

From: Darling Downs Environment Council info@ddec.org.au
Subject: Join us under the tall trees this Saturday Afternoon
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This Saturday we're having a picnic under some of the oldest gums in our region, and we'd love you there.

Tall Trees Community Picnic

Saturday 10 October, 3–5pm

Peacehaven Botanic Park, 56 Kuhls Road, Highfields

Free, all ages, everyone welcome

There'll be live music from John and his bush band, short talks from ornithologist Scot McPhie, Cr Bill Cahill and myself, a kids' treasure hunt, and a community sing-along with Ecopella to finish. Then we'll all get together for a group photo under the trees.

[RSVP Here](#)

Why a picnic, and why now

Our council's draft planning scheme is about to go to the Planning Minister for review. He can add conditions to it before any of us get to see it, and once he's decided, we don't get a say.

Public consultation isn't planned until 2027, and by then those decisions will already be made.

We've seen this happen just up the road. This year the Planning Minister refused to let Gympie's koala and wildlife habitat mapping apply in the rural zone. That mapping is what stops land from being cleared before it's rezoned for housing. Now that early clearing can go ahead with no protection in place, and the state government has said it wants less of this kind of mapping across Queensland. We also know that from council planning staff are very curious about how the Minister responds to their proposal to give tall habitat trees a level of protection in places like old Highfields.

So Saturday is a celebration of the trees we've still got, and also a message of hope, sent while it can still make a difference: our community cares about these trees, and we trust our own council to get the balance right. We've invited the Minister and our local MP's to join us

on a picnic rug. Whether he comes or not, the more of us turn up, the clearer that message gets.

Bring a plate (and some tongs!)

We'll be sharing food together from 3.15pm, so please bring something to put on the table. A few small things will help it go smoothly:

- **Bring a picnic rug and a cover** for your dish, to keep the bugs and the sun off.
- **Bring tongs or serving spoons.** We'll need lots of them. Please label food for dietary needs as well.
- **Please wait until everyone's arrived** before we start eating, so we all get to share.

We'll have paper plates, napkins, and tea and coffee with dairy and plant milks. Bring a rug or a chair and a water bottle too.

For parents: Jo is running the treasure hunt from about 3.30pm. Please stay with your kids and keep an eye on them while it's on.

See you under the tall trees,

Ahri and the Protect Trees Toowoomba team

A community campaign and member group supported by the Darling Downs Environment Council

P.S. Can you come early and help set up? The team is arriving from 2.30pm. Just reply to this email and let us know.



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