

HOPE's affiliations in Queensland

By Georgia Eastment MSc., HOPE researcher (Vic)

Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) -

<https://www.queenslandconservation.org.au/>



In 1969, a small group of environmental enthusiasts came together to share their concern over the depletion of Queensland's natural environment and heritage. Together they formed the Queensland Conservation Council (QCC).

As a community-based organisation, QCC advise, liaise with, and represent local environmental groups and campaigns across Queensland. In doing so, QCC aim to protect, conserve and sustain Queensland's natural environment. The long-term aim is to establish a sustainable Queensland, where the natural

environment is thriving; local communities should live in concert with nature, rather than demonstrating dominion over it. That's why QCC have a large focus on communities and empowerment. QCC recognise the intersectionalities between humans and nature and seek to achieve environmental and social justice outcomes. This includes reconciliation with First Nations peoples and recognising the importance of traditional ecological knowledge.

QCC's theory of change embodies this; through coordination and capacity building, grassroots movements can generate the social and political will for change. As such, QCC are Queensland's peak body for environmental groups. Representing over 50 local groups, they seek to amplify the voices of communities for nature and climate justice.

Major campaigns

National Parks for Life: Under the Protected Area Strategy, the Queensland Government is committing to protecting 8.26% of natural land. However, [this campaign](#) is demanding the Queensland Government doubles this amount. Through direct advocacy and media campaigns, QCC are calling for additional funding and improved parks management to facilitate this. To engage more local community members, volunteers are heavily engaged in this campaign. Volunteers have recently organised 'walk and talk' events where participants hear from experts about the importance of Protected Areas. This campaign is also working to secure ongoing and additional funding for the Queensland Government's Cape York Tenure Resolution Program. This program returns ownership and management of identified lands on Cape York Peninsula to local Aboriginal Traditional owners. Additional funding for this program would support improved environmental outcomes on Cape York Peninsula, as well as land justice through co-management.

Power Up Queensland!: As part of QCC's mission for a safe climate, the [Power Up Queensland!](#) campaign is calling for a transition to net-zero emissions by 2050. This campaign seeks to facilitate a transition to renewable energy by supporting local workers and communities. This campaign has had a number of achievements. Firstly, the Queensland Government has announced an additional \$1.5bn for the Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Jobs Fund. Direct communication with Steven Miles, the Deputy Premier and Minister for Planning, led to him scrutinising Clive Palmer's Waratah Coal's new coal fired power station.

Climate Action Now: The [Climate Action Now](#) campaign is a national campaign calling for immediate and effective action by decision-makers to mitigate and proactively avoid the adverse impacts of climate change. Through hanging up a bold 'Climate Action Now' sign, participants are hoping to send a message to leaders that action is needed. As one of the organisations involved, QCC are helping to provide free signs and resources to local participants.

Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC) - <https://qwalc.org.au/>



Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC) is a non-profit community-based organisation aiming to create thriving and connected Queensland communities and ecosystems. As the peak body for natural resource management (NRM) volunteers, QWaLC seek to encourage its members, as well as the broader Queensland community, to meaningfully participate and engage in improving environmental, social, and

economic outcomes through NRM. As volunteer NRM groups began to grow at the turn of the millennium, it became clear that these groups were underrepresented. In 2004, QWaLC was established to fulfil the growing need for a representative body.

Currently, QWaLC has 465 membership groups, comprised over 38,000 individuals. These groups include Landcare (Coastcare, Bushcare etc), Friends-of groups, Species-specific protection groups, and Catchment Associations. A full list of QWaLC Member groups can be found [here](#).

As part of the National Landcare Network, QWaLC also network with other Landcare groups across Australia. This includes liaising with Landcare Australia on various projects, and sharing ideas, knowledge, and resources.

Activities

Representation: QWaLC represent its members through active engagement and consultation. QWaLC regularly communicate with their members and support various Landcare groups to deliver projects. Through connecting to and better understanding the needs of their members, they are able to put forward their views to decision-makers and external stakeholders.

Advocacy: QWaLC advocate on behalf of its members and NRM volunteers. They represent the views of their members to ensure that they are taken into consideration in any decisions regarding the voluntary NRM sector.

Promotion: To demonstrate support for the voluntary NRM sector, QWaLC promote the achievements of these volunteers. For example, with the support of Landcare Australia, QWaLC coordinate the Queensland Landcare Awards. This recognises exceptional Landcarers and Landcare groups who have excelled in sustainable agricultural practices, environmental protection, conservation of land and waterways, coastlines, and biodiversity.

Network: As part of the National Landcare Network, QWaLC facilitate the sharing of information, skills, and resources. They help to maintain and enhance the relationships between NRM volunteer groups to provide a strong and united alliance of members.

Insurance administration: To support and facilitate the NRM work of its members, QWaLC offer insurance policies. Three policies are provided, including [Protector / Association Liability Insurance Policy](#), [General and Products Liability Insurance Policy](#), and [Voluntary Workers Group Personal Accident Insurance](#).

Resources: To ensure member groups are operating legally and responsibly, QWaLC offer a range of resources, or '[landcare in a box](#)'. This includes fact sheets and policy templates, covering topics such as employment, how to run an effective meeting, duties of office bearers, working with children and records management. To grow the momentum of natural resource management, QWaLC also provide [resources](#) on awareness raising and Member of Parliament (MP) engagement. Free [newsletters](#) are also available. These newsletters contain information about water and land care in Queensland, including stories of citizen science projects, and other Landcare organisations.

QLD Protect the Bush Alliance (PtBA) - <https://ptba.net.au/>



Protect the Bush Alliance (PtBA) is an alliance of organisations and individuals advocating for increased protection of Queensland's wildlife habitat. PtBA's overarching mission is to protect important habitat and green space from inappropriate development. To carry this mission out, PtBA members are working together to advocate, educate, and inspire systems change.

PtBA was formed in 2012 by 6 environmental groups. This included nature, environmental and conservation organisations, Nature Refuge owners, businesses, and individuals. PtBA has since expanded, becoming an incorporated organisation in 2018. PtBA now includes 23 member organisations, representing over 30,000 people. Members include The Wilderness Society, Lock the Gate Alliance, and our very own Householders' Option to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. A full list of member organisation can be found [here](#).

Activities

Research: PtBA undertake [surveys and data collection](#) to increase understanding of biodiversity and endangered and vulnerable species. The survey process involves collaborating with landholders, citizen scientists, volunteer botanists, zoologists, and ornithologists to assess species diversity in and around private properties. For example, the Apsey Survey in 2013 saw an 8,000 hectare property in Apsey assessed as it's refugia sites were under threat from increased land clearing. This survey discovered the only existing *Homoranthus vagans* (flowering plant in the family Myrtaceae) on record in Queensland. Such survey results are used to not only improve landowners understanding and connection to their property, but also to advocate for the protection of species.

Education and engagement: As a community-based organisation, PtBA work closely with landholders and broader community members to raise awareness of the high conservation value of Queensland's natural environments. By increasing the capacity members have to relate to natural resources, PTBA hopes to inspire collective action and change.

Advocacy: PtBA work closely with members and expert advice to advocate for and strengthen existing environmental legislation. Together, PtBA members examine and discuss proposed changes, and submit recommendations to relevant government departments. Moreover, PtBA campaign to prevent developments from adversely impacting Queensland's environment and heritage. For example, a [petition](#) has been launched to prevent gas fracking in Western Queensland's Channel Country.

Darling Downs Environment Council (DDEC) - <https://www.ddec.org.au/>



Formed in 2014, the Darling Downs Environment Council (DDEC) is a group of environmental organisations and concerned community members. The DDEC are a peak community-based organisation on a mission to promote sustainability and protect the natural, built, and managed environment in the Darling Downs region of southern Queensland. Intergenerational equity is central to DDEC's protection of environmental areas. Intergenerational equity ensures that each generation has equitable access to the same diversity in natural, cultural, health, and economic resources; we need to preserve our current resources for future generations to enjoy and benefit from. As such, DDEC seek to mitigate and proactively avoid the diminishing land and water resources.

DDEC members include both group organisations and individual members from the Darling Downs and Toowoomba areas. A full list of member groups can be found [here](#).

Activities and campaigns

Advocacy: DDEC are working closely with its members to advocate for legislative changes. This includes engaging with local members of parliament and writing relevant submissions to provide advice on environmental action. For example, DDEC recently provided a [Submission](#) to the EPBC Act Review. While demanding the EPBC Act extend its protection criteria, the submission also calls for an enforceable framework for accountable and active environmental protection and management.

Resources: DDEC also offer a [free e-newsletter](#) and regular [blog posts](#) to keep members and the local community up to date on environmental issues. This form of capacity building helps to empower the Darling Downs community to get involved and take action to protect the environment.

Save Redwood Park: This [campaign](#) uses negotiation, persuasion, and people power to protest against the proposed mountain bike trails through Redwood Forest. The transformation of forest into bike trails has the potential to destroy ecological values and disturb the natural environment and heritage. Alongside facilitating a [Parliamentary E-petition](#), DDEC have also endorsed a [rally](#) in which over 60 members of the public gathered to demand disapproval of the proposed bike trails.

Save Acland: This [campaign](#) aims to shut down the expansion of New Acland's Coal's thermal coal mine. This campaign involves judicial action before the Land Court to stop the adverse impacts of mining on farmland and climate security in the Darling Downs regions.
