

Division of the Chief Health Officer

Strategic
Directions
for Environmental
Health

2009–2012

Toward 
Tomorrow's Queensland

 **Queensland**
Government

Strategic Directions for Environmental Health 2009–2012 is part of a suite of planning and reporting documents which describe the work of the population health services within the Division of the Chief Health Officer.

The complete suite includes:

- *Population Health Year in Review 2008–2009*
- *Prevention, Promotion and Protection Plan for the Division of the Chief Health Officer 2009–2014*
- *Strategic Directions for Cancer Prevention and Control 2009–2012*
- *Strategic Directions for Chronic Disease Prevention 2009–2012*
- *Strategic Directions for Communicable Disease Prevention and Control 2009–2012*
- *Strategic Directions for Environmental Health 2009–2012*
- *Strategic Directions for HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexual Health 2009–2012*
- *Strategic Directions for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion 2009–2012*
- *Strategic Directions for Mental Health Promotion 2009–2012*
- *Strategic Directions for Quality Management 2009–2012*

Strategic Directions for Environmental Health 2009–2012

Division of the Chief Health Officer

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Message from the Chief Health Officer

Queenslanders are generally very healthy compared to people in other parts of Australia and the world. However, there is still a range of population health challenges that need to be addressed. The rate of chronic diseases (such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer) is growing, and substantial inequalities in health status for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, socioeconomically disadvantaged people and those living in rural and remote locations continue to be of concern.

The Division of the Chief Health Officer is the primary provider of prevention, promotion and protection services for Queensland Health. These services are known collectively as population health or public health services, and are provided by statewide branches and units and 17 population health units located throughout the state.

Population health services work toward achieving a positive and healthy future for all Queenslanders, including reducing the health status gap between the most advantaged and the least advantaged people in the community.

Responsibilities of Queensland Health's population health services include implementing health promotion interventions at the state and local level, undertaking health surveillance and disease control initiatives, developing and implementing public health legislation, and addressing environmental health hazards. Population health services are provided by a professional workforce comprising environmental health officers and scientists, health promotion officers, public health officers, epidemiologists, public health nurses, public health nutritionists, public health medical officers, immunisation nurses and physicists.

Population health staff work with a range of partners including local government, private industries, educational institutions, childcare providers, and other state government departments. These partners have an important role to play in creating physical and social environments which prevent illness and injury and promote health and wellbeing.

Our strategies contribute to Queensland Health's commitments under the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health, and the National Indigenous Reform Agreement. The Queensland Government's vision for 2020 has been described in *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* in terms of five ambitions. One of these ambitions is 'making Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people'. Our work will contribute significantly to this aspiration.

The complete body of work that the Division's population health services will undertake over the next three years is identified in our eight strategic directions documents. These documents outline how we will contribute to the Q2 target. They also describe the current and proposed approach to manage health risks, and to prevent and/or respond to public health events. The arrival in Australia of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (Human Swine Influenza) acts as timely reminder of the need for meticulous health protection planning and response.

I trust that you find these strategic directions documents informative. For our staff, I hope these documents will enable us to work together to address priority issues over the next three years. For our stakeholders, I hope these documents give you an insight into our future directions to facilitate collaborative actions across a range of issues. I look forward to continuing to work with you all to promote and protect the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

Dr Jeannette Young
Chief Health Officer, Queensland Health



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Vision

Queensland Health is acknowledged as the leading provider of environmental **health risk** assessment and **evidence based advice** to the community, **to government** and to business; and provides statewide **environmental health** services that respond to community needs, legislative objectives and **growing demands** associated with emerging issues, technology, innovation, **population increases** and industry growth

Introduction

Preventable environmental health hazards (including physical, chemical and biological hazards) contribute to around 24 per cent of the global burden of disease and illness, which translates to 13 million deaths each year¹.

Some of Queensland's most challenging emerging environmental health issues include:

- the disparity in environmental health conditions in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- rapidly growing population and industrial economy
- water security, quality and re-use
- food safety and standards
- climate change
- land use conflicts
- national security threats
- increasing number of population health incidents.

Queenslanders expect environmental health hazards to be proactively managed according to best practice international and national standards. Health protection services within the Division of the Chief Health Officer deliver on this commitment by pursuing a proactive environmental health agenda with a strong emphasis on health risk assessment across a broad range of health determinants. This requires a multi-strategy approach including policy, regulation, education, advocacy, monitoring and surveillance. In many cases, the regulatory responsibilities are carried out in partnership with state agencies and by devolving operational regulatory responsibilities to local governments. Figure 1 shows the environmental health risk assessment and management approach that our health protection services have adopted in partnership with other agencies.

Queensland Health's environmental health workforce is located across the state, within the Environmental Health Branch and the population health units. These practitioners are responsible for:

- monitoring, assessing and responding to environmental health hazards and risks
- providing evidence based advice, policy and technical leadership

- managing environmental health hazards through risk based regulatory programs
- advocating for environmental health measures within whole-of-government policies and programs.

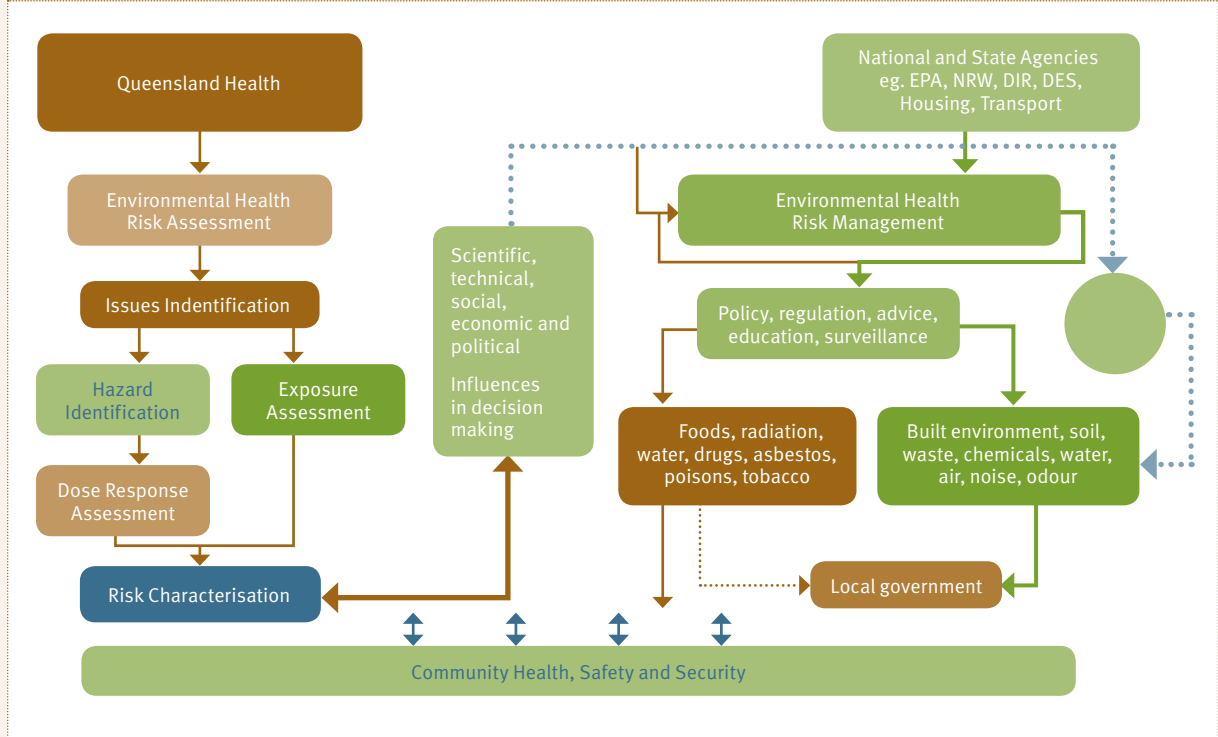
This workforce is currently experiencing significant capacity challenges. Factors contributing to this include:

- a doubling in the legislation administered by Queensland Health over the last decade
- a significant increase in the volume of unplanned emergent work (eg. food recalls, pandemics, asbestos contamination, suspected intentional contamination of food, dengue fever outbreaks, water notifications)
- increased complexity and public profile of environmental health issues (eg. environmental lead levels in Mount Isa, air quality concerns in Gladstone).

These challenges impact on Queensland Health's ability to deliver best practice, timely environmental health programs and services on a day-to-day basis. An optimum balance between regulatory and non-regulatory work is required to meet these challenges and to protect the health and wellbeing of the community. Consequently, there is an urgent need to adopt an innovative service model that:

- implements a problem solving approach to regulation
- is accountable and performance orientated
- protects the capacity to undertake proactive reform work
- increases investment in a skilled environmental health workforce
- increases investment in information systems.

Figure 1: Risk management framework for addressing environmental health hazards in Queensland



The *Strategic Directions for Environmental Health 2009–2012* will contribute to the goals and objectives of key national and state strategies, plans and legislation including those listed in Attachment C of this document.

What are we seeking to achieve over the next three years?

This document identifies priority actions for addressing environmental health over the next three years. Overall progress against these actions will be assessed using the measures outlined below. Performance will be assessed through qualitative reporting. Annual reporting will inform decisions about policy, practice and future investment.

What we are seeking to achieve	How will we know?
Improved drinking water quality and systems for the management, treatment and supply of drinking water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage and number of drinking water notifications of incidents received requiring follow up action by Queensland Health
Greater proportion of the Queensland population receiving fluoridated water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of the Queensland population who receive fluoridated water from reticulated water supplies, as per the implementation schedule managed by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning
Industry compliance with relevant environmental health legislation and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage and number of inspected food businesses and products that comply with specified food safety standards and relevant legislation ■ Percentage and number of high risk complaints investigated and resolved within agreed timeframes*
Improved security of high risk radioactive sources to protect against these sources being used in terrorist activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage and number of licence holders with high risk radioactive sources who comply with the security provisions of the <i>Radiation Safety Act 1999</i>
Inclusion of population health issues in policy; state, regional and community planning; major developments and other land use planning processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage and number of suggested issues incorporated into policies and plans

* The timeframe will be defined on a case-by-case basis

Strategic agenda

1. Environmental health management systems

Queensland Health's environmental health workforce is currently experiencing significant operational challenges. These challenges include:

- unsustainable core workloads as a result of legislative changes and population and industry growth
- increasing, unpredictable and more complex emergent workloads including high profile environmental health incidents (eg. suspected intentional contamination of food items, food borne illnesses, fires involving chemical substances or asbestos containing materials, and disease clusters)
- reduced local government capacity to deliver devolved legislative responsibilities, particularly in rural and remote areas
- a smaller number of skilled workers due to the imminent retirement of many senior staff and shrinking numbers of new graduates
- antiquated information management systems that are unable to adequately monitor activity and outcomes, drive change and enable staff to deal with emerging environmental health threats and opportunities
- increasingly complex regulatory environment, meaning that some complex cases may not be prosecuted when warranted, due to the level of work and support for staff required
- maintenance of skills in the workforce
- a lack of knowledge management systems to enable organisational learning.

These challenges impact on the environmental health workforce's capacity to deliver best practice,

timely environmental health programs and services on a day-to-day basis. Queensland Health has a significant exposure to unmanaged risk in the control and mitigation of important public health problems. Overwhelming demand has limited our capacity to effectively fulfil regulatory obligations. The existing system requires transformation to smart regulatory practice which is intelligence driven, risk based, systematic, suitably resourced, and which clearly articulates organisational expectations and associated accountabilities.

The *Enforcement Practices Review*² and the *Public Health Workforce in Local Government*³ project report identified a number of areas for improvement within the Division's health protection services and local government which have still not been fully addressed due to capacity and resourcing issues. These weaknesses relate to information and incident management, environmental health practitioner training and support (all staffing levels), and statewide capacity and consistency in enforcement activities.

Innovative service models and increased investment in the environmental health workforce, managing regulatory risk and a state-of-the-art information system are required to ensure that the health and wellbeing of the community is not jeopardised. The Division's health protection services must invest in proactive monitoring and enforcement, as well as systemic practice improvement. This will require a sustainable problem solving infrastructure and risk control, as well as exercising appropriate oversight/advocacy and providing support to regulatory partners.

What are we going to do over the next three years?

- Develop and commence implementation of a regulatory improvement strategy that identifies key areas where efforts need to be concentrated for the Division's health protection services to demonstrate good regulatory practice (key areas were chosen based on their ability to provoke, illuminate and define the scope of best practice and new approaches). These areas include:
 - intelligence driven practice improvement
 - compliance improvement interventions
 - information systems
 - service delivery models
 - quality systems that support regulatory oversight
 - partnership arrangements with other government agencies (eg. local government)
 - workforce skills and competencies
 - performance monitoring
 - regulatory review
 - communication strategy
- Develop and implement an integrated, well-maintained disaster and major incident management system to respond to environmental health threats, including:
 - ensuring business continuity
 - planning for an integrated response
 - managing concurrent multiple disasters and incidents
 - conducting major exercises and debriefings.

2. Environmental health risk assessment

Queensland Health provides quality and timely advice on a broad range of environmental health issues (eg. air quality, land use planning, contaminated land and waste management).

The growing impacts of climate change, population growth and ongoing development in Queensland's industrial economy have increased community concerns about environmental health hazards, resulting in demands for stronger protective actions. This has increased the reliance on Queensland Health to take a proactive lead in investigating, alerting and communicating health risks and health impacts associated with environmental emissions and other environmental hazards to its partners. Specifically, Queensland Health:

- plays a critical role in managing high profile environmental health issues, incidents and/or community concerns, including those associated with incompatible land use (eg. Narangba industrial estate fire, waste discharges from hospitals, Q fever cases near abattoirs, air quality concerns in the Gladstone area, and blood lead levels in Mount Isa)
- provides advice on regional land use planning and development proposals including significant state projects, local government planning schemes and environmental impact statements
- provides technical advice to ensure safe, effective and compliant waste management practices in its facilities.

This advice is based on comprehensive environmental health risk assessment methodology, underpinned by expert epidemiology and toxicology knowledge and skills.

Over the next three years, Queensland Health will implement strategies to enhance its ability to provide comprehensive environmental health risk assessment advice. These include strengthening Queensland Health's capacity and ability to provide timely health risk assessment advice, managing significant health risk assessments and formalising partnership agreements with key agencies. Queensland Health will also work to secure a dedicated workforce to help create supportive physical and social environments through key land use and other planning processes.

What are we going to do over the next three years?

- Strengthen Queensland Health's health risk assessment advice by:
 - reviewing the *Public Health Act 2005* to ensure that public health risk provisions adequately capture emerging environmental health issues (eg. high risk land use issues)
 - securing referral agency status under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* to minimise environmental health impacts from land use planning decisions
- Improve the efficiency and quality of Queensland Health's advice on environmental and health impacts of major developments by:
 - developing resources including guidelines for developers and assessment tools to ensure defensible and quality advice
 - identifying knowledge gaps relating to the planning process and securing appropriate training for responsible officers
- Develop and maintain formal partnership agreements to clarify roles and responsibilities and strengthen joint working arrangements with key stakeholder agencies (eg. Department of Infrastructure and Planning; Department of Environment and Resources Management; Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation; Department of Communities; and Local Government Association of Queensland)
- Develop and implement systems to enhance Queensland Health's capacity to respond to emerging environmental health risk issues
- Develop and implement systems and governance arrangements to ensure safe and compliant waste management practices in Queensland Health facilities.

3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health

Poor environmental health conditions in Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities contribute to higher rates of illnesses and injuries in this population group than other Queenslanders^{4,5}.

Over the last five years, Queensland Health has supported an environmental health program enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local governments to manage their environmental health responsibilities. Funding has been provided to employ a local environmental health worker and implement community based programs (eg. animal and mosquito management, school based food safety education programs and waste recycling). While this program has already demonstrated a number of successes, it will take time to gain community understanding and recognition of the value of good environmental health practice. Key barriers to implementing sustainable community based programs include lack of organisational support for environmental health workers, poor understanding of environmental health by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local governments, and lack of planning to enable sustainable implementation of programs.

Over the next three years, Queensland Health aims to build on the social and health reforms already achieved in Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. These strategies are described in the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Plan 2008–2013*⁶.

What are we going to do over the next three years?

- Develop and implement strategies to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local governments address environmental health issues, including:
 - making Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local governments aware of their responsibilities under the *Public Health Act 2005* and the *Food Act 2006*
 - evaluating and providing support for community based environmental health, environmental health worker and animal management programs to assess effectiveness and outcomes of the programs
 - developing and implementing a framework for addressing environmental health issues through local government programs, services and planning processes
 - assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local governments to identify and obtain grant funding for environmental health projects
- Strengthen the linkages between government and non-government agencies to increase their investment in, and commitment to, effective environmental health services and infrastructure
- Develop and implement a systematic approach for the production of a ‘report card’ on environmental health conditions in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and use data to engage stakeholders
- Develop and implement a comprehensive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health service model that:
 - incorporates a model of practice for addressing urban environmental health issues
 - defines health protection roles, including protocols for addressing communicable diseases
 - identifies additional workforce requirements within Queensland Health and other agencies
 - describes strategies for increasing mentoring and support for environmental health workers
 - increases access to flexible environmental health training courses
- Develop, implement and evaluate a communication plan to increase awareness of environmental health programs and achievements.

4. Water quality and fluoridation

Until recently, Queensland did not have a formal system for managing water quality in relation to drinking water and recycled water.

In addition, fluoridation of water supplies was optional for local government and very few councils had implemented water fluoridation. A number of issues supported the need to review how water quality was managed in Queensland, including:

- evidence of Australian Drinking Water Health Guidelines being regularly exceeded in some parts of the state
- inadequate water supplies resulting from a prolonged drought and a rapidly growing population, and increased potential for health risks caused by use of alternative water supplies (eg. rainwater, stormwater, recycled water)
- community concern over proposals to recycle water to augment drinking water sources
- epidemic proportions of tooth decay, affecting 50 per cent of children over six years of age and 95 per cent of adults over 25 years.

In late 2008, Queensland adopted a comprehensive whole-of-government approach to address these issues including developing a joint regulatory framework (with Department of Environment and Resource Management) to manage the quality of drinking and recycled water, and mandating the fluoridation of most public drinking water supplies. Under this new system, Queensland Health is responsible for managing the regulatory requirements to ensure safe water fluoridation, setting water quality standards and managing public health aspects of water quality incidents. This work will be supported by a range of communication strategies to increase community awareness of water quality management and fluoridation issues.

Additionally, Queensland Health will develop options for addressing water related health risks from supplies that are not within the scope of the new regulatory framework, including:

- drinking water supplied by mine sites, island resorts, schools and hospitals with their own water supplies (private drinking water providers)
- food manufacturers (eg. abattoirs, chicken processors) seeking to recycle water on-site for potable purposes
- other unregulated and largely unmanaged water supplies, particularly recreational water supplies (eg. swimming pools, spas).

What are we going to do over the next three years?

- In partnership with the Department of Environment and Resource Management, undertake work to implement and embed the new regulatory framework to monitor and manage drinking water quality and manage health risks associated with the expansion of regulated recycled water schemes, including:
 - refining Queensland Health’s water quality standards
 - improving data gathering mechanisms, including incident notification, reporting requirements and notification of the existence of recycled water systems
 - developing evidence based policy and regulatory support systems, including pathways for referral to Queensland Health for advice on high risk systems and public health risk management
 - establishing and communicating Queensland Health’s role as a policy-maker and provider of health expertise
- Develop and implement a policy framework to support private drinking water suppliers and recreational water providers to manage quality of their water supplies, including:
 - investigating methods for linking water quality data with gastro-enteric disease risk for private supplies
 - developing evidence based policy, including pathways for referral to Queensland Health for advice on public health risk management
 - establishing and communicating Queensland Health’s role as a provider of expertise and policy-maker
- Collaborate with research partners (eg. University of Queensland, Urban Water Security Research Alliance and Water Quality Research Australia) to inform decisions relating to drinking water, recycled water and recreational water quality policies
- Regulate water fluoridation in Queensland, including:
 - managing the implementation and ongoing review of the policy framework for water fluoridation
 - monitoring compliance with the *Water Fluoridation Act 2008* and Regulation throughout Queensland and taking any appropriate enforcement action
 - providing public health advice to support the development of community communication strategies about the introduction of water fluoridation.

5. Food safety and standards

Queensland Health is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the food regulatory system, in line with the national food regulation system and Queensland Government commitments in relation to the *Inter-governmental Agreement on Food Regulation 2000*.

The *Food Act 2006* is Queensland's primary legislation relating to food safety and standards. This Act aims to protect public health and safety relating to the handling and selling of food, securing the safety and suitability of food, and fixing food standards to ensure that food for sale is safe and suitable for human consumption, and prevent misleading conduct that could impact on consumer confidence.

Queensland Health has already implemented a number of provisions under the Act, which need to be reviewed and refined. The remaining provisions will be implemented over the next two years including provisions relating to food safety programs, auditing, and local government reporting. This will require increased support to local governments to enable them to fulfil their legislative responsibilities, and enhanced monitoring and surveillance activities to measure industry compliance. Queensland Health is also developing and implementing a framework to ensure that state government facilities implement comparable food safety requirements through Equivalent Administrative Arrangements (EAA) and all Queensland Health facilities have accredited food safety programs for food service operations.

Queensland Health's capacity to be proactive in fulfilling its legislative responsibilities has been made more challenging due to the growing number of incidents (eg. suspected intentional food contaminations and

food borne illness outbreaks). The increased workload devoted to management of food incidents has also impacted on the ability to conduct proactive monitoring and surveillance as well as food regulatory compliance activities, as noted in the Enforcement Practices Review. Over the next three years, Queensland Health will enhance its food incident management process including developing a risk management framework to prioritise activities in an appropriate, justifiable and defensible manner.

Queensland Health will also lead a process to develop an integrated food management system to improve the Queensland coordination of a range of food supply regulators including local governments, Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries (part of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation), Safe Food Production Queensland, and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (part of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry).

What are we going to do over the next three years?

- Consolidate and refine existing provisions and supporting resources and roll out the remaining provisions of the *Food Act 2006*, including:
 - developing and distributing resources (including policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines) to facilitate consistency in regulatory practice and raise industry knowledge, capability and awareness of the new provisions
 - enhancing monitoring and surveillance activities to address emerging food safety issues and measure compliance, including developing a standard food business classification system
 - strengthening local government capacity to effectively fulfil their legislative responsibilities
- Develop the EAA framework for Queensland government facilities not bound by the *Food Act 2006*, including establishing appropriate mechanisms to ensure compliance of respective food service operations
- Ensure Queensland Health facilities have accredited food safety programs for their food service operations
- Review and refine food safety incident management, based on considered assessment of legislation, data and experiences
- Develop a risk management framework to allocate resources to priority food safety initiatives, including:
 - refining Queensland Health’s food complaints procedures to determine priority complaint classification and applicability across reactive and proactive food regulatory activities
 - developing mechanisms to ensure appropriate, justifiable and defensible quarantining of food safety functions across proactive and reactive activities
- Facilitate and manage departmental input into national and state government reviews that have an impact on food safety and standards
- Strengthen administration of the food safety regulatory framework in Queensland by working with local governments, Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries, and Safe Food Production Queensland to develop an integrated food regulatory system that:
 - promotes smooth operation of existing food regulatory controls across three agencies so that government policy objectives are achieved
 - progresses a ‘virtual agency’ approach and reduces overlap of effort in implementing legislative controls within Queensland’s existing regulatory framework
 - identifies and (where possible) introduces reforms in procedures and practices that improve the delivery of minimum effective regulation
 - defines each agency’s roles and responsibilities including promoting Queensland Health’s role in food regulation, risk assessment and risk management and describing local government accountabilities and reporting arrangements
 - leads whole-of-government input and response to the National Food Regulatory System including gaining jurisdictional agreement on the key elements of compliance and enforcement systems and contributing to national food safety policies and standards
 - develops, refines and rectifies food safety regulations and standards with consistent and coordinated implementation, legislative interpretation and enforcement activity
 - develops mechanisms for coordinating regulation of the food industry and communication with the food industry and consumers
 - provides a virtual single front-end contact point for the food industry.

6. Drugs, poisons and therapeutic goods*

Queensland Health administers public health legislation to monitor the provision, storage and use of drugs, poisons and therapeutic goods. This entails:

- providing specialist legislative and technical advice
- controlling scheduled drugs and poisons through licences and other legislative instruments
- implementing targeted enforcement activities, conducting education programs
- contributing to the development of national drugs, poisons and therapeutic goods legislation, policies and standards.

The current regulatory framework dealing with scheduled drugs and poisons has been in place since 1996. In certain respects, the rigidity of the legislation precludes it from supporting advancements in technology and clinical practice. In addition, the ability to undertake timely and appropriate enforcement interventions is, at times, compromised due to the absence of legislative provisions dealing with matters such as the transfer of investigative information between agencies. Queensland Health aims to develop and implement new legislation to resolve these issues.

Queensland Health has recently developed a contemporary, intelligence driven enforcement approach to identify health professionals involved in activities posing a high risk to the community including the unlawful supply of scheduled drugs such as pseudoephedrine. This approach identifies the level of non-compliance by individuals and ensures timely and appropriate regulatory interventions are taken on a prioritised basis. This requires an integrated investigative approach involving specialised legal counsel, health registration boards and, where applicable, law enforcement agencies. Over the next three years, Queensland Health will evaluate this intelligence-driven enforcement approach and consider a range of extension and/or adaptation strategies (as appropriate).

What are we going to do over the next three years?

- Update (in the short term) and reform (in the long term) drugs and poisons legislation, including:
 - reviewing and updating the current legislation to ensure it remains effective within a changing industry environment
 - reforming primary legislation to reflect a more sustainable regulatory framework based on assessment of industry risk and a diverse range of regulatory approaches
 - developing tools, policies and protocols to support implementation, facilitate transformation of industry and staff practice, and promote consistent compliance
- Identify the benefits of the intelligence driven approach to the enforcement of drugs and poisons legislation and (if applicable) expand its current scope, including:
 - completing the evaluation of the work of the Pseudoephedrine Taskforce and developing recommendations
 - dependent on the above recommendations, seeking endorsement of an agreed and expanded enforcement approach dealing with the diversion of identified scheduled drugs and poisons
 - commencing implementation of the agreed approach on a statewide basis
- Develop and implement an agreed framework for investigating public sector health services system breaches of the relevant drugs and poisons legislation to complement Queensland Health ethical standards procedures
- Implement outcomes of the Environmental Health MaCC – Drugs, Poisons & Tobacco.

* Work relating to the development and enforcement of tobacco legislation is described in the Strategic Directions for Chronic Disease Prevention. The Queensland Police Service deals with the criminal aspects of illicit drugs.

7. Radiation health

Queensland Health is responsible for protecting the community by monitoring, investigating, improving and communicating health risks and health impacts associated with exposure to all forms of ionising, non-ionising, natural and artificial sources of radiation. Queensland Health also administers the *Radiation Safety Act 1999*, sets and ensures compliance with radiation safety standards, and provides specialist radiation advice to the mining, manufacturing and health industries.

Queensland's radiation health risk assessment standards are derived from international, national and state laws, policies, and codes. A number of these documents have recently been updated including the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Report on the Regulation and Control of Radiological Material, the 2007 Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection, and the National Directory for Radiation Protection. Queensland Health will update its legislation, protocols and operational procedures over the next three years to align with these changes.

The key modifications include:

- improving the security of radioactive substances during storage, use and transportation
- promoting new exposure optimisation protocols to medical practices and teaching institutions
- ensuring radiation levels in the environment do not exceed an acceptable level
- enhancing solarium regulation and consumer safety programs.

Queensland Health will also improve its capacity to manage radiation health risks through enhancing the radiation health evidence base, developing a comprehensive set of performance indicators, and staff training and retention strategies.

What are we going to do over the next three years?

- Improve the security of radioactive substances by:
 - amending the *Radiation Safety Act 1999* and Regulation to incorporate security provisions and action implications
 - updating operational procedures to increase the integrity of radiation source registration and incorporate assessment and monitoring protocols
- Promote the new dose optimisation protocols by:
 - developing and distributing negotiated goal statements that encourage dose optimisation protocols
 - developing a communication plan that targets large medical practices and teaching institutions
- Develop and distribute inter-agency policies and monitoring programs to ensure that environmental radiation levels remain at acceptable levels for:
 - radioactive waste in water
 - contaminated land and mine sites
 - radio frequency radiation in public areas
- Regulate solarium and other non-ionising radiation sources by amending:
 - the Radiation Safety Regulation to include Intense Pulsed Light Sources (IPLS)
 - operational procedures to incorporate solarium and IPLS registration, monitoring and assessment
- Enhance organisational capacity for managing radiation health risks by:
 - upgrading information, analysis and reporting systems to provide evidence based information
 - enhancing the capacity to analyse information, determine priorities and target practices
 - developing, implementing and evaluating a formal training and education program with external certification and accreditation for radiation health staff.

Attachment A

Deliverables for 2009–2010*

What are we going to do? (three years)	Statewide unit responsibilities (12 months)	Population health unit responsibilities (12 months)
1. Environmental health management systems		
<p>1.1 Develop a regulatory improvement strategy that identifies key areas where efforts need to be concentrated for the Division's health protection services to demonstrate good regulatory practice</p>	<p>Finalise regulatory improvement strategy, including the following areas:</p> <p>Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – develop and implement Management of Applications Permits and Licensing Events (MAPLE) – test and adopt practice changes – develop and input data for licensing component – commence general complaints component <p>Information systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – review structure of existing data and information systems <p>Quality systems supporting regulatory oversight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – conduct enforcement learnings workshops and implement outcomes – reform enforcement framework and procedures as a result of legal panel firms and centralise cost centre structure <p>Workforce skills and competencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – consider implications of environmental health enforcement training report – develop implementation plan – commence strategic enforcement training framework <p>Performance monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – update activity measures and reports to incorporate high risk complaints for consideration by Regulatory Oversight Committee – define environmental health performance indicators 	<p>Implement a planned approach to the introduction of MAPLE including testing and adopting practice changes, and identifying the data input requirements</p> <p>Undertake skills enhancement programs with staff to implement agreed enforcement practice changes</p> <p>Collaborate on development of the implementation plan and the strategic enforcement training framework</p> <p>Update systems to collect and report data</p>

* This attachment includes deliverables against the reform agenda only. Ongoing work is described in Attachment B. All population health strategies are conducted in a collaborative manner. Lead agencies have been identified in the responsibility columns.

What are we going to do? (three years)	Statewide unit responsibilities (12 months)	Population health unit responsibilities (12 months)
1. Environmental health management systems (continued)		
<p>1.2 Develop and implement an integrated, well-maintained disaster and major incident management system to respond to environmental health threats</p>	<p>Undertake an environmental health debrief regarding 2008–09 major incidents to address improvement priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – work with Communicable Diseases Branch to integrate environmental health response issues into pandemic planning – examine the Division’s Emergency Operations Centre capability and integrate population health units and Health Service Districts disaster management capability – conduct a business continuity debrief – manage multiple disasters/ incidents 	<p>Implement outcomes of the debrief</p>

What are we going to do? (three years)	Statewide unit responsibilities (12 months)	Population health unit responsibilities (12 months)
2. Environmental health risk assessment		
2.1 Strengthen Queensland Health's health risk assessment advice	<p>Significantly advance the review of the <i>Public Health Act 2005</i> to capture emerging environmental health issues (eg. high risk land use planning decisions)</p> <p>Secure approval for Queensland Health referral agency status under the Integrated Planning Act for high impact industries</p>	<p>Provide regional input into the review of the <i>Public Health Act 2005</i></p> <p>Explore avenues to upskill current workforce in health risk assessment</p>
2.2 Improve the efficiency and quality of Queensland Health's advice regarding environmental and health impacts of major developments	<p>Undertake environmental health risk assessment and provide toxicology advice for the Clean and Healthy Air for Gladstone project</p> <p>Support, monitor and report on the work program outlined in the Managing the Health Risks from Lead in Young Children in Mount Isa report</p> <p>Support implementation of a whole-of-government strategy for managing lead exposure to the community in Mount Isa</p>	<p>Review the Department of Environment and Resource Management air quality data and undertake the human health risk assessment for Clean and Healthy Air for Gladstone project</p> <p>Complete the Narangba health risk assessment</p> <p>Provide operational support to the Mount Isa Community Blood Lead Project</p>
2.3 Develop and maintain formal partnership agreements to clarify roles and responsibilities and strengthen joint working arrangements with key stakeholder agencies	<p>Review and refine the partnership agreement between Queensland Health and the Department of Environment and Resource Management</p> <p>Finalise the partnership agreement with local governments regarding management and enforcement of asbestos issues under the <i>Public Health Act 2005</i></p>	<p>Renew relationships with regional Department of Environment and Resource Management officers and provide input to the review of partnership agreements</p> <p>Implement partnership agreements with local governments to manage the enforcement of asbestos issues under the <i>Public Health Act 2005</i></p>

What are we going to do? (three years)	Statewide unit responsibilities (12 months)	Population health unit responsibilities (12 months)
2. Environmental health risk assessment (continued)		
<p>2.4 Develop and implement systems to enhance Queensland Health's capacity to respond to emerging environmental health risk issues</p>	<p>Develop tools and guidelines to ensure consistent and effective assessment of environmental impact statements</p> <p>Progress development of guidelines for remediation of sites used for clandestine drug laboratories, including defining the roles and responsibilities of Queensland Health and local governments</p> <p>Develop guidelines for managing public health risks from water blasting of damaged in situ asbestos walls, roofs and fences, including industry education campaigns</p>	
<p>2.5 Develop and implement systems and governance arrangements to ensure safe and compliant waste management practices in Queensland Health facilities</p>	<p>Establish and manage the Waste Management Committee</p> <p>Develop and implement the Queensland Health Strategic Waste Management Plan</p> <p>Develop a systems based action plan to address the recommendations of the Operational Audit of handling, storage and disposal of hazardous liquid wastes and coordinate implementation</p> <p>Develop and distribute waste management policies, guidelines and other tools using the occupational health and safety waste management system</p>	<p>Provide regional input to the development and implementation of waste management plans, policies, tools and guidelines (as required)</p> <p>Support the implementation of the Queensland Health Strategic Waste Management Plan and recommendations of the Operational Audit of handling, storage and disposal of hazardous liquid wastes by Queensland Health facilities</p>

What are we going to do? (three years)	Statewide unit responsibilities (12 months)	Population health unit responsibilities (12 months)
3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health		
<p>3.1 Develop and implement strategies to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local governments address environmental health issues</p>	<p>Evaluate and report on Environmental Health Worker (EHW) and Animal Management Worker (AMW) programs to assess program achievements and effectiveness including program sustainability</p> <p>Develop an action plan based on program evaluation results to strengthen the effectiveness of EHW and AMW programs</p> <p>Implement high level strategies to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local governments are aware of their legislative responsibilities under the <i>Food Act 2006</i> and <i>Public Health Act 2005</i>, and assist them to implement actions to meet these responsibilities as part of their participation in the EHW program</p> <p>Develop a model plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to undertake planning of environmental health services</p>	<p>Commence development of a sustainable mentor model for new environmental health workers employed in local councils and by the Division of the Chief Health Officer</p> <p>Undertake components of the evaluation of EHW and AMW programs, and development of action plan</p> <p>Organise regular EHW and AMW workshops</p>
<p>3.2 Strengthen linkages between government and non-government agencies to increase their investment in (and commitment to) effective environmental health services and infrastructure</p>	<p>Review governance, roles and responsibilities for key Queensland Health and whole-of-government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health committees, and implement changes (as required)</p> <p>Engage key partners involved in the development of a whole-of-government environmental health strategy including consideration of environmental health in local Indigenous planning agreements</p>	<p>Engage key partners at National Indigenous Environmental Health Regional Forum meetings to drive the environmental health agenda</p>

What are we going to do? (three years)	Statewide unit responsibilities (12 months)	Population health unit responsibilities (12 months)
3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health (continued)		
<p>3.3 Develop and implement a systematic approach for the production of a 'report card' on environmental health conditions in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and use data to engage stakeholders</p>	<p>Develop Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health data needs and reporting, and an indicator framework</p>	<p>Review Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local government environment health programs and develop reports (using audit tools and guidelines)</p> <p>Consolidate evaluation reports into one report to provide a baseline of environmental health activities for every community</p> <p>Collect AMW program data and prepare report</p>
<p>3.4 Develop and implement a comprehensive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health service model</p>		<p>Define the scope of the environmental health service model for urban communities, including engagement of the primary health care sector, and commence implementation [Central]</p>

What are we going to do? (three years)	Statewide unit responsibilities (12 months)	Population health unit responsibilities (12 months)
4. Water quality and fluoridation		
<p>4.1 In partnership with the Department of Environment and Resource Management, undertake work to implement and embed the new regulatory framework to monitor and manage drinking water quality and health risks associated with the expansion of regulated recycled water schemes</p>	<p>Develop and implement a system to support monitoring and compliance with public health aspects of the drinking water and recycled water regulatory framework (notifications, complaints, enforcement and documentation)</p> <p>Finalise the Queensland Health/ Department of Environment and Resource Management Memorandum of Understanding, ensuring Queensland Health roles and responsibilities are clearly and accurately articulated</p> <p>Define the Division's health protection services working arrangements for water quality</p> <p>Develop, in consultation with population health units, supporting materials to enable consistent, evidence based health risk assessments</p> <p>Support Department of Environment and Resource Management to introduce mandatory recycled water management plans, and provide public health advice</p> <p>Develop fact sheets and other materials for the general public relating to public health and water quality (eg. fluoridation, water recycling) as per agreed allocation</p> <p>Finalise whole-of-government protocol for managing major water related public health incidents</p>	<p>Undertake defined tasks relating to implementation of drinking water and recycled water regulations, including developing fact sheets and Memorandums of Understanding</p> <p>Undertake, in partnership with Department of Environment and Resource Management, the Drinking Water Scheme Assessment Program to assist with the development of the Drinking Water Quality Improvement Strategy</p>
<p>4.2 Develop and implement a policy framework to support private drinking water suppliers and recreational water providers to manage the quality of their water supplies</p>	<p>Finalise an options paper for developing a policy framework to manage private drinking water providers</p> <p>Finalise Queensland Health guidelines for swimming pool and spa water quality</p>	<p>Finalise research into types and numbers of private drinking water providers</p> <p>Gather data on the quality of water provided by private drinking water providers</p>

What are we going to do? (three years)	Statewide unit responsibilities (12 months)	Population health unit responsibilities (12 months)
4. Water quality and fluoridation (continued)		
4.3 Collaborate with research partners (eg. University of Queensland, Urban Water Security Research Alliance and Water Quality Research Australia) to inform decisions relating to drinking water, recycled water and recreational water quality policies	Participate on research committees to inform decisions relating to recreational water quality policies	Identify aspects of water quality with statewide implications which could be future research topics
4.4 Regulate water fluoridation in Queensland	<p>Develop resources and provide public health advice to support community access to information regarding the introduction of fluoridated water (as needed)</p> <p>Review water fluoridation legislation and develop resources to support operational activities</p>	Provide advice and support to public potable water suppliers to support the implementation of water fluoridation (as necessary)

What are we going to do? (three years)	Statewide unit responsibilities (12 months)	Population health unit responsibilities (12 months)
5. Food safety and standards		
<p>5.1 Consolidate and refine existing provisions and supporting resources, and roll out the remaining provisions of the <i>Food Act 2006</i></p>	<p>Develop a single local government reporting framework</p> <p>Develop policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines for use by population health units and local governments to implement the remaining provisions of the <i>Food Act 2006</i>, and continue to implement the communication strategy</p> <p>Coordinate and oversee planned food safety surveys through the Environmental Health Monitoring and Compliance Committee (MaCC) – Food</p>	<p>Provide information to assist local government to implement the <i>Food Act 2006</i></p> <p>Conduct agreed MaCC surveys, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – eggs (microbiological status and labelling of eggs) – accreditation and auditing of food safety programs in state health facilities – organic food (follow up survey to determine level of pesticides in a range of organic labelled fresh fruit and vegetables and packaged foods) – retail butchers for sulphites in minced meat – microbiological status of food contact surfaces at Queensland Health hospitals – country of origin labelling – meat pies (compliance with Food Standards Code compositional standards) – minced meat and sausage (compliance with Food Standards Code for species and preservative)
<p>5.2 Develop the EAA framework for state government facilities not bound by the <i>Food Act 2006</i></p>	<p>Continue to engage other government departments through the EAA whole-of-government working group</p> <p>Continue to engage population health units through the EAA Sub-Committee</p> <p>Develop administrative food safety management arrangements (equivalent to the <i>Food Act 2006</i>) for future implementation in Queensland government facilities through the EAA framework</p> <p>Communicate responsibilities to affected state food businesses via dedicated EAA website and targeted Queensland Government departmental communications</p>	<p>Conduct verification process on the notification of all state food facilities</p> <p>Populate a register of state food businesses, including the nominated food safety supervisor for all state food facilities</p>

What are we going to do? (three years)	Statewide unit responsibilities (12 months)	Population health unit responsibilities (12 months)
5. Food safety and standards (continued)		
5.3 Ensure Queensland Health facilities have accredited food safety programs for their food service operations	<p>Provide support materials, including templates, policies and procedures to assist population health units</p> <p>Provide oversight and coordination to ensure the implementation of accredited food safety programs in Queensland Health facilities</p>	Complete desktop and initial audits of Queensland Health facilities to ensure that they have accredited food safety programs including ongoing audits
5.4 Facilitate and manage departmental input into national and state government reviews that have an impact on food safety and standards	<p>Coordinate and develop Queensland Health's position and input into national COAG food regulatory reviews</p> <p>Liaise with the Legislative Policy Unit on relevant Queensland legislative issues that impact on food safety (eg. new Biosecurity Act)</p>	
5.5 Strengthen the administration of the food safety regulatory framework in Queensland by working with local governments, Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries, and Safe Food Production Queensland to develop an integrated food regulatory system	<p>Liaise with Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries and Safe Food Production Queensland on the development of an integrated virtual single food regulatory approach</p> <p>Establish frameworks to clearly identify portfolio roles and responsibilities in relation to the development of an integrated virtual single food regulatory approach</p> <p>Develop a single front end web portal for food agencies</p>	Provide regional input into the development of an integrated food regulatory subsystem (as required)

What are we going to do? (three years)	Statewide unit responsibilities (12 months)	Population health unit responsibilities (12 months)
6. Drugs, poisons and therapeutic goods		
6.1 Update (in the short term) and reform (in the long term) drugs and poisons legislation	<p>Liaise with Legislative Projects Unit to progress high priority amendments to regulation while continuing to advocate for development of new primary legislation</p> <p>Liaise with Legislative Projects Unit on development of Drugs and Medicines Act</p>	<p>Develop and implement systems to enable receipting of fees</p> <p>Undertake training to upskill staff in relation to enforcement</p>
6.2 Identify the benefits of the intelligence driven approach to the enforcement of drugs and poisons legislation and, if applicable, expand its current scope	<p>Develop a briefing document to support the assessment process</p> <p>Convene a reference group to examine strategies and the upskilling of population health unit Environmental Health Officers</p>	<p>Trial the new approach in two PHUs to assess the effectiveness (Gold Coast and Central Queensland)</p>
6.3 Develop and implement an agreed framework for the investigation of public sector health services system breaches of the relevant drugs and poisons legislation to complement Queensland Health ethical standards procedures	<p>Finalise the protocol with Ethical Standards Unit</p> <p>Develop policy and procedures for the investigation of complaints</p>	
6.4 Implement outcomes of the Environmental Health MaCC – Drugs, Poisons & Tobacco	<p>Coordinate and oversee planned surveys through the Environmental Health MaCC – Drugs, Poisons & Tobacco</p>	<p>Undertake agreed MaCC projects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – fumigators – public hospitals – university approval holders – hydrofluoric acid – packaging and labelling of camphor and naphthalene – approval holders for veterinary purposes

What are we going to do? (three years)	Statewide unit responsibilities (12 months)	Population health unit responsibilities (12 months)
7. Radiation health		
7.1 Improve the security of radioactive substances	<p>Introduce the Radiation Safety Amendment Bill to Parliament</p> <p>Commence implementation of the legislation, including training of licensees of large sources</p> <p>Implement new licence fee arrangements</p>	
7.2 Promote the new dose optimisation protocols	<p>Promote and approve updating of radiation safety and protection plans for Queensland Health to include new dose optimisation protocols</p> <p>Liaise and negotiate with Queensland Health services to promote standardised radiation protection practices</p>	
7.3 Develop and distribute inter-agency policies and monitoring programs to ensure environmental radiation levels remain at acceptable levels	<p>Revise the contaminated land policy</p> <p>Develop a protocol for the monitoring of radiofrequency and Extremely Low Frequency radiations in public places</p>	
7.4 Regulate solarium and other non-ionising radiation sources	<p>Amend the Radiation Safety Regulation 1999 to incorporate nationally agreed arrangements for regulating solarium</p> <p>Develop protocols for testing solarium</p> <p>Implement a regulatory system for licensing and monitoring of solarium to ensure compliance</p> <p>Develop a nationally uniform framework for the regulation of IPLS used for cosmetic purposes</p>	
7.5 Enhance organisational capacity for managing radiation health risks	<p>Implement a training, education and accreditation program for radiation health authorised officers</p>	

Attachment B

Ongoing work roles and responsibilities

Ongoing work area	Statewide unit responsibilities	Population health unit responsibilities
1. Environmental health management systems		
<p>1.1 Ensure that environmental health management systems provide consistent organisational arrangements, information systems, training and operational policies that support regulatory environmental health practice across the Division's health protection services</p>	<p>Develop and maintain systems to support consistent and timely environmental health practices through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – implementing statewide environmental health systems – managing the systems relating to statutory administrative requirements including appointments, cancellations, authorities, approvals and delegations – contributing to the mapping, development, review, maintenance, coordination and/or management of strategic and operational policies and procedures – managing, coordinating and maintaining environmental health regulatory databases – coordinating and enhancing the Division's health protection services preparedness to address disasters, emergencies and major incidents – managing, contributing to, and supporting statewide projects that impact on environmental health practice – preparing quarterly reports on environmental health activity measures and other indicators – managing prosecution function and costs, tracking and Prosecutions, Infringements and Legal Options (PILO) – managing the Prescribed Infringement Notices (PINs) function, interface with the State Penalties Enforcement Register, tracking, costs and PILO <p>Establish a communication network to link Queensland Health, Queensland universities offering environmental health courses, and peak industry bodies.</p>	<p>Contribute to ongoing system development and maintenance</p> <p>Coordinate, implement and participate in disaster and major incidents planning and preparedness activities and exercises including as Queensland Health representatives on local and district disaster management committees</p> <p>Respond (as appropriate) in the event of pandemics, chemical, biological, and radiological emergencies and natural disasters/emergencies</p> <p>Identify existing and potential environmental health problems and provide appropriate investigation and response</p> <p>Provide continuous update on enforcement interventions such as prosecutions and PINs to the PILO database.</p> <p>Provide quarterly reports on environmental health activity measures and indicators</p>

Ongoing work area	Statewide unit responsibilities	Population health unit responsibilities
1. Environmental health management systems (continued)		
	<p>Contribute to the national environmental health workforce strategy and action plan</p> <p>Manage statutory administrative functions including appointments, cancellations, authorities, approvals and delegations</p> <p>Prepare quarterly reports on quantitative and qualitative environmental health activity measures and indicators including a trend analysis on a six monthly and annual basis</p> <p>Coordinate MaCC and Regulatory Oversight Committee structures</p>	
<p>1.2 Engage with national and state environmental health non-regulatory surveillance programs (eg. enHealth, Environmental Protection Agency's State of Environment report) to monitor environmental health trends</p>	<p>Align with and deliver reports to national and state environmental health surveillance programs (eg. enHealth, Environmental Protection Agency's State of Environment report)</p> <p>Evaluate Queensland Health's responses to Queensland's State of Environment report</p>	

Ongoing work area	Statewide unit responsibilities	Population health unit responsibilities
2. Environmental health risk assessment		
2.1 Enforce the <i>Public Health Act 2005</i> and Public Health Regulation 2005	Manage environmental health incidents that require statewide coordination	<p>Manage environmental health incidents that require regional/local coordination</p> <p>Investigate and enforce issues of public health risk</p> <p>Provide ongoing advice and assistance to local governments and other key stakeholders to effectively implement the Act and Regulation</p> <p>Provide information/advice to the general public regarding public health risks of asbestos containing materials (until this function is moved to local government)</p>
2.2 Evaluate and provide advice on the development and implementation of local laws	<p>Coordinate Queensland Health state interest check on draft local government local laws</p> <p>Provide environmental health advice on local laws to local governments, in partnership with regional and local units</p>	<p>Provide advice to local governments on the development and review of local laws (as requested)</p> <p>Assess draft local laws using local knowledge of environmental health issues and provide comments</p>
2.3 Provide health impact assessment advice for local government planning and assessment projects	<p>Assess and provide advice relating to significant state projects, voluntary significant projects and environmental impact statements</p> <p>Assess and provide advice relating to local government planning initiatives including structural plans, planning schemes, and priority infrastructure plans</p>	<p>Undertake assessment on planning schemes, public health planning processes, health impact assessment and development applications under Integrated Development Assessment System, local laws and state significant projects (as required)</p> <p>Assess and provide advice in relation to local growth management strategies and master plans</p>

Ongoing work area	Statewide unit responsibilities	Population health unit responsibilities
2. Environmental health risk assessment (continued)		
2.4 Undertake significant health risk assessments and provide advice to partners when required	<p>Conduct and report on health risk assessments for environmental health issues that require statewide coordination</p> <p>Provide health risk assessment and toxicological advice to regional/local units and other agencies (as required)</p>	Conduct health risk assessments to manage local/regional environmental health hazards and issues
2.5 Manage Queensland Health's responsibility for non-communicable disease assessments	Undertake statewide cluster investigations in accordance with Queensland Health guidelines and provide specialist support to population health units (as required)	Undertake local/regional cluster investigations in accordance with Queensland Health guidelines
2.6 Assist partners to develop strategic environmental health policies that will impact on human health (eg. national and state climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies)	<p>Provide health risk assessment advice in the development of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies including research activities</p> <p>Contribute to partners' climate change policies and programs</p>	Maintain contact with local governments and other state government departments on issues of importance to environmental health
2.7 Support waste management practices in Health Service Districts		Provide technical and specialist advice to Health Service Districts and to the Waste Management Committee

Ongoing work area	Statewide unit responsibilities	Population health unit responsibilities
3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health		
3.1 Promote sound environmental health practice by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local governments and communities	Support and coordinate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health planning and development activities (as appropriate) including the organisation and implementation of regular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Implementation Team (ATSIEHI) and Strategic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Coordination Group (SATSIEHG) meetings	<p>Support the Environmental Health Worker (EHW) and Animal Management Worker (AMW) programs, and report on environmental health conditions in communities</p> <p>Provide stakeholder training to increase awareness of legislative provisions (as required)</p> <p>Provide environmental health support to local governments (as required)</p> <p>Provide regional input into the review of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health committees</p> <p>Engage key stakeholders to drive the agenda, including through National Indigenous Environmental Health Regional Forum meetings</p> <p>Collect AMW program data and prepare report</p> <p>Participate in and contribute to the ATSIEHIT and SATSIEHG meetings</p>

Ongoing work area	Statewide unit responsibilities	Population health unit responsibilities
4. Water quality and fluoridation		
4.1 Respond to public health related notifications relating to recycled (including blackwater) and drinking water quality (including fluoridation)	<p>Receive notifications and provide regulatory/technical advice to Department of Environment and Resource Management</p> <p>Refine existing standards in line with emerging toxicological and scientific evidence and improved analysis methods</p> <p>Develop new water quality standards for parameters identified in recycled and drinking water for which there are no existing standards</p> <p>Provide advice to manage public health aspects of the South East Queensland blackwater trials as per the roles and responsibilities of Queensland Health under the Blackwater Trials Memorandum of Understanding</p> <p>Provide secretariat support to the fluoridation technical committee</p>	<p>Provide advice to drinking water providers, recycled water providers and the general public regarding public health related water issues</p> <p>Respond to notifications, provide advice, and undertake appropriate investigations/enforcement action to protect public health</p> <p>Review quarterly fluoride and drinking water reports and follow up any areas of non-compliance within Queensland Health area of responsibility</p>
4.2 Undertake health risk assessments (HRAs) to manage public health impacts	<p>Provide advice to population health units and Department of Environment and Resource Management regarding HRAs</p> <p>Where necessary due to the need for expert technical input, lead and undertake HRAs</p>	<p>Lead and undertake HRAs including liaising with water providers and undertaking investigations</p>

Ongoing work area	Statewide unit responsibilities	Population health unit responsibilities
4. Water quality and fluoridation (continued)		
<p>4.3 Support the implementation of water legislation and undertake enforcement activities in relation to public health risk, 'unsafe' drinking water or 'unfit for purpose' recycled water, or breaches of the <i>Water Fluoridation Act 2008</i></p>	<p>Provide advice and support to population health units to facilitate implementation of the <i>Water Fluoridation Act 2008</i> and Regulation throughout Queensland</p> <p>Manage enforcement support systems for example, updating fact sheets, guidelines and procedures for environmental health workers</p> <p>Ensure water training modules are available to population health units through the environmental health online manual and that modules are regularly reviewed and updated</p> <p>Manage ongoing review and updating of regulatory requirements, including legal opinions and amendments</p>	<p>Facilitate implementation of the <i>Water Fluoridation Act 2008</i> and Regulation including providing advice to water providers, undertaking necessary actions to protect public health (as appropriate)</p> <p>Provide advice regarding issues with regulatory provisions and specific scenarios (if applicable)</p> <p>Implement local support strategies in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Dental Officer</p>
<p>4.4 Provide public health advice and support to unregulated water providers (eg. private drinking water providers, recreational water managers, food businesses and food businesses recycling water on site for potable purposes)</p>	<p>Manage water policy framework to protect public health through ensuring the appropriate guidelines and procedures are in place and regularly updated</p> <p>Provide water quality documentation and advice to population health units to support consistent, evidence based practice</p>	<p>Provide advice to unregulated water providers, in accordance with Queensland Health guidelines</p>

Ongoing work area	Statewide unit responsibilities	Population health unit responsibilities
5. Food safety and standards		
<p>5.1 Monitor and enforce the <i>Food Act 2006</i> and Food Standards Code to provide a safe and reliable food supply</p>	<p>Coordinate food recalls, prescribed contaminant notifications and Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) failed food reports</p> <p>Respond to community and government enquiries and complaints relating to food safety and standards, and approved food safety auditors (FSA) under the <i>Food Act 2006</i></p> <p>Lead investigation of suspected intentional contamination (SIC) of food incidents including liaising with the Queensland Police Service</p> <p>Manage and coordinate interventions relating to food related incidents and food borne illnesses in a timely and appropriate manner</p> <p>Coordinate regulatory food safety surveillance compliance and research initiatives through the Environmental Health MaCC – Food</p> <p>Manage Environmental Health InfoNet database and relevant components of the Environmental Health Practitioners Online Manual and PILO</p> <p>Manage and review Queensland Health’s food safety auditing system including approving FSAs, monitoring, surveillance and compliance verification (via check audits) and maintaining a publicly available register of approved auditors</p> <p>Monitor and report on critical non compliance notifications</p>	<p>Respond to and undertake appropriate action regarding complaints, food recalls, Prescribed Contaminant Notifications and AQIS failed food reports and results of sampling, inspections and investigations</p> <p>Undertake regional SIC investigations in accordance with Queensland Health’s SIC procedure</p> <p>Respond to food related incidents and food borne illnesses in a timely and appropriate manner</p> <p>Monitor compliance by food businesses not regulated by local government and implement enforcement action as required</p> <p>Provide advice and assistance to local government and other key stakeholders to enable them to effectively implement and/or comply with food legislation</p> <p>Undertake regulatory food safety surveillance, compliance and research activities including contributing to the Environmental Health MaCC – Food</p> <p>Provide timely input of data into the Environmental Health InfoNet database and relevant components of the Environmental Health Practitioners Online Manual and PILO</p> <p>Conduct verification audits and inspections of the auditing system and approved FSAs. (note: new work, not currently funded)</p> <p>Contribute to the ongoing management and review of the administrative food safety management arrangements</p> <p>Respond to and ensure local government act on critical non-compliance notifications in a timely and appropriate manner</p>

Ongoing work area	Statewide unit responsibilities	Population health unit responsibilities
5. Food safety and standards (continued)		
5.2 Ensure consistency in the development, implementation and review of matters involving food safety policy and regulation	<p>Develop, implement and review Queensland Health food safety operational procedures to support consistent application including chairing and providing secretariat support for the Food Safety Stakeholders Forum and associated working groups</p> <p>Develop, implement and evaluate local government and industry guidelines relating to the <i>Food Act 2006</i> including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – providing legislative frameworks and support – chairing and providing secretariat support for the Food Act Steering Committee and associated working groups related to licensing, enforcement, food safety programs and food safety standards <p>Coordinate whole-of-government approach to the development of or changes to national food policies and standards including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – coordinating Queensland’s advice in relation to national food regulation policy – representing Queensland Health and the jurisdiction on a variety of national food safety policy development and implementation committees <p>Coordinate whole-of-government responses for Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) applications and proposals</p> <p>Develop briefing papers and positions for the Queensland representatives on the following national food regulatory committees and associated working groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council (ANZFRMC) – Food Regulation Standing Committee (FRSC) – Implementation Sub Committee <p>Convene and chair Queensland Food Inter-Departmental Group (QFIG) prior to each FRSC and ANZFRMC meeting to develop whole-of-government positions</p>	<p>Promote and implement food safety policies, procedures and frameworks to facilitate the consistent implementation of food legislation amendments</p> <p>Contribute to national and state food safety policies, procedures, guidelines, applications and proposals including the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – development, review, and subsequent implementation of Queensland Health’s food procedures – development and review of guidelines and information relating to the implementation of the <i>Food Act 2006</i> – FSANZ application and proposal processes (where applicable)

Ongoing work area	Statewide unit responsibilities	Population health unit responsibilities
5. Food safety and standards (continued)		
5.3 Manage Equivalent Administrative Arrangements (EAA)	<p>Manage and review administrative food safety management arrangements through the EAA framework including rolling these arrangements out to Queensland government facilities (temporary funding)</p> <p>Convene and chair EAA working group and sub-group to develop whole-of-government positions</p>	<p>Undertake FSP assessments, audits and related activities to ensure that all relevant Queensland Health facilities have accredited food safety programs</p> <p>Contribute to the ongoing management and review of the administrative food safety management arrangements</p> <p>Provide regional input into the development of the EAA framework to state government facilities</p> <p>Provide a response to state government facilities (where appropriate)</p>
5.4 Provide environmental health advice, input and assistance relating to the implementation of food safety legislation and policies	<p>Support key stakeholders to adhere to food safety legislation and policies including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – mentoring, guiding and supporting local governments to implement and enforce food legislation – advising industry and stakeholders on the interpretation of food legislation – providing food safety information to the public <p>Provide briefs, submissions and other correspondence relating to food regulatory matters</p>	<p>Support key stakeholders to adhere to food safety legislation and policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – guiding and supporting local governments to enforce food legislation – advising industry and stakeholders on the interpretation of food legislation – providing food safety information to the public <p>Provide briefs, submissions and other correspondence relating to food regulatory matters</p>

Ongoing work area	Statewide unit responsibilities	Population health unit responsibilities
6. Drugs poisons and therapeutic goods		
6.1 Ensure compliance with the regulatory systems relating to drugs, poisons, therapeutic goods and pest management	<p>Grant, issue and renew medicine and poison endorsements within predetermined timeframes</p> <p>Coordinate, support and undertake interventions to ensure compliance with legislation relating to drugs, poisons, therapeutic goods and pest management</p> <p>Provide support to Environmental Health MaCC – Drugs, Poisons & Tobacco through maintaining secretariat functions and providing relevant technical input into survey work</p> <p>Coordinate and where appropriate undertake intelligence driven interventions in relation to non-compliance by health professionals relating to pseudoephedrine and, where detected, other drugs subject to abuse/diversion</p>	<p>Grant and issue new endorsements under the legislation</p> <p>Conduct audits and inspections of endorsement holders and applicants</p> <p>Investigate non-compliance by endorsement holders and holders of other legislative instruments and implement enforcement action</p> <p>Investigate complaints and non-compliance and local public health issues relating to drugs, poisons, therapeutic goods and pest management</p> <p>Provide timely, accurate advice relating to drugs, poisons and therapeutic goods</p>
6.2 Develop and review legislation and policy relating to drugs, poisons, therapeutic goods and pest management	Undertake timely reviews of legislation and policies relating to drugs, poisons, therapeutic goods and pest management	<p>Provide timely input into the review and development of legislation and policies relating to drugs, poisons, therapeutic goods and pest management</p> <p>Implement revised legislation</p>
6.3 Participate in the maintenance and enhancement of the national regulatory systems dealing with scheduled drugs, poisons and therapeutic goods	Undertake research and provide advice and guidance in relation to regulatory systems dealing with scheduled drugs, poisons and therapeutic goods	

Ongoing work area	Statewide unit responsibilities	Population health unit responsibilities
7. Radiation		
<p>7.1 Protect Queensland's population and environment from the harmful effects of ionising and non-ionising radiation by administering Queensland's <i>Radiation Safety Act 1999</i> and providing peak radiation protection advice to government and a suite of statewide regulatory-related services</p>	<p>Administer the <i>Radiation Safety Act 1999</i></p> <p>Develop, implement, enforce, review and evaluate all aspects of Queensland's radiation safety and hygiene, security and control legislation, policy, standards and practice</p> <p>Monitor trends and provide professional counsel in all types of radiation activities including mining and manufacturing industries; health, allied health and veterinary industries; research; and environmental protection</p> <p>Provide the State Radiation Officer and support teams during visits by nuclear powered warships to Queensland ports and prepare, or participate in, the preparation of associated counter disaster emergency plans</p> <p>Provide specialist advice to emergency service providers in radiological emergencies</p> <p>Assess and identify land contaminated with radioactive substances and decide whether such land should be listed on environmental management or contaminated land registers</p> <p>Manage and operate Queensland's Radioactive Waste Store</p> <p>Provide secretariat support to the Radiation Advisory Council</p>	

Attachment C

Environmental health key documents

- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Plan 2008–2013*
- *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*
- *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2004*
- *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*
- *Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act 2001*
- *Disaster Management Act 2003*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991*
- *Food Act 2006*
- *Food Regulation 2006*
- *Gene Technology Act 2000*
- *Integrated Planning Act 1997*
- *Inter-Governmental Agreement on Food Regulation 2000 as amended on 3 July 2008 (including Model Food Act provisions)*
- *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999*
- *National Directory for Radiation Protection 2004*
- *National Environmental Health Strategy 2007–2012*
- *National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health 2003–2013*
- *Public Health Act 2005*
- *Public Health Regulation 2005*
- *Public Safety Preservation Act 1986*
- *Radiation Safety Act 1999*
- *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*
- *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*
- *Urban Land Development Authority Act 2007*
- *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995*
- *Water Fluoridation Act 2008*
- *Water Fluoridation Regulation 2008*
- *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*
- *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995*

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