

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

PROTECT
CONSERVE
SUSTAIN



QUEENSLAND
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL

Queensland's
voice for the
environment
since 1969



DON'T CUT MY TREES!

YEONGWAR FOREST

DEON FORE

PROTECT OUR KOALA HABITAT

Stand Up For Nature

#NoTreeNoMe
#NoMeNoTree

Stand Up For Nature

PROTECT NATIVE FORESTS NOW

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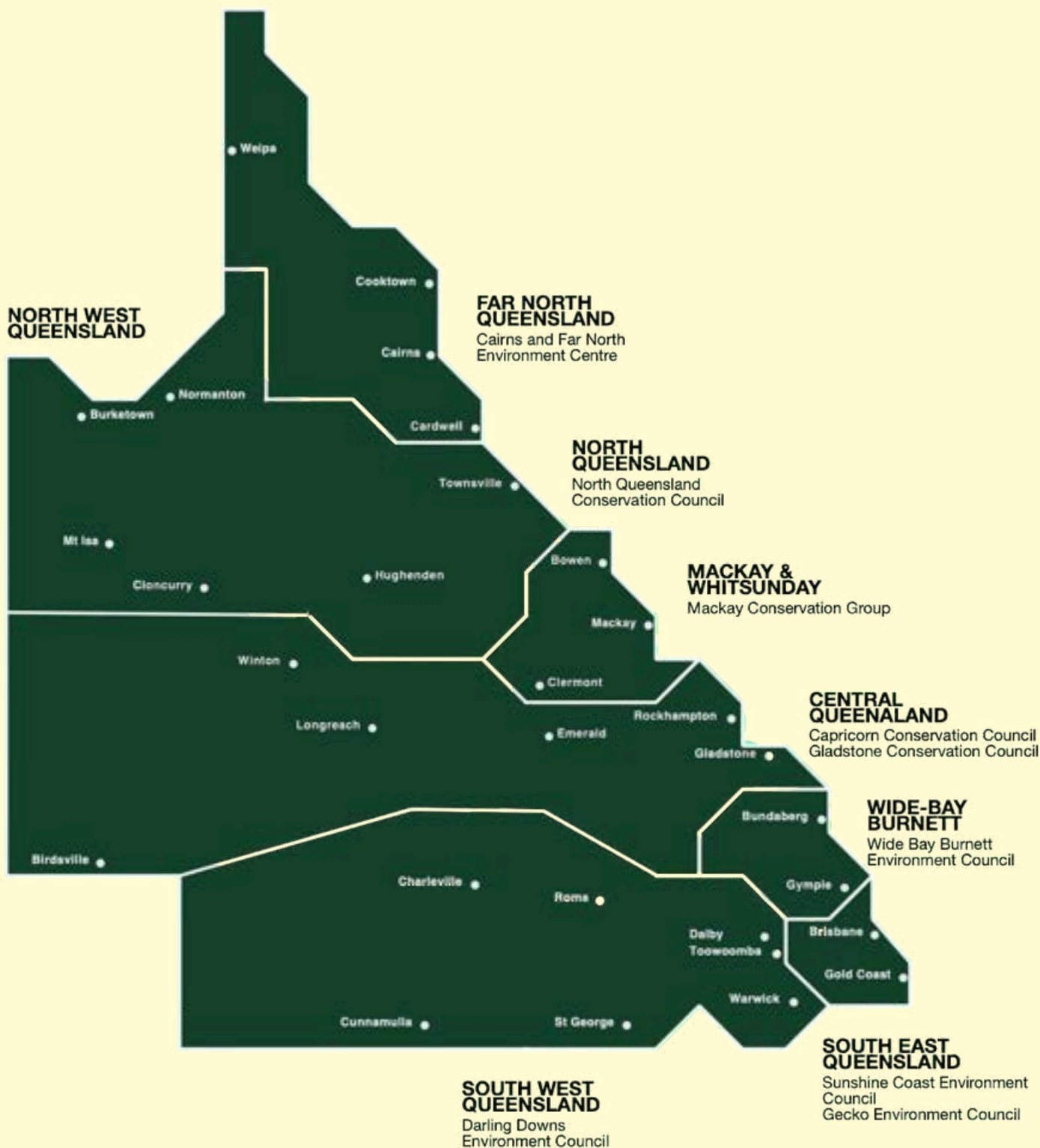
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Where we work



Regional Conservation Councils we work with

QCC is the peak body for community environment groups in Queensland. We work together with our fellow regional conservation councils across the state to engage organisations, communities and individuals to defend nature for current and future generations.



Queensland Conservation Council acknowledges that we meet and work across the many lands of Queensland. We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past and present – and acknowledge the important role all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people play in protecting, conserving and sustaining Queensland.


Who we are

Queensland Conservation Council stands as the leading independent advocate for Queensland's environment.

QCC unites passionate individuals across Queensland who share a deep concern for our natural world and the pressing issue of climate change. By joining forces, we amplify our collective voice, paving the way for a brighter future for our environment, communities, and future generations. At the forefront of Queensland's environmental movement, we proudly support and connect more than 50 community environmental groups statewide. Since our inception in 1969, we've been committed to safeguarding, preserving, and nurturing Queensland's precious biodiversity and environment. To turn this vision into reality, we rally people together into a powerful movement for nature and climate justice.

**Our vision is
clear: a
healthy
environment
and safe
climate for all.**




**BUILD BIG
SOLAR**
NOT NEW COAL
CLIMATE ACTION NOW 
CLIMATE ACTION NOW 

Report from the Chair



My name is Trevor Meldrum, an Aboriginal man with Australian heritage, deeply connected to my family ties in Princess Charlotte Bay and the Palmer River. It is an honour to present my second report as the Chair of the Queensland Conservation Council (QCC). With over 32 years of experience in environmental work, my journey in conservation has been driven by a profound concern for Country and a commitment to ensuring that the significance of Cape York is not overlooked. I have worked closely with a wide range of community based people, Aboriginal traditional owners, and especially my Deputy Chair, Diana David, who represents our Torres Strait Island People. Having worked with a wide range of people and organisations such as QCC, the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC), and through my collaboration with Lucy, our QCC board, our Director, Dave Copeman, and staff, I realised that I had the opportunity to keep elevating and representing the voices and concerns from Cape York, and across the broad state of Queensland. One of the key reasons I chose to continue with this

leadership role was to challenge the perception that individuals like myself could not lead environmental organisations. In my day-to-day role, I lead Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Incorporated, an Indigenous-led not-for-profit environmental organisation. Our work across Cape York focuses on mitigating environmental degradation and promoting sustainable land use among environmental and agricultural groups. This includes reducing the reliance on herbicides and pesticides, particularly given our proximity to the Great Barrier Reef, where healthy land is essential to maintaining healthy waters.

Queensland is a vast state, and QCC's footprint reflects the scale of our responsibility to care for this land sustainably and to begin reversing the impact of 250 years of European influence. As stated in my first report, my vision for QCC is one of unity and collaboration, where we work together to create positive and lasting change. I am proud that QCC is on a journey to be more inclusive, particularly in its work

with First Nations communities. The addition of Diana David and myself to the board has marked a significant step in this direction and we commit to encouraging more First Nations people to join us on our shared journey. I was especially proud of the launch of the First Nations Solidarity Fund which has been utilised throughout the year, with great success. This is a very meaningful initiative that reflects our commitment to supporting real, positive outcomes for Indigenous communities.

As Chair, my role is to bring people together. Over the coming years, I am committed to working closely with our Regional Conservation Councils to encourage greater Indigenous participation. I am also keen to keep collaborating with QCC's Protect Country Strategist, Teila Watson, to organise regional gatherings of Traditional Owners to discuss their visions for protecting Country and cultural heritage. It is imperative that this work goes hand in hand with empowering Traditional Owners and our broader community to work together across our great state of Queensland to solve the challenges we face and for us to have a stake in protecting our own lands, no matter where we are actually located.



J. Meldrum

Report from the Director



As we come to the end of 2025, we are half way through the critical decade for climate action. It's an important time to reflect on where we are, what we've achieved, and what must still be done. Climate action used to be seen as a fringe issue in politics, but this is definitely no longer the case. Climate is deeply political, but regrettably too often these politics are resulting in backward steps away from science and evidence. We are ripping up energy transition plans when we should be getting on with building renewables in the right places. Coal companies are screaming at the injustice of paying their fair share as they continue to emit out of control methane emissions on top of the carbon dioxide as the coal is burnt, while new projects and extensions have operating dates long past 2050, when they should be closing now.

Protecting nature is superficially less divisive, but suffers from massive underinvestment and reprioritisation. We need at least 1% of our state and federal budgets for nature protection and restoration to meet our global targets.

As we face a once in a generational chance to improve our Federal nature laws so they protect irreplaceable habitat, improve our landscape planning to prioritise nature, and close the massive loopholes that leave the greatest form of habitat destruction unchecked, we once come down to political positioning.

Our State Government looks to improve national parks with more rangers, but potentially also damage tourist developments. We celebrate as logging of our native forests stops in south east Queensland, but mourn as it is being given a new destructive burst of life in Greater Glider habitat just an hours drive further north.

The need to make sure there was a strong statewide voice for the environment was why QCC was formed 55 years ago, and it's just as important today. We are lifting up our voice, speaking out in a court process to challenge the approval of Lake Vermont Coal mine. As the representative of the state and territory conservation councils, I

have been deeply involved in the advocacy and campaigning for stronger nature laws, building on nearly 3 years of advocacy since Minister Plibersek announced the Nature Positive reforms. In the end, we will be judged not on the politics, but on the results. And, right now, while the Great Barrier Reef faces repeated bleaching from waters compacted by layers of sediment and nutrient every wet season, Queensland also leads the world in mammalian extinctions, and Australia in habitat destruction and deforestation.

This is important, hard, and deeply emotional work. It feels like a marathon sometimes, but it should always also be a relay. Over the last 12 months, QCC has said goodbye to a number of staff members, including Uncle Paul Spearim, Nina Davis, Cass Bennett, Jen Basham and Ines Icaza. All of them believed in our work and gave their all, and I am grateful to each of them, but each handed the baton to new, passionate QCC staff. We will also be saying goodbye to a number of board members at the end of this year.

But as long as Queensland's environment needs a voice that is heard loudly and clearly, repeatedly by our State and Federal governments, our business and our communities, then QCC will be here, with passionate members, board, staff, volunteers and activists, fighting for climate action, protecting nature, moving beyond colonial practices, and bringing people together to create change.



QCC Board



Trevor Meldrum | Chair

Trevor is a Kuuku Yalangi man who holds deep familial ties to Princess Charlotte Bay and Palmer River Country in the Cape York Peninsula. With over three decades of experience in environmental and natural resource management, Trevor holds qualifications in International Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Conservation and Land Management, and Training and Assessment. His extensive training, including Environmental Project Management and Scientific Surveys, reinforces his dedication to environmental stewardship.



Diana David | Deputy Chair

Diana is a Kunggandji, Kaanju and Kulkalgau woman from North Queensland. She is passionately focused on advancing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights to self-determination and promoting community engagement. Diana recognises the profound challenges that climate change has on Indigenous health, and she aims to amplify their voices to help safeguard Queensland's climate and environment, making a meaningful impact across communities and beyond.



Stephanie McKechnie | Secretary

Stephanie, a local government manager with over 14 years of experience, holds a Bachelor of Business (Marketing and Public Relations) from Queensland University of Technology, complemented by certification in change management. Her diverse career includes roles in consulting, education, and local government, where she excels in community engagement, corporate communication, governance, business improvement, and operations. An environmental enthusiast, Stephanie enjoys hiking, camping, and growing fruits and vegetables at her Brisbane home.



Rochelle Bugarin | Treasurer

Rosh believes in the importance of individual actions & systemic changes in driving environmental sustainability. She is a CPA fellow with extensive experience in various industries & holds a Masters in Philanthropy & NonProfit Studies, postgrads in Data Analytics and in Innovation. She is passionate about the role of NonProfits & data in addressing issues we face as a society & ensuring we leave a better world for future generations.



Peter Arndt | Board Member

Peter has been a dedicated environmental advocate for two decades and has played a crucial role in numerous campaigns across the state such as land clearing campaigns, and contributed to various climate groups, including Stop Adani Brisbane. Peter was appointed Director of the Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace in 2022 and has a heartfelt commitment to listening to Indigenous Catholic leaders and Torres Strait Islander and Pacifika community groups to understand their main priorities and concerns and amplifying their voices within the movement.



Crystal Falknau | Board Member

As the Coordinator of the North Queensland Conservation Council, Crystal has demonstrated grounded and collaborative leadership that centres community, equity and a commitment to continuous learning. Dedicated to strengthening ties between the statewide environmental movement and regional Queenslanders, Crystal prioritises authentic communication and meaningful connection, for the benefit of people and nature.

Outgoing Executive Members

Thank you to the following Executive Committee Members who have contributed their expertise and many hours to the success of QCC.



Jacqui Wilson | Board Member

With over 16 years of experience in the animal welfare sector, Jacqui brings a wealth of expertise in marketing campaigns, brand development and project management. She has strong skills in stakeholder engagement, strategic communications, and advocacy, with a passion for fostering collaboration among individuals, communities, and government to drive meaningful action. With a keen interest in environmental conservation, Jacqui is driven to advocate for the protection of our unique ecosystems and to ensure a safe haven for native wildlife for generations to come.



Dr Matt Rees | Board Member

Matthew is passionate about conserving both biodiversity as well as our connection with nature. He holds a PhD in quantitative ecology, with expertise in threatened and invasive species management, as well as environmental decision-making. Matthew often works closely with government, industry, NGOs, Indigenous communities, and private landholders to promote effective and evidence-based management of natural and agricultural systems.



Bronwyn Powell | Board Member

Bronwyn is an international aid specialist in water and climate resilience across Asia and the Pacific. With a background in ecological and political science, she works at Griffith University's International Water Centre on research and capacity building. As a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) consultant advisor, she manages a regional team and is passionate about net zero, biodiversity protection, and global climate justice.



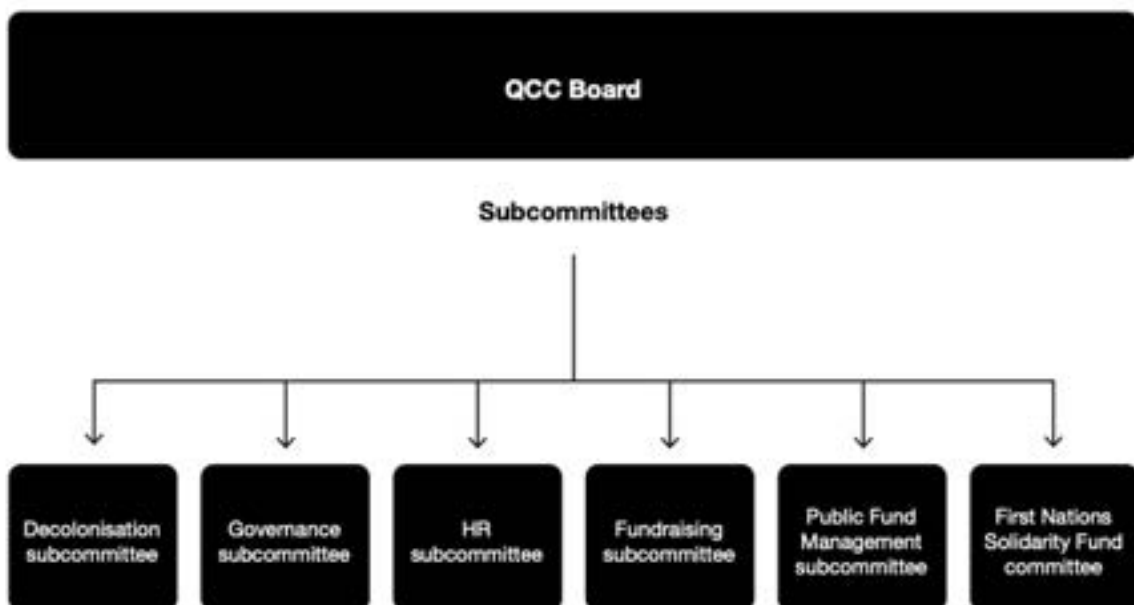
Andrea Farrell | Board Member

Andrea's upbringing instilled a deep commitment to conservation values, which she carries forward today. As a lawyer experienced in litigation, corporate, and industrial law, she brings a passionate focus on environmental issues. Andrea's expertise in legal matters empowers QCC to pursue justice, offering invaluable support in interpreting legal advice, risk assessment, and board-approved recommendations.

Governance

Under our constitution, QCC is governed by a board elected by member organisations at the Annual General Meeting. The QCC board's primary role is the good governance of QCC, including developing and monitoring long term direction and goals. All board members volunteer their time and are elected for a one-year term. QCC's volunteer board works hard to uphold the principles of good governance. QCC has a number of sub-committees, made up of staff and executive team members, that provide oversight and good practice.

QCC values transparency, accountability and good governance. We understand that to maintain the trust of our members, supporters and the community our organisation needs to operate with high standards of good governance. This ensures that our organisation is always acting with integrity, is lawful, responsible and that our work is aligned with our purpose. QCC is a not-for-profit incorporated association under the Association Incorporations Act 1981(QLD) and a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).



QCC in the news

- 1,021 MEDIA HITS
- 1.4 MEDIA HITS PER DAY ON AVERAGE
- 698 CLIMATE MEDIA HITS
- 320 NATURE MEDIA

137 MILLION+ VIEWS

7.1% PRINT



15.4% TV



25.9% ONLINE



51.7% RADIO





This year has been huge for QCC media, appearing in the news 1.5 times per day on average, achieving 1,021 unique media mentions that were further distributed across newspaper, radio and TV news syndicates. This media presence saw us reach an audience of more than 137 million via online news, flicking through newspapers, in front of television screens, and on the radio on the way to work. Radio makes up the lion's share of QCC's media coverage, followed by online news, TV, print and new media.

The organisation was a key voice journalists turned to for major events including the Queensland State Election and the Federal Election, where our polling analysis on how the Coalition's nuclear policy could put Peter Dutton's own seat at risk dominated national headlines and even saw us break into the new media landscape, including an appearance on Cheek Media.

QCC has secured many exclusives this year in notable, high impact publications including our multiplatform expose on the ABC of koala habitat clearing at Vitrinite's Vulcan South coal mine, and national coverage of habitat clearing against the wishes of Traditional Owners at Magnetic South's unapproved Gemini coal mine.

We've proven ourselves agenda setters, making headlines from the proactive work of 10 research reports produced by our very own QCC experts, on everything from the water impacts of nuclear power to Queensland's deadly methane problem. We are also well equipped at reactive press, quickly responding to major news events and having our hand on the pulse, which helped us secure our first opinion piece in The Courier Mail and associated papers on coal royalties in Queensland.

Our spokespeople have been standing hand in hand in solidarity with other groups and community members at big media moments, including joining our friends at Gecko in the public fight against the World Heritage threatening Springbrook Cableway proposal, coordinating media pressure against the LNP's defunding of the EDO's vital legal services, and helping get the media scrum to a deeply moving protest for the many people in South East Queensland devastated by ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Our voice only continues to grow with our supporters behind us. Thank you to all who have helped QCC get these important messages out into the world.

Online snapshot

4,200,000+ ‹‹
TOTAL SOCIAL MEDIA AUDIENCE

990,118 ‹‹
WEB IMPRESSIONS

27,021 ‹‹
CLICK-THROUGHS

7,529 ‹‹
NEW ONLINE SUPPORTERS

6,476 ‹‹
SIGNATURES ON PETITIONS

» **1,200,000+**
GOOGLE SEARCH APPEARANCES

» **340,000**
GOOGLE DISCOVER APPEARANCES

» **438 DAYS**
VIDEO CONTENT PLAY TIME

» **2,874**
ACTION ITEMS ORDERED

» **2,650**
EVENT RSVPS

QCC online

Our digital channels reach new audiences, convert them to supporters, provide tools for them to take action, and take our campaign messages to everyday Queenslanders searching for information.

On our social media channels - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube - we posted 1,769 times and reached a combined audience of 4.2 million accounts, with an engagement rate 4 times higher than the sector benchmark. Our social media videos played for a total of 438 days, with over 2.6 million views.

QCC website pages appeared in nearly 1.2 million Google searches, and our online media releases have regularly appeared in Google's News search results alongside national mainstream outlets.

In another sign that Google recognises our website as a high-quality news source, dozens of our website's news stories have been picked up by Google's Discover service and pushed to over 340,000 readers.

Action and engagement through our website has increased overall. We added over 7,500 new supporters to our database, up 32% on FY24, with nearly 300 becoming volunteers.

Online petitions had nearly 6,500 signatures, supporters RSVP'd over 2,600 times for QCC events, and we shipped over 2,800 Stand Up For Nature and Climate Action Now items in 385 online shop orders.



QUEENSLAND
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL

OUT
AT
SAY
EPA.

How we work

Queensland is a special place.

Our state is Australia's most ecologically diverse — home to 13 terrestrial and 14 marine bioregions that support over 1,000 unique ecosystems.



These include a rich variety of landscapes, from rainforests and savannas to rangelands, dry tropics, wetlands, and coastal environments. But growing concurrent threats from climate change, weakening of nature laws, development and habitat destruction demands urgent, innovative, and forward-thinking solutions. The Queensland Conservation Council is committed to building a resilient, solutions-focused movement working collaboratively to achieve our goals by driving positive change within government, engaging with local communities, and sharing vital knowledge through the media. We ensure that all levels of government and businesses are held accountable to their environmental commitments, as we work together to safeguard nature and address the climate crisis. QCC's campaigns and policies are guided by the best available scientific evidence. While non-partisan, we proactively engage with political leaders, helping them strengthen environmental policies and performance within our democratic system. We believe that by working together, we can create lasting, positive outcomes for Queensland's natural world and our climate.

Our Strategic Pillars

1

**Protecting nature
and biodiversity**

2

**Taking action
for safe climate**

3

**Moving beyond
colonial practices**

4

**Bringing people together
to create change**

5

**Strengthening the foundations for
sustainable growth and impact**

Thanks

The past year has been another landmark period for QCC's campaigns, driven by the passion and commitment of our staff, supporters, and communities across Queensland. Together, we've continued to build momentum in our work on climate action, community engagement, biodiversity protection, deforestation reform, and deepening engagement with First Nations partners.

Our collective efforts have strengthened Queensland's environmental movement and helped shape meaningful progress toward a safer, healthier future for nature and people alike. With more transformative work underway, we are pleased to share a snapshot of our key achievements for FY25.



Protecting Nature & Biodiversity

» **67,952**

**HECTARES OF NEW NATIONAL AND
CONSERVATION PARKS**

» **1,000+**

**HOURS BUILDING PROJECTS WITH OUTDOOR
COMMUNITIES TO PROTECT BEAUTIFUL QLD**

» **300+**

NATURE RALLY ATTENDEES

» **58**

**ACADEMICS AND EXPERTS SIGNED OPEN
LETTER TO PROTECT THREATENED SPECIES**

» **50**

**GUESTS AT PBQ POLICY PRIORITIES LAUNCH
INCLUDING MINISTER AND SHADOW MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT**



ENDANGERED
IN QLD

PROTECT

OUR
KOALA
HABITAT

SAVE OUR
BIG BACKYARD
NOW!

Stand Up
For Nature

MILLION BC
TO 2050 AD
KOALA

Protected Areas

We are now nearly two years into our trailblazing campaign Protect Beautiful Queensland, which is making nature conservation more accessible and inclusive to all Queenslanders and bringing together a broad alliance toward the goal of doubling QLD protected areas to 17% of the state by 2030.

This year we've been out in regional Queensland listening, learning and making friends with nature lovers who frequent the outdoors. Many of the folks we've connected with are not activists, they're horse riders, hikers, nature cyclists, trail runners and tour guides. Some are not aware that our beautiful environment is at risk. What we've found is that the market research is true, nature is in everyone's hearts and we all benefit from time in it. Regardless of who you vote for, your age, cultural background or ability, access to nature is something you value. There is huge support for more conservation and national parks and better funding for rangers and others to care for these beautiful natural and cultural landscapes.

Next year we'll be launching our very first educational outreach campaign with outdoor users, in partnership with Outdoors Queensland and with the involvement of many of their member groups whose values align with nature conservation and protected areas. We're changing the world, one conversation at a time, and developing tools you can use in social media and real life, to be part of that.

We will also be diving deeper into the forestry sector, making the case for a vastly different and more nature-positive approach to timber production. Sadly, irreplaceable habitat of the endangered greater glider and many other forest dependent species is being logged right now, but together we can help Queensland change course.

End Deforestation

The campaign to end deforestation in Queensland has suffered a bumpy road over the past year. In the lead up to the 2024 state election things were looking promising with Labor committing to deliver funding to develop a natural capital industry in Queensland. This funding would provide the science, tools and resources needed to provide incentives for landholders to protect forests and woodlands on their properties, whilst delivering a range of biodiversity outcomes. Incentives are an essential part of protecting forests and when combined with strong compliance and monitoring of the state's vegetation management framework provide the opportunity to drastically drive down deforestation rates. However, the LNP failed to match the commitment, instead promising to maintain the state's vegetation laws. Our main role since the change of government has been to hold the LNP to account on this commitment as the last thing forests need is a backslide on our already substandard vegetation management framework.

Working in collaboration with the Wilderness Society and Greenpeace, we have uncovered deforestation events in threatened species habitat and sent

detailed reports to the state and federal environment ministers and compliance teams. These reports are a crucial step in identifying the flaws in both state and federal environment policy and ensuring that ministers are held accountable.

Each year the state government releases the statewide landcover and trees study (SLATS) report which details just how many hectares of forest has been lost and for what reason. This report is nation leading and provides the transparency needed to understand forest loss. However, the report is often 2 or 3 years behind real time due to the amount of work that goes into them. Unfortunately the figures continue to rise. The latest figures show that in 2021/2022 323,676 hectares were lost, and in 2022/2023 332,015 hectares were lost. Next year we will continue to advocate for incentives for landholders to protect forests and strong compliance and monitoring from the state government. At a federal level we will be pushing hard to ensure that the reforms of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act will play a key role in driving down deforestation rates and protecting threatened species habitat.



Federal Nature Laws - EPBC

The fight for strong new nature laws was quite the rollercoaster over the past year. With lots of ups and downs, we are now still fighting to get the reforms needed to protect the state's unique and iconic natural wonders. Working alongside our colleagues at national eNGOs we continued to advocate for strong federal nature laws that protect irreplaceable habitat and put an end to deforestation across the nation. The campaign ramped up and it was looking highly likely that the reforms were going to pass federal parliament but were unfortunately quashed at the last minute by the Prime Minister just before the federal election.

Key to the reforms is the role of upfront protections to stop the destruction of

irreplaceable habitat and create clear 'no go' areas for development. QCC has been leading the policy development in this space by commissioning research by the University of Queensland and Griffith University that outlines the principles and zoning rules needed for spatial planning. Our advocacy has focused on ensuring that this research is utilised when developing regional plans, and QCC has been engaging with the bioregional planning team who are developing the pilot bioregional plans for three areas in Queensland. We had some phenomenal campaign wins throughout the year including a webinar with Minister Plibersek with over 1000 attendees, and a snap action at Waterfront Place with 100 attendees.



Protect
Habitat!



IT'S ALL ABOUT
CONSENT
TANYA, SAY
"YES"
TO THE EPA.

Water

Over the past year, funding provided by the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers (DLGWV) has enabled QCC to engage in the statutory review and replacement of 15 of the 23 Water Plans that have been established under the Water Act 2000. The key issues that QCC has advocated for the new water plans to address includes; the impacts of climate change on the future availability of water, ensuring the flows required to restore the ecological health of aquatic ecosystems are provided, and ensuring sufficient water is provided to maintain cultural values and to support First Nation people's economic aspirations.

QCC has also engaged in the development of the Burdekin, Gulf, Central QLD and SEQ Regional Water Assessments (RWA). Along with proposed infrastructure options to meet projected water demand, QCC has strongly advocated that non-infrastructure options such as demand management and increasing water use efficiency must also be included in RWAs, which will reduce the need to build environmentally damaging and economically costly water supply infrastructure.

Other key activities the QCC Water Policy Officer has been involved with over the past year include; Representing the environment sector on the Queensland Great Artesian Basin Ministerial Advisor Council (QGABAC), Urban Utilities Customer and Community Reference Group (CCRG), DLGWV's Water Engagement Forum and the Murray Darling Basin Authority's Peak Bodies Advisory Group; Establishing the Murray Darling Conservation Alliance in collaboration with Environment Victoria, Conservation Council of South Australia, Nature Conservation Council of NSW and Conservation Council ACT to provide a unified voice for the environment in discussions with governments about implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan; and, tracking the Queensland LNP Governments water related election commitments, which includes building new weirs in the Burnett and Cooper Creek catchments, reviewing the states 23 water plans in order to potentially provide more water for agriculture and reviewing water supply options for SEQ including new dams. With funding from DLGWV secure until 30 June 2027, the QCC Water Policy Officer will continue to engage in the development of State and Commonwealth water plans, policies and programs over the next year.

Urban Sustainability

In June 2024, the Miles State Government released its long-anticipated review of the South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy, with a commitment to strengthening koala protection measures. Throughout the year, QCC maintained strong advocacy to ensure these reforms were delivered; however, the final implementation was delayed until after the state election. With the current strategy set to expire in 2025, it is a critical responsibility of the incoming Minister to develop a renewed plan aimed at halting the ongoing decline of koala populations. Amid intense development pressures in South East Queensland and limited protections elsewhere in the state, QCC has joined forces with regional conservation councils to establish a new campaign alliance dedicated to safeguarding koalas across Queensland.

Olympics planning legislation

The Crisafulli Government introduced and passed problematic legislation that allowed the approval of Olympic venues to have a free pass to override cultural heritage, environment and planning laws, while renewable energy projects will be subject to unprecedented new hurdles before they can lodge an application for development approval. In spite of strong advocacy by QCC and 706 submissions to the parliamentary inquiry, these laws were pushed through with late amendments that reduced the statutory community consultation for regional plans.



Taking Action for a Safe Climate

» **2,000,000+**

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH CLIMATE
AND ENERGY ONLINE ADS

» **1,000+**

SUPPORTERS EMAILED
QUEENSLAND'S ENERGY MINISTER

» **29**

SUBMISSIONS SUBMITTED ON
CLIMATE AND ENERGY

» **20+**

MEETINGS WITH POLITICIANS

» **10**

RESEARCH REPORTS GENERATED
AND SENT TO MEDIA



Queensland LNP
don't scrap our state's
renewable energy targets

Power a bright future for Queenslanders

CLIMATE ACTION NOW

Order yours



Renewable Energy

The pace of Queensland's renewable energy transition has been rocked this year by energy policy uncertainty. Over the last year, the Queensland Government has pledged to repeal Queensland's renewable energy targets and keep the state's ageing coal power stations open for longer. In response, we have been working hard to call for energy policy certainty and an energy plan that paves the way for the retirement of coal on schedule.

QCC has been the leading voice in the media on this issue, and we have empowered 1,000 supporters to email Queensland's Energy Minister. Over the last year, our online ads on climate and energy have reached more than 2 million people.

Moving forward, we will continue to hold the State Government to account as they develop and release their 5-Year Energy Roadmap later this year. Working alongside the Power Together coalition, we're calling for this energy plan to maximise Queensland's local energy potential by supporting all Queenslanders to access rooftop solar, battery storage and energy efficiency upgrades. Utilising Queensland's homes and businesses to power our future is vital to minimise the environmental impact of the energy transformation.

Emission Reduction

For many years we helped lead a strong community push for ambitious emissions reduction targets in Queensland. Together, our people-powered movement won the bi-partisan commitment to reduce emissions by 75% emission reduction by 2035. Unfortunately now the Queensland Government is reviewing this commitment, which if repealed, will be a major backflip.

Just like with the energy transition, QCC is maintaining pressure on the State Government to deliver the emissions reduction and sector decarbonisation plans they promised. While we hold the State to account, we're also pushing the Federal government to match or exceed this ambition in line with climate science.

Our goal is clear: strong targets backed by real action to protect Queensland's communities, livelihoods, and the Great Barrier Reef. This year our Reef lost mass coral cover in the wake of the fifth summer of climate-fuelled bleaching in eight years. Time is running out to save this precious international wonder.



Coal & Gas / Methane

QCC has worked closely with allies, experts, lawyers, Traditional Owners, landholders, and scientists all year to hold coal corporations accountable for their nature and climate destruction.

We exposed the potential illegal clearing of greater glider habitat at the Gemini coal project 120km west of Rockhampton. We are continuing to gather scientific evidence and support First Nations self-determination and resistance to build pressure on the Federal Environment Minister, who has power under the EPBC Act to stop the work at the site.

We found 13 koalas in bushland where Glencore plans to bulldoze to extend their super-polluting Hail Creek coal mine. The Queensland Government was forced to

delay their decision on this approval until November 2025. We will spend this time working with various stakeholders to strengthen the opposition to this mine, including an open letter that already has 1000 signatures.

To bring this momentum into the seats with potential to shift politics in South East Queensland, we've kicked off monthly "Coal and Gas Action Check-ins". These are already fostering and growing a group of committed volunteers in the Brisbane region opposing coal and gas expansion.



Lake Vermont Court Case

In 2025, QCC launched legal action against the proposed expansion of the Lake Vermont coal mine, one of Queensland's most contentious coal projects. If approved, the mine would add millions of tonnes of carbon pollution at a time when Queensland has committed to reducing emissions by 75% by 2035. This case is about holding industry to account for the climate and environmental harm of new coal, and ensuring decision-makers fully weigh the risks such projects pose to communities and future generations.

The trial is scheduled for 2026. Over the year ahead, QCC will continue to work with the affected community, from First Nations peoples to landholders to build the strongest possible case. Together, we will highlight how projects like Lake Vermont undermine Queensland's climate targets, threaten water resources, and lock communities into outdated industries.

By standing up to one of the state's most significant coal projects, QCC is sending a clear signal: Queensland cannot deliver a safe climate future while continuing to expand coal.





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CHHO
mber for Cla

Contact

(07) 3638

clayfield@parliam

4,000+ QUEENSLANDERS

Have you got your voice heard? Join the 4,000+ Queenslanders who have signed the Climate Action Now petition to demand the Government's immediate energy reform.

Climate Action Now is a coalition of over 100 Queensland-based organisations and individuals who are united in their demand for immediate action on climate change.

Sign the petition today at www.climateactionnow.org.au

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Sign the petition today at www.climateactionnow.org.au

CLIMATE ACTION NOW



Nuclear

QCC has continued to push back against the nuclear energy narrative, showing it remains an expensive distraction from the urgent action needed this decade. Through appearing as a witness to the federal nuclear inquiry and extensive community engagement, we demonstrated that Queenslanders are not convinced by nuclear power and want real solutions now

Our focus has been on shifting the conversation toward renewables and storage, clean technologies already delivering cheaper power and emissions cuts. Over the year ahead, QCC will continue to counter nuclear spin while promoting the practical, immediate solutions Queensland needs for a safe climate future.



Moving Beyond Colonial Practices

» **1%**

**OF ANNUAL FUNDS FUNNELLED INTO
FIRST NATIONS SOLIDARITY FUND**

» **100%**

**OF STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS COMPLETED
CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING**

» **\$25,000**

FUNDS DISBURSED

» **11**

GROUPS SUPPORTED

First Nations Engagement

This year QCC continued its important work advancing reconciliation with First Nations peoples and decolonising its practices. Our organisation acknowledges we have a role to play in redressing the historic wrongs of colonialism, which continue to resonate today. We also recognise that the environmental conservation movement has often played a role in marginalising and excluding First Nations voices, which has left our movement impoverished in terms of learning from the land's traditional custodians.

QCC is dedicated to changing this by ensuring that the history, knowledge, and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are fully valued and respected in our efforts to protect Country. Our vision for reconciliation is a future where First Nations culture and knowledge are celebrated, and where First Nations voices are central to our environmental work. This year we continued work on our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan, which prioritises a deepening of relationships with First Nations communities and Traditional Owners of the lands we seek to protect.

Our 'First Nations Solidarity Fund' continued to provide tangible support to First Nations communities and individuals. In terms of staffing we said goodbye to Uncle Paul Spearim as our Protect Country Strategist, who has passed the torch to Teila Watson, a Birri Gubba and Gangulu woman, whose commitment to climate justice, history, Aboriginal governance (ecologically and socially) and cultural continuity will be an asset to the organisation. From the bottom of our hearts we thank Uncle Paul for working with us, his impact on QCC has been profound.

We are honoured and grateful that Trevor Meldrum, a Kuuku Yalangi man and Diana David, a Gunggandji, Southern Kaanju and Kulkalgau woman, will continue to sit on the QCC board in the coming financial year. We thank them for their guidance and leadership of the organisation in all matters.

First Nations Solidarity Fund

QCC understands and recognises that the organisation, its staff, Board, members and the majority of its supporters and donors are situated on and work across a range of First Nations lands, which were stolen from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through colonisation, and which remain unceded. The First Nations Solidarity Fund recognises that QCC and our members have benefited – and continue to benefit – from that theft.

It seeks to provide redress to that unjust and unauthorised transfer of wealth, by transferring some of the proceeds of that theft back to First Nations peoples and groups who are the rightful owners of the land.

In recognition of that and in line with QCC's commitments to move beyond colonial practices, QCC has developed a First Nations Solidarity Fund, with the intention of disbursing 1% of their annual funds to First Nations communities, organisations, groups and individuals to alleviate the on-going economic disparity between non-Indigenous and Indigenous communities. Throughout the last financial year, QCC disbursed \$25,000 to 11 groups and individuals to cover expenses such as funeral costs, flood relief, volunteer programs and rent relief. If you or someone you know needs financial support, please send your request through admin@qldconservation.org.au



Bringing People Together to Create Change

Federal Election

QCC is non-partisan, and doesn't support any political party. Instead, we campaign for protection of Nature and climate action to be on the ballot at key elections. The 2025 Federal election was critical for nature.

Working with national organisations, we ran strong campaigns for stronger nature laws, for action on climate, and against the costly, dangerous and distracting proposal for nuclear energy.

We distributed lawn signs demanding Climate Action, a National EPA and stronger Nature protection, and distributed a scorecard that rated parties on climate action, renewables, nuclear power and protecting nature. Our actions included 3,530 signs and stickers distributed, 6,200 doors knocked, 14 market stalls, 6 candidate forums, and 2 rallies. We are a key voice on climate, nuclear and nature during the campaign, with media reports almost every day of the campaign.



» **6,200**
DOORS KNOCKED

» **3,530**
SIGNS & STICKERS DISTRIBUTED

» **14**
MARKET STALLS

» **6**
CANDIDATE FORUMS

» **2**
RALLIES

Volunteers & Our Members

Maintaining the momentum and supporter engagement built last year through a distributed model approach and using critical moments like the State and Federal elections to keep nature and climate on the agenda was a central focus of the organising team this year. Fundamental to this work was continuing to support, build resources of and collaborate with grassroots groups and member organisations whilst identifying where gaps exist to bring QCC supporters to work together.

A highlight from State election work included collaboration with Queensland Community Alliance (QCA) and its diverse members to form a working group in the Aspley area, holding listening events in key areas leading up to the largest number of QCC supporters representing a voice for climate action at a QCA Assembly with the Premier and Opposition Leader. We also held a 'No to Nuclear Nightmares Rally' outside the Federal Government's public enquiry into nuclear generation, and launched our 'Rally for Threatened Species' with a vibrant and vocal crowd of hundreds that marched through the heart of Brisbane to the steps of Parliament.

Building from the work during state election, our first QCC Group 'QCC Northside Group' was formed to bring together key volunteers to strengthen advocacy in Brisbane's northside. The group helped amplify engagement from the northside community during federal election and on the international #ShowYourStripes day where we lit up three Brisbane's bridges with Queensland's 'Warming Stripes' advocating for climate action.

We kicked off 2025 with the 'Nature Rally for Reform' in collaboration with other organisations and inducting new Field Organisers to the team. We also enhanced our training with monthly inductions for new volunteers, and implementing full day 'Introduction to Organising and Campaigning' training workshops for QCC and grassroots volunteer leaders.

Come rain, shine or cyclones, our supporters came together to raise awareness and advocate for action in the lead up to and during Federal elections through; distributing signs at events, markets, doorknocking and online; actions to mark the flood anniversary and post Cyclone Alfred; actions outside MP offices; and even held a Climate Art Exhibition. Thank you!



61 ‹‹

QERT ATTENDEES

50 ‹‹

MEMBER GROUPS

20 ‹‹

MERT ATTENDEES

9 ‹‹

REGIONAL CONSERVATION COUNCILS

Member Groups & Regional Conservation Councils

Andrew Powell, new Minister for Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation, met with 20 groups across Queensland at the Ministerial Environmental Roundtable (MERT). The minister agreed to talk further about how to fix the broken Environmental Offsets system, listened to groups' proposals on climate adaptation programs, and heard our views on how the environment must be central to ecotourism.

The 61 attendees to the Queensland Environmental Roundtable (QERT) talked about next steps in relation to energy, nature and engaging new people after the state election and heard the success

stories of No Nuclear for Australia in the lead up to it. the tree protection campaign being developed at Cairns and Far North Environment Centre growing from members' concerns.

Upcoming plans to support strengthening member groups discussed at the Regional Conservation Councils Coordinator day include an online induction for new Committees and scaling up a hybrid online and face to face training and development program for members and volunteers.



Local Energy Plan

QCC Regional Environment Advocates in Gladstone, Rockhampton, Townsville and Toowoomba are engaging local community activists, ecologists, industry, Councils and First Nations groups in one on one meetings, face to face and online workshops, and participating in community events, resulting in greater community understanding of the processes involved in renewable energy developments. These conversations are

growing community confidence in actively engaging with these processes and a sense of local agency to drive positive outcomes for nature and the community through the energy transition.

The next steps will be to coordinate the communities' environmental priorities for industry and government to consult and support taking some of those projects forward.

21
WORKSHOPS WITH
181
ATTENDEES

127
MEETINGS WITH
KEY STAKEHOLDERS
46
COMMUNITY
EVENTS ATTENDED



INDEPENDENT
PEACEFUL

LNP IS NOT
DELIVERING
70% RENEWABLE

SUSTAINABLE

Up
Queensland
You're about to be
NU...

CLIMATE
ACTION
NOW

CLIMATE
ACTION
NOW
Order yours
[QR code]

Labor

CLIMATE
ACTION
NOW

CLIMATE
ACTION
NOW
Order yours
[QR code]

QUEENSLAND SAYS
NO TO
NUCLEAR

Strengthening the Foundations for Sustainable Impact and Growth



Organisational Growth

Over the past year, QCC has continued to strengthen its organisational capability, deepen its impact, and enhance its role as a leading voice for nature in Queensland. Building on a strong foundation of environmental advocacy, we have further refined how we work, how we engage, and how we deliver meaningful outcomes for communities and ecosystems across the state.

QCC continued to benefit from a highly engaged Board, whose governance, oversight, and strategic guidance have played a vital role in shaping our organisational direction. Their commitment has helped ensure that QCC remains focused, future-ready, and aligned with the changing needs of Queensland's conservation landscape.

Throughout the year, we invested in growing our internal capacity, improving systems and processes, and strengthening collaboration across teams. A renewed emphasis on organisational effectiveness has supported better cross-departmental planning, clearer priority-setting, and the ability to respond quickly to emerging environmental challenges and opportunities.

QCC also expanded its engagement with partners, supporters, and community leaders, building new alliances that help extend our reach and amplify our impact. These relationships continue to be central to shared advocacy efforts, collaborative projects, and the delivery of conservation outcomes at scale.

Digital engagement, communications, and media presence all increased in both sophistication and reach, helping us connect more Queenslanders to the issues that matter. Our storytelling, educational resources, and campaigns have played an important role in building awareness and inspiring action across diverse audiences.

As QCC continues to evolve, innovate, and grow, our commitment remains unwavering: to protect Queensland's unique natural environment and to empower communities to secure a healthier, more sustainable future for generations to come.

Thank you to our major donors

A heartfelt thank you to our generous major donors for your remarkable support throughout the past year. Your commitment enables us to remain a strong and effective voice for Queensland's natural environment, and we are deeply grateful for the impact you make possible.

In addition to the above, our sincere thanks go out to every person who has made a donation in support of protecting Queensland's environment.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to supporting the protection of Queensland's environment. Your donations make a vital difference in safeguarding our natural heritage for generations to come.



Thank you to our member groups

To our 50 member groups across Queensland, thank you for your support, passion, and commitment.

Animal Liberation Queensland

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators Inc

Australian Marine Conservation Society

Australian Rail Tram and Bus Union

BirdLife Australia

Birds Queensland

Cairns and Far North Environment Centre

Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc.

Capricorn Conservation Council

Catholic Justice & Peace Commission of Brisbane

Centenary and District Environment Action Inc

Community Alliance for Responsible Planning

Darling Downs Environment Council

Energetic Communities

Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland Inc

Friends of Stradbroke Island

Friends of the Earth Brisbane

Gecko Environment Council

Gladstone Conservation Council

Gondwana Rainforest Trust Ltd

Granite Belt Sustainable Action Network

Guardians of the Wet Tropics

Householders' Option To Protect The Environment

Invasive Species Council

Ipswich Climate Action Group Inc.

Karawatha Forest Protection Society Inc

Koala Action Inc

Mackay Conservation Group

National Parks Association of Queensland

Noosa and District Landcare Group Inc.

North Queensland Conservation Council

Northern Inter Urban Break Integrity Association

Numinbah Valley Environmental Education Centre

Positive Change For Marine Life

Protect The Bush Alliance

Queensland Water and Land Carers

Rainforest Rescue

Redlands 2030 Inc

Reef Check Australia

Save Our Waterways Now Inc

Sunshine Coast Environment Council

Sustainable Population Australia

The Bimblebox Alliance Inc

The Moreton Bay Foundation

The Wilderness Society Ltd

Whitsunday Conservation Council

Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland,

Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Inc

Wildlife Preservation Society QLD - Bayside



**PROTECT
CONSERVE
SUSTAIN**

**CLIMATE
ACTION
NOW**

Order yours

