



Healthy Waters and Wetlands Team  
Department of Environment and Science  
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**Email:** [evinfo@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:evinfo@des.qld.gov.au)

**Date:** 14 December 2023

**Re: Submission to draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives for groundwater in South East Queensland**

Dear Sir or Madam,

As the states peak environment non-government organisation, the Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) welcomes the opportunity to provide the following comments and recommendations to the development of draft Environmental Values (EVs) and Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) for groundwater in South East Queensland (SEQ).

## **1. Comments and recommendations**

### **1.1 Support for establishing groundwater EVs and WQOs in SEQ**

As it will enable increased protection of groundwater systems and groundwater dependent ecosystems across the region, QCC strongly supports the Department of Environment and Science (DES) establishing EVs and WQOs for groundwater in SEQ under the *Environmental Protection (water and wetland biodiversity) Policy 2019*.

#### **Recommendation:**

- Amend schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection (water and wetland biodiversity) Policy 2019* to include EVs and WQOs for groundwater in SEQ

### **1.2 Increase groundwater monitoring**

To ensure that EVs and WQOs for groundwater are being met will require that DES significantly increases monitoring of groundwater systems in SEQ.

**Recommendation:**

- Provide additional funding to enable DES to undertake increased monitoring of groundwater systems in SEQ

**1.3 Auditing local and other government departments compliance**

As they will inform statutory and non-statutory groundwater management planning and decision-making across government, its essential that DES regularly audits local and other government departments compliance with the EVs and WQOs for groundwater in SEQ.

**Recommendation:**

- Provide additional funding and legislative powers to enable DES to audit local and other government departments compliance with EVs and WQOs for groundwater in SEQ

**2. Conclusion**

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information or clarification regarding the matters raised in this submission.

Yours sincerely,



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