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2. GLOSSARY

Acid sulfate soils Soils that contain iron pyrites (sulfates) that when moist and exposed to air produce acid (sulphuric acid).

Biodiversity The variety of all life-forms: the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystem they form; often considered at three levels: genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity.

Biogeographic region An extensive region distinguished from adjacent regions by its similar physical and biological characteristics.

Catchment The land area drained by a river and its tributaries.

Conservation Wise management of natural areas and natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Dry Sclerophyll A type of eucalypt forest found in moderate rainfall (less than 1000 mm per year) areas. Sometimes called 'open forests'.

Ecological Footprint "the area of ecologically productive land needed to produce the natural resources that the (human) population needs and to assimilate the waste (products) that the population generates, including not only the land area consumed locally but also the land area appropriated from other regions and countries through the consumption of imported products.

Ecological Sustainability The capacity of ecosystems to maintain their essential processes and functions and to retain their biological diversity without impoverishment.

Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) Development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.

Ecosystem A dynamic complex of plant, animal and their non- living environment interacting as a functional unit.

Effluent The discharge or emission of a water product.

Estuarine Relating to tidal rivers and streams.

Indicator A measure that indicates the condition or current status of an environmental system.

Fauna The entire animal life of an area or region.

Flora All of the plants found in an area.

Floodplain A nearly flat plain along the course of a stream naturally subject to flooding at high water.

Greenhouse effect The natural warming of the Earth's atmosphere as a result of the concentration of trace gases that retard the escape of heat radiation.

Groundwater Water occurring below the ground surface.

Habitat The place where a plant or animal usually lives and reproduces.

Heath A vegetation type dominated by small shrubs with hard leaves.

Hectare 10,000 square metres.

Leasehold Land owned by the government but leased to a person for a specific purpose.

pH A measure of acidity or alkalinity, expressed on a logarithmic scale from 1 to 14. 1 is most acid, 7 is neutral and 14 is most alkaline.

Seagrass Marine plants adapted to living wholly submerged in seawater.

Remnant Vegetation A plant community retaining the essential elements of the pre-European/pre-clearing vegetation for a given site. It is also a canopy dominated by native flora of later successional phases; and/or a community with the capacity to regenerate with practical levels of human intervention should they be affected by degrading influences such as fire, weeds, grazing, altered hydrological processes or other anthropogenic influences.

Riparian (vegetation) Situated on or belonging to a stream or riverbank.

Species A group of plants, animals or micro-organisms that have a high degree of similarity and generally can interbreed only among themselves.

Suspended solids Suspended particles in a water body.

Vulnerable species A plant or animal whose population is decreasing, has been seriously depleted or is at risk due to threatening processes.

Waterway Includes creeks, streams and rivers, some of which may be intermittent.

Wetlands Wetlands are areas of permanent or periodic inundation whether natural or artificial, fresh, brackish or saline, static or flowing, including areas of marine water. Its depth does not exceed 6 metres at low tide.

Abbreviations

ASS	Acid Sulfate Soils
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
SEQRWQMS	South-east Queensland Regional Water Quality Management Strategy
USQMP	Urban Stormwater Quality Management Plan

3. APPENDIX: SoE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS ASSESSMENT

Element	Level of progress achieved			Maximum Score Achievable (weighted)
	A high score achieved if...	A moderate score achieved if..	A high score achieved if...	
Council adopts and distributes SoE report	Not adopted. No community summary. Limited distribution	Adoption but limited distribution and no community summary	Adopted, distributed, community summary developed and distributed	2
Liaison with State agencies	No liaison	Indirect liaison (phonecall)	Liaison (meeting) and some lobbying	3
Review undertaken of actions for Council and a reassessment of priorities, budgets, programs	Ad-hoc and no overall coordination		Review, coordination and budget implications established.	5
Indicators reviewed for data availability, data requirements, cost of monitoring and updating data. A core set of indicators developed as monitoring implications and costs are assessed.	No review	Ad-hoc review	Review and data collection and updating implications known and planned for.	5
Data collecting procedures and system established to facilitate next SoE report	No update on present procedures	Ad-hoc update	Systematic review and update of data collection and retrieval	5
Target date set for next SoE Report	No discussion and no date set	Some discussion though no firm timetable	Timetable and target date set.	2
Indicators reviewed and information filled in for the table below	No review or follow-up	Some information completed	Table completed	4
Interim action plan update by identified responsible officer within Council for mid 2002.	Ad-hoc and uncoordinated	Officer(s) delegated and partial updated completed	Officer(s) delegated and full updated completed	4
MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SCORE				30

Sample Indicator Review Table (to be completed for all indicators within each theme)

Catchment, Rivers Lakes Indicators	Data Source (Council, ABS, EPA etc)	Updated data available for 2002?	\$ of data	Priority	Action needed
Catchments, Rivers, Lakes					
Groundwater Extraction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume groundwater extraction 					
Water quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspended solids • Total N • Total P • Urban stormwater quality plan 					
Aquatic Ecosystems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish catches by volume (kg) per annum • Hectares of seagrass • Hectares of mangroves lining waterways 					