



Info | Darling Downs Environment Council <info@ddec.org.au>

DDEC's July Newsletter

1 message

Darling Downs Environment Council <info@ddec.org.au>

2 July 2025 at 10:18

Reply-To: info@ddec.org.au

To: info@ddec.org.au



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Protecting and promoting the environment in our region.
Unite. Advocate. Inspire.

Dear Ahri,

I am writing on a high because here at DDEC we are celebrating having raised \$9441.13 as part of our EOFY fundraising campaign thanks to the generosity of our community. An extra big thank you to our anonymous donor who matched \$4000 of donations and Stephen Buckley and Creative Blinds Toowoomba who donated \$1800.

The last month DDEC has been helped along by a growing community of volunteers and also student placements studying social work through the University of Southern Queensland. Moon and Miranda are doing an amazing job helping with volunteer engagement, research, event coordination and communications.

There is so much going on it is hard to keep up, we are pushing hard for tree protections, organising the upcoming Full Moon Winter Warmer, holding actions to protect trees in the Highfields area, engaging stakeholders around renewable energy community benefits, partnering with Lock the Gate on a forum about the risk of CSG to the Downs and much much more.

Politically the State LNP have recently released a state budget, here is a little summary of the key details:

The good:

- \$2.9 billion to progress Queensland's energy transition;
- \$26 million for the Supercharged Solar for Renters scheme;
- The funding to deliver the election commitment of 150 new rangers for national parks;
- \$117.8 million over 4 years to increase funding for Natural Resource Management groups.

The bad:

- About 30 per cent less capital investment in renewable energy, storage and transmission infrastructure compared to last year;
- Almost \$800 million allocated this year on new fossil fuel projects or maintenance for ageing coal and gas plants;
- No new funding for protected areas expansion;
- No new funding to seize the state's opportunity to support the development of Natural Capital programs that support regional communities
- No new funding to protect the state's endangered Koala populations.

In other news DDEC has scheduled our AGM for this year which is coming up on Wednesday the 27th of August at the Buru Dain dan Eco Hut from 5.30pm. You can RSVP to attend [here](#) and [renew your membership here](#).

This weekend a new group, the Highfields Tree Defenders will be having a picnic painting signs for tree protections. See below for more details.

The newsletter is jam packed with information about upcoming events and opportunities to connect to our community and help the environment. Have a good read.

For the earth,

Ahri Tallon

DDEC Coordinator

DDEC Updates

An uneven playing field: protecting our water and farmland from inappropriate mining



On 25 of June, DDEC partnered with the Lock the Gate Alliance, Queensland Conversation Council, and Save our Darling Downs and hosted a successful community forum focused on the threat coal seam gas expansion poses to agricultural land on the Darling Downs, and what community members can do to ensure their objection rights are upheld.

Media Clip

DDEC Eco Hut Gardening Bees



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.

DDEC Meet the Team Series!



We have just launched the first video in our Meet the Team series where we meet Deb - a valuable DDEC volunteer who assists with the Protect Trees Toowoomba campaign and volunteer engagement! Hear about Deb's motivations for environmental advocacy and her experiences at DDEC so far.

Meet Deb!

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.

Protect Trees Toowoomba Campaign Updates and Events

'Tree Keeper' Community Action

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

THE OAKLEY

Local environmentalists fighting to protect old trees on Berghofer development

Environmentalists want to see old-growth trees protected on a Clive Berghofer Land Sales development near the Cabarlah Barracks.



Members and friends of the Darling Downs Environmental Council met last Wednesday on Barracks Road at Highfields in front of soon-to-be-developed land.

Land across the road from the development is already protected as a koala habitat corridor.

Darling Downs Environmental Council spokesperson Scot McPhie said there was a simple option available to the developer which had already been exercised nearby - entering into an ecological covenant agreement with the Queensland Government to save the old-growth trees.

"The land could have been listed as parkland - but Council said that Highfields already has too many parks," he said.

"I've spoken with the developer via the phone and given them our proposal.

"The ball is now in Clive's court - how generous is he when it comes to the environment?"

Mr McPhie said that Toowoomba Regional Council and the Queensland

Government needed to get serious about protecting old-growth trees.

Attendees at the protest expressed strongly their desire for Council to 'get creative' and incorporate large trees into the planning schemes for new developments in the Region.

Clive Berghofer Land Sales has said it will plant hundreds of trees as part of the Barracks Road development.

On the 11th of June, our Protect Trees Toowoomba campaign called for a 'Tree Keeper' Community Action. The action was aimed at amplifying local voices and banding together as a 'Tree Keeper Community' to preserve natural habitat, local wildlife, and the ecological health of our region. See the upcoming picnic event below to stay involved in the next step to try and protect these wonderful old growth trees.

Media Clip

Full Moon Winter Warmer

Hosted by Protect Trees Toowoomba and DDEC

When: Friday 11 July, 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Where: 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.

We will be serving up delicious mulled wine and lots of home made sweets and treats. There will also be a lots of raffle prizes up for grabs.

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

***Only 17 tickets are left so make sure you grab yours before you miss out.**

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!](#)

Order a 'Tree Keeper' sign for your front fence



Show your support for tree protections and get a Tree Keeper Community sign for your front fence. You can pick them up in Highfields or Toowoomba or opt to have them delivered to your house if you live in town.

'Tree Keeper' Sign Order Form

Letterboxing Sessions



Please join the Protect Tree's Toowoomba Letterboxing session. The flyer invites people to get a tree keeper sign in front of their house and send a message to council in support of tree protections. This is a vital chance to raise awareness and advocate for tree protections within our region to get a balance of housing and nature.

As a community, we can band together to preserve our natural habitat, local wildlife, and the natural beauty and ecological health of our region. Showing what the Darling Downs values, with our voice and our presence.

The development at Reis Road continues to affect the Highfields community, impacting the flora and fauna which makes our region special. Stripping meaningful canopy coverage, removing homes for wildlife and biodiversity support, and taking away the rich uniqueness and character of our neighbourhoods.

RSVP for 2pm Sunday July 13th

RSVP for 2pm Saturday July 19th

DDEC Events

Clay Pendant Making and Craft-ernoon Tea



Come together for an afternoon of sunshine, art, and new connections. We will be creating clay pendants to share with volunteers and community members; inspired by local native flora and fauna, and the magic of the place we call home. Take a pendant home for a keepsake, and maybe make new friend, or a few.

Join us on **July 26th, from 2pm to 4pm at Picnic Point Park**. You'll find us under the DDEC sign, with warm blankets, picnic rugs, and food and drink to share. All workshop materials will be provided.

[RSVP Here](#)

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 Wednesday the 27th of August from 5.30pm. You can RSVP to attend [here](#) and [renew your membership here](#).

Nominations close: Wednesday, 31 July 2025

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

Community Events

Highfields Tree Defenders: Picnic and Paint event

**Highfields Tree Defenders**

Picnic and Paint

Barracks Road, Highfields
Relis Road Development Site, 300 meters from the intersection on Khuls Road



Join together as a community, with art, food, and a passion for our local trees and wildlife.



The Highfields Tree Defenders are a group of passionate community members who aim to advocate for the preservation of Highfields trees and wildlife!

Their first planned community event is planned - a picnic and sign painting event at the site where trees are at immediate risk of being chopped down for new development builds.

Wet weather venue: Highfields Sport and Recreation Park Cnr. Cabarlah Park Road and western entry access. The eastern access is with Cnr Cronin Road. Covered area is called: Public BBQ tables, etc car park and toilets (Kuhl's Road becomes Cabarlah Park Road)

When: July 6, 12:30pm

Where: Barracks Road, Highfields (Reis Rd development site)

ALCA Information Session: Why Queensland should exempt Nature Refuge from Land Tax



Queensland is the only state in Australia that still levies land tax on land protected for nature with a Nature Refuge.

Join ALCA's free, online webinar at **11am-11:15am** on **11/07/25** to hear from policy experts and conservation leaders who are working to fix this issue — and how a simple policy change could unlock more uptake of Nature Refuges, and stronger outcomes for all Queenslanders. They'll break down:

- The current land tax policy settings for Nature Refuges.
- Why this outdated policy is holding Queensland back from reaching its nature protection goals.
- The opportunity to change it — and how landholders can help influence a fairer system that values conservation on private land.

[Register here](#)

Lock the Gate Alliance: Friends of Cecil Plains meeting



In spite of urgent environmental, social and economic problems, major gas mining company, Arrow, is continuing to expand - drilling more gas wells, laying down pipelines and building a massive new gas compressor station outside Cecil plains.

Lock the Gate is forming a new group, the Friends of Cecil Plains to support farmers on the Darling Downs opposing coal seam gas. The first task will be meeting with Members of Parliament in Toowoomba but we'll also be discussing other on ground support needed in Cecil Plains and beyond.

When: 5.30pm Monday 14 July

Where: Irish Club, [80 Russell Street, Toowoomba](#)

[RSVP Here](#)



Foundations of Community Organising Training



QUEENSLAND
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Queensland Community Alliance are holding training sessions for every day people and community leaders to learn how to take public action.

One of the key ways we're doing this is through our two-day Foundations of Community Organising Training. This training will cover building relationships for public action, developing leadership, strengthening our organisations, and using relational power in the public sphere to take action together.

We're running three sessions in SEQ in the next six months, with a combination of week days and weekends, so hopefully there is a session you're able to attend!

- Option 1 - [Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 July, 9am-4:30pm at UWU, Peel St South Brisbane.](#)
- Option 2 - [Saturday 6 and Saturday 13 September, 9am-4:30pm at African Village, Moorooka.](#)
- Option 3 - [TBC - either late Nov or early Dec, Brisbane Northside.](#)

There is no cost to attend this training, though a \$10 donation per day to contribute towards lunch is appreciated.

Learn more and sign up now!

Pencil Drawing and Poetry Competition

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.

ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL SCHOOLS
(ask at the office or teachers)

CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM
<https://www.trevorwatts.com.au/drawing-competition/>

Text EF to 0417 422 302 with your email address
We will send you a copy of the Entry form, Prize List and conditions etc





Pr. Exhibition of finalist entries will run from Monday 21st July 2025 until Friday 1st August 2025. At St. Lukes Church foyer Cnr of Ruthven and Herries Sts Toowoomba.

Presentation of prizes will be on the Saturday 2nd August 2025 at 11.30am for 1pm at St. Lukes Church Hall Cnr of Ruthven and Herries Sts Toowoomba.



Red winged Black
By LEROLD 2017/18

Red winged Black
Red winged Black
Don't eat all the jam
Red winged Black

**WHERE ENTRIES CAN
BE LEFT IS SET OUT
IN THE
ENTRY AND CONDITIONS**

Supported by










Contact Details
Hosted by **Charles Dove**
Competition Coordinator

Email: cdove@trevorwatts.com.au
Phone: 0417 422 302 – send text please

Postal address:
C/- Pencil Drawing & Poetry
Competitions
PO BOX 285
Harleton, QLD, 4350

Full Guide Project Inc.




We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and communities. We pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and Elders past and present.

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? 🖋️ 🍷

Entries close 17th of July.

Download the entry form [here](https://www.trevorwatts.com.au/drawing-competition/).

Time to celebrate 21 years of QWaLC!



**Brisbane, Cairns, Yeppoon, Toowoomba
and ONLINE**

QWaLC is celebrating 21 years supporting their member groups across Queensland.

We will be celebrating across 4 locations (Brisbane, Cairns, Yeppoon, Toowoomba) and online on **Saturday August 30, 2025** from 10am.

[RSVP here](#)

Community Updates

Millions of genetically modified mosquitoes to be released in QLD



The OGTR (Office of Gene Tech Regulator) is set to approve millions of Mexican GM mosquitoes to be sold and repeatedly released anywhere in Queensland. This could be under any circumstances, by anyone, and on any scale (other States later). Until **July 7**, OGTR is accepting public comments.

Find out more and learn how to ask the state government to intervene [here](#).

Wambo Wind Farm Project



Wambo Wind Farm is a renewable energy generation project located near Jandowae, at a site chosen for its excellent wind resources and attractive grid connectivity.

Wambo Wind Farm says we will soon see the first turbine blades spinning after the successful energisation of the Powerlink substation, connecting the wind farm to the electricity grid - a really exciting milestone for this project!

So far, 18 of the 41 wind turbines have been successfully erected, and the site is really starting to take shape.

Stage 2 is progressing well and deliveries of quarry materials is now all but finished - this means far fewer trucks on the roads moving forward.

Learn More at *Wambo Wind Farm's Website*

Join Solution for Climate Australia's Campaign For a Strong 2025 Pollution Target



At *Awesome Grassroots* in June, Leigh provided a great brief on the current political situation and then focussed the attention on Australia's 2035 emissions reduction target. The target is among the first climate policy decisions of consequence of the newly re-elected Albanese Government. The interim target is a requirement under our international obligations and is due by September.

Will you join the grassroots campaign for a strong, science-aligned target?

Solutions for Climate Australia is excited to kick off the campaign with two tactics to enlist the support of our communities and local MPs in the push for maximum ambition.

1. Community Sign-on Letter to connect with prominent and influential people in your electorate who are likely to be persuasive to your MP in asking them to support a strong target. Here are all the resources:

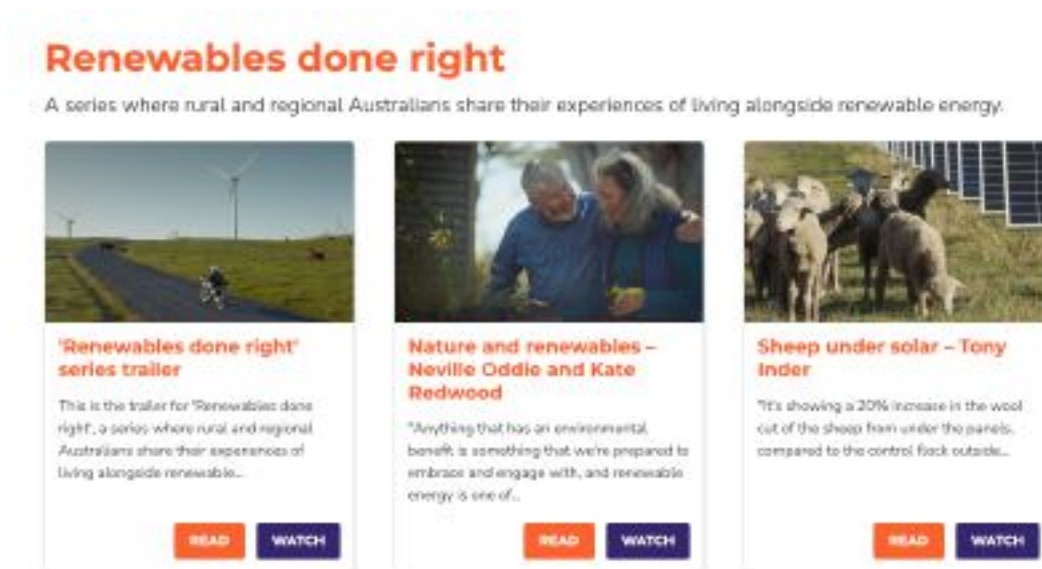
Info pack [here](#)

Sign up form [here](#)

2. Message Testing live in the community to ensure effective communication about the 2035 target.

Sign up [here](#) for an info session on how we will conduct message testing.

RE-Alliance's 'Renewables Done Right' Film Series



'Renewables done right' shares the **experiences of rural and regional Australians** who are **living with renewable energy**. RE-Alliance started this series because people wanted to hear **real stories** about how others are navigating the **shift to renewables**.

Hear stories about how Aussies are farming alongside solar panels, wind turbines and transmission lines; how they're future planning with renewables; how they're saving on on-farm energy bills by installing solar and batteries; how renewables can co-exist alongside nature; how communities can harness benefits from renewables projects; and much more.

Click the buttons below to read more and watch their videos.

Series Trailer

All Films

Help Shape the Future of Low Emissions Farming



The Australian Government's Net Zero by 2050 target is now enshrined in legislation, and interim targets are driving action across the economy. Now more than ever, the voices of farmers and land managers are essential to inform government planning and policy.

That's why we're inviting farmers to complete and share the Farmer Insights survey.

Your insights will guide Farmers for Climate Action's focus and advocacy to ensure the final net zero plan works for farmers and farming communities.

The survey closes on July 31st. Don't miss this chance to shape the future.

Here's how you can take action today:

1. [Complete the survey](#) – if you work in agriculture.
2. Share the survey link within your farmer networks – amplify the voice of farmers.

New WildNet is Live Now!

About WildNet

WildNet is Queensland's repository for priority biodiversity data and is managed by the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation.

The database holds taxonomy, profile and occurrence information on native and naturalised plants, as well as animals regulated under state and commonwealth legislation. For more information about WildNet, such as which taxa are represented and how data is sourced, please visit the [WildNet Platform website](#).

Species 40,475

Species & Sighting Search

Species:

Sensitive species:

Conservation significant:

Sighting stage:

Record period:

☐ Include sighting count

Location search by:

Leave blank for search only option.

WildNet is Queensland's repository for priority biodiversity data and is managed by the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation.

The newly upgraded WildNet database and user interface are officially live and ready to use.

The updated WildNet platform offers a more user-friendly experience, where users can now explore **over 40,000 priority species** more easily than ever before.

[Explore WildNet's New Interface Here](#)

Solar waste problem looms following rooftop panel boom: ABC article featuring the Smart Energy Council



The ABC has released an article about solar panel recycling in Australia, featuring the Smart Energy Council.

With no mandatory scheme, only about 10 per cent of solar panels are recycled, leading to many being shipped offshore or ending up in landfills.

The industry is calling for a national product stewardship scheme to reduce costs and manage decommissioned panels.

What's next?

The International Energy Agency predicts that without action, there will be a 30 per cent global shortfall in copper by 2035, and it recommends countries regulate recycling to help bridge the gap.

[Read Full Article Here](#)

ABC's Big Ideas podcast explores fast fashion problems and possible solutions



Australians have a hardcore addiction to fast fashion. That means dyes in our waterways, microplastics in our bodies, and hundreds of thousands of tonnes of textiles dumped in landfill.

Fashionista or not, do you feel powerless to change an industry dominated by global fashion giants making giant profits?

Meet four passionate crusaders with fashion, finance, tech, textile, and industry know-how who are already finding ways.

[Listen Here](#)

SEQ Bioregional pilot plans



The Queensland and Australian governments are working together on ways to better manage cumulative impacts and threats to the environment in key development areas with bioregional planning, which aims to support both industry certainty and better environmental outcomes through improved environmental information, strategic planning and guidance to support assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) is undertaking bioregional planning in three pilot locations, including in south-eastern Queensland.

The first phase of engagement will focus on *sharing information about bioregional planning and gathering information about environmental, social, cultural and economic values in the project area.*

To find out more, click on the links below or [visit their website here](#).

Bioregional Planning Factsheet

Bioregional Planning FAQs

DESI policy & regulation changes (2024-2025)



The Queensland Government is implementing wide-ranging reforms to its environmental policy and regulation framework. These changes aim to strengthen the state's response to biodiversity loss, climate change, and community expectations.

Find out more [here](#) or click the button below for a summary of key areas of reform.

Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](#). To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Darling Downs Environment Council, please [click here](#).
