



Welcome to our March 2026 newsletter! It's been a busy and inspiring start to the year at the Darling Downs Environment Council, with so many opportunities for learning, action, and connection.

We're excited to **welcome new volunteers and student placements** to our team—your energy, curiosity, and commitment are what make our work possible. Thank you for joining us in protecting our region's environment and strengthening community action.

### Upcoming DDEC Events:

- **Ecopella: Sing for the Trees** – RSVP for this Saturday and raise your voice for our local green spaces.
- **Clean Up Australia Day & Pizza at Gowrie Creek** – Saturday, 7 March, 4–6 PM. Join us to remove rubbish from the creek, share a meal, and discuss the next steps for the *Greening Toowoomba* tree planting vision.
- **Forest Fever Disco & Gourmet BBQ Fundraiser** – Saturday, 11 April at Wilsonton Lutheran Church Hall. Boogie for trees, enjoy classic tunes, and support *Protect Trees Toowoomba*.

### DDEC Updates & Resources:

- **Our Region, Our Energy Future Booklet** – A practical guide for understanding renewable energy projects in the Darling Downs and Granite Belt. Printed copies are free and available for community distribution.
- **Homes and Trees Forum Recap** – Insights from the 4 March forum on balancing housing growth with tree protection for cooler, healthier, and more liveable communities. Recording and fact sheets are available online.
- **Koala Map Posters & Tea Towels** – Huge thanks to Alex for creating these beautiful local koala habitat maps. Available for purchase to support our tree and wildlife protection work.

### Community Initiatives:

- LUCI Autumn Walk, Glossy Black Cockatoo workshops, and Fire Management workshops offer hands-on opportunities to learn about local ecosystems and sustainable land management.

*Imagining 2040: Pathways to Flourishing Futures* podcast invites reflection on

- *Imagining 2040: Pathways to Flourishing Futures* podcast invites reflection on sustainable futures for our communities.
- Campaigns such as *Make Polluters Pay* and *Protect Native Woodlands* highlight avenues for advocacy and action in climate justice and habitat protection.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt **thanks to our Committee Members**, whose guidance, dedication, and leadership underpin every project, forum, and campaign we undertake. Your commitment allows us to continue making a meaningful impact across the Darling Downs.

We hope to see many of you at our upcoming events and encourage everyone to get involved in our programs, workshops, and campaigns. Together, we can continue to nurture a greener, healthier, and more resilient region.

In solidarity,  
**Ahri Tallon**  
Coordinator, Darling Downs Environment Council

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## DDEC Events

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### Ecopella: Sing for the Trees



A Monthly Gathering To Sing, Connect,  
And Build The Tree Protection  
Campaign

# ECOPELLA: SING FOR THE TREES

## FIRST SATURDAY

**Of The Month**

Join Us Each Month To Sing Songs About Trees And Social  
Change, Paint Banners And Signs, Distribute Flyers (With  
Buddies), And Sometimes Share A Picnic. No Singing Experience  
Needed — Just Come Along.

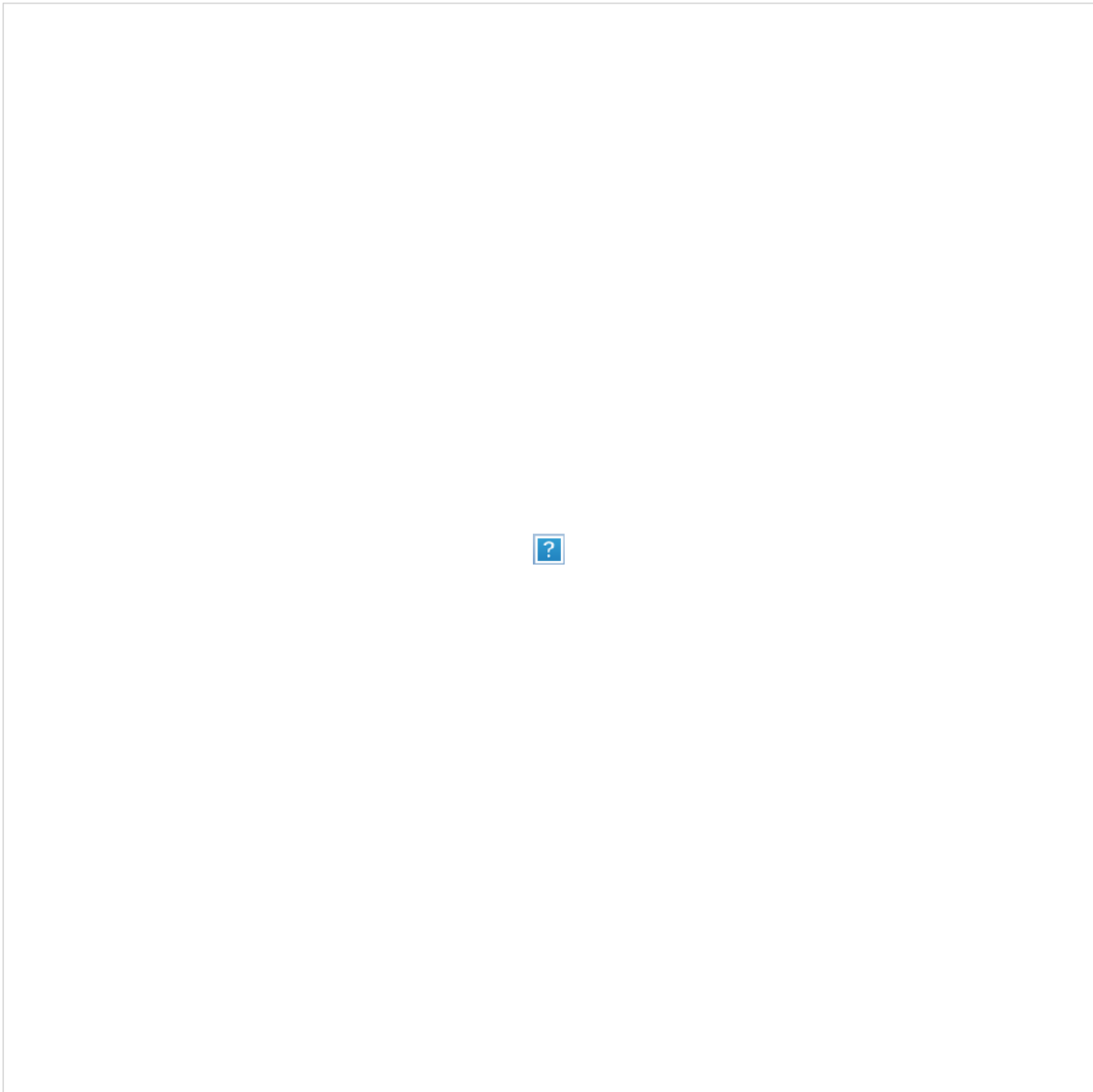
**8:00 - 9:00 AM**

TOOWOOMBA BOTANIC GARDENS CORNER OF LINDSAY AND  
CAMPBELL STREETS

Hosted By Ahri Tallon | Sponsored By Darling Downs  
Environment Council



RSVP for this Saturday here



## Clean Up Australia Day and Pizza at Gowrie Creek Event



DDEC

SEA SHEPHERD

# COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

March 7<sup>th</sup>

4pm

Join the Darling Downs Environment Council,  
Greening Toowoomba and Sea Shepherd  
Toowoomba for a local community clean-up.



Starting at the World's Gym Carpark  
BYO Gloves and Closed in Shoes

Join us to collect rubbish out of the Gowrie creek and its banks.

**Start:** Saturday, March 07, 2026•04:00 PM

**End:** Saturday, March 07, 2026•06:00 PM

**Location:** World Gym Car Park • 59 Brook St, Toowoomba City QLD 4350, Toowoomba, 4350 AU

**Host contact info:** 0455619454

We will have bags, gloves, etc but please wear long sleeves and pants, and ideally gum boots as well.

We will have pizza and socialise at the end of the event.

**We will also take this opportunity to discuss the next steps for Greening Toowoomba's vision to plant more trees in our region. Come along or get in touch if you are interested to be involved and cannot make it.**

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Protect Trees Toowoomba Fundraiser: Forest Fever Disco and Gourmet BBQ



Join us for a dance at Wilsonton Lutheran Church Hall on the 11th of April to raise money for protecting our trees in Toowoomba. Branch out and boogie!! There will be separate space for the gourmet BBQ. Music will also be 60s, 70s and 80s themed for the golden oldies!

[Buy tickets here!](#)





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## Blog for DDEC' replies to feedback

This blog post serves as a direct response to recent criticisms regarding DDEC's renewables booklet, clarifying that the information provided is based on existing legislative frameworks and factual operational data. By addressing concerns ranging from the limitations of environmental offsets to the nuances of energy costs and supply chain safety, the text emphasizes that DDEC advocates for renewables as a more sustainable alternative while acknowledging the necessity of ongoing regulatory oversight. Ultimately, the blog reinforces that while no industrial development is without risk, transparent mitigation strategies and technical improvements remain the most effective path forward for the energy transition.

For those interested in reading the blog, a link of the full blog is included below:

<https://ddec.org.au/renewables-feedback-feb/>

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## Homes and Trees: Planning a Liveable Toowoomba Region

The "Homes and Trees: Planning a Liveable Toowoomba Region" Forum was held on Wednesday, 4th of March, highlighting the growing need to balance housing development with the protection of trees and green spaces as the region continues to grow. The discussion focused on, urban canopy protection, sustainable development, and long-term planning for the region, and on how thoughtful planning can help create neighbourhoods that are cooler, healthier and more liveable for the community in Toowoomba.

Check out the housing affordability, tree protections and local government fact sheet we produced here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1F8h-XStkyjTRNTGi930UxrnDraEZ1skR/view?usp=sharing>

For those interested in learning more, a recording of the forum is available, and the YouTube link will be included below:

<https://youtu.be/thPPx-nzJ98?si=UyJEgBJWVG45hPUt>



[Youtube Link](#)

[Seven News Coverage](#)

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## Artistic Downs Region Koala Map Posters and Tea Towels

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Alex for creating this incredible map representing koala habitats in our Darling Downs region. Your expertise and attention to detail are greatly appreciated, this map is incredible!!

You can now buy these maps as posters \$6 and tea towels \$20 to help raise funds for our work to protect trees and Koalas.



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## Early Description of the Toowoomba Valley Landscape

An account by Archibald Meston provides a historical description of the landscape where Toowoomba now stands. Recalling a time around 1869, Meston describes how groups travelled over the Range into a valley that was then dominated by a long, narrow swamp filled with reeds and large flag rushes, known as “Cambooya.”

According to the account, a small watercourse ran through the centre of the swamp, forming deep pools and waterholes that supported wildlife such as freshwater mullet and crayfish.

The wetland was bordered by dense vegetation, including tea trees and leptospermum, illustrating the rich ecological landscape that existed in the area before urban development.

For those interested in the original wording of this historical account, I have attached the text below for you to read.

[Read full text here](#)

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## Community Events

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### Up Coming Lockyer Uplands Catchment Initiative Events as part of Bunyas to Borders

**LUCI Autumn Walk, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 8:30am-11:30am at a 950ha nature refuge property at Townson**

- Martin Bennett will walk us through some of the several ecosystems on this property e.g. ecosystems of basaltic origin with Ironbarks and Yellowbox; Ironbarks, Blue gums and Apples; a very interesting Heath and Rock Pavement; and deep gullies with Brushbox and Eucalyptus canopy with rainforest species.
- Landholder Dom will provide a talk on his ***sustainable farming (grazing) methods and how it is better for the land.***

Book your place and for further details contact [LUCI walk coordinator](#) Kath Finch.

***A community workshop on Glossy Black Cockatoo Breeding and Nesting Behaviour*** as part of the B2B Corridor project

- Ecologist Mike Barth, will talk about Glossy Black behaviour and habitat needs during the breeding season (February-August) and threats to breeding success.
- Find out how you can participate in a Glossy Black feeding and nest site monitoring project.
- A choice of attending the workshop at either **Killarney on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2:00pm or at Ravensbourne on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 9:00am (see attached flyers).**
- Refreshments provided

Registration is essential as numbers will be limited – Killarney <https://events.humanitix.com/glossy-black-cockatoo-workshop-killarney> or Ravensbourne <https://events.humanitix.com/glossy-black-cockatoo-workshop-ravensbourne> For further information contact [Mitchell Roberts, B2B Coordinator](#).

**A community workshop on Fire management in grassy woodlands: Science**

and practice worksnop, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 9:30am-11:30am, venue toa

- Presenters UQ's Dr Annabel Smith and Danyel Wolff (Turner Family Foundation) have been undertaking on-ground fire research over the past couple of years at Hidden Vale.
- Learn how different natives and exotics respond to different fire regimes and applications for your property management.
- Morning tea provided and attendance is free for LUCI members and \$10 for non-LUCI members.

Bookings essential. For further information contact [LUCI](#).

## Sponsorship Opportunities: 2026 State Landcare Conference



Sponsorship opportunities are now open for the 2026 State Landcare Conference, taking place 16–17 October 2026 in Murray Bridge. Hosted by All Occasions Group on behalf of the organising committee, the conference will bring together landholders, environmental leaders, researchers, industry representatives, community groups and policymakers committed to building resilient landscapes across South Australia.

The event provides a unique platform for collaboration across community, science, industry and government, highlighting the vital role that Landcare Australia and the broader Landcare movement play in protecting natural resources, strengthening biodiversity and supporting sustainable agricultural systems.

Organisations are invited to partner with the conference to showcase innovation in sustainable land management, connect with key decision-makers and demonstrate leadership in environmental responsibility. Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities are available for organisations working in areas such as sustainability, agriculture, natural resource management, renewable energy, biodiversity conservation and regional development.

Those interested in supporting Landcare's future are encouraged to explore partnership opportunities and access the Sponsorship Prospectus via the conference webpage.

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## NAIDOC Week

CELEBRATE

# NAIDOC WEEK 2026

50 YEARS OF DEADLY

NAIDOC AWARDS  
DINNER

4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY  
Thursday Night



COMMUNITY DAY  
& STREET MARCH

6<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY  
Saturday



3RD - 10TH JULY 2026

## Make Big Polluters Pay Campaign

Tipping point is a dedicated climate justice organisation; their new community initiative advocates for coal and gas cooperations to pay for the climate damage their pollution is causing.

If you are passionate about developing community power in a climate impacted world, then join their online campaign.

The event will run on March 11th from 5:50-6:45pm on zoom. Make polluters pay!!

For those interested in knowing and joining the online campaign, the link is below:

<https://www.makebigpolluterspay.org.au/>

## Apology day workshop



The graphic is a rectangular invitation with a green header and a blue body. The header contains the CCMA logo on the left, the text 'CCMA WORKSHOP' in the center, and the Landcare & Catchment Management Queensland logo on the right. The blue body is divided into two rounded rectangular sections. The left section contains the invitation details, including the topic 'Growing Climate Smart Grazing in the Condamine River Basin' and the presenter 'Southern Queensland Landscapes'. The right section contains the event details: date (Wednesday 18th March 2026), time (9.30-11.00 am), venue (Anglican Church Hall, East St Clifton), contact (G Bowtell, 0428751070, glenysbowtell@bigpond.com), and catering information (MT provided, CCMA 3rd OMG 11.30-2.00pm). At the bottom of the graphic is a blue banner with the text 'Our Condamine Catchment Community with the Capacity to achieve a Sustainable Future'.

**CCMA**  
**WORKSHOP**

**You are invited to**  
**CCMA Workshop**  
*Topic:*  
**Growing**  
**Climate Smart Grazing in the**  
**Condamine River Basin**  
*Presented by:* **Southern Queensland**  
**Landscapes**  
Come and explore maps to identify project areas.

**Date:** Wednesday  
18th March 2026  
**Time:** 9.30 11.00 am  
**Venue:** Anglican Church Hall  
East St Clifton  
**Contact:** G Bowtell  
0428751070  
glenysbowtell@bigpond.com  
For catering—MT provided.  
CCMA 3rd OMG 11.30—2.00pm

Our Condamine Catchment Community with the Capacity to achieve a Sustainable Future

For More Information

RSVP

## **Assist With Rainforest Gully Near the Buru Dain Dan Eco Hut!**

Volunteer with Friends of Escarpment to assist with weed control at Rainforest Gully next door to the DDEC Eco Hut. Rainforest Gully is at risk of being taken over by weeds, please volunteer to restore the beautiful natural place; equipment provided. The event will begin on Friday the 6th of March, following that it will be hosted on the first and third Friday of the month. The event will run from 8:30 - 11:00am, followed by morning tea at the Buru Dain Dan Eco Hut.



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## **Redwood Madeira Weed Challenge**

The latest Redwood Madeira Weed Challenge is running from 7:00-10:00am on Saturday the 7th of March!! Madeira is spreading rapidly, please volunteer to help clear Madeira to protect our local ecosystems, your contributions are greatly appreciated.

[Register Now!](#)

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## **Invitation: Launch of “Make Polluters Pay” Campaign**

Tipping Point is hosting an online launch event for a new community-driven campaign aimed at ensuring coal and gas companies are held accountable for the climate damage caused by their pollution. The initiative, developed over the past 18 months through collaboration with grassroots networks and movement partners, focuses on building community power to win





## IMAGINING 2040 PATHWAYS TO FLOURISHING FUTURES

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. has launched the Imagining 2040 – Pathways to Flourishing Futures podcast series, inviting Australians to reflect on what a thriving and sustainable future could look like by 2040.

The series creates space for hopeful conversations about environmental and social challenges, encouraging citizens, community leaders, educators and decision-makers to explore how collective action can shape a more just, resilient and sustainable Australia. By highlighting diverse voices and practical ideas, the podcast emphasises that meaningful change happens through many small actions taken together.

Through accessible discussions and community-focused storytelling, Imagining 2040 aims to inspire reflection, strengthen public imagination and support citizen-led advocacy for a flourishing future for people, communities and the environment.

Interested in learning more? You can find the website and podcast series at this link: <https://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/continuing-imagining-2040-pathways-to-a-flourishing-futures-podcast-series/#:~:text=In response to an encouraging,by actively enriching the conversation.>

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## **Koala Alliance Calls for Stronger Protections in Queensland**

A coalition of conservation organisations and community groups has urged the Queensland Government to strengthen its proposed koala conservation strategy to better protect the state's declining koala populations. In a letter to Environment Minister Andrew Powell, the Queensland Koala Alliance welcomed the government's focus on koala conservation but warned that the current plan lacks the scale, enforceable protections and long-term funding needed to halt population decline.

The alliance highlights habitat loss and fragmentation as the biggest threats to koalas and is calling for stronger measures, including a ban on clearing core koala habitat, expanded conservation efforts beyond South East Queensland, and increased investment in habitat restoration and wildlife corridors. The group also emphasises the importance of partnering with First Nations Traditional Owners, expanding Indigenous ranger programs, and improving scientific monitoring and public reporting of koala populations.

With the 2032 Summer Olympics approaching in Brisbane, the alliance says the moment presents a critical opportunity to safeguard one of Australia's most iconic species before international visitors arrive. The coalition is seeking to work collaboratively with government to

ensure the strategy delivers real, lasting outcomes for koalas and Queensland's ecosystems.

Interested in learning more and taking action to protect koalas? Visit our Alliance page on the Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) website:

<https://www.queenslandconservation.org.au/>

## Protect Our Birdlife from Rat Poison

Scientists have released the findings of a study into the cause of death of Masked Owls collected across Perth.

All 13 birds from the south-west and three from metropolitan Perth, had been exposed to long-lasting 'second generation' anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs), commonly known as 'one-dose kills' poisons available in common household brands.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is currently seeking submissions on the proposed regulation of dangerous rat poisons that kill wildlife. Join us in calling for all SGARs to be removed from public sale, to protect our wildlife into the future.

Sign the Birdlife Petition



# Fix our feed- From Teach Us Consent

Social media is a tool that was designed to bring people together; today, its algorithm promotes misogyny, causes political polarisation and a tidal wave of mental health challenges and loneliness. The algorithm is designed to maximise engagement, provoking strong emotional reactions, this is creating new levels of exposure to prejudice mindsets and behaviours.

23 minutes for a new account posing as a teenage boy to receive misogynistic content. 73% of Gen Z have received misogynistic content. Teenage boys have recently overtaken men as the most likely perpetrators of child sexual abuse. In the past year sexual violence has increased by 10% in Australia. This is not a coincidence.

We plead with the Australian Government to implement a required 'opt-out' option to algorithms on social media. Restoring user agency and consent is crucial to the safety of social media users and society.

Sign the letter to our Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to 'Fix Our Feed'.

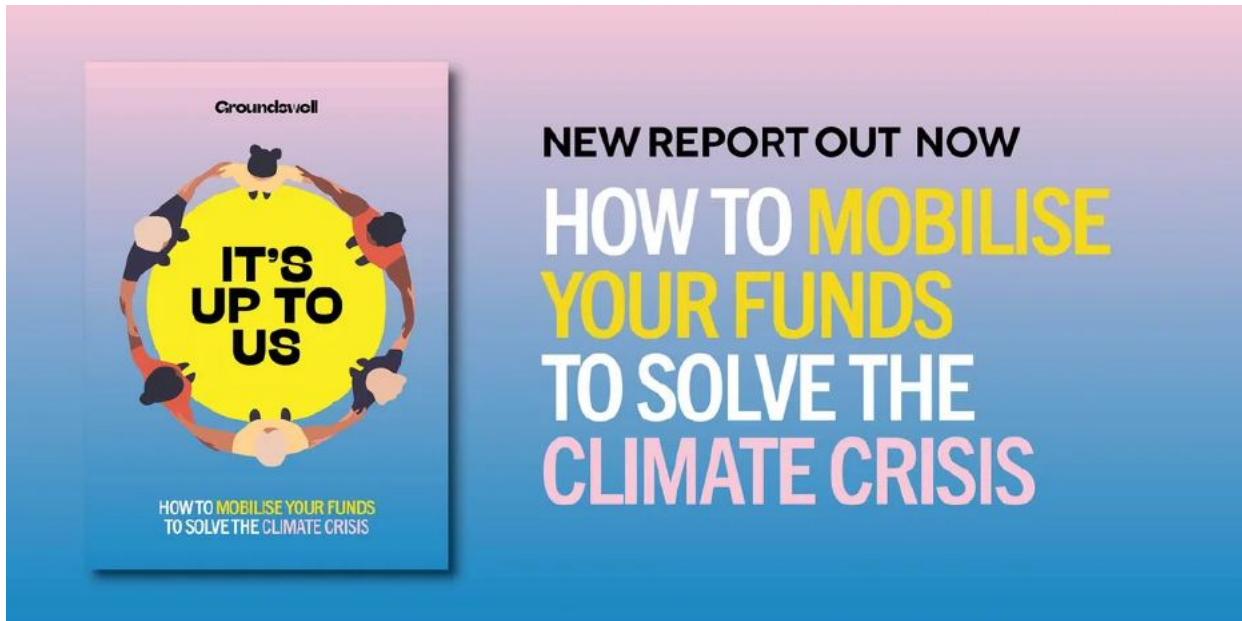
Sign The Letter





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## Join Groundswell and Vote for DDEC to Get \$40k



Groundswell Giving has released *It's Up To Us*, a powerful new guide designed for philanthropists ready to increase their impact in climate action. The publication highlights emerging trends in climate philanthropy and offers practical guidance on how donors can invest strategically to support transformative solutions.

With the global climate window rapidly closing, the guide stresses the urgency of mobilising greater philanthropic support to strengthen the climate movement and challenge the influence of the fossil fuel industry. Without a significant increase in climate funding, efforts to shift political, corporate and social momentum toward stabilising global heating may fall short.

To help drive meaningful action, Groundswell provides a range of opportunities for funders to get involved — including lifetime memberships, a Major Giving Circle that co-funds high-impact climate initiatives, and immersive learning trips with climate experts and fellow philanthropists.

For those ready to take their climate giving to the next level, *It's Up To Us* is both a call to action and a roadmap for investing in the solutions our planet urgently needs.

Interested in knowing more? The website link is below:

<https://www.groundswellgiving.org/its-up-to-us-report>

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# How to start your energy transition journey?

## Step 1: Audit and Compare (Cost: \$0)

- The Utility Bill: Check your bill for the "Could you save money on another plan?" box. Retailers are legally required to show their cheapest offer.
- Energy Made Easy: Use the federal Energy Made Easy website to compare your actual usage against every available plan in your area.

## Step 2: Low-Hanging Fruit (Cost: Low)

- Seal the Leaks: Use draught stoppers ("snakes") and weatherstripping for doors and windows. This can cut heating/cooling costs by 25%.
- Laundry & Bath: \* Wash clothes in cold water (saves 80% of laundry energy).
- Install a low-flow showerhead and a kitchen tap aerator.
- Vampire Power: Plug your TV and entertainment gear into a power board with a master switch to kill "standby" power instantly.

## Step 3: Major Efficiency Upgrades (Cost: Medium-High)

- Hot Water: Swap a resistive electric heater for a Heat Pump Hot Water system. It uses roughly one-third of the electricity for the same amount of hot water.
- Insulation: If you own your home, top up your ceiling insulation. It can reduce climate control bills by 15–20%.

## Step 4: Right-Sized Technology (Cost: High)

- Solar PV: Install a system sized to your daytime needs first.
- Battery Sizing: Don't just buy the biggest one. Calculate your average overnight usage ( $\text{Daily Imports} \div 30$ ) and add 20%.

Note for 2026: From May 1st, government rebates (the Cheaper Home Batteries Program) will begin to "taper" for systems larger than 14 kWh. Staying under 14 kWh often provides the best value-for-money.

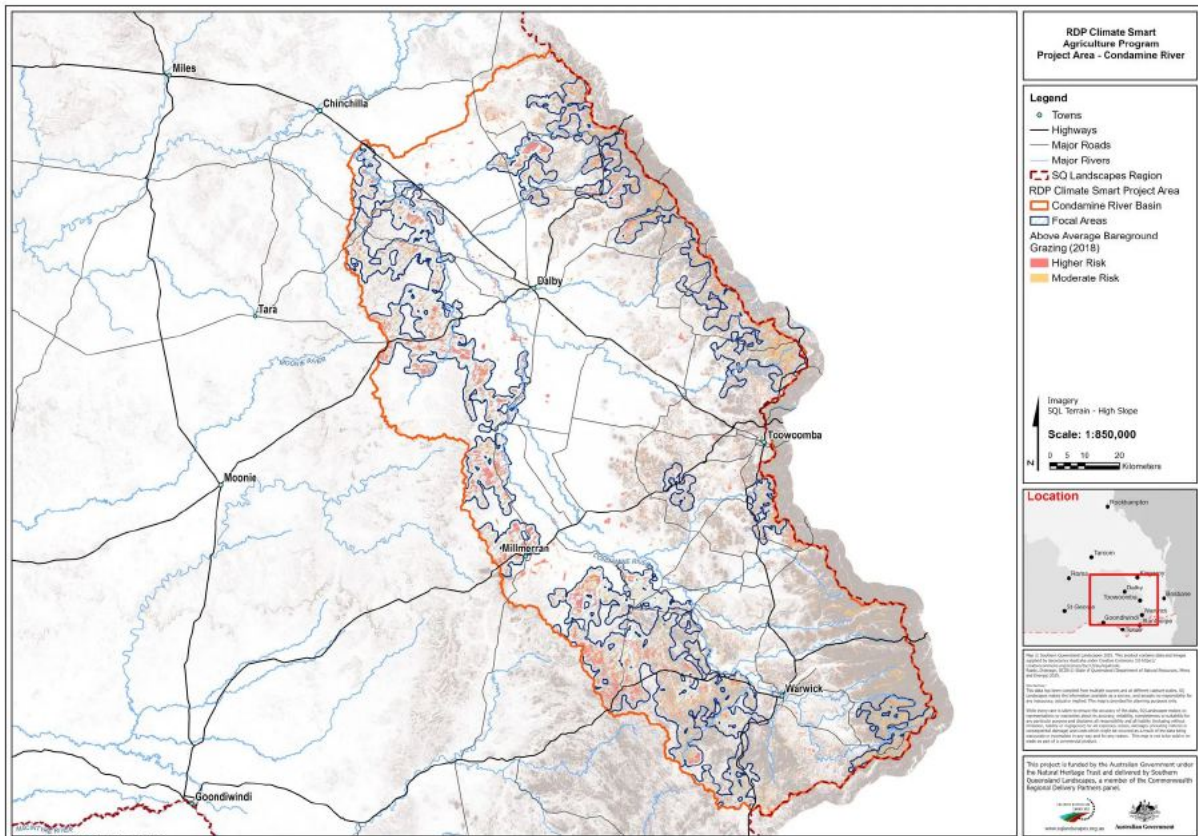




Read more about energy transition here:

[https://www.essentialenergy.com.au/our-network/future-energy/energy-transition#:~:text=Everyone has a role to, and generation \(rooftop solar\).](https://www.essentialenergy.com.au/our-network/future-energy/energy-transition#:~:text=Everyone has a role to, and generation (rooftop solar).)

## Condamine Climate Smart Grazing



The Growing Climate Smart Grazing in the Condamine River Basin project is a four-year initiative delivered by Southern Queensland Landscapes and funded by the Australian Government through the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program. The project aims to help landholders in the Condamine River Basin develop more sustainable, productive, and climate-resilient grazing systems. It provides on-ground support, training, and collaboration with First Nations partners to improve land management practices, increase soil carbon, enhance ground cover, and strengthen the long-term health of agricultural landscapes.

The program supports practical actions such as improved grazing management, pasture upgrades, innovative ground cover strategies, better water management, and the use of traditional First Nations cool-burning techniques to regenerate pasture and reduce bushfire risk. Landholders can also attend workshops and field days to build knowledge and learn about opportunities in emerging carbon and biodiversity markets. Overall, the project focuses on improving environmental outcomes while supporting farm productivity and long-term sustainability in the region. 🌱🌍

Interested in knowing more, see the link of Southern Queensland Landscape below:  
<https://www.sqlandscapes.org.au/Growing-Climate-Smart-Grazing-in-the-Condamine-River-Basin>

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## Developer Donations Ban Under Review: What It Means for Queensland

Queensland's ban on political donations from property developers may be lifted. This is a move the state's corruption watchdog warns could increase corruption risk.

According to the **ABC**, the Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission says removing the ban could reopen pathways for undue political influence, particularly in planning and development decisions.

The ban was introduced to prevent conflicts of interest following past corruption cases and has been a key safeguard for transparency in government.

With growing development pressure across the state, integrity experts warn that weakening donation laws could undermine public trust and impact community and environmental outcomes.

Staying informed and engaged is essential as this issue continues to unfold.

[Read More](#)

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## TRC's Community Grants Revitalised



Toowoomba Regional Council has endorsed a simplified and revitalised Community Grants Program, making it easier for eligible community and not-for-profit groups to apply for funding.

From the **2026/27 financial year**, Council will move to **one clear Community Grants Policy and Guideline**, replacing multiple former grant programs with a streamlined application process. Applications for the new funding round open on **1 July 2026**.

The updated program introduces clear funding categories:

- **Micro grants:** up to \$1,000
- **Minor grants:** \$1,001–\$10,000
- **Major grants:** \$10,001 and above

The new approach removes previous funding caps, offers clearer guidelines, and prioritises fairness, transparency and accessibility—particularly for regional applicants. Preference will be given to new applicants and projects that support community connection, partnerships, facility upgrades or new services.

Community information sessions will be held in **March and April**, with application support available through Council's Grants & Sponsorship Officer and Community Development Officers.

[Learn More on Council's Website](#)

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## The Quarterly Quail: Summer Highlights (Feb 2026)

We're pleased to share the latest update from the Birds on Farms Lockyer-Toowoomba project, delivered in partnership with BirdLife Australia.

Since December, the team has completed 23 bird surveys across 10 local properties, recording an impressive 226 individual birds. The most commonly observed species was the Noisy Miner, followed by Torresian Crow and Red-backed Fairy-wren, highlighting both the diversity and challenges within our regional landscapes.

### Project Highlights:

Camera & Acoustic Monitoring Success:

- A major highlight was footage of a Black-breasted Buttonquail pair with two chicks, an exciting and encouraging record.
- Audio monitoring detected species including Barn Owls, Sacred Kingfishers, Leaden Flycatchers and Lewin's Honeyeaters, revealing activity even when surveyors aren't on site.

World Wetlands Day – Seven Mile Lagoon:

- Over 200 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers recorded
- 250 native plants planted
- 15 volunteers supporting habitat restoration alongside council partners

#### Community Voices:

This edition also features profiles of participating landholders and volunteers, showcasing the shared commitment to improving habitat connectivity and biodiversity on working farms.

#### Upcoming 2026 Survey Dates:

- Autumn: 21 March – 3 May
- Winter: 13 June – 26 July
- Spring: 19 September – 1 November
- Summer: 12 December – 7 February

This project continues to demonstrate the importance of private land conservation in protecting regional birdlife and strengthening ecological corridors.

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## Protecting trees in QLD

Felecia and local environmental groups in Kingaroy & South Burnett are campaigning to protect native woodlands and local habitats, which are under threat from land clearing.

During a recent land clearing event in Taabinga, they discovered that updated mapping from the Queensland Herbarium, which provides greater protection for trees and wildlife habitat, is being withheld from public release.

To address this, Felecia has launched a Queensland Parliament petition calling for the updated mapping to be released and for native woodlands to be preserved.

 Support the petition: Preserve native woodland for climate & biodiversity

“We hope the Toowoomba region can support this so all of Queensland benefits.” — Felecia Heirdsfield

Interested in knowing more? More information is in the link below:

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Petitions/petition-details/4377-26#:~:text=The Petition of residents of,native species,including the koala.>

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## Newsletter Report

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### Dirty Data: Fossil Fuel Donations and the 2025 Federal Election

A new analysis by Climate Integrity reveals that millions of dollars from coal and gas companies helped fund political campaigns ahead of the 2025 federal election. According to disclosure data from the Australian Electoral Commission, at least \$3.98 million in fossil fuel donations flowed to major political parties during the 2024–25 financial year.

Major donors included companies such as Adani/Bravus Mining, Hancock Prospecting and INPEX, while powerful industry lobby groups like the Minerals Council of Australia and Australian Energy Producers also contributed significant funding. The report highlights concerns that these donations may provide companies with greater access and influence over political decision-makers, particularly around approvals for major fossil fuel projects.

The analysis found that both the Australian Labor Party and the Liberal–National Coalition received substantial contributions from the industry, alongside funding directed to lobbying groups and third-party campaign organisations. In contrast, no fossil fuel donations were reported to have been received by the Australian Greens or Climate 200.

Climate Integrity is now calling for stronger political donation laws, greater transparency and a ban on fossil fuel donations, arguing that reducing industry influence is essential to ensuring climate policy decisions are made in the public interest. 🌍

Interested in knowing more? The link of the full report is below:

<https://climateintegrity.org.au/latest/coal-and-gas-2025-election-donations>

## **Unlocking Solar For Renters Report**

Launching Tuesday 10 February

One third of Australians rent, and most cannot access rooftop solar due to the “split incentive” — landlords pay upfront, while tenants receive the savings.

Our new report is based on a national online consultation with 717 participants (including renters, landlords and homeowners).