



Southern Gulf  
NRM

## A new future for natural resource management in the Southern Gulf Region

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Is NQ Dry Tropics taking over Southern Gulf NRM?

The existing companies are working together to merge in a way that benefits both existing companies and their members and communities. If it proceeds, the merger will establish an entirely new constitution that has been jointly developed by the Southern Gulf NRM and NQ Dry Tropics as part of the merger process. Each of the existing companies have willingly participated in the merger process in a spirit of collaboration and cooperation.

#### Will project funding for the Southern Gulf Region be diverted to the NQ Dry Tropics Region?

No. Southern Gulf NRM administers grants and other funding from Governments to deliver projects in the Southern Gulf region. The merged entity will remain obliged to deliver the projects in the Southern Gulf region at the same location and for the same purpose. There is no way of diverting project funds from one region to the other without breaching legally-binding funding agreements.

#### What rights will Southern Gulf NRM members have in the merger?

Southern Gulf NRM members will decide if the merger is to proceed by exercising their vote at the Annual General Meeting. If the membership does not vote to merge, it will not proceed. If the membership does decide to merge, all existing Southern Gulf NRM members will have the automatic right to become members of the merged company and play their role in accordance with the new constitution.

#### Will any jobs be lost in the Southern Gulf Region?

There will be no net loss of any ongoing jobs in the Southern Gulf Region as a result of the merger. The Southern Gulf NRM CEO role will be discontinued, but the two existing companies have agreed that a new senior role needs to be established in the Southern Gulf region to be a focus for regional engagement and NRM leadership.



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### How can we be sure that the interests of the Southern Gulf community will be considered by the merged Board?

The new board of the merged company will comprise four directors nominated by each of the two existing Boards. This will ensure that Southern Gulf voices are embedded in the establishment of the merged entity from the beginning. The new Board and the CEO will have the role of ensuring continued engagement of Southern Gulf NRM stakeholders in keeping with the purpose of the merged company and already established funding agreement obligations. The merged company board will be accountable to members and stakeholders in the Southern Gulf region as well as those in the NQ Dry Tropics region.

### Is the merger being forced on our region by the Government?

No. Both the Australian and Queensland Governments have made clear to all NRM organisations that they expect that NRM funding provided is used efficiently and that projects are designed and delivered to meet NRM industry best practice. These are among the objectives sought from the merger, but neither government has been involved in the merger process, beyond being consulted.

### Will the merged entity be financially viable?

Yes. Both companies are financially viable at present. The merged entity will combine the financial strengths of the two existing organisations.

### What will happen to Southern Gulf NRM after the merger?

The merger involves progressively transferring Southern Gulf NRM's assets, liabilities, service contracts and staff to the merged company. Once this is complete, the Southern Gulf NRM Board will convene a special general meeting and propose to company members that the company be formally wound-up. This process will be managed by a liquidator and will likely take a few months to implement.