



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2025 #02 --- February 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. Deadline for articles is 15th day of the month.

Editorial

Welcome to the February issue of the newsletter! In some Queensland news, we learn about the charity, No More Butts and Protect Beautiful Queensland. In national news, there is the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF), supporting Australia's adaptation to climate risks. There is also the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE), on the frontlines of the fight for climate change. They are dedicated to addressing the impact of environmental factors on human health.

Kind regards,

Nina Stick, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.

2025 Environmental Observances

February

2 [World Wetlands Day](#)

8 **HOPE quarterly Ordinary Meeting**

10 [World Pulses Day](#)

20 [World Social Justice Day](#)

March

3 [World Wildlife Day](#)

5 [International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness](#)

22 [World Water Day](#)

23 [World Meteorological Day](#)

30 [International Day of Zero Waste](#)

April

4 [International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action](#)

7 [World Health Day](#)

22 [International Mother Earth Day](#)

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.

Message from the President



[ipswich-queensland-australia](#)

Happy February everyone! We made it through the first month of the year and I hope it has been a good one for you all. I would love to hear from our dear readers (you!) what are you focusing your energy on this year? What causes are you involved in or thinking of supporting? Recently I came across a local organisation "Save Woogaroo Forest" which is petitioning to stop the development of Woogaroo Forest into residential housing. This Ipswich regional forest is home to native species (koalas, greater gliders, echidnas, sugar gliders, brush-tailed phascogales, platypus and wallabies), and their habitat is now under threat of being bulldozed over by developers. Luckily developers have faced some backlash and red tape along the way and have not progressed with the project yet. If you too would like to support the protection of this forest you can sign the petition [here](https://www.change.org/p/tanya-plibersek-save-the-koalas-of-woogaroo-forest): <https://www.change.org/p/tanya-plibersek-save-the-koalas-of-woogaroo-forest>



Figure 1 Orange Feeder

Have you been involved in any cool projects this summer? A small project I did with the kids this summer, is making bird feeders out of orange peels! It was fun, biodegradable and a lovely gift for the local birds in our area: Simply remove the flesh of half an orange, poke two sticks through it, tie twine to the sticks, fill with seeds and hang! If you have any nifty ideas you have been working on, send them through, maybe we could share your ideas with others! You can contact me on admin@hopeaustralia.org.au

Thanks a bunch!

Anna Kula-Kaczmarek, President- HOPE Inc.
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Invitation to HOPE's quarterly Ordinary Meeting

Saturday, 8 February 2025 commencing at 10am sharp!

Venue: HOPE office, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba, Qld and via ZOOM

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2448320576?pwd=ay9PUUhDSTBSM2cxV3BNUGdtclEydz09&omn=81713928769>

Meeting ID: 244 832 0576 | Passcode: 1GN1CC

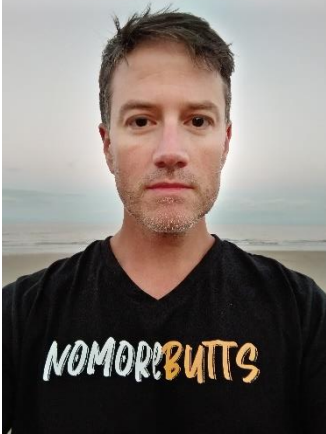
If attending in person, please RSVP by 5 February 2025 to assist with seating and morning tea catering arrangements

Queensland articles

There's No More Butts (<https://nomorebutts.org>)

– Queensland-based environmental charity takes aim at most littered item.

By Shannon Mead, Executive Director, No More Butts



After seeing the impacts of plastic pollution in idyllic locations around the world, I resigned from my corporate role after nearly two decades to register No More Butts in 2020. I was on an individual mission to pick up as many cigarette butts as possible and to have a positive impact on the environment.

Learning specifically about the impacts of littered cigarette butts was eye-opening. Not only did I realise that they hold 7,000 different chemicals and heavy metals that leach into the environment, but they are made from a plastic. As an ex-smoker, if someone had told me I was smoking a piece of plastic, I would have quit at once!

I started talking about this to the various peak bodies and departments and luckily, we had a quick win, with the National Plastics Plan 2022 including cigarette butts as a specific action to tackle under the plastics plan. We had further success in NSW later that year, with the government specifying they would act against tobacco products in their new Plastics Reduction and Circular Economy Act.

In Queensland, progress was slower, aside from my adopted home of Cairns. Together with support from (now Mayor) Councillor Amy Eden and the sustainability team at Cairns Regional Council, we started an initiative called "The Big Butt Hunt". In 2022, we had a dozen participants collect 4,500 cigarette butts in an hour. This program is now in its fourth year and due to take place twice in 2024 – once on Clean Up Australia Day (March 2); and once on World Clean Up Day (September 20).

As an entirely volunteer-run charity, we see value in collaborating with other organisations to amplify our collective impact. In late 2023, we teamed up with the Sea Shepherd Marine Debris Campaign team on the Gold Coast (as well as other locations) to collect thousands of cigarette butts in a co-branded post schoolies Great Butt Hunt. In November 2024, this took place in nine locations.

As our own volunteer base grew, our ability to deliver more programs increased. We trialled a cigarette butt collection and remediation program with Wollongong City Council, as well as trialing a similar program for businesses across Perth, through funding received from KABC WA. A year later we had secured funding from Sustainability Victoria to progress with a wider collection program, with success seen in new industries, including health care and construction, as well as events.

In 2021, our mission had expanded to include vaping devices, and we have been leading discussions around product stewardship. We have seen funding secured in the federal budget to fund a disposal scheme and invest into environmentally sound ways to dismantle and recycle vaping devices, in response to our budget submission and ongoing policy advocacy.

Realising that our vision for a world without tobacco waste will require strong policy changes, we have engaged with Doctors for the Environment Australia to research health indicators and cancer rates since the introduction of filtered cigarettes in Australia. This study found that cigarette filters provide no benefit to human health, meaning that they are not only problematic, but they are also avoidable. We hope to progress this research with advocacy partners and peak health organisations across Australia and the world.

Research has been a big part of our journey. Although our primary focus is the removal of cigarette filters, our opinion is that, until this takes place at a national, or international level, there are billions of butts still being littered and we have a responsibility as an environmental charity to investigate avenues to see if there is any way to recover resources from this waste stream.

To date, we have worked on ten research projects, with James Cook University, RMIT and an award-winning Melbourne-based social enterprise. Although we haven't yet identified the best solution to scale, we do believe that there is an opportunity to ensure a more circular approach for end-of-life management of cigarette butt litter and waste.

In 2025, our focus will be on strategy development, growing funding and resources to support more litter prevention programs and to build awareness across the community of our mission. We will continue to advocate for a filter ban, as well as our active participation in the global Plastics Treaty negotiations.



To get involved, visit <https://nomorebutts.org>.

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Protect Beautiful Queensland: Safeguarding What Makes Us Special



We tend to talk about nature like it's something separate from us, but in Queensland, we know better. The landscapes we love - from dense tropical rainforest to remote outback plains - are part of who we are. That connection to nature is what Protect Beautiful Queensland is all about. We're uniting campers, hikers and bird watchers alongside scientists, farmers and conservationists. Our vision is to double the state's protected areas by 2030, building a world-class

conservation network that balances adventure with strong, collaborative management and First Nations leadership.

Queensland is home to an incredible 85% of Australia's native mammals, 72% of its birds, and over half of its reptiles and frogs. That's a staggering diversity—much of it found nowhere else on earth. But at less than nine percent, Queensland's protected area is among the lowest in the country.

Our national parks are more than just lines on a map; they're where generations of families make memories. Seeing the dinosaur-like cassowary in the rainforests of the tropical north is not something you forget. They're also opportunities to connect with the oldest living cultures on the planet. First Nations Australians have cared for the land for over 50,000 years. By centering their leadership and expertise, our protected areas become celebrations of a rich cultural heritage.

PBQ is pushing for a stronger, better-funded protected area network. This includes expanding national parks and Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) as well as private conservation reserves. When they're funded properly, IPAs can be a significant part of the conservation patchwork. They're a model for combining traditional knowledge with modern conservation practices and contribute to almost half of the National Reserve System.

The Cape York Tenure Resolution Program includes more than 2 million hectares of Aboriginal-owned parks managed jointly with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. We want to expand this approach across the state, protecting the landscapes that hold cultural and ecological significance while creating real employment opportunities for Indigenous Rangers.

Much of Queensland is privately held or managed, and farmers and graziers can be among the best stewards of the land. Supporting them through the state's private protected areas program can provide the resources they need to look after areas of ecological importance. Farmers are some of the busiest people you'll meet, and we think a regular payment that covers the costs associated with keeping patches of nature as healthy as possible is fair enough.



Queensland should be a leader in nature protection, exploration and celebration. Our environment is at the heart of our outdoor lifestyle and the backbone of our tourism industry. We need more parks, better funding, and a commitment to inclusive, science-backed management.

PBQ is here to make that happen, but we can't do it alone. We need you with us, whatever your relationship to nature. Together, we can build a future where Queensland's natural beauty thrives and more people have the opportunity to see it.

Learn more and join us at protectqueensland.org.au.

National articles

National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF)

The **National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF)** has supported Australia's adaptation to climate risks. Established by the Australian Government in 2008, NCCARF provided vital guidance to decision-makers on managing climate impacts like sea-level rise until 2019. In 2020, NCCARF partnered with Griffith University's Climate Action Beacon, led by Professor Brendan Mackey, to continue fostering climate resilience.



Supporting Adaptation Across Australia:

NCCARF's mission has always been to **coordinate research capabilities** and provide decision-makers with the knowledge needed for successful climate adaptation. They emphasise **collaboration**, bringing together researchers, policymakers, and communities to build a more resilient Australia. A notable example of this effort is their contribution to the [Queensland Biodiversity and Ecosystems Climate Adaptation Plan](#), launched by The Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP at Walkabout Creek. NCCARF was crucial in developing this plan to safeguard Queensland's natural systems in a changing climate.

Resources for Adaptation:

NCCARF has developed an extensive range of resources to support adaptation efforts:

- [NCCARF Publications](#): Over 150 research reports
- [Practical Guidance](#): Sector-specific advice for adaptation
- [Research Plans \(NARPs\)](#): Adaptation strategies across various sectors
- [Case Studies](#): Real-world adaptation success stories
- [Webinars](#): Expert-led sessions on climate adaptation



Building a Resilient Future:

With its extensive body of research available online, NCCARF continues to support adaptation efforts as climate challenges become more pressing. Its collaboration with Griffith University ensures Australia remains at the forefront of climate adaptation.

Learn More: Visit [NCCARF's website](#) to access their resources and join the effort for a climate-resilient future.

(Written by Shuri Matsumoto - HOPE admin volunteer Qld)

A screenshot of the CoastAdapt website homepage. The header includes navigation links for 'About CoastAdapt', 'Disclaimer', and 'Saved pages', along with a search bar and a 'Resource centre' link. The main banner features the CoastAdapt logo and the text 'Support for coastal decision makers adapting to climate change and sea-level rise in Australia'. Below the banner are five colored buttons: 'Learn about climate change' (green), 'Assess risks and impacts' (orange), 'Understand adaptation' (blue), 'Undertake adaptation' (purple), and 'Connect with the adaptation community' (yellow). At the bottom, there are four featured content boxes: 'Sea-level rise and you' (with a map icon), 'Shoreline Explorer' (with a map icon), 'Coastal Climate Adaptation Decision Support' (with a flowchart icon), and 'CoastExchange' (with a forum icon).

International articles



Healthy Planet, Healthy People: ANHE's Fight for a Sustainable Future

Climate change is expected to significantly threaten human and environmental health in the coming years, as many countries are already experiencing its effects.

The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE) is on the frontlines of this fight. They are dedicated to addressing the impact of environmental factors on human health.

In 2023, ANHE celebrated a significant milestone—their 15th anniversary! Through education, advocacy, and research, ANHE empowers nurses to educate the public about the connections between our environment and health. They have achieved great progress over the last year, including the 42 nurses who endorsed the Joint Commitment Statement in Climate Change and Health.

ANHE is launching a new storytelling series to share inspiring stories and highlight successful climate action initiatives across the United States. These stories aim to motivate and empower others to take action for a healthier planet.

ANHE needs your support to continue their work. You can make a difference by donating, sharing this newsletter, or participating in their storytelling initiative. Learn more and get involved at www.envirn.org.



Image: Nursing representatives at the 2024 Congressional Hill Days.

Source: envirn.org

(Written by Brunna Barcellos - HOPE researcher Qld)



Resources

GREEN AGENDA

Green agenda: a voice for the Green Movement

Green Agenda is an online journal dedicated to promoting the green movement. The green movement is based on four pillars: ecological sustainability, social and economic justice, peace and nonviolence, and participatory democracy.

As a project of the Green Institute, the journal focuses on publishing essays and interviews that address the challenges of our time while presenting innovative progressive insights for the future of Australia and the world.

The Green Institute is an Australian non-profit organisation supported by grants from the Commonwealth government, income earned through events and activities, and contributions from donors and volunteers. With a commitment to social justice-anti-racism, decolonial practices, and ecological sustainability, the institute promotes green politics through education, action, research and debate.

The Green Agenda is published quarterly. The upcoming issue will focus on forests and forest struggles across the country, inviting contributors to explore how forests connect to ecological justice, decolonial futures, economic and social justice, and Indigenous sovereignty in so-called Australia.

The journal invites submissions that challenge the commodification of nature and envision forests as living beings for our shared well-being and survival. Contributors are welcome from Indigenous activists and researchers, forest protectors, scholar-activists, collectives and creatives, and others working with the forest, environmental and ecological justice movements.



Green Agenda: Calling for proposals about reimagining the World, from the forest.

Source: <https://greenagenda.org.au/2024/11/on-forests/>

To explore the inspiring work of Green Agenda and join the movement for a more sustainable and equitable future. To donate, subscribe to their newsletter or learn how to share your ideas for future issues, visit their website: <https://greenagenda.org.au/>

(Written by Brunna Barcellos - HOPE researcher Qld)
