

2025-2026 NOMINEES

Luke Austin

Member Group: Professionals Advocating for Climate Action



As a current Director and Treasurer of the NCC, I am seeking re-election to continue contributing my skills and passion to our vital work.

Throughout my career in senior leadership roles, I have thrived in contexts where diverse perspectives must be brought together respectfully to achieve common goals. At NCC, I have sought to foster constructive dialogue, ensuring every voice is heard and valued.

As a communicator, I am comfortable both challenging and being challenged. I see robust, respectful debate as essential to good governance and sound decision-making. My professional experience as a CFO, Deputy CEO, and Board member across multiple organisations has reinforced the importance of balancing accountability with trust.

I am deeply curious about all aspects of NCC’s work—from governance and operations to fundraising and community impact. My financial and governance expertise allows me to contribute effectively to oversight and risk management, while my personal passion for conservation ensures I remain connected to NCC’s mission.

It would be a privilege to continue serving as a Director, supporting NCC’s collective efforts to protect nature and strengthen our future.

The Nominee:	Luke Austin
Nominating to represent the region (optional):	
Nominee’s Member Group:	Professionals Advocating for Climate Action
Name of Endorsing Office Bearer:	Carolyn Loton
Position of Endorsing Office Bearer:	Founder
Name of Seconder (#1):	Stephen Moir
Position and Organisation of Seconder (#1):	Co-Founder, Professionals Advocating for Climate Action
Name of Seconder (#2):	Angela Michaelis
Position and Organisation of Seconder (#2):	Committee Member, Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle

Peter Singleton Coughlan
Member Group: Climate Action Newcastle



Peter is a retired Chartered Accountant and business consultant who joined the NCC board in November 2023, also sitting on the NCC Governance Committee. In the broader environmental space he is an active volunteer with Hunter Renewal, the Hunter Community Alliance, and the Groundswell Collective. He currently sits on the boards of Lock the Gate and the New South Wales Alliance for Community Building. He completed the AICD Company Directors course in 2016. In recent years he has also been a board member of several Hunter based not-for-profit organisations including Hunter Basketball Association, Connectability and Lifeline Hunter Central Coast.

The Nominee:	Peter Coughlan
Nominating to represent the region (optional):	
Nominee's Member Group:	Climate Action Newcastle
Name of Endorsing Office Bearer:	James Whelan
Position of Endorsing Office Bearer:	Secretary
Name of Seconder (#1):	Jo Lynch Nielsen
Position and Organisation of Seconder (#1):	Committee Member, Hunter Community Environment Centre
Name of Seconder (#2):	Ingrid Schraner
Position and Organisation of Seconder (#2):	Committee Member, Coal-ash Community Alliance

Justine Bucknell

Member Group: Macquarie Marshes Environmental Landholders Association



For the last 21 years Justine has been director/secretary of Quambone Pastoral Co. with her husband Dugald, who run a beef cattle production enterprise on the eastern side of the Macquarie Marshes and floodplain. Justine is also Secretary for the Macquarie Marshes Environmental Landholders Association, a group of floodplain graziers in and around the Macquarie Marshes who are concerned with preserving the RAMSAR listed wetlands with the challenge of ever diminishing flows in the lower Macquarie Wambuul River. Justine is a member of Healthy Rivers Dubbo, and the Great Artesian Basin Protection Group, and helped with the No CSG and pipeline campaign in Coonamble and participated in the campaign against a proposed re-regulating weir at Gin Gin in the Macquarie River.

A Board member since 2023, Justine has greatly appreciated the opportunity of being part of such a dynamic team, and is looking forward to continuing this journey to fight for nature.

Justine has advertising and marketing experience along with communication, customer relations and organisational skills, is politically motivated and strongly believes in the power of grassroots advocacy, focusing on the sustainability of the Murray Darling Basin as a whole. She has on ground experience with the challenges of retaining flows in the Macquarie Wambuul River and has observed changes in ecosystems as a result of reduced flows and climate change. Justine hopes for a sustainable and viable future for her children, a key driver for her motivation.

The Nominee:	Justine Bucknell
Nominating to represent the region (optional):	Western NSW – Murray Darling Basin
Nominee’s Member Group:	Macquarie Marshes Environmental Landholders Association
Name of Endorsing Office Bearer:	Garry Hall
Position of Endorsing Office Bearer:	President
Name of Seconder (#1):	Mel Gray
Position and Organisation of Seconder (#1):	Convenor, Healthy Rivers Dubbo
Name of Seconder (#2):	Bronwyn Powell
Position and Organisation of Seconder (#2):	Vice Co-ordinator, Healthy Rivers Dubbo

David Marquard

Member Group: Cumberland Bird Observers Group



I am Chair, Treasurer and on the Conservation Committee of the NFP BirdLife Southern NSW. With my core passion for birds, I am involved in advocacy campaigns ranging from national Nature Laws and NSW Government offshore wind farm submissions to local neighbourhood grass roots campaigns fighting for green corridors. I am a regular surveyor in regional NSW woodland surveys (Cowra, Grenfell); and, with our fabulous volunteers, involved in community outreach and engagement (eg represent BirdLife at my local council festivals, meet the MPs event with ACF, volunteering at BirdLife’s Discovery Centre). A member of 2 birding clubs and participant with Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle.

My professional experience is built on business strategy, operations and consulting in both large corporates (Accenture, IBM, EY), a water sector start-up and my own consulting in ESG (environment, social & governance) compliance. Key skills I hope to bring include working with Boards, strategic problem solving, working with multiple stakeholders in complex environments, and program management. I will bring energy, passion and a collaborative and inclusive style to support the NCC Board across multiple broad areas, with an emphasis on governance, finance and technology.

I would be honoured to continue supporting the impactful NCC journey.

The Nominee:	David Marquard
Nominating to represent the region (optional):	
Nominee’s Member Group:	Cumberland Bird Observers Group
Name of Endorsing Office Bearer:	Heather Pearce
Position of Endorsing Office Bearer:	President
Name of Seconder (#1):	Coralie Turner-Morris
Position and Organisation of Seconder (#1):	Secretary, Cumberland Bird Observers Group
Name of Seconder (#2):	Barry Walsh
Position and Organisation of Seconder (#2):	Secretary, Birdlife Southern NSW

CONTINUING BOARD

Jo Davey

Member Group: Manyana Matters Environmental Association Inc.



Jo Davey is an experienced executive and non-executive company director on commercial, NFP and government boards including membership-based organisations, in the food manufacturing, standards, research and innovation sectors. She has served on board sub-committees for Finance, Audit and Risk Management, and People and Culture. Jo has held national leadership positions for two food industry professional associations. She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and commits to her continuing professional development.

At a personal level, Jo is recognised for her drive, professionalism and collaborative style.

Jo joined Manyana Matters Environmental Association (MMEA) Inc after the Black Summer bushfires, becoming their Secretary in 2022. She has brought her

leadership and executive skills to MMEA and supports the ongoing campaign through key correspondence and meetings with politicians and preparation of submissions.

Manyana Matters' respectful and creative campaigning has garnered widespread support and recognition. Jo believes that, alongside passionate, highly visible local campaigns, broad structural change is required to protect nature. For this reason, she is keen to step up to the Board of NCC.

By contributing to its strategic direction, governance and sustainability, Jo wants to support NCC to be the most influential and effective it can be.

Julie Taylor Mills
Member Group: SERCA



I have been on the NCC Board since 2020 and am standing again because I believe strongly in the role of the NCC as the peak body for environmental groups across the state and because I feel strongly about its role in being an advocate for nature in NSW. While I support all the areas of focus in NCCs work it is the field of securing an end to native forest logging, better environmental management of water resources - both inland and coastal, and biodiversity conservation which are my strongest passions.

Dr. Sally Townley

Member Group: National Parks Association



I'm an ecologist with thirty years experience whose special fields of interests are arboreal mammals and small ground mammals. I'm passionate about conservation and have worked in the public sector as well as private pursuing conservation aims. For the past twelve years I have been an elected Councillor and for four of those years was Deputy Mayor of Coffs Harbour City Council. I served on the Board of Casuarina Steiner School, including a period of two years as Chair. I believe consensus decision-making is a powerful tool and believe that strong governance frameworks make healthy organisations.

I completed a Bachelor of Applied Science in Coastal Management and a Ph.D in the field of wildlife ecology. I recently completed a Bachelor of Laws. I think my combination of academic study, field experience and participation in decision-making bodies gives me a strong platform from which I can make a contribution to the work of NCC.

Lynette Ryan

Member Group: Total Environment Centre



I am pleased to be nominating for a role on the NCC Executive Board. The impact that NCC have created over the years of dedicated work is impressive, giving nature and climate a voice at a time where this voice is urgently needed. I am nominating to bring my diverse corporate, sustainability, not for profit experience and skills to a governance role with the NCC to continue to amplify this impact.

I have over 20 years experience as an executive in leading global and Australian companies, I am a sustainability and ESG specialist with a legal background. I have worked across sectors including in the not-for-profit sector with First Nations led organisations focused on community and economic development including Jawun and as the establishment COO of the organisation leading the YES23 campaign. I bring my cross sector collaborative leadership style to a governance role creating impact for the environment and community.

Key Areas of Expertise

- Corporate Strategy, Legal and Governance
- Sustainability and ESG Governance, Transformation, Strategy Development and Execution
- Community Development, First Nations economic development, and Social Impact
- Stakeholder engagement and communication

Carolyn Loton

Member Group: Professionals Advocating for Climate Action



A Nature Conservation Council board member since 2021, Carolyn is passionate about nature and Australia's biodiversity and is committed to NCC's work. She believes that immediate action to address climate change is imperative. Prior to becoming the Chair of NCC in 2022 she held the role of Treasurer. As Treasurer, she led the formalisation of the NCC Evans Wetlands Bequest policy and associated initiatives; and was also involved in developing clearer internal reporting formats. As Chair, her focus to date has been building a strong working relationship across the board,

appointment of the current CEO, strengthening financial rigour, greater clarity on systems and processes and improving governance at NCC board level. Carolyn is a co-founder of Professionals Advocating for Climate Action, whose membership is over 500 people.

Carolyn works fulltime in the marketing agency she founded in 2006, and whose purpose is marketing for good. She is a Qualified Practicing Researcher (Australian Research Society), a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds an MBA. She originally trained and worked as an Occupational Therapist.

Carolyn is a respectful, collaborative and values-based professional. Over the past three years she has attended all board meetings, many member events and several regional conferences. The skills she brings to the board include strategic, financial and commercial understanding of operating a small organisation and experience running a small voluntary environment-focused organisation.

Winsome Hall OAM

Member Group: Friends of the Mongarlowe River Inc.



I have been an environmental campaigner or supporter for many years, most memorably with the Franklin campaign, forest logging and various climate actions. I am a member of the Australian Conservation Foundation, Australian Plant Society NSW, WinZero, various bush care groups within the Southern Highlands, and a supporter of native habitat groups. I am a member of Friends of Wingecarribee which seeks greater diversity of representation on our local council and better planning and have long experience with a variety of member organisations to seek change.

I am a highly experienced non-executive director with almost 30 years of trustee and corporate board roles largely in the finance sector. Past directorships and chair roles include companies responsible for superannuation, financial planning, consumer protection, and investment in infrastructure and venture capital. My early career was as a union secretary and senior public servant. I focus on good corporate governance, people and processes and am experienced in complex and diverse organisations with many stakeholders and potential conflicts, to early start-ups. I bring a strategic and customer / member outlook and seek the value in the diversity of experience and thought leadership at the board table. I am keen to keep contributing to the vital work of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

Terry Korn

Member Group: Dubbo Field Naturalist and Conservation Society



Terry has been involved in water management since 1979 through management of the Macquarie Marshes. Terry has sat on catchment management committees, regional vegetation management committees, national parks advisory committees and boards for West 2000, West 2000+ and Mutawintji national park. From 1999-2006 Terry was Director Western for NSW NPWS during which he acted as director general. Terry established a water reform unit for western NSW which negotiated water sharing plans for western rivers. Since retirement Terry has held

positions on the committee of the Australian Floodplain Association (primarily floodplain graziers), including the presidency for six years during which time he lobbied for healthy rivers. Terry has sat on the Productivity Commission's stakeholder working party which undertook the 5-year review of the Murray Darling Basin Plan and was a member of the Commonwealth Environment Water Holders Stakeholder Reference Group. In 2007, Terry was awarded the Public Service medal for conservation in western NSW, Aboriginal joint management, establishing the protected area system in Timo-Leste and managing the Brigalow Belt South bioregional assessment process. Terry has consulted to the NSW Natural Resources Commission as an independent expert on pest management.

Julie Barnes

Member Group: Green Shareholders and Total Environment Centre



Julie is passionate about conservation. She campaigned with the Stand Up for Nature Alliance against the Biodiversity Act, and volunteered with TEC and the NCC subsequently on campaigns, fundraising and research. She has volunteered for WIRES for over ten years. She has a background in law and practiced for 20 years. For the last two years she has been on the board of the NCC, and for the past year has acted as secretary and chair of the governance committee.