

# New England Tableland Biodiversity Planning Assessment (BPA) Version 3.1

## INFORMATION SHEET

The Queensland Government has completed a Biodiversity Planning Assessment (BPA) for the New England Tableland (NET) bioregion using the Biodiversity Assessment and Mapping Methodology (BAMM). This assessment is an update of the previous version (V2.3) which was released in May 2006.

The New England Tableland bioregion covers approximately 7,748 km<sup>2</sup> (0.4% of QLD), extending north from the Queensland/New South Wales border capturing the major towns of Stanthorpe and Texas in the south, and sharing the remaining border with the Brigalow Belt bioregion. The bioregion contains two national parks, Girraween and Sundown. There are twelve State forests including Durikai and Passchendaele. There are 24 nature refuges in the bioregion. NET's landscape has a high level of clearing and fragmentation.

Overall, 84 per cent (281,680 ha) of vegetation in the NET bioregion was found to have biodiversity values of State significance of which 10 per cent (32,239 ha) is State habitat for threatened taxa. Regional significance was attributed to 15 per cent (49,562 ha), with the remaining 1 per cent of remnant vegetation being assigned Local or Other Values.

The expert panel attributed 79 per cent (264,105 ha) of the NET bioregion with biodiversity values of State significance due to the presence of important refugia, areas of high species richness, concentrations of endemic and disjunct species, and unique ecosystems.

A contributing factor for the high overall assignment of areas of State significance, is due to extensive historical clearing and fragmentation, elevating the importance of remaining intact areas of vegetation.

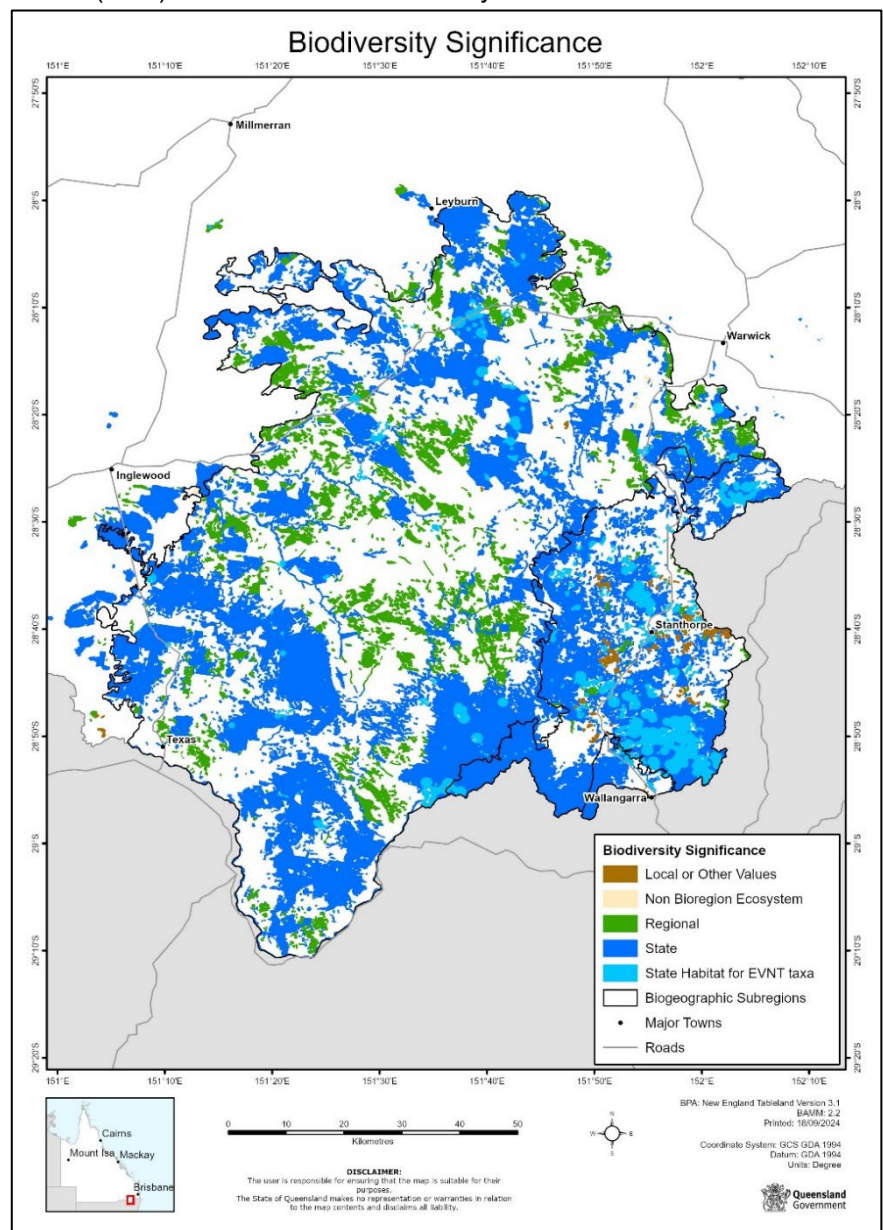


Figure 1 NET BPA

## What is BAMM?

The Biodiversity Assessment and Mapping Methodology (BAMM) has been developed to provide a consistent approach for assessing biodiversity values at the landscape scale in Queensland. It is being used by the Queensland Government to generate a Biodiversity Planning Assessment (BPA) for each of Queensland's bioregions.

The methodology (Figure 2) has application for identifying areas having various levels of overall significance based solely on assessed biodiversity values. These can include threatened ecosystems or species, large tracts of habitat in good condition, ecosystem diversity, landscape context and connection, and buffers to wetlands or other types of habitat which are important for the maintenance of biodiversity or ecological processes.

The methodology:

- provides a consistent approach for assessing relative biodiversity values at the landscape scale
- presents raw and synthesised spatial information about biodiversity to a broad range of potential users
- aims to optimise the use of existing data and information
- uses existing Regional Ecosystem (vegetation) mapping created by the Qld Herbarium
- generates BPAs for each bioregion.

## BPA applications

A BPA is the result of applying BAMM to a particular bioregion. A BPA can be used by DETSI staff, other government departments, local governments, NRM bodies or members of the community to advise a range of planning and decision-making processes. For example:

- Matters of State Environmental Significance (MSES)
- determining priorities for protection, regulation, or rehabilitation of terrestrial ecosystems
- development assessment
- local and regional planning processes contributing to impact assessment of large-scale development.

## Assessments conducted to date

BAMM was initially developed in 2002 and since this time, has been used to assess biodiversity values of all Queensland bioregions (Figure 3).

## Accessing BPA results

- Assessment of biodiversity values at the bioregional scale
  - <http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/biodiversity/planning/>
- Search for “biodiversity planning assessment” at QSpatial.
  - <http://qldspatial.information.qld.gov.au>
- BPA results can be viewed through the Queensland Globe.
  - <https://qldglobe.information.qld.gov.au/>
- The results are also available through Biomaps
  - <https://apps.information.qld.gov.au/Storymaps/Biomaps/>

Email [biodiversity.planning@qld.gov.au](mailto:biodiversity.planning@qld.gov.au) for further queries.

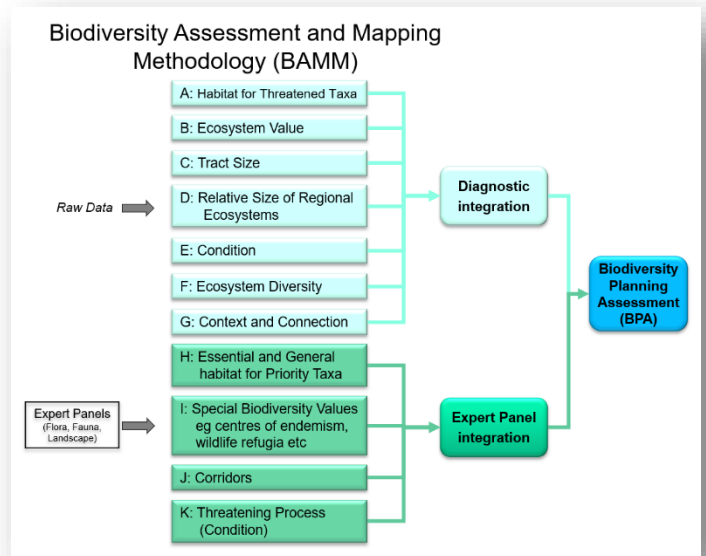


Figure 2 BAMM

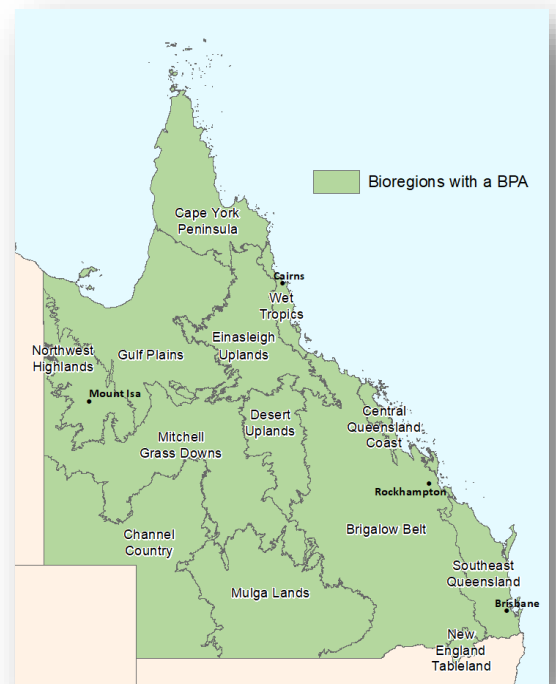


Figure 3 BPA assessment and release status