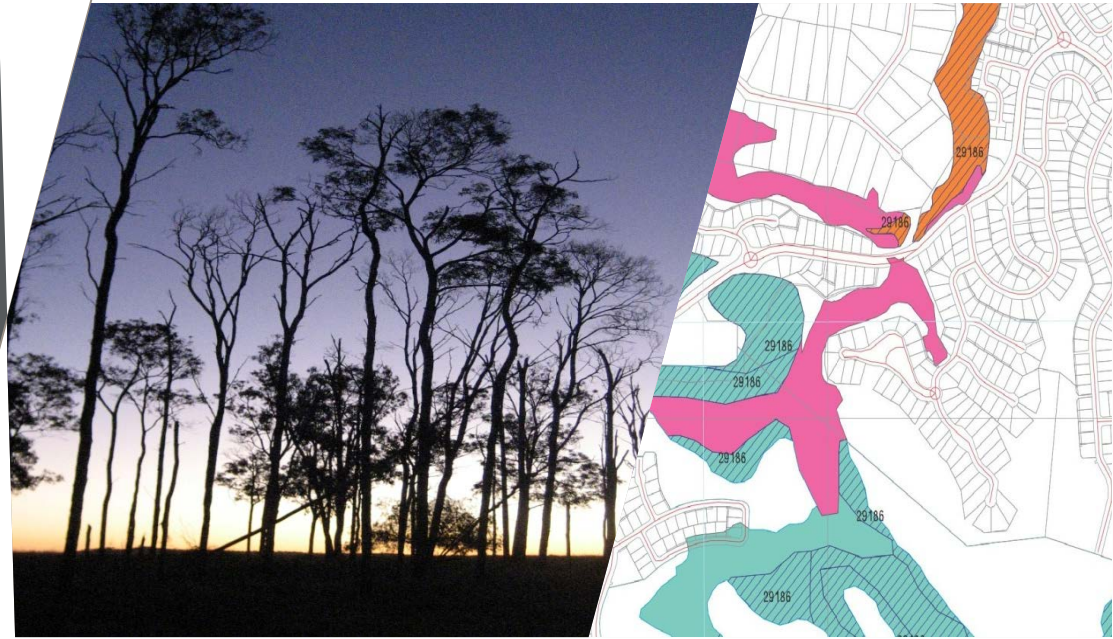


# Are offsets in Australia fit enough to survive?

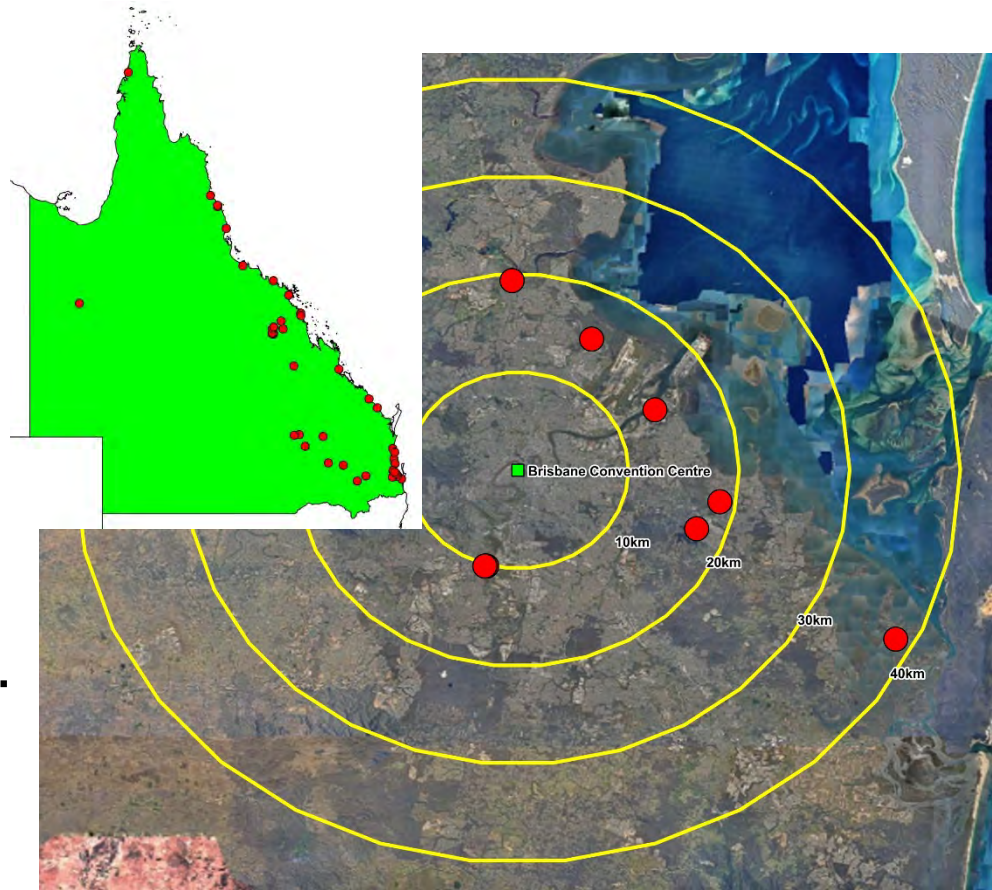
David Francis & Tracey Hooper  
Cardno





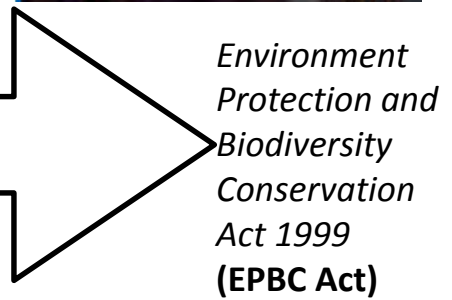
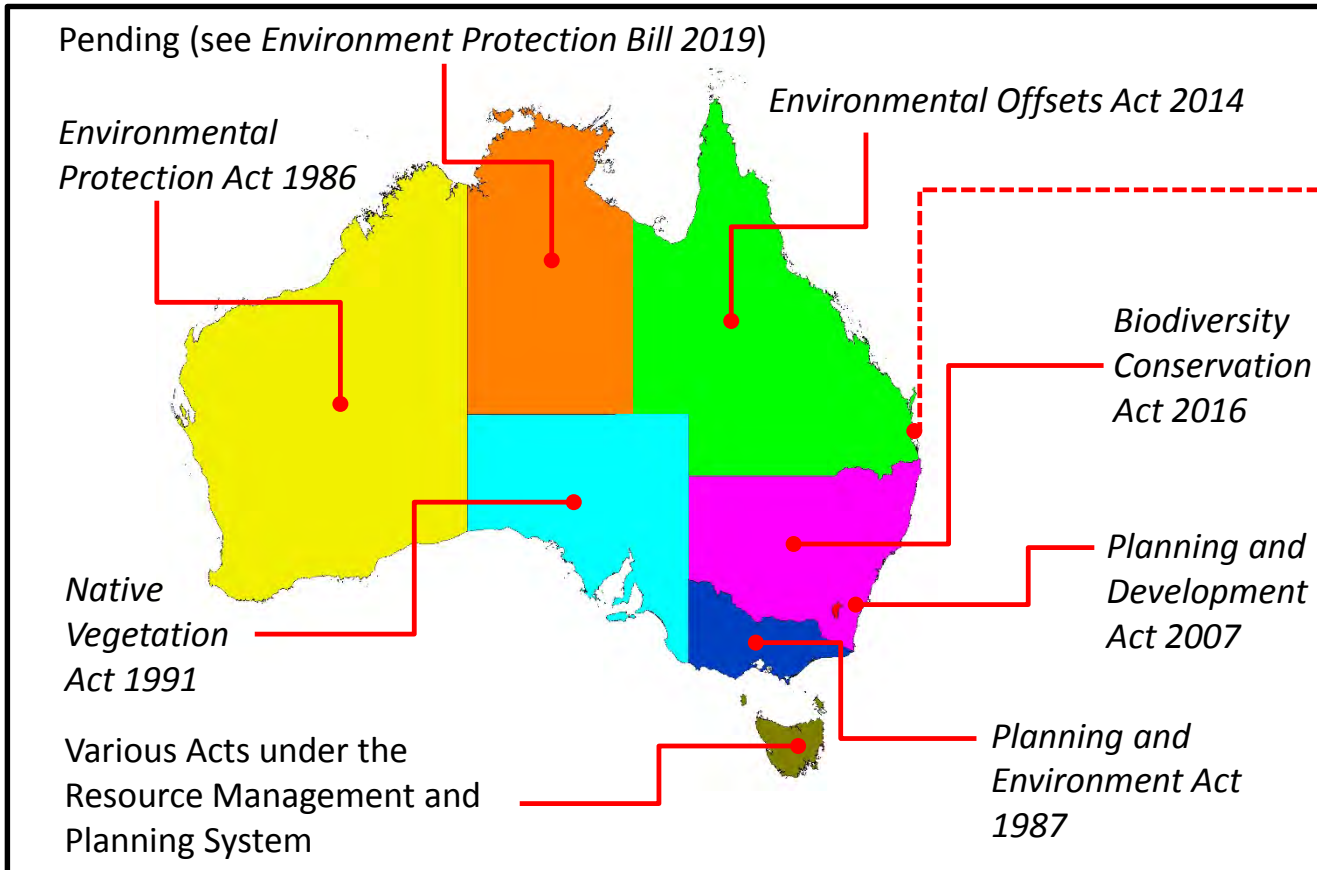
## Offsets = Big Business

- Offset frameworks apply at all Government levels
- In Queensland offsets = land-based &/or financial
- >AU\$100k financial settlements over 5yrs for projects within 40km and...
- >AU\$35million State-wide





# Biodiversity Offsets Frameworks in Australia





# Biodiversity Offsets Frameworks in Australia

**Commonwealth**



A statement for the purposes of approved conservation advice (s266B of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*)

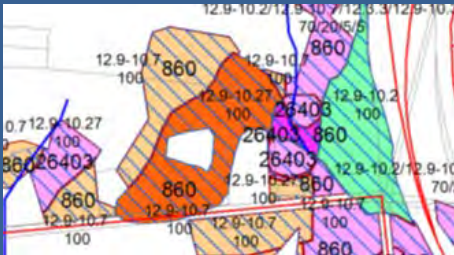

Approved Conservation Advice for Natural grasslands on basalt and fine-textured alluvial plains of northern New South Wales and southern Queensland



BRISBANE

**States**

Queensland

Victoria:  
*A remnant patch of native vegetation*

**Local government**

Brisbane City





# Biodiversity Offsets Frameworks in Australia

## 1. LAND-BASED

- *Proponent-driven*
- *Third-party*
  - sourcing properties directly
  - 'advanced' offsets
  - biodiversity credits



## 2. FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT

## 3. OTHER COMPENSATORY MEASURES (INDIRECT OFFSETS)





# History of offsetting for native vegetation in Queensland





## Fitness of Frameworks

- Common thread – linking of offsets to approvals
- Some irreversible impacts do not trigger offset requirements
- Multiple irreversible impacts with ‘significant’ cumulative loss
- Is this a shortcoming in ultimately achieving the end goal of ‘compensation’ for irreversible impacts?

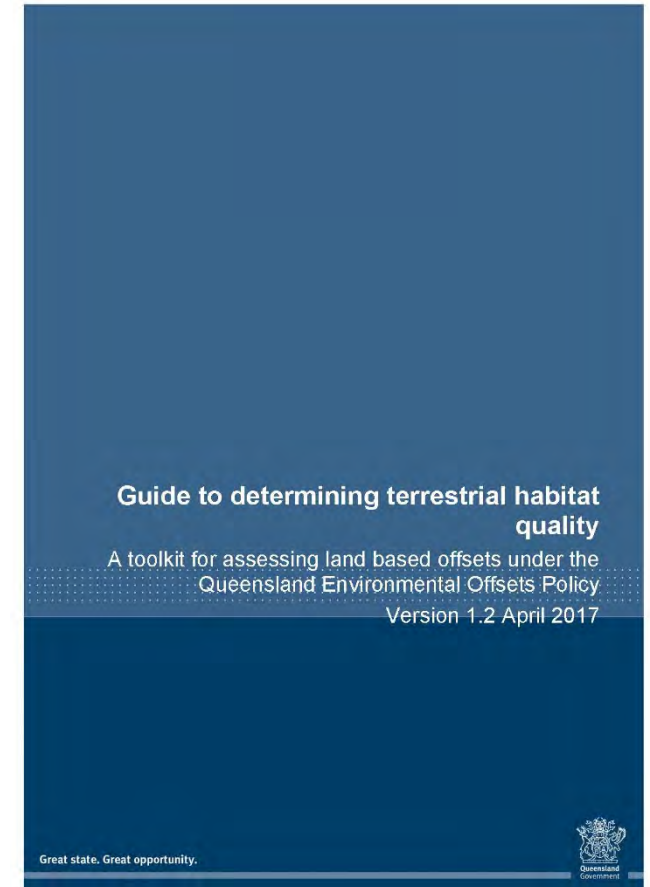




# Fitness of frameworks

## Metrics

- > Calculate the magnitude of impact
- > Calculate the offset obligation; and
- > Monitor and/or determine the success of the offset.







# Fitness of frameworks

Metrics



=





# Fitness of frameworks

## Metrics

1. 4ha is required at >AU\$1 million
2. 3ha is required at >AU\$0.2 million
3. 1.0408ha
4. Tweed (NSW) >AU\$0.1 million

### Offsets Assessment Guide

For use in determining offsets under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.  
2 October 2012

This guide relies on Macros being enabled in your browser.

#### Matter of National Environmental Significance

Name	koala
EPBC Act status	Vulnerable
Annual probability of extinction <small>Based on IUCN category definitions</small>	0.2%

3

Local government area	Brisbane City Council
Bioregion	Southeast Queensland (SEQ)
Subregion	Moreton Basin (12.2)
DMA 1.1	1 ha.
Matter group	<input type="text" value="SEQ Koala Habitat"/>

2

Local government area	Brisbane City Council
Bioregion	Southeast Queensland (SEQ)
Subregion	Moreton Basin (12.2)
DMA 1.1	1 ha.
Matter group	<input type="text" value="Threatened animals"/>
Which threatened animal species?	<input type="text" value="Phascolarctos cinereus (koala)"/>

1



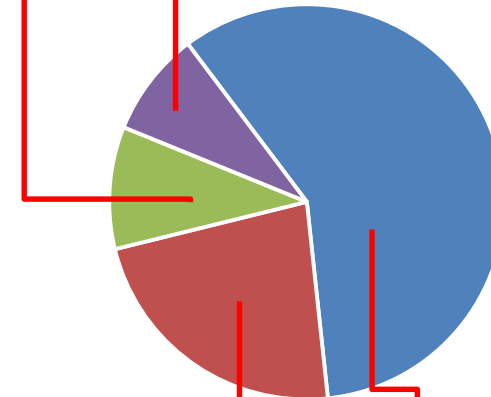
# Fitness of frameworks

## Effectiveness

- Each year the Commonwealth audits a limited number of projects
- But only to whether delivered as planned
- Therefore effectiveness of offset outcomes not assessed
- 8% of projects had non-complying delivery of offsets since 2012
  
- A WA study found only <40% of offsets in that State were effective
  
- Without an understanding of effectiveness how do we adapt our management?

Queensland financial settlement (AU\$35mil)

Queensland land based



Commonwealth EPBC Act

All other States

*NB – graph is conceptual & does not represent actual numbers*



## Questions to us

Are you an IA evolutionist or revolutionist?

What two changes to IA would you make?

1. Science-based metrics for measuring impacts, calculating obligations and measuring effectiveness
2. Decoupling offsets from development approval processes

