

From: Darling Downs Environment Council info@ddec.org.au
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Protecting and promoting the environment in our region.
Utrita. Ambascata. Innovata.

Welcome to the June Newsletter of the Darling Downs Environment Council.

We have been very busy lately with the Protect Trees Toowoomba campaign ramping up as we get closer to the new planning scheme being released later in the year. See a full update about the campaign below.

In other local news a proposed concept plan has been developed for 5.5km of paths and safe road crossings to connect the East Creek Cycleway at Margaret Street in Toowoomba's CBD, to the Highfields Bikeway at the John French VC Bridge on the New England Highway via TRC's proposed Railway Parklands Precinct. [More information available here.](#)

In state wide news we are welcoming 8,700 hectares of expansion to national parks mainly in the north of Queensland. The addition to Queensland's national parks and nature refuges will secure more protected areas for the State's endangered species, the Wet Tropics ecosystems, biodiversity and threatened flora. The state Government is also focussed on improving the management of protected areas, with an additional 150 Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers, and a \$118 million boost to support habitat restoration and conservation projects.

We are currently seeking suggestions for our next Nature Drinks event, if you know a inspiring local speaker about sustainability and environmental issues you can recommend please get in touch.

Finally, I want to finish on recommending The Emerald podcast that I have gotten into lately. Its hard to put into words but is broadly about reconnecting to nature in the context of todays world. [Check it out here.](#)

For the earth,

Ahri Tallon

Darling Downs Environment Council Coordinator.

DDEC Updates

Protect Trees Toowoomba Campaign Update

Lots has been happening in the Protect Trees Toowoomba campaign to get significant habitat tree protections as part of the new planning scheme and a Natural Assets Local Law to allow the community to nominate significant trees in the urban environment as well.

A few weeks ago we had Deputy Mayor Rebecca Vonhoff and Scot McPhie speak at a forum in Highfields with over 60 people attending. 25 new volunteers signed up to get involved giving our volunteer organisers Dhari and Deb lots of work to do following people up. Then last weekend we had 10 volunteers get together in Highfields for a conversations training session and door knock. There was lots of support in the community with multiple residents taking tree keeper signs.

Our next working group meeting is Tuesday the 3rd at 5.30pm at the Eco Hut. Email for more information.

Tree Keeper Communities Highfields Doorknock #2

Join us for our second Protect Trees Toowoomba's Tree Keeper Community doorknocking training and knocking session in Highfields

Last time was very successful with lots of support out there in the community. For people who are new to the doorknocking and did not make it last time we will start at 1.30pm for a 45min training.

Then from 2.15 existing doorknockers who came last time and do not feel they need another training are welcomed to arrive before we go out again.

We hope to do some door-knocking on the day so bring walking shoes and water.

[RSVP Here to attend the doorknock on the 15th of June](#)





Nominate A Group or Individual for an Environmental Award

We're now inviting **nominations** for individuals, groups, and projects that have made a meaningful contribution to the environment, climate action, or community well-being across the Darling Downs. Nominations can go into the lifetime achievement individual, annual achievement individual or annual achievement group/project categories.

Whether it's restoring ecosystems, advocating for nature, leading on climate, or inspiring others — if you know someone who deserves recognition, please nominate them.

Everyone nominated will be recognised for their **unique contribution**, and each recipient will be honoured at the DDEC AGM.

The AGM will be held Saturday the 16th of August from 2pm.

Nominations close: Wednesday, 31 July 2025

Submit your nomination here: <https://forms.gle/Fs9Nt5zcNpAwCxbC7>



Greening Toowoomba Project Seeking Core Team

Volunteers

Local active citizen Andrew Reeson has teamed up with DDEC to put forward a proposal to Toowoomba Regional Council to get the community involved in street tree planting.

There are details to still be worked out before its all systems go but the council parks team seems keen to work with the community. We are now seeking expressions of interest from people to be part of the core team of what will be called "Greening Toowoomba" for a pilot project. If this is something that might interest you take a [look at the roles](#) we are looking to fill here about email Andrew with your expression of interest, detailing a bit about your suitability and capacity for the role. Email Andrew at: andrew@andrewreeson.com



DDEC Eco Hut Gardening Bee's

We have been making progress towards improving the gardens around the DDEC building. If you would like to be notified about upcoming gardening bees please send us an email back and we will put you on the update list.





Help DDEC Earn when you return

When taking your eligible recyclable containers to a container refund point you can donate the proceeds to DDEC by using our member number **(C10571344)**– that's twice the impact for the environment!

Glass wine and spirit bottles from 150ml to 3L are now accepted for a 10-cent refund at container refund points across Queensland.



Good News Story!

The legends at Friends of Apex Park put up a sign calling out for volunteers and a huge crew of Bangladeshi community members have been turning up every month ever since helping

with some of the heavy labour jobs!



Upcoming DDEC Events

Full Moon Winter Warmer

Hosted by Protect Trees Toowoomba and DDEC

Friday 11 July

5.00pm - 7.00pm

5:30pm – 8:30pm

Downs Community Environment Centre, Buru Dain Dan Eco Hut
1a Heller St Rangeville

Join us for an evening of music, poetry, fire warmth, hearty food and drinks and community to warm our hearts on a full moon winter night and raise funds for tree protections and native wildlife carers in our region.

Let's warm up winter together for a great cause!

P.s. We are looking for volunteers to make deserts to sell at the event, to help on the night and lend us fairy lights and or lanterns for the event as well.

[Get Tickets Here!](#)



Community Events

Deongwar Campaign Social Catch Up and Next Steps Chat

On 11 June the Save Deongwar Campaign is getting together with Protected Areas Campaigner Nicky Moffat and Nature Organiser Hayley Troupe from the Queensland Conservation Council for a social catch up to chat about how we can build momentum to get Deongwar permanently protected.

After we finish up at Anglican Church Hall around 11.30, Nicky, Hayley and I will be heading to the Esk Grand Hotel to get a bite to eat.

What if we could protect the...

would be great if you could join us.

Where - Anglican Church Hall*, Esk.

When - 9.30am to 11.30am.

Map - *<https://maps.app.goo.gl/SUoymkUhFKCCEJoQ9>

RSVP Here



Say no to Origin's Gas Security Supply Project

In 2022, Origin withdrew from their mega gas projects Kimberley, the Beetaloo Basin and the Channel Country in Western Queensland because of concern from customers, staff, shareholders and the broader community. We need to build community concern about this Gas Security Supply Project.

What you need to know about Origin's Gas Security Supply Project: It's a carbon bomb - responsible for up to 435 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions It will clear over 1300 hectares of habitat for the endangered koala Origin is currently supplying gas cheaper to Chinese markets than Australian householders Origin's LNG processing facility at Gladstone is the 10th largest emitter in Australia - this gas development will keep it emitting until 2061.

Can you join us to learn about how you can be part of the community movement opposing this climate and water disaster for Queensland?

the climate and water disaster for Queensland.

We're also running a webinar about the project and the campaign against it Thursday 12th June at 12pm - 1pm - if you're keen to learn more!

RSVP to the webinar [here!](#)



Pencil Drawing & Poetry Competition 2025

A fun pencil drawing and poetry competition for kids aged 6 to 12 in the Toowoomba area! There are tons of awesome prizes up for grabs, so why not give it a go?

Download the entry form [here](#).

**PENCIL DRAWING & POETRY
COMPETITION 2025**

FOR 6 - 12 YEAR OLDS
LIVING IN THE TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL AREA

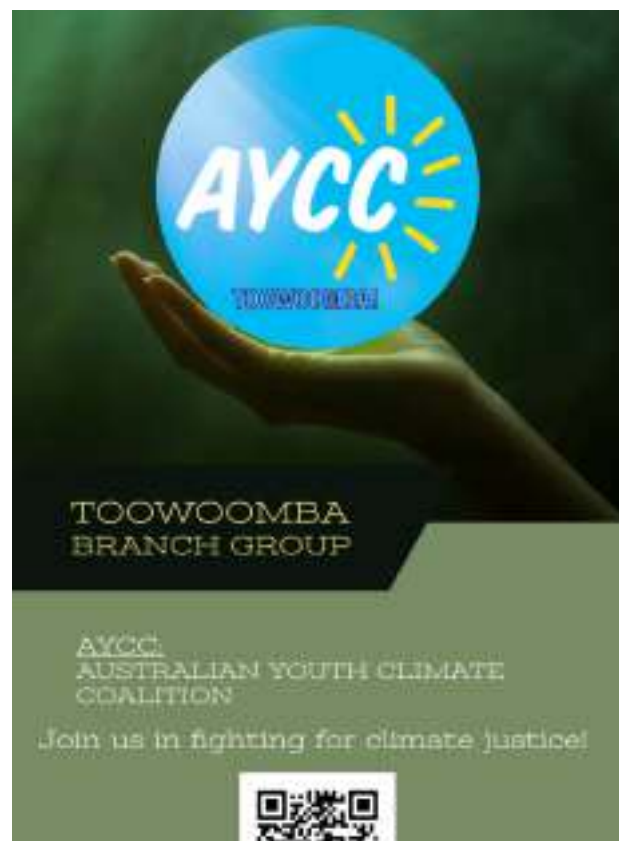
**PENCIL DRAWING AND POETRY COMPETITION
FROM THE 16TH MAY UNTIL THE 17TH JULY 2025**

PLENTY OF TIME TO PRACTICE WITH PLENTY OF TIME TO ENTER

**ORIGINAL PENCIL DRAWING OF A BIRD OR MAMMAL OR REPTILE
WITH AN ORIGINAL 4 LINE RHYMING POEM RELATING TO YOUR DRAWING**

ENTRIES MUST BE COMPLETED & DELIVERED BY THE 17th JULY 2025 TO BE ACCEPTED

LOTS OF PRIZES





Become a member of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition Toowoomba!

The Australian Youth Climate Coalition is Australia's largest youth-run organisation, their mission is to build a movement of young people leading solutions to the climate crisis.

Young people have the most to lose from climate change, but we also have a lot to gain. Climate change is our best opportunity to create a world that works for everyone, not just a few. We can power our lives with the wind and sun, and ensure access to clean energy and job opportunities for all.

Scan the above QR code and find more information on the AYCC Toowoomba website [here](#).

Climate Change Duty of Care Bill

Join the 25,629 people already supporting the bill!

We all know the decisions we make today affect our future. When those decisions are made by politicians, they affect all of us.

When it comes to climate change, politicians and policy makers still aren't acting in the best interests of young people and future generations.

We need to act now if we want to protect the people and places we love.

We support the *Climate Change Amendment (Duty of Care and Intergenerational Equity) Bill 2023* which imposes a statutory duty on decision makers:

1. To consider the likely impact of decisions that could harm the climate on the health and wellbeing of current and future children as the paramount consideration; and
2. Not to make a decision that could harm the climate if the decision poses a material risk of harm to the health and wellbeing of current and future children in Australia.

Sign the undersigned call on the federal parliament to pass legislation that imposes this Duty of Care and act now if we want to protect the people and places we love.

[Sign the Call Here](#)

Energy firm apologises for 'greenwashing'

Blanca Hall

Australia's third-largest domestic producer has apologised to customers who bought into its "Go Nuclear" carbon offsets program, acknowledging the product would do nothing to address the impact of fossil fuels on climate change.

good things for the environment". The program promised to "offset" the emissions produced by burning fossil fuels with a range of programs, including buying carbon credit from a government development in Indonesia. It now admits that offsets cannot exist or prevent the harm

Burning fossil fuels creates greenhouse gas emissions that are not prevented or undone by

offsets to the climate crisis. Under the Australian government's voluntary certification register, Climate Action, companies joined to report their carbon emissions and the offsets they are buying, so then promote their "carbon-neutrality" to customers. This method revealed to the

applies that there is legitimate public concern about the efficacy of these programs," she said. "Carbon offsets should not be used to delay or distract the important work that needs to be done to actively decarbonise." Parents for Climate chief executive Nic Sater said his members be

"During fossil fuel, creates greenhouse gas emissions that are not prevented or reduced by carbon offsets. This could have been made clearer to customers," EnergyAustralia said in a public apology issued as part of a settlement with the charity, Parents for Climate.

The group took the energy retailer to the Federal Court alleging the company had engaged in misleading and deceptive conduct.

More than 400,000 Australians signed up to EnergyAustralia's "Go Neutral" program, which allowed customers they were "living

carbon offsets."

EnergyAustralia

emissions and apportion to any customer who felt that the way it marketed its Go Neutral products was unclear," it said.

EnergyAustralia, formerly TIL Energy, has 1.6 million customers and has committed to transitioning from coal by 2050 and reaching net zero by 2050.

Carbon offsetting has been a prominent part of Australia's re-

view that some of Australia's biggest companies, including Australia Post, Qantas, Telstra and PwC, have since quit the scheme, citing mounting integrity concerns. More than 100 companies have now left the scheme by the past 24 hours.

EnergyAustralia will remain in the scheme but the company's chief customer officer, Kate Gilman, said there were concerns about the value of the program.

"While EnergyAustralia participated in the Climate Active certified carbon offset program in good faith, today EnergyAustralia ac-

knowledges the marketing of "Go Neutral" amounted to greenwashing. "Climate claims must be backed by real action – not marketing spin," he said. "EnergyAustralia's statement makes clear that offsetting cannot be used as a license to pollute. It is no longer sensible to market polluting products as 'carbon neutral' and lead customers to believe that by signing up they are doing good for the planet."

EnergyAustralia is Australia's third-largest greenhouse gas emitter, producing 30.6 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2020/21.

Landmark 'Greenwashing' Legal Case over 'Carbon Neutral' product closes with EnergyAustralia apology to customers

In a landmark greenwashing legal case brought by Parents for Climate, EnergyAustralia has publicly acknowledged that offsets do not undo the harms of burning fossil fuels and apologised to more than 400,000 customers of its 'Go Neutral' carbon offsetting product.

Parents for Climate welcomes this acknowledgement and apology from EnergyAustralia, marking a major win. It is the first legal case of its kind in the country to protect the public from "carbon neutral" greenwashing.

The settlement is a groundbreaking resolution to this historic legal action, and represents a significant step forward in holding companies accountable for environmental claims.

[See EnergyAustralia's Public Statement Here](#)

[See Parents for Climate's Full Media Release Here](#)





Powering Up Potential: New Oxfam Just Energy Transition Report

Today Oxfam Australia has launched a **new report** *Powering Up Potential* which examines how **Australia's international commitments** across trade, export finance, sovereign wealth funds, development assistance and multilateral negotiations contribute to a **just energy transition**.

Oxfam Australia analysed almost 70 policy documents relating to our international policies and investments and have found that Australia's support of a just energy transition internationally is inconsistent, and in many cases weak or absent.

The choices Australia makes now will shape the global energy system for decades.

Oxfam's key recommendations for the Australian Government:

- Significantly increasing grant-based climate finance to low-income countries to support access to renewable energy for all, including direct support for community-owned projects.
- Creating a new DFAT climate change action strategy with just energy transition principles embedded in it and a clear commitment to end all coal, oil and gas project finance.
- Establishing an interdepartmental taskforce within government to align trade, finance, climate and development policies with a just energy transition.

[Read Full *Powering Up Potential* Report Here](#)

Have your say

**25-year blueprint for Queensland's
primary industries**

Public Consultation Open for Queensland's Agriculture 25 Year Blueprint:

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has commenced public consultation on their **draft 25 year Blueprint for Queensland Primary Industries** (attached).

They are seeking feedback and input from a broad range of agricultural stakeholders.

This can be done via:

1. An online survey - webpage with dates for consultation sessions and online survey:
[Department of Primary Industries | Queensland primary industries 25-year blueprint](#)

2. **Regional Information Sessions** (Toowoomba being our closest):

Toowoomba information session

12 noon – 3.00 pm, Tuesday 3 June 2025

The Oaks, 25 Annand Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350

[RSVP](#)

3. A **drop-in information hub at Farm Fest** from 3rd - 5th June.

Closing date for public consultation is **5pm on Monday 9th June 2025**.

The [State Interest – Agriculture](#), under the [State Planning Policy](#) is very strong and worth referring to if you were thinking of doing a submission to the draft Blueprint.



New live tracking reveals Queensland's coal power riddled with breakdowns and energy failures

Reliability Watch is a new initiative launched by the Queensland Conservation Council, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, and Environment Victoria to live-track the breakdowns of Australia's ageing coal units.

Key findings for Qld ([see report here](#)):

- Qld coal broke down a staggering **78 times** over the summer period (6 months Oct to March).
- The analysis shows there is a **correlation between higher prices and the unreliability of coal**.
- The Qld Gov is getting the productivity commission to review the coal closure schedule, slowly edging away from 75%. Today's findings from Reliability Watch show **you simply cannot rely on coal for longer**.

[Visit Reliability Watch Here](#)

QLD renewable legislation changes: solar code, social impact, community benefit agreements

Queensland's Planning Minister Jarrod Bleijie introduced more changes to renewables regulations through the [Planning \(Social Impact and Community Benefit\) and Other Legislation Regulation 2025](#).

The top line is that this will make a large-scale solar code ([State Code 26](#)) under the Planning Regulations and require:

- large-scale wind and solar projects to complete a social impact assessment
- projects to have a community benefit agreement signed with local council before applying for state development approval
- better public notification of renewable energy projects

State Code 26 and the proposed bill are open for consultation until **Tuesday 3 June 2025**.

[See Information on Changes to Renewables Regulations Here](#)



Climate Council's new report: What was the role of climate in this election?

This election was one for the history books, with Labor securing its largest majority since World War II. Lots of people in our community have questions about what the result means. Climate Council has answered these questions in their analysis *Election 2025: Unpacking the impact of climate and energy on Australian voters*.

One thing is clear: Australians voted for a future powered by renewables, and overwhelmingly rejected nuclear and polluting policies that would have taken us backwards.

Other key insights from Climate Council's analysis:

- **Climate change is now a permanent fixture of Australian elections**, and a large voting bloc prioritises climate champions at the ballot box.
- **The Federal Coalition's sweeping defeat points to the party being unelectable** until it advances credible climate and energy policies.
- **Australians have given the Albanese Labor Government a strong mandate** to roll out more renewable power and storage, better regulate polluters, and set new, stronger climate targets.

[Read Election Analysis Here](#)



Queensland
Conservation
Council

Queensland Government's nine new fracking gasfields being sold on the basis of lies, will cause climate harm

The Queensland Conservation Council has today criticized the Queensland Government for their announcement of nine new fracking gas fields across 16,000 sq km of land in the Cooper/Eromanga and Bowen/Surat basins.

See what Queensland Conservation Council Director Dave Copeman responded [here](#)



Waste Strategy Consultation - NOW OPEN

The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation is pleased to invite interested persons to participate in either in person workshops or attend online information sessions on the recently published [draft new Queensland Waste Strategy](#).

The workshops are interactive and attended by representatives from across industry, local government and retail representatives and provide an opportunity for discussion and feedback on this new strategic way forward. The workshops focus on the draft new strategy's:

- Targets
- Priority products and materials and action plans
- Strategic focus areas and priorities, and
- Waste levy settings

Toowoomba's in-person workshop is scheduled for the 23rd May.

Consultation is open until 26 June 2025 and further information is available on the Government website at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/circular-economy-waste-reduction/strategy-plans/draft-waste-strategy>. Alternatively, the team can be reached through the OCE.Policy@detsi.qld.gov.au email to enquire about other opportunities.

Ministerial Environmental Roundtable Outcomes

See links that outline the outcomes from the Ministerial Environmental Roundtable, when a number of groups from around the State met with the new Minister and the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation.

- [Departmental Workshop day notes](#)
- [Ministerial workshop day notes](#)
- [Departmental presentations slides](#)

The notes should be read in conjunction with the slides.

A hot tip - the slides from the Departmental presentation will give the short summary, and the google doc linked version of the notes has a hyperlinked table of contents at the top - those notes are very long documents!





TAKE ACTION - LNP has stripped funding for the Environmental Defenders Office!

The Crisafulli Government has quietly moved to cut funding for the **Environmental Defenders Office (EDO)**, a vital community legal centre that has supported over **50,000 people** in defending Queensland's environment.

[This decision directly contradicts clear commitments made by the LNP during last year's state election to continue funding the EDO.](#)

We're calling on you to act now. **Please send an urgent message to the Premier** demanding he honour his election promise and restore funding to the EDO.

Email the Premier



GBSAN Landscape Linkages Project

This important project aims to join up wildlife corridors/stepping stones across the Granite Belt to assist with survival of our wonderful and unique native fauna and flora. 34 Landholders have signed up to the project. **We are aiming to have 150 landholders** involved in the project within the next 12 months.

The vision:

- To support Landholders interested in managing their land to protect biodiversity to engage with one another to create clusters of properties.
- Property clusters eventually will link up forming continuous corridors of bush.
- This will allow species to migrate across the landscape and avoid the fragmentation that has led to species decline and extinctions in other regions
- The largest biodiversity project ever undertaken on the Granite Belt!

For more information, please contact:

Geraldine Hollingsworth: community@gbsan.org.au



We are proud to be your voice for the environment in the Darling Downs!

Your donation supports our important work and ensures that we can rise to the challenges that lay ahead. All donations are now tax deductible.

Click on the image to go to our donations page.

Another way to support our work is to consider adding DDEC into your will to leave a legacy for our environment.

[Donate to DDEC today](#)



DDEC acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live, people of the Wakka Speaking Nation, the "Bunya Burra".

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