area to which the DBMP applies with Global Positioning System (GPS) points, including any areas subject to specific management measures? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the DBMP demonstrate how it will achieve a *conservation outcome* for the *prescribed environmental matter*? Note, things to consider:* What are the proposed management objectives and outcomes for the DBMP?
* What measures will be undertaken to achieve the management objectives and outcomes?
* What performance criteria will the actions be measured against?
* Are any restrictions proposed to be imposed on the use of the area to achieve the management objectives and outcomes?
* What is the hierarchy/prioritisation for the management measures?
* Are multiple actions that need to occur at the same time clearly outlined?
* Does the DBMP provide detail descriptions of the activities, methods, timeframes and standards to be applied or reference documents outlining these details?
 |[ ] [x] [ ]

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| **Requirements for DBMP** | **Yes** | **No** | **Not applicable** |
| Does the DBMP focus on the priority actions required to improve the viability of the matter? Note: Priority actions are those actions that address key threats to the prescribed matter, not just any threat.Examples include:* How do the proposed management actions improve the viability of the *prescribed environmental matter* compared to other options that could be undertaken to address key threats?
* Why are the proposed management actions better than other options available? Will use of the DBMP achieve a better *conservation outcome* than a traditional land-based offset?
* Are the actions undertaken in the most strategic location, for example in a Strategic Offset Investment Corridor or strategic areas within the marine environment where the best outcome for the matter can be achieved?
* Will there be multiple benefits to implementing the actions in the DBMP, e.g. for other non-target matters?
* Will the actions build on existing measures and capacity in the area covered by the DBMP?
* Are priority areas for the offsets identified and justified?
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the DBMP list and validate evidence (i.e. scientific, methodology, research) that demonstrates a *conservation outcome* will be achieved by the priority actions in the DBMP? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Are the proposed actions in the DBMP additional to existing activities and measures being undertaken for that matter? This includes over and above existing: * management activities that are already occurring for that matter;
* requirements of laws and conditions relating to the matter; and
* requirement of funding agreements for that matter;
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Is the DBMP inconsistent with the legislation under which the prescribed environmental matter administered for example *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, *Marine Park Act 2004* and *Fisheries Act 1994*? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the DBMP provide an analysis of the risks associated with achieving a conservation outcome for the prescribed environmental matter? Consider:* What is the level of risk associated with achieving the management objectives and outcomes?
* What actions are proposed to minimise the risks and remedial actions that will be undertaken if any of the risks occur?
* Will existing permitted or proposed use of the area, or the zoning for the area, for activities other than offsets under the DBMP, affect the achievement of a conservation outcome?
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the DBMP include indicative costing of the management actions included in the DBMP? * Provide supporting evidence and basis for the costings.
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the DBMP deliver actions that are efficient, effective, timely, transparent, and scientifically robust, ensuring transparency in governance arrangements—including being able to be readily measured, monitored, audited, and enforced? |[ ] [ ] [ ]

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| **Requirements for DBMP** | **Yes** | **No** | **Not applicable** |
| Is legal security required to meet the objectives of the DBMP? What justification is provided for not using legal security (if applicable)? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Where legal security is required, has the DBMP provided guidance on suitable legal security options for the duration of the impact on the prescribed environmental matter? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Has any part of the proposed method of the DBMP been patented or has patent pending?* Are there any relevant patent applications existing or proposed to be made?
* What part (e.g. process, method) is proposed to be patented?
* If yes, how will copies be made available?
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]

**Table 2 – DBMPs – indirect action requirements**

| **Requirements for indirect actions included in a DBMP** |
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| **Indirect action requirements**  | **Yes** | **No** | **Not applicable** |
| Does the DBMP include indirect actions?* Examples of ‘indirect actions’ include signage in key areas to educate the public regarding the risks to a threatened or migratory species, where it can be demonstrated that this is likely to improve the viability of the species; or research into effective re-vegetation techniques for a threatened ecological community or regional ecosystem.
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Do indirect actions make up greater than 10% of the proposed DBMP? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Note if the answer above is yes, then does the DBMP provide sufficient justification for research or education being greater than 10%?  |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the DBMP include evidence that the research or education component proposed under the DBMP will: * improve the viability of the impacted *prescribed environmental matters;*
* target key research/education activities as identified in ‘back on track’ actions for biodiversity or relevant Commonwealth approved recovery plan and threat abatement plan;
* be undertaken in a transparent, scientifically robust and timely manner;
* be prepared or has been prepared by a qualified individual or organisation in a suitable manner; and
* consider best practice research approaches?
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Has the research program been tailored to at least a postgraduate education level?* Note: there will be scope to engage other educational levels in educational programs.
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Will the research program present findings that can be peer-reviewed? |[ ] [ ] [ ]

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| **Requirements for indirect actions included in a DBMP** |
| **Indirect action requirements**  | **Yes** | **No** | **Not applicable** |
| Will the research program findings be published in an internationally recognised peer-reviewed scientific journal or be of a standard that would be acceptable for publication in such a journal?* Publications should be submitted to free, open access journals.
* Data and information collected should have creative commons licensing and be free and accessible.
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Will the research program’s outputs inform future management decisions on the *prescribed environmental matters* and, where possible, be readily applicable to other similar matters (e.g. species groupings)? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Will the education program be likely to vary in scope, mode of delivery and duration according to the target audience and the *prescribed environmental matters* (for instance, school or community programs, signage or printed materials)? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Will the education program seek to attain measurable outcomes? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the education program demonstrate to a reasonable extent how it will assist to counterbalance a significant residual impact of the prescribed activity on the *prescribed environmental matters*? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Will the education program be targeted toward behavioural change and subsequent improvement in the viability of the *prescribed environmental matters*?  |[ ] [ ] [ ]

**Table 3 – DBMPs – Endorsements**

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| **DBMP endorsements** | **Yes** | **No** | **Not applicable** |
| Have relevant owners of the land subject to the DBMP endorsed the DBMP (where relevant)?  |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Has the administering agency responsible for listing/declaring and protecting the matter covered by the DBMP endorsed use of the DBMP? |[ ] [ ] [ ]