ACF Council Candidates
Election 2018

Queensland
Let’s show up, speak out and act for a world where all life thrives
ACF Council election 2018

As a member, you have a vital role in shaping ACF’s direction by electing our democratic Council.

ACF Council is our core representative group. Within ACF it is the voice of the vibrant Australian community with its diversity of age, experience, gender and cultural backgrounds.

Council’s primary role is to develop effective long-term strategies for the organisation, appoint the Board, review the Board’s performance, and represent and engage ACF communities.

To help you decide how to cast your vote, candidates have provided:

• A supporting statement
• A photo
• Contact information

The amount of information each candidate has provided varies. The statements of the candidates reflect their views and are not necessarily the views of ACF.
Supporting statement

I am Senior Law Reform Solicitor with the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) QLD. I have worked with EDO QLD for nearing six years; four of those have been directly on law and policy reform and advocacy and advice, the other two were on climate change litigation. I am happy to have a very close connection with my local community. As the law reform solicitor I have been privileged to provide many workshops and presentations across South East Queensland and along the coastline of North Queensland, to discuss environmental issues and policy/laws proposed or needed to address them in a given moment. I have provided hundreds of advices to community groups and citizens seeking to use or change the law to better protect the environment.

Prior to working at EDO QLD, I worked at a mobile sustainable education program in Mexico, ‘BioTu’, where we visited universities, schools and community groups and taught them about sustainability in a way that suited their level of understanding in a way that suited their level of understanding of the world. As a Councillor with ACF, I hope to have a positive, timely and informed contribution to ACF’s strategy and policy direction/focus as well as increasing your network.

As EDO QLD law reform solicitor I have solid policy and legal analysis and critique skills, effective advocacy skills and experience in community empowerment. I have organised and presented at community education events throughout QLD. I advocate to, and network personally with, ministers, departmental heads, industry reps and bodies etc. I am skilled at building relationships and arguing effectively for the law and policy reform needed to better protect our environment and our democracy. I am experienced in strategic considerations in light of given political climates. I am a positive and considered negotiator and can clearly articulate my opinions with reasons. I am good at detail as well as big picture strategic thinking. I feel very passionate about our environmental laws being effective at accountable, transparent and robust protection of our precious environmental values at all levels – from planning laws to resource laws to our governance frameworks. I have experience in organisational governance, including currently as a member of the Council of the Royal Society of QLD. I would be very honoured to be on the Council of ACF as I have great admiration for the considered and diverse work that ACF does across Australia on all of the most pressing environmental issues we currently face.
Supporting statement

I grew up in London in the 1950s and each autumn and winter had to walk to school through the yellow smog with a scarf over my face and with my eyes stinging. In the mid 1950s coal burning was banned in London and the air quickly cleaned, although the buildings took years to clean. This high pollution killed many and left the rest of us with damaged lungs. Many did not want to end the use of coal and were frightened that this change would lead to higher cost of living and people dying of cold in the winter. A year later their fears faded.

I came to Australia with a young family in 1977 and loved the beautiful environment. Since then I have seen a decline in the environment with poorer air quality, loss of forests and pollution. I want my children to have more than this rather than less.

At 68 I am slowing down at work and would like to divert my energy to saving what we have in Australia. I have changed my diet to plant based so as to improve my environmental footprint.

I have worked in the railway signalling industry, designing and commissioning automatic signalling systems mainly for rapid transport systems in our cities. I can offer my commitment to educating people about the effects of coal pollution and alternative sources of energy. Like transitioning from petrol-based cars to eco-friendly fuels, moving away from disposable plastic packaging to recycling all waste and changing our diets from animal to plant based.

I want to see coal put firmly off the menu for power generation. I want to see a path to the fading out of petrol, diesel and gas fuels. As a chartered electrical and electronic engineer, I have skills managing sizable projects to time and budget. Therefore, I will be able to assist in the engineering and project implementation methods with a practical approach to achieving goals.

I believe we need to promote a sustainable lifestyle. This is what we need to communicate to the local community. I am a member Engineers Australia, Institute of Railway Signal Engineers and of a local walking group affiliated to the Heart Foundation.
Supporting statement

I am becoming more concerned every day that the world’s leaders are not taking the destruction of the earth’s ecosystem seriously. I believe that the only way to change that is to mobilise sufficient people to take action themselves on two fronts. Firstly, every person must modify their habits and behaviours at home and in business to stop the destruction of nature and to replenish the earth’s life support systems. Secondly, we must call on our political leaders to implement policies and actions that repair and rebuild both natural and social capital. Only when a sufficient number of citizens demand action, and let politicians know that they will be booted out if they don’t act, will we see change.

In the three years that I have been on Council, ACF has developed four new programs with the aim of achieving that very outcome. I am confident and excited that our campaigns in each of these programs will bring results, and I seek re-election to Council to ensure that we maintain the enthusiasm for change.

If re-elected, I will work with optimism for our future and bring a degree of fun with serious purpose to the Council.

I am a professional engineer with experience across major projects, engineering development in emerging economies, and senior management in both the public and private sectors and in education. I bring a vast background of fighting for sustainability and climate action to ACF. I have experience at Board level in a number of professional and industry associations, and as Chairman of both public and private companies.

I am an Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland working in sustainability.

In 2006 I initiated, and was Founding Chairman until 2011, of the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia, which developed the world’s first full sustainability rating scheme for infrastructure. I am an Al Gore Climate Reality Leader, and have been included in the ABC Carbon list of the world’s top 100 Sustainability leaders. I was the 2012 National President of Engineers Australia (EA) and in 2013 was admitted as a Member of the Order of Australia for my contribution to engineering, and for lifting public awareness of sustainability. I am an Honorary Fellow of EA. In 2014 I founded the Long Future Foundation with the aim of regenerative business change, climate action, and the development of a transition to blue economy principles.
Supporting statement

I have a PhD in Zoology and Tropical Biology, with my research career predominantly focused on the deadly and dangerous critters with which we coexist. My fascination in this area has been driven by how underestimated these animals can be and how education and understanding can bring about acceptance and respect. As a co-founder of the Tropical Australian Stinger Research Unit I have extensive experience in community outreach projects and coordinating a variety of stakeholders to shape policy and procedures for marine stingers in the region. I have also worked internationally as a television producer and researcher for scientific documentaries and this has provided me with an extensive international network of scientists and conservationists that I remain connected with. My passion has always been finding ways to make science accessible to everyone and I’ve been doing this through a variety of media for over 15 years. Being a part of the Australian Conservation Foundation committee would be an incredible platform to be connected with like-minded people, committed to driving environmental change in what feels like an incredibly crucial time. I embrace the opportunity to be a part of such a diverse and citizen-led organisation that is fighting for positive change.

Having moved back to Australia six years ago to start a family, I have renewed passion and respect for this region and understand just what a responsibility we have living here. I am confident that I possess not only the scientific background which allows me to understand and assess the validity of material across a variety of topics, but I have had extensive experience in multi-media delivery to communicate this information to relevant parties. I have worked with a number of international conservation foundations from both a scientific and production point of view. I have gained insight into the different approaches that have and haven’t worked in different regions. While there are many areas of environmental concern for our country, one of the topics that is close to my heart is that of our waterways and our oceans. From marine debris, ocean acidification and coral bleaching, out of sight can no longer be out of mind. I believe that the key is making people feel connected and invested in these areas and this is through education and also by the example of our community figures and leaders. I would very much like to influence continued positive change in this area.
Supporting statement

I am an experienced environmental advocate who has lived in Cairns for over 15 years. I have a deep connection and commitment to the communities and environments of north Queensland and a strong understanding of the challenges facing this region.

I have extensive experience working in both the public and ENGO sectors. I am currently the Sustainability Officer at James Cook University and have previously worked with the Wet Tropics Management Authority and the Queensland environment department on the Cape York World Heritage initiative and the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program.

I was the Cairns Campaign Manager with The Wilderness Society for many years, managing the local Campaign Centre. I was also involved in the Queensland land clearing campaign in the early 2000s, and helped protect native forests in south east Queensland through the SEQ Forest Agreement.

I have also worked as Rivers Project Officer at the Queensland Conservation Council, and I recently served on the Management Committee of the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre, including as Secretary.

I love most environments but it is the tropical savanna woodlands of northern Australia and the sandstone country of the Blue Mountains that really make my heart sing.

I have extensive environmental campaigning experience with a long history of working on a range of complex environmental issues in northern Queensland. As such, I believe that I have a unique and diverse set of skills that I can offer ACF.

I am particularly skilled in the following areas: strategic thinking, planning and development; campaign leadership and management; community engagement and mobilising; negotiation and facilitation; project management; communications planning and delivery, including media; research and policy development; problem solving.

I am passionate about protecting the environments of northern Australia. I believe that there is huge potential to activate the love that people have for the north to influence sound political decisions nationally.
Supporting statement

I arrived in Australia in 1980 as a backpacking dive instructor from California, dreaming of diving the Great Barrier Reef… and I stayed. My passion is the Reef. I have worked as a dive operator for the past 38 years, based in Airlie Beach, QLD. Over the years, I have worked with a number of organisations to help protect the reef, including:

- Nine years on the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee (GBRMPA)
- Twelve years as chair of the Whitsunday Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Co-founder of the OUCH Volunteers (Order of Underwater Coral Heroes) which has won numerous awards for reef protection work.
- Governor with Project AWARE, a non-profit environmental organisation that encourages divers to take action and protect the environment.

I have also worked with the broader community with positions at:

- Mackay Conservation Group as Community Organiser (Reef Campaign and Renewable Energy)
- Australian Marine Conservation Society as Community Organiser (Reef Campaign)

My field of expertise is primarily all things Great Barrier Reef but also community organising and public speaking. Regarding the reef, I have worked closely with communities, councils, and governments, to develop a number of reef protection measures including water quality improvement, crown-of-thorns starfish controls, marine park zoning, marine protected areas, and the banning of capitol dredge spoil dumping in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

As global warming takes its toll on the reef, my focus for the past four years has been community organising around climate change, primarily stopping coal and transitioning to renewable energy. I completed Climate Reality Leadership training in 2014. I also completed the Community Organising Fellowship in 2016. My work with the Mackay Conservation group included organising and running a local renewable energy community group which culminated with a renewable energy forum in Mackay.

With the 2016-2017 coral bleaching events destroying nearly 50% of the coral cover on the reef, the need to mitigate climate change has taken on a real urgency. I am keen to use my Reef knowledge and community organising skills to help guide the ACF Council into what is possibly our last decade to create a climate safe world.
Supporting statement

In 2008, I left a successful 20 year business administration career to follow my passion – saving our wildlife and natural places. I completed a science degree in ecology and zoology, followed by a PhD in ecology and conservation, and have found my calling in environmental advocacy. My environmental experiences have been broad, including work in cutting-edge conservation research groups at the University of Queensland, volunteering with BirdLife Australia’s campaigns and advocacy team to bring about stronger laws for nature and serving on committees at BirdLife Southern Queensland and the Society for Conservation Biology (Brisbane Chapter). I currently work at the Pew Charitable Trusts helping multiple campaigns across Australia to protect vast tracts of land. I also play a central analytical and strategic role on the Black-throated Finch Recovery Team standing up against developments to save this threatened species.

I relish the opportunity to work alongside dedicated and diverse environmentalists to help shape the strategic direction of the vibrant and powerful ACF community. I have a strong interest in policy analysis and look forward to overseeing the organisation’s policy development. I firmly believe that, now more than ever, we need strong policies that put the environment front and centre.

I offer the ACF Council a well-rounded skill set consisting of governance, policy analysis, strategic planning and technical expertise. I have a solid understanding of governance – I am an Associate with the Australian Institute of Company Directors and have successfully completed their program on Governance Foundations for Not-For-Profit Directors. Additionally, my 20 year career in the insurance industry has given me a strong working knowledge of business administrative processes, financial management and financial reporting requirements. I am a sought-after policy analyst with a keen eye for detail. My analysis of Adani’s offset calculations and species management plan was used by ACF and legal experts to recommend that environmental approvals for the Carmichael Coal Mine be revoked. I am also a strong strategic thinker and have used this strength to lead strategic planning sessions with the Recovery Team and identify actions that will have the biggest impact and strongest chance of success.

My scientific expertise lies in understanding the impacts of habitat destruction. In essence, I bring an evidence-based perspective to the Council with a knack for spotting and questioning underlying issues, connections and patterns.
Supporting statement

I am a conservationist, environmental engineer and community leader based in North Queensland, and I’m proud that I have been speaking up, showing up and acting up for our local and global environment for decades. Since 2007 I have been a leader of the North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC), the peak advocacy group of the region. As the President and Coordinator of NQCC I have worked with the people of our community to share my passion for conservation and sustainability, to change government policy and stop inappropriate developments. I have knocked on doors, collected signatures, hosted rallies, addressed parliamentary enquiries, engaged with the media, negotiated with government ministers, written submissions and stood as a local, state and federal candidate, all as part of my drive to create a better future. I have led strong campaigns on renewable energy, genetically modified organisms, land clearing and coastal developments, using advocacy, advertising and community engagement to build a movement and achieve progressive policy change. I want a future where we value our clean air, our clean waters, our big forests, our ecosystems and our magnificent oceans, and where people respect each other and want to slow down and breathe.

I am absolutely passionate about working to slow the impacts of climate change on the communities and ecosystems of North Queensland and have been advocating strongly for both renewable energy and a gentler economy. I have been working as part of the Stop Adani movement for years through community education and media engagement, and through the powers of nonviolent direct action. I am proud to be part of such a strong movement with people from all parts of the country, with different stories to tell, and different ways to tell it, who stand together to Stop Adani. In my professional life, I am an environmental manager, with degrees in engineering and economics. My areas of expertise are in water quality, pollution, marine protection and waste management. I work with government and industry ensuring compliance with regulatory controls through the implementation of processes and procedures, and to create better ways of doing business. I can offer ACF my experience in working with the communities, industries and media of regional Queensland; my experience in the leadership of a not-for-profit environmental organisation; my skills in policy development and stakeholder engagement; and my professional understanding of a broad range of environmental issues.
Supporting statement

I am an environmental advocate with a lifelong passion for nature and an enduring commitment to community empowerment. I have a background in environmental law, policy and advocacy, with 18 years’ experience in leadership roles for a range of environmental organisations, including the Environmental Defender’s Office, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC) and BirdLife International. In my current role as Deputy Director of the Pew Charitable Trusts’ Outback to Oceans program, I am responsible for leading our advocacy for large scale conservation and land management in outback Australia. My relationship with ACF spans over several decades: observing ACF’s support for local campaigns in my home town in Central Queensland; working as an ACF research volunteer and fundraiser fresh out of university; and, working with ACF campaigners over the years on advocacy for rivers, oceans, forests, wildlife and clean energy.

I would be delighted to contribute to the work of the ACF Council, drawing on my previous experience as an environmental advocate, manager and leader, including four years as NCC Chief Executive Officer. I have a range of skills and knowledge relevant to the work of the ACF Council, including strategic planning, organisational governance, policy analysis, campaign planning, media and communications, fundraising and financial management. Through my current role with the Pew Charitable Trusts, I maintain an active interest and involvement in conservation work in rural and remote Australia, including Indigenous land and sea management. I am passionate about building public and political support for clean energy, a vibrant democracy and long term, large scale nature conservation across Australia.
**Supporting statement**

I’ve always valued the natural world and completed an honours degree in environmental science in 2004. Since then, I have worked as a professional botanist and have been very fortunate to have experience conducting ecological assessments in a diverse range of habitats throughout the eastern seaboard, from alpine regions of Tasmania to tropical rainforests of Far North Queensland and the jungles of south-east Asia. Being immersed in Australia’s beautiful landscapes throughout my working life has been a driving force behind my conservation values. I work as a professional botanist with the Australian government.

I believe that if we know something, we value it, and if we value it, we protect it. I am passionate about communities experiencing the natural world in a meaningful way and making changes that benefit current and future generations.

My core passion is permanent habitat conservation and connectivity that protects Australia’s native flora and fauna from population pressure and climate change. In addition to my degree, I have a Diploma of Project Management and an Advanced Certificate in Tropical Habitat Conservation. I have experience in providing technical advice on a variety of ecological topics, project management, interpretation of and reporting on legislation, preparing and delivering landscape rehabilitation plans, threatened species management, contract management, preparation of funding applications and proposals. I would really like to apply these skills to the conservation of Australia’s natural habitats.
Supporting statement

I never called myself an activist growing up. My parents weren’t political but my mum gave me a love of reading and I got into the habit of reading the newspaper before school. It was hard not to notice the growing number of articles about climate change but it always felt so dauntingly big. What could I do? This all changed in my first year of university. I became friends with a guy from the Maldives and we took a class on climate science together. Talking to him it stopped being abstract – he and his family would lose their home within our lifetime.

That year we found out that the ANU was investing in coal and gas companies. Students were outraged and I decided I couldn’t sit back any more. So a group of us started the first fossil fuel divestment campaign in Australia and soon enough we were part of a growing movement targeting the industry most responsible for wrecking our future. That was six years ago. I’ve been doing community campaigning ever since. I’m here for the long haul and to shift the balance of power away from the few and back to the many.

After cutting my campaigning teeth with Fossil Free ANU I moved on to coordinate campus divestment campaigns nationally with 350.org. More recently I’ve worked on the StopAdani campaign in Brisbane and now I stay busy organising with GetUp members across QLD to build community power in the federal seat of Dickson. As a community organiser and campaigner I’m a strong believer in empowering and activating people to find their collective power. A lot of my thinking and work is about how we can build our movement to be big enough to win against corporate and political elites that have too much sway in our society, and this is the lens that I’d bring to working in ACF Council.

When I’m not campaigning I try and stay grounded by surrounding myself with good friends, going for a dance and by finding peace walking in the mountains around Brisbane.
Supporting statement

For over six years I have worked as an environment and climate campaigner in the not-for-profit sector for organisations including The Wilderness Society (TWS), Australian Marine Conservation Society and The Australian Youth Climate Coalition. My formal training includes a Bachelor of Education (Hons) in education for sustainability, a community organising fellowship with The Change Agency and a policy and advocacy boot camp. I have previously served as a Councillor with ACF, and offer an existing knowledge of Council’s roles, responsibilities and operations. I offer a deep understanding of Australia’s environment movement and extensive networks, as well as many years’ campaigning and working as a community organiser. Someone once said to me, that anyone born in the 90s – as I was – has been living in above average temperatures their entire life. Australia has a responsibility to pioneer the global fight against climate change. Right now, climate change, energy security and the future of fossil fuels is being used by our politicians as a tool to shift votes. The greatest challenge for the climate movement is making climate change front and centre to every decision and debate about the country’s economy and prosperity. As a Councillor I hope to facilitate these important discussions; contribute in my state by supporting ACF staff to work on bold climate actions; build connections; and foster a healthier movement.

My work has involved analysing key, timely policy issues and power dynamics; researching campaign issues; networking extensively with key stakeholders in science and community; designing community engagement and public education strategies; engaging with key ministers and MPs; developing media and communications plans; representing campaign and organisation at various community venues. I have a deep understanding of environment issues and the climate crisis and am fiercely committed to the solutions. After high school I studied teaching as I am passionate about educating and empowering communities to be fierce leaders in this transition. I have many years’ experience as a community organiser in schools, universities, SE and regional Queensland communities; involving volunteer management, stakeholder engagement, strategic communications, training, presenting, and data storage and management. One of my favourite roles in the environment movement is collaborating with other groups, organisers and activists. I have been responsible for facilitating meetings between environment organisations, running trainings and collaborating on a range of campaigns. In my most recent role with TWS I established a stakeholder alliance to campaign for stronger vegetation management legislation.