



Fauna

Protected and threatened animals, habitat, breeding places and movement.

How to use this handbook

This volume is the practitioner (site and technical) reference for the Fauna factor. It sets out what Fauna governs, every assessment element with its own process and controls, the Queensland and Commonwealth instruments that apply, and the primary metric for each element. It is decision support, not legal advice or a substitute for a site-specific assessment — confirm every regulatory point against the current instrument and, where a threshold is close or a critical exception applies, obtain specialist and legal review.

FIELD	DETAIL
Volume	04 of 17 — Environmental Knowledge Handbooks
Factor	Fauna
Jurisdiction	Queensland, Australia
Edition	2026 · current at issue
Prepared by	QTEN — Queensland Technical Excellence Network
Review	SME, spatial and legal review before reliance

Executive overview

Fauna values shape survey requirements, clearing conditions and offset liability, and carry species-specific legal duties. In Queensland the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and its animal regulations protect wildlife, breeding places and, for some species, essential habitat; significant impacts engage the Environmental Offsets Act 2014 and the Commonwealth EPBC Act 1999. The site-manager task is to establish species presence and breeding places through adequate survey, sequence clearing to protect fauna, and manage interactions — spotter-catchers, exclusion, relocation — with the right authorisations and records.

Scope

Fauna resolves into four secondary factors — Fauna Values and Status; Fauna Habitat and Movement; Fauna Pressures and Impacts; Fauna Management and Monitoring — and twenty assessment elements. Every element is set out below with its own process and controls and its primary decision metric; identifiers are shared with the companion Knowledge System workbook and the platform calculators.

Assessment elements & process

Each assessment element below carries what it governs and its key pressures, the appropriate site process and controls, and the primary metric that measures it. Work every element that your project engages.

ASSESSMENT ELEMENT	WHAT IT GOVERNS & KEY PRESSURES	PROCESS & CONTROLS
Fauna Diversity and Assemblages <i>Fauna assemblage condition index</i>	Fauna diversity and assemblage condition. Pressures: habitat loss, degradation, disturbance.	Survey assemblages; baseline condition; avoid high-value habitat; manage disturbance; monitor against the index.
Threatened and Special Least Concern Fauna <i>Protected fauna impact significance</i>	Threatened and special-least-concern fauna and impact significance. Pressures: habitat loss, disturbance, mortality.	Targeted survey; assess significance; avoid and buffer; obtain approvals; offset significant residual impact.

ASSESSMENT ELEMENT	WHAT IT GOVERNS & KEY PRESSURES	PROCESS & CONTROLS
Migratory and Marine Fauna <i>Migratory and marine fauna interaction risk</i>	Migratory and marine fauna interaction risk. Pressures: barriers, vessel and infrastructure interaction, disturbance.	Identify migratory/marine species and timing; manage interactions and timing; monitor and report interactions.
Endemic and Range-restricted Fauna <i>Range-loss exposure</i>	Endemic and range-restricted fauna exposure to range loss. Pressures: habitat loss within a small range.	Identify range-restricted species; avoid critical habitat; minimise range loss; offset where unavoidable.
Culturally Significant Fauna <i>Cultural fauna value impact status</i>	Culturally significant fauna and value impacts. Pressures: disturbance, loss of access, harm to valued species.	Engage Traditional Owners and stakeholders; identify values; avoid and manage impacts; agree management measures.
Fauna Habitat Requirements <i>Suitable habitat retained</i>	Fauna habitat requirements and suitable habitat retained. Pressures: clearing, degradation, loss of resources.	Map habitat elements; retain and buffer suitable habitat; sequence clearing; provide replacement resources.
Breeding, Roosting and Refuge Sites <i>Critical site disturbance risk</i>	Breeding, roosting and refuge sites. Pressures: clearing during breeding, disturbance of roosts, loss of hollows.	Pre-clearing breeding-place survey; apply seasonal timing; retain or replace sites; clear under authority and supervision.
Foraging Resources <i>Foraging resource availability</i>	Foraging resources availability. Pressures: loss of food trees, altered resources.	Identify key foraging resources; retain and buffer; stage clearing to maintain resources; monitor availability.
Movement Corridors and Connectivity <i>Fauna movement permeability</i>	Fauna movement corridors and permeability. Pressures: barriers, roads, fencing, lighting.	Assess movement pathways; apply fauna-sensitive design, crossings and fencing; manage lighting; monitor crossing use.
Aquatic Fauna Passage <i>Aquatic passage compliance</i>	Aquatic fauna passage. Pressures: barriers, culverts, altered flow.	Assess passage requirements; design fish-passable structures; maintain flow; verify passage compliance.
Habitat Loss and Fragmentation <i>Residual fauna habitat loss</i>	Residual fauna habitat loss and fragmentation. Pressures: clearing, dissection.	Apply the mitigation hierarchy; quantify residual loss; consolidate footprint; offset significant residual impact.
Vehicle and Infrastructure Strike <i>Fauna strike rate</i>	Vehicle and infrastructure strike risk. Pressures: roads, traffic, structures, lighting.	Assess strike risk; apply fencing, crossings, speed and lighting controls; monitor and report strike rate.
Noise, Vibration, Light and Disturbance <i>Disturbance exposure index</i>	Disturbance from noise, vibration, light and human presence. Pressures: construction, operations, lighting.	Assess disturbance exposure; apply timing, buffers, shielding and lighting controls; monitor sensitive species.
Fire, Drought and Climate Stress <i>Climate and fire vulnerability score</i>	Vulnerability to fire, drought and climate stress. Pressures: altered fire regime, drought, heat.	Assess climate and fire vulnerability; manage fire and refuge habitat; provide resilience measures.
Invasive Predators, Disease and Biosecurity <i>Invasive predator and disease risk</i>	Invasive predators, disease and biosecurity risk to fauna. Pressures: predators, pathogens, spread via works.	Manage predators and disease pathways; apply hygiene; monitor incursions; respond to detections.
Fauna Survey and Detection <i>Survey adequacy and detection confidence</i>	Fauna survey adequacy and detection confidence. Pressures: inadequate effort, wrong season.	Design survey to guideline effort and season; use suitable methods; document effort and detection confidence.
Fauna Handling, Ethics and Welfare <i>Animal welfare compliance</i>	Fauna handling ethics and welfare. Pressures: stress, injury, non-compliant handling.	Handle only under authority by competent persons; follow welfare protocols; record handling and outcomes.

ASSESSMENT ELEMENT	WHAT IT GOVERNS & KEY PRESSURES	PROCESS & CONTROLS
Pre-clearance and Fauna Spotter Catcher Management <i>Pre-clearance control compliance</i>	Pre-clearance and fauna spotter-catcher management. Pressures: clearing without checks, fauna injury.	Run pre-clearance and spotter-catcher process; sequence and supervise clearing; relocate under authority; record compliance.
Species Management and Recovery Actions <i>Recovery action delivery and outcome</i>	Species management and recovery actions. Pressures: ongoing decline, unmanaged impacts.	Deliver species-management and recovery actions; track delivery and outcomes; adjust to achieve recovery.
Fauna Monitoring and Adaptive Management <i>Monitoring coverage and trigger response</i>	Fauna monitoring and adaptive management. Pressures: inadequate monitoring, no response.	Monitor against the values and triggers; act on exceedance; report and adapt management.

Regulatory mapping

The instruments most often engaged for Fauna. Confirm currency and application to the specific site and activity before relying on any entry.

INSTRUMENT	JURIS.	WHAT IT DOES	TYPICAL TRIGGER
Nature Conservation Act 1992	Qld	Protects wildlife, breeding places and, for some species, essential habitat.	Impact on protected animals or breeding places.
Nature Conservation (Animals) Regulation 2020	Qld	Species listings and management of protected animals.	Interfering with, or taking, a protected animal.
Environmental Offsets Act 2014	Qld	Offsets for significant residual impacts on prescribed fauna matters.	Significant residual impact on a prescribed matter.
Planning Act 2016	Qld	Development assessment for fauna and habitat matters.	Assessable development affecting fauna values.
Fisheries Act 1994	Qld	Aquatic fauna, fish passage and fish habitat.	Works affecting fish or fish habitat.
EPBC Act 1999	Cth	MNES — listed threatened and migratory species.	Likely significant impact on a listed species.

Assurance & evidence

- **Source currency.** Confirm the instruments, criteria and trigger values cited are current and correctly applied to the site and activity.
- **Records.** For each element engaged, retain the assessment, the controls applied, monitoring against the metric, and any statutory notifications — the evidence that the process was followed.
- **Independent review.** Interpretations, threshold decisions and critical exceptions are reviewed by a suitably qualified person before reliance.

TALK TO QTEN

Managing fauna on a live project? QTEN helps Queensland clients turn this handbook into a defensible, evidence-backed position — scoping, assessment, controls, approvals and review. Bring us your site and we will help you get it right, and prove it.

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