

## CAPABILITY STATEMENT



### OUR COMPANY

Chenoweth Environmental Planning & Landscape Architecture (Chenoweth EPLA) provides consulting services in environmental assessment and planning, landscape design and evaluation, sustainable development and open space management, integrating ecological and human needs.

Our service is personal, reliable, reputable and professional.

The multi-disciplinary team at Chenoweth EPLA combine qualifications, skills and experience in design, sciences and planning, with appropriate capabilities for each project and site. Our project experience of over 20 years includes service to all three levels of government, private sector clients and large consultancy teams, and to the Planning & Environment Court.

A program of continuing professional development ensures we are up to date with information, legislation and approaches, supplemented by research and close links with relevant organisations and agencies. A network of experienced subconsultants is available for specialist services, and to collaborate in joint arrangements as required.

Chenoweth EPLA has developed new approaches and techniques in environmental planning and landscape assessment, and we maintain our 'leading edge' position by a commitment to innovation, adaptation and scoping to deliver outputs which address client needs. Our reports and designs also meet the expectations of government agencies and communities for high standards of accuracy, legibility, applicability and ethics.

### OUR APPROACH

The integration of ecology and design is a cornerstone of our practice, and contributes to our distinctive market position. We aim to achieve best practice in ESD design, in close collaboration with clients and government agencies. This expertise in environmentally responsible design is combined with a commitment to enhancing human experiences in urban settings, tourism/leisure facilities, parks and natural areas.

A range of 'place-making' strategies are used to create or reinforce a sense of place, conveyed through effective graphic communication, community/stakeholder consultation and collaboration. Our approach is both rigorous and consultative, based on conservation biology principles, and working closely with clients and stakeholders to identify/resolve issues. Our reports are capable of withstanding community, scientific and legal scrutiny.

### OUR REPUTATION

Chenoweth EPLA has established a leading reputation in environmental planning, a relatively new field which provides the information needed to plan and implement ecologically sustainable development (ESD), based on environmental constraints and opportunities, and balanced with social and economic objectives. We have pioneered these integrated approaches in Queensland, helping to bridge the gap between environmental sciences, land use planning, design and management.

### KEY DRIVERS

The key drivers in forming and maintaining Chenoweth EPLA as an independent consultancy have been:

→ The need for specialist independent & inter-disciplinary services.

→ The need for experts to interpret 'best available science' as a guide for planners.

→ The need for consultants who understand the requirements of agencies and the practical needs of clients and projects.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Our practice is based on a commitment to:

*".....sustainable development through a synthesis of planning, science, design and consultation."*

## ECOLOGY

The Chenoweth EPLA team of botanists/zoologists/ecologists, GIS specialists and environmental scientists work as an independent team or closely with other experts to provide high quality flora, fauna and GIS mapping services ranging from preliminary data acquisition through to high standard presentations. Chenoweth EPLA can assist with projects on a property scale up to projects on a bioregional scale.

- **FLORA ASSESSMENTS**

Our team of expert botanists/ecologists are skilled in the necessary assessment methods to meet the requirements of statutory agencies. We have considerable experience in vegetation & Regional Ecosystem mapping, targeted searches for 'at risk' species, the survey of pest species, conservation significance assessment & statutory compliance.

- **FAUNA ASSESSMENTS**

Our team of expert zoologists/ecologists are skilled in the necessary survey techniques to meet the requirements of statutory agencies. We have experience in the survey of threatened species, preparation of fauna inventories and detailed fauna survey including trapping regimes, nocturnal survey and monitoring.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS**

Assessment of environmental impact to meet statutory requirements and community concerns, working closely with clients to avoid, reduce and if required, offset identified impacts and develop practical management strategies.



## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Chenoweth EPLA can assist with projects on a property scale up to projects on a bioregional scale.

- **PLANNING SCHEMES**

Preparation of planning scheme studies and mapping to inform scheme preparation. Drafting of codes and policies to address biodiversity values, waterways and wetlands at the local government level.

- **CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT & CORRIDOR PLANNING**

Broad-scale GIS mapping of significance of vegetation and identification of strategic corridors and pinch points.

- **ROAD ECOLOGY PLANNING**

Barrier mitigation planning and monitoring, based on current international best practice.

- **REGIONAL PLANNING**

Preparation of studies and group facilitation to inform regional strategies and conservation planning. Including reserve network planning and management, pest management, offset strategies, ecological restoration and conservation significance values.



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## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & REHABILITATION

The natural resource capabilities of Chenoweth EPLA include particular expertise in revegetation and ecological restoration. Our team of environmental scientists and landscape architects have qualifications, skills and experience in plant ecology, vegetation assessment, community nature conservation, remnant bushland and natural area management. We have considerable experience in Environmental Management Plans, Vegetation Management Plans & Ecology Restoration and bushland/waterway management plans for community title schemes.

### • ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

Project-specific Vegetation Management Plans as required for development applications & construction. Property Maps of Assessable Vegetation (PMAVs) & Property Vegetation Management Plans (PVMPs). Advice to corporate clients, government organisations at all levels regarding protected area management, departmental requirements and integration of planning, conservation and development.

### • ENVIRONMENTAL OFFSETS

Assessments and management plans for offsets required under federal and state legislation and local government requirements.

### • BUSHFIRE PLANNING

With skills in bushfire hazard mapping and bushfire planning Chenoweth EPLA can assist with property scale to local government scale bushfire planning.

### • OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Open space planning & management strategies, integrated with town planning, recreation, heritage & nature conservation, tourism & ecotourism planning, habitat & corridor rehabilitation, scenic amenity, trail system and pedestrian/cycleway strategies; park management & access/vehicle planning, design of visitor facilities; using techniques of landscape ecology, Recreation Opportunity & Visitor Management, vegetation and bushfire risk assessment, wilderness/remote area planning, and nature interpretation/story-telling.



## WATER AND WETLANDS



Chenoweth EPLA offers expert environmental and design advice for water-sensitive urban design, catchment studies and riparian rehabilitation. Our experienced staff of multi skilled ecologists, environmental planners, landscape architects and GIS/CAD operators can provide stand alone management plans and design services, or specialist input to larger multidisciplinary teams.



### • WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN

Site planning and design to reduce hydraulic, hydrological and water quality impacts on and off-site, infiltration swale and vegetated bioswale design incorporating habitat, landscape design of creek/lake foreshore parks and recreational uses of water and land/water interfaces.

### • WATERWAY RESTORATION

Site selection, strategies and technologies, planning & reprofiling, bank protection, riparian corridor planning and design, open space parkland and recreation facilities.

### • WETLAND MAPPING

Mapping of/ground truthing of wetlands.

### • CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

Resource assessment & mapping, community consultation, flora and fauna surveys, IPA, EPA & Water EPP requirements, creek bank stability & buffers, habitat corridors and networks, "SQID" design and placement, management plans to reduce impacts of rural land use, development and extractive industries.



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## VISUAL & SCENIC ASSESSMENT

Chenoweth EPLA is one of Queensland's leading consultancy practices specialising in the assessment and documentation of landscape values. Assessment of scenic quality, landscape character and sensitivity to change provide valuable base information for land use planning, resource management and development assessment at regional, local government and neighbourhood scale. Visual impacts are also increasingly major issues in disputes and appeals regarding development. Chenoweth EPLA can assist with projects on a property scale up to projects on a bioregional scale.



- **VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Viewshed, visibility and view corridor analysis, local character, visual and landscape impact assessment, effects on local neighbourhoods & sensitive receptors, routes and visitor activity areas; screening capacity of topography and vegetation, concept plans and detailed design of screening, buffers and other amelioration and enhancement measures.

- **VISUAL AND SCENIC AMENITY**

Scenic quality & amenity assessment with community inputs, landscape units & settings, distinctive and characteristic features, city & shire image, rural and townscape character, landscape significance, cultural associations, visual resource management zones and tools for planning, management & development controls.

## LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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- **LANDSCAPE DESIGN**

Site analysis, master planning, concept development, detailed design, documentation and contract administration for: highways, subdivisions, medium density housing, public works, commercial and industrial developments.

- **URBAN DESIGN**

Planning, design and implementation strategies for streetscape, town centre and waterfront enhancement, including design guidelines and manuals, landscape character studies, community consultation, agency liaison and action plans.

- **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Recreation Opportunity planning, interpretation, trail systems and vehicle management, especially in protected areas, coastal areas and wetlands.

- **PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Project management for landscape implementation including contract administration.

- **LANDSCAPE DOCUMENTATION**

Our documentation can include landscape concept plans, materials, plant and image palettes, specifications, operational works and construction drawings.



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