

**Subject:** Fwd: EXPLORE September 2025: 'horror' environment report just released, new forest campaign launched, secret fossil fuel deal slammed  
**Date:** 5 September 2025 at 10:47 am  
**To:**

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----- Forwarded message -----  
From: **Queensland Conservation Council** <[info@qldconservation.org.au](mailto:info@qldconservation.org.au)>  
Date: Thu, Sep 4, 2025 at 3:34 PM



Dear Philip,

At QCC, we are lucky to have remarkable people come and work with us, and give their all for causes they believe in.

Our **Organising Lead Jen Basham** has been one of these. Jen put up her hand before the Federal 2022 election and quickly reactivated our Climate Action Now campaign that had such a significant impact. She has championed our planning work, including our engagement with the SEQ communities and the Queensland Government on sustainable planning and koala protection.

Jen's upcoming departure to the beaches of Northern NSW means some changes for our organising team, and so **we will be reworking our plan for the March for Nature on 11 October.**

This is just one of many actions that is occurring across Queensland to demand stronger action for Nature.

I was pleased to be part of a powerful protest organised by the **Skyway No Way coalition**, at the invitation of Gecko Environment Council outside the Gold Coast City Council chambers. We made clear our objection to the proposed Springbrook Skyway that would impact on the World heritage listed Gondwanan rainforests of Springbrook National Park.

These protests are critical, as the **Federal Environment Minister Murray Watt is currently in the midst of drafting and deciding on the extent of the ambition of the long promised EPBC law reform.**

In a recent meeting with the Minister, I reiterated that we wanted **real protection for nature in the new laws, politics out of the decisions on whether projects that impact on nature are allowed to ahead, an end to the deforestation loophole** that means 9 million hectares have been cleared by grazing in Queensland since the laws were implemented, **and real action on climate change** as part of the reforms.

Minister Watt emphasised that the laws would be introduced this year, and that they would implement the spirit of the Samuels review.

Of course, we will keep you updated as quickly as news becomes available to us.

Yours in conservation,





**Dave Copeman**  
QCC Director

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### Member Spotlight: Energetic Communities Association

Working for fairer, affordable and sustainable energy for all!

[Energetic Communities](#) want all Australians to have homes that are thermally efficient, with access to efficient electric appliances, access to the benefits of consumer energy resources (CER), and participation and benefits from the transition to a 100% renewable energy system.



You can support them by:

- [Taking their Renter Energy Survey](#)
  - [Signing up for updates](#), or
  - [becoming a member](#)
- 



### **BREAKING: 114 new threatened species top horror State of Environment Report for Qld**

Just released, the four-yearly report demonstrates the devastating impact of deforestation, native forest logging, and climate change on Queensland wildlife and ecosystems.

**QCC Nature Campaigner Natalie Frost said**

*"The new State of Environment Report paints a bleak picture of Queensland's precious plants and animals, with 48 animal and 66 plant species added to the threatened species list.*

*This shows the shameful failure of Queensland to do what it takes to protect our Great Barrier Reef and the places, plants and animals that we all hold dear.*

*The report makes it clear that deforestation, climate change, and human activity is to blame for this tragic loss of Queensland's animals and plants."*

[READ MORE](#)

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**Queensland's climate commitments on the chopping block**

Right now the Queensland Government is reviewing the 75% by 2035 emissions reduction target they committed to before they were elected. They made a promise to Queenslanders: and it's our job to make sure that they stick to their word.

We need to demonstrate to State Government MPs that the community cares about climate action, and they will be held to account if they backflip on their promise. Take two minutes to email your State MP today.

**EMAIL TO SAVE THE TARGETS**



### **Full house at Forests for Everyone SEQ campaign launch**

South East Queensland could be home to 50,000 hectares of new conservation parks, according to a report we released with Protect Beautiful Queensland partners on 28th August.

The Forests for Everyone campaign launch was a huge success, with great speakers and atmosphere, lots of t-shirts and reports taken home, petition signatures gathered and a positive feeling of community for all who were part.





Backed by a coalition of recreation and conservation groups including Pew, Outdoors Queensland, National Parks Association of Queensland and Australian Trail Horse Riders Association, we unveiled a pathway to secure the future of SEQ's state forests.

Native forest logging officially ended across nearly 70,000 hectares of state forests between Noosa and the NSW border in late 2024. It was a major step forward – but around 50,000 hectares, home to endangered species such as greater gliders, remain without a plan.

The Protect Beautiful Queensland alliance's Forests for Everyone campaign calls on the State Government to protect these remaining forests and invest in recreational access and visitor facilities.

Our new report sets out the way forward for SEQ's state forests, and hundreds of people have already signed a petition urging the government to act.

**SIGN THE PETITION**



### **13 koalas spotted in bushland Glencore wants to clear**

With our friends at Lock the Gate and Mackay Conservation Group, we spotted thirteen koalas in the very place Glencore wants to bulldoze to expand their Hail Creek coal mine. Koala expert Dr. Bill Ellis called this a nationally significant population.

The Hail Creek expansion would make one of the most methane-polluting mines on the planet even bigger, and is currently with the State Government for approval.

Read more in [this Guardian article](#), then join hundreds of others in signing the open letter calling on all levels of government to reject this expansion:



**SIGN THE OPEN LETTER**





### **New report on Callide coal explosion**

As the Queensland Government develops their 5-Year Energy Roadmap, we're calling on them to plan for the closure of the State's ageing and polluting coal-fired power stations.

Our calls were amplified in the media this week as a new report highlighted that the April explosion at the Callide coal power station was a result of prioritising energy production over risk management.

The rolling breakdowns at our ageing coal power stations demonstrate that the government's plan to keep coal on taxpayer-funded life support past their planned closure dates is unworkable.

[READ MORE](#)



### **Secret Adani royalty deal**

Just weeks after it was revealed Adani has paid zero company tax since commencing operations (despite promising to put \$22 billion back into the economy), the Queensland Government announced a murky royalty deal with the controversial Carmichael coal project.

The deal appears to allow Adani to defer paying royalties in exchange for expanding one of the world's largest thermal open cut coal mines.

At a time when coal is fuelling the climate crisis and everyday Queenslanders are feeling the crunch of the cost of living crisis, a secret government decision to prop up the coal industry is deeply concerning.

We slammed the announcement as a betrayal of transparency, nature, and climate, and called for the details of the deal to be released.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



### **First Nations Solidarity Fund now open to applications**

There has been, and continues to be, unjust and unauthorised transfers of wealth since colonisation.

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Our First Nations Solidarity Fund disburses money to First Nations communities, groups, and individuals for projects, events, or specific needs, as a small step towards recognising and diminishing the economic inequality between non-Indigenous and Indigenous communities.

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)



**Protest against Springbrook Cableway outside Gold Coast City Council chambers**

We were proud to join the protest against a proposed Springbrook Cableway outside the Gold Coast City Council's offices last week.

Gecko Environment Council campaigner Lois Levy successfully fought against a similar plan two decades ago: "The reason we stopped it then was the destruction of our protected vegetation and our endangered species, the wildfires, the landslips, the fact there is no town water, no town sewerage."

Dave Copeman told the protest the fight to stop the new cableway was a critical one across the State, and he believes the state government previously supported a cableway but has since realised it was not a good idea.

If you agree, [sign the petition to protect Springbrook National Park](#)

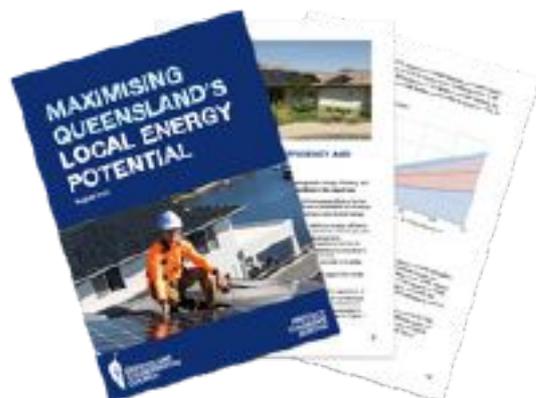


## **New report: Queensland homes and rooftops key to slashing emissions**

[Our latest report](#) found that rooftop solar and distributed battery storage could provide up to 60% of Queensland's electricity needs.

Currently, small-scale solar provides almost 15% of Queensland's electricity.

The report found that Queensland's love affair with solar already saved all consumers, including those without solar, an average of \$1,000 per household last year alone by reducing grid demand.



This comes as Australians are utilising the Federal Government's Cheaper Home Battery rebate in droves, including 1,700 Queensland homes and businesses in the first month the scheme was open. [Our analysis found that suburbs leading the charge on battery installs](#) include Bealiba, Colwood, Helensvale, Gormley and Springfield Lakes.

[Leading the Charge on Battery Installations](#) include: Beenleigh, Caloundra, Heresvale, Coomera and Springfield Lakes.

We want to see as much renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades as possible prioritised for Queensland's homes and businesses to reduce emissions and power bills.

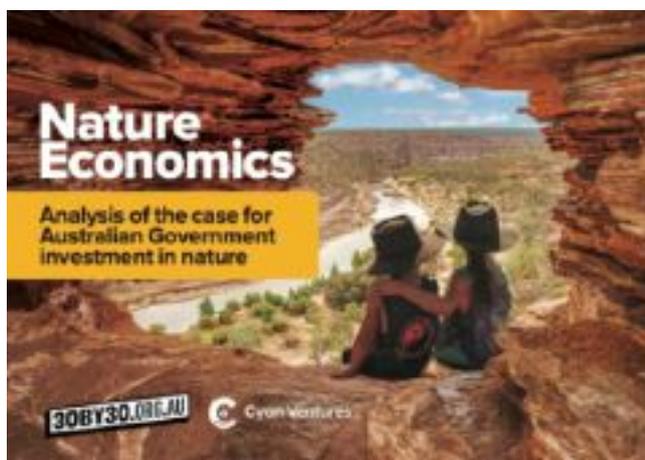
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### The economy needs nature - and we can prove it

A new report from the 30 by 30 Alliance, which includes QCC, has shown Australia's unique biodiversity generates \$511 billion for the national economy each year.

This is far higher than mining or finance, but nature receives only a fraction of the support.

[Read the new Nature Economics Report and sign the petition](#) calling to increase funding for nature to 1% of the federal budget.



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### Upcoming events

#### Protect Beautiful Queensland Pop-Up Stall

13 September  
West End Markets, Brisbane

Come and help us spread the word about the Protect Beautiful Queensland campaign. If you are new to this kind of thing, no worries - we will show you the ropes and there will be staff and/or other experienced volunteers there at all times. It's easy and fun!

- [RSVP for the pop-up stall](#)

#### Forests For Everyone webinar

17 September  
Online

At the campaign launch, a coalition of recreation and conservation groups unveiled a pathway to secure the future of SEQ's state forests. Join us to learn more about 12 amazing forests in South East Queensland we have a chance to save, the wildlife that call them home and people who enjoy and care for them.

- [RSVP for the webinar](#)

#### Coal and Gas Action Check-In

26 September  
QCC Office, South Brisbane

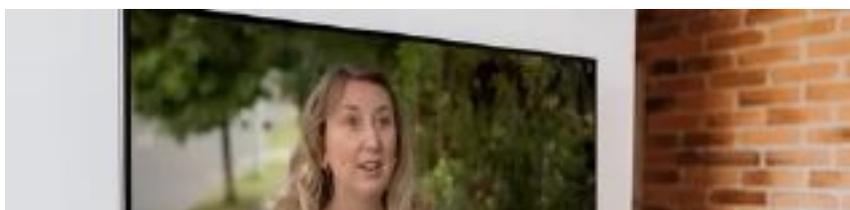
Join us in collaboration with our friends at Lock The Gate to hear the latest insights into Queensland's 28 coal mine expansions, what's happening with gas, and be part of building pressure on specific projects both in the near-term, and how to build our power long-term.

Then we'll have some food and beer.

- [RSVP for Coal and Gas Action Check-In](#)

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### QCC in the news





Some of our media hits this month include:

1. Gold Coast cableway: Councillor warns of threat to drinking water - Gold Coast Bulletin
2. Forests For Everyone launch - [7News](#)
3. AEMO warns of potential blackouts for Queenslanders ahead of summer - [ABC News](#)
4. Queensland Conservation Council has slammed the state government's deal with Adani - Triple M
5. Coal mine project threatens 'significant' koala habitat - [The Daily Mail](#)
6. Queensland land clearing figures show state remains 'deforestation capital of Australia', conservationists say - [The Guardian](#)

Radio and most TV mentions have not been listed above due to copyright restrictions.

### Social media highlights

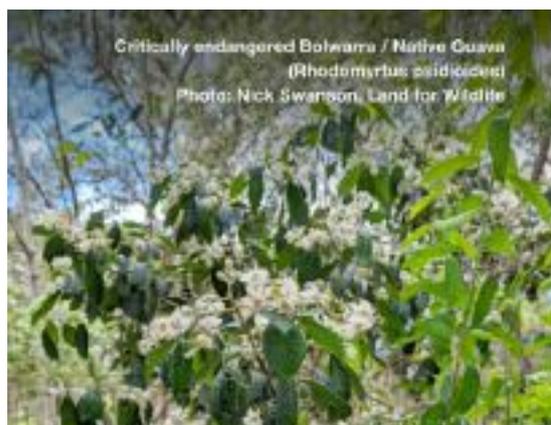


"The data is shocking.

The Qld Govt is allowing forests and woodlands to be bulldozed in the #GreatBarrierReef catchment at an alarming rate.

This is devastating an already damaged Reef struggling to survive from repeated mass bleaching events."

Sign the petition to Federal Environment Minister Murray Watt demanding strong new nature protection laws now

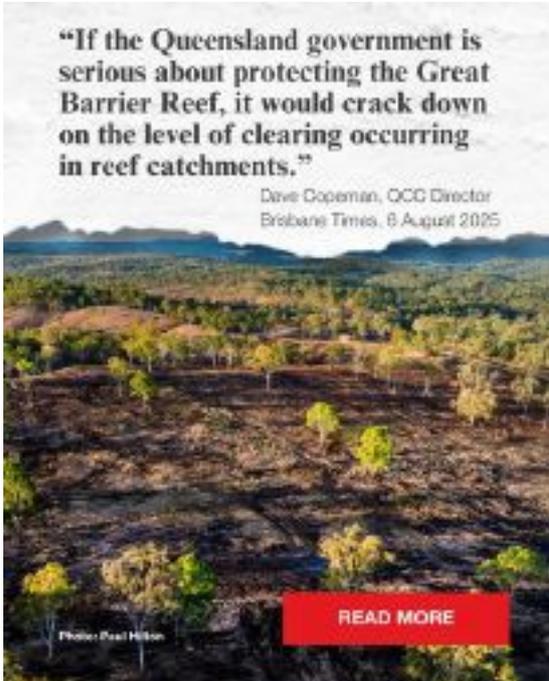


Queensland's fluffy animals get most of the attention, but did you know our state is home to some pretty special plants too? 🌿🍃

There are 794 threatened plant species in Queensland, including these fine specimens: the Queensland gold tip tassel fern, the critically endangered Bolwarra / Native Guava, and the Mossman fairy orchid, which is so rare and elusive it was first formally described in



so rare and elusive it was first formally described in 1960, then not seen and presumed extinct until a second plant was found 55 years later!



In 1 year Queensland completely cleared an area twice the size of Brisbane, and nearly half was in the #GreatBarrierReef's catchment.

QCC Director Dave Copeman told the Brisbane Times this new #deforestation report highlights "a systemic failure to protect endangered ecosystems and #ThreatenedSpecies' habitat."



New renewables record set in the Sunshine State! Queensland ran on 77.5% clean, renewable energy on Saturday morning – a new record that is likely to be broken again in Spring when mild temperatures mean lower energy demand.

On average, Queensland is now running on 30% renewable energy, and nationally, we've reached 40%.

Read more from [Renew Economy](#): <https://reneweconomy.com.au/queensland-sets-new-record-share-of-wind-and-solar-its-first-since-anti-renewable-lnp-swept-to-power>



### Volunteering at QCC

Did you know we have a great network of volunteers at QCC? If you would like to join the team, we'd love to hear from you! We are always looking for people to help us achieve our goals.

We are currently looking for volunteers to provide



opportunities for people who recently showed an interest in volunteering with QCC.

**If you have great communication skills and would like to join an excellent team, [please check out this role](#).** There are also many fun events to get involved with [on our events page](#).

**SIGN UP NOW**

## BECOME A NATURE GUARDIAN BY DONATING TODAY!

**DONATE**



The Queensland Conservation Council acknowledges that we meet and work across the many lands of Queensland. We wish to pay respect to their Elders—past and present—and acknowledge the important role all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people play in protecting, conserving and sustaining Queensland.

35 Boundary Street, South Brisbane, Qld 4101

[Unsubscribe](#)