

'Protecting Queensland's future should come naturally'

A summary of the Conservation Priorities for Queensland 2017



Queensland is an amazing place for nature: we have a wide variety of ecosystems, and very special natural areas such as Cape York Peninsula, Channel Country, the Great Barrier Reef sand and islands, and coral cays, pristine rivers, rainforests, the Brigalow Belt and vast northern savannah woodlands. We have spectacular national parks, and marine areas, sensational beaches, and outback landscapes. We have lots of species and are a relative biodiversity hotspot.

There's much to love and look after in natural Queensland, but our recent track record of caring and protecting Queensland is pretty patchy. Queensland's natural environment is very special and needs to be considered as **a state policy priority** by all the state's political parties.

This is a summary of the headline actions the Queensland Conservation Council - the peak body for conservation groups in the state - sees for the next term of government in Queensland.

LAND CLEARING

1. Permanently protect all old-growth native woodlands and forests under the Vegetation Management Act, Planning Act and other legislation and regulatory instruments.
2. Permanently protect all other high conservation value native woodlands and forests under the Vegetation Management Act, Planning Act and other legislation and regulatory instruments.
3. Remove "Self-Assessable Codes" for land clearing.
4. Ensure strong monitoring and resourcing for the enforcement of land clearing laws.
5. Improve mapping for vegetation and halt exemptions via property maps.
6. Establish a substantial ecological carbon fund and support restoration opportunities - Allocate at least \$300 million over a three-year period to fund ecological carbon projects that meet the dual objectives of sequestering carbon and restoring biodiversity and landscape health, while providing a substantial economic boost to regional Queensland.
7. Commit to prompt, transparent and regular (minimum annual) release of clearing data and reporting on impacts.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

1. Support the '50% renewable energy by 2030' target and put it into law.
2. For the pre-2020 period, ensure a rapid take up of renewables.
3. Strong emphasis on energy efficiency and demand reduction through smart technologies, and renewed focus on better household/commercial/industrial energy consumption and management.
4. Further government support for additional rapid update of large scale renewables and for expansion of household rooftop solar generation and storage.
5. Establish priority projects to secure specific private rental housing renewable energy initiatives to enable private.
6. Establish other business/commercial and community renewables projects.
7. Other policy mechanisms (including price regulations) and support packages for ensuring low income households are not disadvantaged in the shift to renewable energy.
8. Commit to no new coal / gas fired power development, and undertake more formal planning for the managed transition from coal/gas/oil fuel energy generation.

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

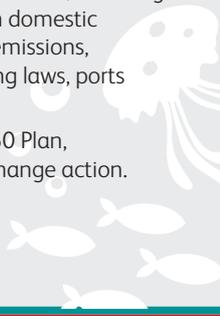
1. Implement the commitments in the Queensland Climate Change Transitions Strategy.
2. Legislate (a Queensland Climate Change Action and Responsibility Act) to back-in the commitments in the Climate Transitions Strategy.
3. Make an explicit commitment that the Queensland government's own carbon footprint will achieve carbon-neutrality (zero net emissions) by 2030 and commit \$100 million + over forward estimates to support the achievement of this.
4. Strong emphasis on energy efficiency and demand reduction through smart technologies, and renewed focus on better household/commercial/industrial energy consumption and management.
5. Ensure that the state takes responsibility for Queensland-originated carbon emissions.
6. Support rapid state action on climate change mitigation via explicit commitments to there being no new fossil fuel extraction projects in Queensland.
7. Appoint representatives of Queensland Conservation Council and the Queensland Council of Social Service onto the Queensland Climate Advisory Council.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRANSITIONS

1. Commit via an Economic Transitions White Paper to developing a detailed plan for economic and social transitions to support the move away from fossil fuel-dependent economy and carbon-intensive power generation based jobs to new employment opportunities from carbon-neutral industries and emergent technologies.
2. Commit to renewable energy solutions when existing coal/gas fired power stations and other facilities are decommissioned or discontinued.
3. Allocate \$50 million + to establish transitions pilot projects in places such as Gladstone to facilitate transition of the local economy (including local energy production and use).
4. Develop and resource other research and development programs aimed at creating an ecologically-sustainable economy, including carbon - neutral employment opportunities for the future.

PROTECTION OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

1. Ensure that the best possible array of interventions aimed at protecting the Great Barrier Reef, including strong climate change measures on domestic and international greenhouse gas emissions, water quality measures, land clearing laws, ports management and other actions.
2. Revise and strengthen the Reef 2050 Plan, particularly in the area of climate change action.



ADANI AND NAIF

1. Ensure no tax payer dollars are spent on royalties deals or any other forms of direct or implicit subsidies through government agencies on the proposed Adani Carmichael mine.
2. To the maximum extent that it can lawfully and Constitutionally, the State of Queensland should formally veto or otherwise withhold support for any NAIF loan to the Adani rail line development.
3. Withdraw policy support for the proposed Adani Carmichael mine and examine all other opportunities to minimise practical or promotional assistance to the project.

PROTECTED AREAS

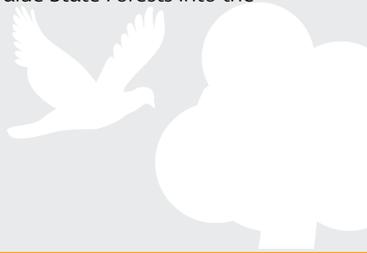
1. Increase the national park estate by an additional 1 million hectares over the next term of government, and allocate the necessary funds in related budgets to enable this (estimate minimum \$50 million).
2. Improve baseline funding for National Park management by at least \$20 million pa over the forward estimates.
3. Maintain current marine park protections that recognise the value of marine national parks.
4. Consider how publicly-owned Unallocated State Land (USL) in Queensland could be added to the Protected Area Estate to better protect our outstanding cultural and biodiversity assets (and at zero land acquisition cost to the budget).

CAPE YORK PENINSULA

1. Support ongoing tenure resolution and land return outcomes on Cape York, based around land uses consistent with maintaining the long-term biodiversity and resilience of Cape York lands as ecologically functional landscapes.
2. Allocate \$20 million over 5 years for further land acquisitions and up to \$10 million over 5 years for additional rangers and ensure current CYPAL areas are adequately supported for land and rivers management.
3. Continue to progress a World Heritage nomination of areas of Cape York with the consent of Traditional Owners, and resource on-country based consultation and planning models to enable active and informed participation.

BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

1. Commit to a comprehensive suite of legislative and regulatory protections for Queensland's nature, including the strengthening and full implementation of the previous Queensland Biodiversity Strategy. Restore the SEQ Regional Forestry Agreement and other conservation programs to progress the transition of high conservation value State Forests into the protected estate.



RIVERS PROTECTION AND WATER LEGISLATION

1. Following community consultation and Indigenous community engagement, introduce new statutory protections for Queensland's pristine rivers with the necessary head of power to override mineral and oil/gas mining legislation in key ecologically-sensitive areas.
2. Commit to a wholesale review and rewrite of the Water Act to ensure that it delivers environmentally-focused management and conservation of the state's limited freshwater reserves.

QLD ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

1. Substantially strengthen Queensland's environmental laws to properly protect what we value and treasure.
2. Enshrine the Precautionary Principle and other Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development in all State legislation and policies.
3. Move towards a Zero Waste Queensland by re-instating a levy on waste and licensing identified secondary resource collections.
4. Commit to reviewing and fundamentally overhauling Queensland biodiversity and other environmental offset legislation and policies.
5. Create a strong Environment Department to provide the necessary institutional support for them.



FUNDING FOR QCC AND REGIONAL CONSERVATION

1. Increase the base funding of QCC to \$300,000pa for 5 years, to allow it to properly undertake environmentally-focused research, policy development, community consultation and engagement processes around the state.
2. Increase current funding for Regional Conservation Councils, and in consultation with QCC, examine options for expanding the number and geographic spread of RCCs.

