



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

## HOPE E-news Bulletin 2025 #01 --- January 2025

The following items have been gathered from various e: newsletters received by HOPE in recent times; and/or prepared specifically by HOPE members and supporters. If you have any news to contribute, please forward to [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au). Deadline for articles is 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

### Editorial

Welcome to the January issue and first newsletter of the year! This month covers a variety of general interest and sustainability topics. Firstly, we learn about the "Living Affordability in Queensland 2024" report by the Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS), addressing the critical issue of financial strain experienced by low-income households. Then how to live more sustainably by the Spur family and the Spurtopia journey. Another general interest topic is about the CSIRO. We take another look at ending food waste with End Food Waste Australia and climate change with the Climate Council. Then we take a look at plastics, firstly through The Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) initiative, a USAID's global program under the Save Our Seas Initiative, targeting ocean plastic pollution at its source, and the Plastics in the Environment report by the Royal Society.

Kind regards,

Nina Stick, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.

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## 2025 Environmental Observances

### January

26 [International Day of Clean Energy](#)

### February

2 [World Wetlands Day](#)

8 **HOPE quarterly Ordinary Meeting**

10 [World Pulses Day](#)

20 [World Social Justice Day](#)

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### 2025 International Years

[International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, 2025](#)

[International Year of Cooperatives, 2025](#)

[International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, 2025](#)

[International Year of Peace and Trust, 2025](#)

### International Decades (overlapping with 2025)

[Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, 2025–2034](#)

[United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms \(2025–2034\)](#)

[International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development, 2024–2033](#)

[Rights of indigenous people](#)

[United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing \(2021–2030\)](#)

[Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism](#)

[Improving global road safety](#)

[United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration \(2021–2030\)](#)

[Oceans and the law of the sea](#)

[Political declaration adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit](#)

[United Nations Decade of Family Farming \(2019–2028\)](#)

[International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028](#)

[Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty](#)

[United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition \(2016–2025\)](#)

[Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa \(2016–2025\)](#)

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n20/226/30/pdf/n2022630.pdf>

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## Message from the President

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has enjoyed a break over the last few weeks and is feeling recharged to conquer the year ahead. What a year it will be! This year we continue to celebrate and mark significant dates according to the international UN Observances Calendar. 2025 is deemed the year of International Glaciers' Preservation, International Year of Cooperatives, Peace and Trust, and of Quantum Science and Technology. While some of these topics may feel distant to our everyday lives in Australia, I encourage you to look into these issues as there is much to learn from the problems and solutions of environmental problems worldwide- "Think Globally- Act Locally" as it were.

Nationally 2025 is federal election year. HOPE Inc. is an apolitical organisation however we encourage citizens to acquaint themselves with the environmental policies of their preferred party or parties, to be well informed as you vote for our future and that of our environment.

For us 2025 will be another busy year, as we look to fund several important projects such as upgrading our technology and website and a series of interviews with local environmental champions and leaders.

How can you help? HOPE is seeking a representative to liaise with SEEDIS (<https://buildaction.org/seedis/>), volunteers to write feature articles, ideas for projects and suggestions for potential sponsors and patrons. We also would appreciate you supporting us online by posting, sharing or forwarding our work to others! Here's to a successful and prosperous year ahead for you and our environment!

Cheers!

Anna Kula-Kaczmarek, President- HOPE Inc.

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## The Benefits of Volunteering



### Benefits of volunteering

**Volunteering is of great benefit to the community, it also benefits you personally in a range of ways:**

- **Gain work experience and develop new skills** – Boost your career prospects. Update your resume with a whole new skill set.
- **Make new friendships and connections** – Meet like-minded people. Create professional networks.
- **Enjoy new social & cultural experiences** – be immersed in all kinds of environments, people and causes.
- **Be a part of your community** – Discover, connect, make an impact and have fun.
- **Enjoy better physical and mental health** – Studies show volunteering makes us healthier and happier.
- **Develop personally and build confidence** – Expand yourself. Enjoy a sense of achievement and fulfilment.
- **Act on your values** – Try something new. Follow your passions and interests.
- **Step out of your comfort zone** – Challenge yourself in a supportive environment.
- **Stand up for what matters** – Be inspired and be an inspiration.
- **Make a difference** – The feel good factor of supporting Queensland communities.

**Enjoy the benefits of being a volunteer today!**

**To find out about volunteering opportunities in your area, please visit:**

Volunteering Australia - <http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/>

Volunteering Queensland - <https://www.volunteeringqld.org.au/>

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment - <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/membership/volunteer-form/>



## Summary Report: Living Affordability in Queensland 2024 (Written by Shuri Matsumoto - HOPE admin volunteer (Qld))

### Overview

The "Living Affordability in Queensland 2024" report by the Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS) addresses the critical issue of financial strain experienced by low-income households. The report models five household types to evaluate their ability to sustain a basic standard of living and investigates cost-of-living challenges, including housing, food, energy, health, and transport.

### Key Findings

- **Financial Vulnerability:**
  - Only two out of five modelled households met the basic standard of living in 2024.
  - All households are vulnerable to financial shocks, with insufficient income for emergencies.
  - Three households' financial positions improved compared to 2023 due to short-term relief measures, but deficits are expected to worsen once these measures end.

Household Type	2023 Weekly Balance	2024 Weekly Balance	Change
Single unemployed	-\$11.39	-\$86.20	Worse
Single student	-\$26.12	+\$2.72	Better
Senior couple	+\$76.56	+\$73.19	Worse
Single parent (part-time work)	-\$255.98	-\$156.93	Better
Couple with two children	-\$198.84	-\$116.06	Better

- **Housing Costs:**
  - Housing represents the largest expense (over 37% of household income).
  - Rising rents and critically low vacancy rates create significant stress, forcing some into unsafe or unsuitable accommodations.
- **Food and Health:**
  - High food costs push households to choose less nutritious options, skip meals, or buy fewer groceries.
  - Health needs are often neglected due to out-of-pocket costs, leading to higher stress, anxiety, and barriers to mental health care.
- **Transport and Education:**
  - Transport costs are prohibitively high for low-income families reliant on private vehicles, especially in rural areas with limited public transport.
  - Many households struggle to cover educational expenses for children, exacerbating financial burdens.

### Government Support and Recommendations

- 2024 concessions and rebates, such as rent assistance and energy rebates, provided temporary financial relief.
- Despite these measures, a more sustained and targeted approach is needed to alleviate poverty and enable low-income families to achieve economic stability.

This report underscores the urgent need for systemic reforms to address affordability challenges and support vulnerable Queenslanders.



**Learn More:** Download the full report: [Living affordability in Queensland 2024](#), for more information.



## Sustainable living in your backyard - Spur Family inspires, educates and empowers families to live more sustainably.

Spurtopia's journey began when the Spur family, originally from the Czech Republic, moved to a rental property in New Farm, QLD. Captivated by Queensland's weather, climate, and lifestyle - so different from Europe, they saw an opportunity to live more affordably by adopting simple and inexpensive sustainable practices to minimise their impact on the environment.

As a Sustainable Building Designer and a visionary for holistically living with a common-sense approach guided by 5R's mantra - Refuse, Reduce, Recycle and Repair, Roman Spur created his family utopia along with his partner Janna Cejnarova. Together, they share their lifestyle through workshops and courses to teach others how to live more simply and grow their food in their backyard. From their backyard, they produce honey, grow vegetables in a self-watering box, craft personal and cleaning products, and even use a solar hot water system made from a repurposed rubbish bin.

Now living in Fernvale, QLD, the Spur family continues to inspire others through their courses and workshops. They teach practical and inexpensive ideas to achieve self-sufficiency, save money, grow organic food and live more sustainably - focusing on energy positivity, water sufficiency, and waste reduction. They also offer tailored designs and consultations for individuals and businesses, empowering more people to embrace sustainable living.

To learn more about Spur's family workshops, courses, consultations and other resources, or to follow their journey, visit their website: [www.spurtopia.com.au/](http://www.spurtopia.com.au/) or connect with them on social media for tips and inspiration on sustainable living.



Source: <https://spurtopia.com.au/our-gallery/>

(Written by Brunna Barcellos - HOPE researcher Qld)

**Your financial support is sought! – <https://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/donations/>**

We invite members and supporters to consider making an annual financial contribution to help cover our operating costs of approximately \$20,500 p.a.

Currently, our income is derived from project grants, fund-raising, corporate sponsorship and donations, but falls well short of our requirements.

Your financial support, by way of an annual pledge or donation, will considerably help us to achieve better financial viability.

Of course, if you 'cash in your containers', why not donate those monies to **HOPE Inc** | Member number: C11107170.

***Please help us to continue our efforts in advocating for responsible stewardship of the environment and supports adopting sustainable long-term solutions to the manifold environmental problems facing humanity.***

## National articles



### CSIRO: Innovating for a Better Future

#### About CSIRO

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is Australia's national science agency. With over 100 years of pioneering work, CSIRO tackles the nation's biggest challenges through innovative science and technology. The organisation's mission is to deliver world-class solutions that benefit society, the environment, and the economy.

CSIRO's work spans diverse fields, from agriculture and energy to data science and space exploration, positioning it as a global leader in research and development.

#### CSIRO Missions: Tackling Global Challenges

CSIRO's Missions program brings together science, industry, and government to address some of the world's most pressing challenges. These initiatives aim to:

- **Combat Climate Change:** Develop solutions to reduce emissions and improve resilience.
- **Protect Biodiversity:** Safeguard ecosystems and natural resources for future generations.
- **Drive Renewable Energy:** Innovate in hydrogen and solar energy to support sustainable growth.
- **Boost Agriculture and Food Security:** Enhance sustainable farming practices and food systems.
- **Improve Health Outcomes:** Advance research in disease prevention and public health.

These missions are designed to create long-term benefits for Australia and the global community.

#### Major Achievements:

##### Economic Contribution:

- CSIRO's impact analysis shows a projected **\$32 billion in benefits** by 2034 from 84 case studies, representing a return of **\$8.80 for every \$1 invested**.

##### Strategic Model:

- The **Impact Maturity Model (IMM)**, refined since 2020, helps CSIRO measure and enhance its effectiveness in creating positive social, environmental, and economic outcomes.

##### Innovation and Reputation:

- CSIRO excels in **multidisciplinary expertise** and **entrepreneurship programs** (e.g., SME Connect) and maintains a **strong reputation for scientific excellence**, boosting Australia's innovation ecosystem.

##### Opportunities for Growth:

- Areas needing attention include **improved commercialisation, collaborations, and sustainable infrastructure investments**.

For more details, visit the [2024 Impact Assessment Report](#).

#### News and Updates

Stay updated with the latest breakthroughs and activities from CSIRO through their news platform. Recent highlights include:

- **Advancing Renewable Energy:** Major strides in hydrogen technology for clean energy solutions.
- **Agricultural Breakthroughs:** New techniques to enhance crop resilience amidst climate challenges.
- **Combating Plastic Waste:** The Indo-Pacific Plastics Innovation Demo Day showcased creative solutions, such as gamified waste collection, coffee-based recycled plastics, and advanced sorting technologies, driving regional collaboration against plastic pollution.



## Ongoing Projects:

In the Beetaloo Sub-basin, CSIRO conducts a critical study to **quantify methane emissions** during well drilling and completion. This project assesses greenhouse gas emissions from hydraulic fracturing in natural gas production. With innovative monitoring techniques and collaboration across industries, the study aims to minimise environmental impacts and inform sustainable practices in Australia's energy sector

For more details, visit the [CSIRO News Section](#) and the [Beetaloo Sub-basin methane emissions research](#).

## Resources and Engagement

CSIRO offers resources for everyone, including:

- [Educational Tools](#): Access learning materials for students and teachers.
- [Research](#): Discover in-depth scientific studies and insights.
- [Newsletter](#): Subscribe to stay informed about CSIRO's projects and achievements.

**Learn More:** Visit [CSIRO](#) for more information on their work and impact.



*(Written by Shuri Matsumoto - HOPE admin volunteer (Qld))*

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## Advertisement

### Advertising Rates

HOPE is keen to raise some much-needed revenue through the introduction of paid advertising in our newsletter.

At this stage, we are offering a 15cm x 4cm sized 'strip' adverts for \$30 + \$3 GST per edition; OR \$300 + \$30 GST for a full year.

If interested, please send your advert to [office@hopeaustrlia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustrlia.org.au) and your payment to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

(Direct debit banking details available on request.)

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## End Food Waste

### Main Aims:

End Food Waste Australia (formerly Fight Food Waste) is committed to reducing food waste nationwide. Through research, industry collaboration, behaviour change, and policy development, they aim to halve food waste by 2030.



### Major Achievements:

- **38 Active Research Projects** valued at \$14.5 million, focusing on reducing food waste, transforming waste into products, and promoting consumer engagement.
- **16 New Projects** worth \$5.3 million, targeting sectors such as dairy, bakery, and vegetable processing.
- **Australian Food Pact:** Welcomed 15 new signatories, including major corporations like Nestlé and Unilever.
- **Food Rescue:** Contributed 54 million meals to food rescue charities through industry collaboration.

### Current Projects/Campaigns:

# THE GREAT UNWASTE

End Food Waste Australia (EFWA) has launched 'The Great Unwaste'—Australia's first nationwide campaign to tackle household food waste. With support from the Australian Government's \$10 million seed funding, EFWA aims to empower every Australian to reduce food waste, save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to a sustainable future.

### GET INVOLVED-

- Visit [The Great Unwaste website](#)
- Follow [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#)
- Subscribe to [newsletter](#)
- Start implementing easy food-saving tips
- Share your journey using [#TheGreatUnwaste](#)

Every action counts in turning food waste around. Let's make a difference together!  
Subscribe to [the End Food Waste Australia newsletter](#) for the latest updates and events.



*(Written by Shuri Matsumoto - HOPE admin volunteer Qld)*

## Advertisement



Mob: 0457 709 938 Ravensbourne  
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- Flora & fauna surveys
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- Plant specimen identification
- Wildlife & drone photography
- Tree trimming & ethical removals



## What's been done to address Climate Change and How Climate Policy can shape Australia's future?

As we approach the next federal election, we should reflect on what has been accomplished regarding the greatest priorities for voters in 2022 - climate change, cost of living, and the economy. As climate change is one of the main concerns for Australians, the Climate Council is committed to reducing Australia's climate pollution by 75% by 2030.

As a community-funded and independent organisation, the Climate Council cares deeply about a safer and healthier future for the next generations. They focus on the areas where we can make the biggest impact on cutting emissions this decade while holding governments and industries accountable.

The questions in their newsletter "What does good climate policy look like?" encourage us to reflect critically about climate policy announcements. A Good climate policy requires strategic actions in key areas to address climate change effectively. The Climate Council highlights these priorities:

- Transitioning to renewable energy
- Improving energy efficiency
- Supporting clean transport
- Managing land Sustainably
- Building a Circular Economy
- Empowering communities

These actions help cut emissions, protect the environment, grow green industries and create new economic opportunities.

Learn more about effective climate policies here:

<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/what-does-good-climate-policy-look-like/> .

Support their work and subscribe to their newsletter here: <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/>

**#PutClimateFirst** 1

*(Written by Brunna Barcellos - HOPE researcher Qld)*

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### A reminder thought!





## International articles

### Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO)

The **Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO)** initiative is USAID's global program under the **Save Our Seas Initiative**, targeting ocean plastic pollution at its source. Launched in 2019, CCBO aims to strengthen waste management systems and build circular economies to reduce plastic waste from land to sea, creating **cleaner cities** and healthier oceans.



#### **A Global Approach:**

With over **22 million metric tons** of plastic entering our oceans each year, CCBO works across **10 countries** in **Asia, the Pacific Islands, Latin America, and the Caribbean**, including Indonesia, the Philippines, and Fiji. CCBO's success is built on collaboration with local governments, businesses, and communities. By promoting the **3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle)** and scaling up effective waste management solutions, CCBO empowers local communities to actively reduce ocean plastic pollution.



#### **Key Impacts (as of March 2024):**

- **Managed over 7.4 million metric tons** of waste and recyclables.
- **Prevented 1.2 million metric tons of plastics** (equivalent to **127 billion plastic bottles**) from polluting the environment.
- **Diverted 30,000 metric tons** of waste from landfills, supporting local jobs and businesses.
- **Trained over 17,000 people** in solid waste management, enhancing local capacity.
- **Improved air and water quality** for **12 million people** through better waste services.
- **Awarded \$11 million** in grants to **43 organisations** and 8 city governments.
- **Mobilised \$12.7 million** in public and private investments to strengthen waste infrastructure.
- **Built 230+ partnerships** with local governments, private sector leaders like Nestlé Philippines, and international partners.

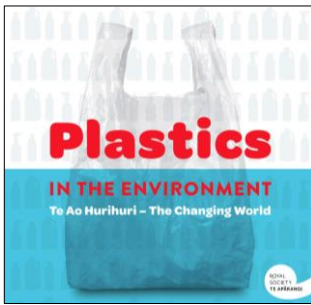
#### **Building a Sustainable Future:**

Every piece of plastic we recycle helps keep our cities clean and our oceans healthy. CCBO initiative shows that local actions make a global difference. Reducing, reusing, and recycling can prevent plastic waste from polluting our environment!

**Learn More:** Visit [Clean Cities, Blue Ocean](#), for more information on their work and impact.

*(Written by Shuri Matsumoto - HOPE admin volunteer Qld)*





## Do you know the life cycle of plastics and how plastic pollution has impacted our environment and human health?

The Royal Society has raised important concerns about the escalating problem of plastic pollution and its harmful effects on the environment and human health.

As New Zealand's independent and not-for-profit organisation, the Royal Society is dedicated to exploring and creating knowledge through public outreach, education, and supporting the research community. Their projects aim to prepare us to face our biggest challenges by providing evidence-based information and helping us make well-informed decisions.

One of their projects, "Plastics in the Environment", has published a comprehensive report highlighting the widespread issue of plastic pollution. This report systematically examines the entire life cycle of plastics - from creation and use to disposal - and investigates how these materials enter the environment.

The report also constructively explores the significant impacts of plastic pollution, particularly how it affects the environment and human health. It emphasises the importance of understanding how plastic waste can endanger wildlife through entanglement and ingestion. Additionally, it discusses the role of plastic as a vector for invasive species and diseases, along with the challenge posed by toxic chemicals associated with plastics spread globally. Furthermore, it highlights the persistent issue of microplastics in the environment, which presents significant long-term challenges.

In response to the growing plastic crisis, the authors suggest practical solutions, encouraging governments and industries to adopt measures that reduce plastic consumption and promote sustainable alternatives. They also emphasise the responsibility of the consumers to reduce plastic use and choose environmentally friendly options.

Lastly, the report identifies knowledge gaps that require further research to address plastic pollution effectively, including:

- The amount of plastic collected for recycling versus landfill waste
- The sources and pathways of microplastics into the environment.
- The origin of plastic debris found on shores.
- The extent of leaching from plastics into animals and humans.
- Daily human exposure to microplastics and associated health risks.
- The impact of microplastic ingestion on organisms and ecosystems.
- Effective strategies for managing plastic waste and pollution

On the project website, you will find the report and informative material such as infographics summarising the report, factsheets and videos about plastics. To learn more about this project and explore their research and resources, visit their website:

- Plastic in the Environment: <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/major-issues-and-projects/plastics/>
- Royal Society: <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/>



*(Written by Brunna Barcellos - HOPE researcher Qld)*

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