



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE Special Edition E-news Bulletin --- HOPE's Alliance/Partnerships program

Editorial

Welcome to the July edition of the HOPE newsletter. The month's newsletter is a special edition that examines some of the most prominent environmental advocacy groups at the international, national, and state levels.

Each organisation has a unique origin, aim, and methodology and so, in the following overviews, you will find a summary of each group's background, objectives, and campaign efforts. For example, the International Campaign To Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017, has adopted a worldwide approach to nuclear disarmament, whereas the highly localised Darling Downs Environmental Council (DDEC) tackles the immediate and long-term threats facing the Darling Downs subregion of Queensland in a bespoke fashion. For those of you who may be interested in taking a deeper dive, and perhaps even volunteering, a link to each organisation's website is provided at the end of their respective overview.

Kind regards,

Guest Newsletter Editor: Dominic Anderton - HOPE volunteer Researcher (Qld)

Queensland agencies



The Queensland Conservation Council (QCC), Queensland's leading independent voice for the environment.

"Our vision is for a Queensland in which nature thrives, wildlife is protected, our industries don't cost the earth, and our communities are in balance with the health of the ecosystem."

Representing over 50 community environment groups across the State, the QCC has worked to protect, conserve, and sustain Queensland's unique

ecosystem since 1969.

Committed to a diverse and broad range of environmental campaigns, the QCC intends to keep politicians honest and citizens active. Their work includes ending deforestation, combatting climate change, and promoting sustainable ecotourism. Crucially, QCC's **advocacy is not abstract, it is targeted, practical, and most importantly, realistic**—you can even download a free copy of their 2024-2026 Strategic Plan.

Always diligent, the QCC is meticulous when they highlight the major environmental challenges facing Queenslanders and why they need our attention. Each one of their campaigns presents the reader with a succinct and meaningful objective. Instructions are provided for people looking get involved and engage with the issues, in which corresponding materials are made available. The organisation presents compelling reasons to support their initiatives by getting to the heart of the matter. For every campaign, the QCC asks **three simple questions: what is the problem? Why is it a problem? And how do we go about solving it?** Moreover, the organisation approaches these problems is holistically.

Their goals consider the needs of everyday Queenslanders, **balancing environmental concerns and community interests**. For example, their *Homes For All* campaign weighs the ongoing housing crisis facing Australians and the need to protect Queensland's "unique and biodiverse ecosystems, ranging from lush rainforests and coastal wetlands to eucalypt woodlands." Their solution to the two-pronged problem takes a middle road where sustainable urban growth that "builds up and not out" is encouraged, while fostering conservation efforts to facilitate sustainable and thriving ecosystems that Queensland's flora, fauna, and people can enjoy.

The Queensland Conservation Council has high ambitions; they are a go-to organisation for all Queensland environmentalists looking to bring about real change.

🔗 Explore their campaigns or get involved: <https://www.queenslandconservation.org.au/>

Queensland Water & Land Carers

—Queensland's peak body for natural resource management volunteers.



QWaLC consists of almost 62,000 individual members and almost 500 member groups who represent each of Queensland's regions. Their approach to protecting and managing natural resource revolves around community. Farm owners and conservationists work alongside each other at **a local level to address local issues.**

The QWaLC focusses on five important concepts: networking, insurance, promotion, representation, and advocacy. They support networking between volunteers, government, regional bodies, and professionals to coordinate policy. They aim to

provide a sense of security and stability for member organisation and to successfully make a practical difference every day. The QWaLC represents local and community-based initiatives and empowers member groups to achieve their environmental goals.

Highly active and with dozens of member project and events each year, QWaLC is both ambitious and committed to **the environment as it is**: a totalising sprawl of interconnected ecosystems spread across the whole of Queensland.

Queenslanders keen to make a difference can volunteer at one of their many member groups, a group map provides a directory of QWaLC communities around the State—with no shortage of groups—hundreds dot the map of Queensland. Broken down into regions, **finding a member group near you to get started is simple.** However, if you're unsure, you can always email their Executive Officer for assistance.

On April the 11th 2025, they invited members to take part in the Resilient Landscapes Survey, a program where volunteers planted trees, protected endangered species, and adopted sustainable farming practices. Their group projects range from vegetation management in the Fitzroy Basin Region to animal control on behalf of the Feral Management Branch Of Shooters Union Queensland Inc. From water monitoring for the Pascoe River Catchment, to land care education projects in the Murray Darling. There are forums on fire ant eradication, wetlands programs, and volunteer safety lectures. **The QWaLC touches every issue.**

Queensland Water & Land Carers is never short on projects and always in need of more volunteers.

🔗 Explore their campaigns or get involved: <https://qwalc.org.au/>



Protect The Bush Alliance—Banding Together To Save The Bush

The **Protect The Bush Alliance (PTBA)** does exactly that: protect the bush. Recognising the growing threats to Queensland's ecological health and, **urging immediate action**, the PTBA's endeavour is to ensure that the state's flora and fauna are protected from—among other things—habitat degradation, land clearing, feral animals, and invasive plants. In their own words, the PTBA is “a community of citizens and scientists, working together to protect Queensland's bush.”

The PTBA is about real change. **Using scientific data**, the PTBA develops informed and practical policies that they use to petition and lobby politicians and organisations. In doing so, their goal is to reduce, or prevent, further destruction of Queensland's environment. Although scientific examination into

the environment's wellbeing is micro-targeted and highly localised, the Alliance does not forget the wider context of their work.

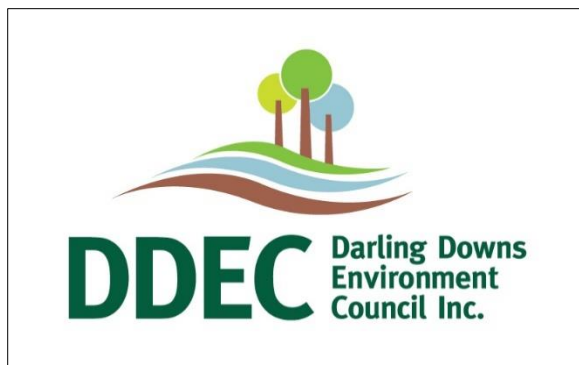
They advocate for a “whole-of-landscape” conservation program that respects the rights of nature, flora, fauna, and nature within a healthy ecosystem. For example, one of the PTBA's major projects is the effort to protect the great “spine of Eastern Australia,” The Great Dividing Range. The Alliance **does more than tell us** what is wrong with government policy affecting the mountain range, they **show us**, providing accessible scientific documentation (datasets, interactive maps, and video presentations) to support their policy recommendations.

With their **evidence-based approach**, the PTBA understands Queensland's biodiverse ecology inside and out; **they know what it needs, and what it does not.** To hold the powerful to account and influence their decision-making, the PTBA asks passionate lovers of nature to share their skills and volunteer. Volunteers are the backbone of the PTBA, and their contributions go a long way in securing a better future for Queensland's already

vulnerable ecosystem. You can assist by collecting biodiversity data in the field, managing social media, writing articles, preparing submissions on conservation issues, and sharing your expertise at community gatherings.

🔗 Heed the Protect the Bush Alliance's **powerful exhortation** to "show decision-makers that you care about Queensland's environment" and visit their website at: <https://ptba.net.au/>

(Written by Dominic Anderton - HOPE researcher Qld)



Darling Downs Environment Council:

"Join us to unite community voices for a thriving environment."

The Darling Downs is a proverbial tree in a global forest of environmental causes. And, advocating for the **preservation and sustainability of southwestern regional Queensland**, the **Darling Downs Environment Council (DDEC)** ensures local issues facing a local region are not forgotten.

It is a regional environmental organisation that collaborates with community groups as an autonomous branch of the Queensland

Conservation Council, Queensland's peak environmental body.

In bringing together passionate environmentalists willing to volunteer some of their time to protect the Darling Downs, the DDEC tackles the threats and risks confronting the region through collective means. In addition to their volunteering efforts, the DDEC's many member groups, including organisations such as *Toowoomba Bushwalkers* and *Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens*, coordinate with the DDEC to augment their **shared mission** to arrive at solutions to the dangers facing the Darling Downs' natural habitat and biodiversity today.

The DDEC provides many avenues and initiatives to facilitate the protection of the Downs' region. There are also plenty of **opportunities for volunteers to participate**. Such programs include: *Renewables Done Right*, is the DDEC's campaign to wind down unsustainable industries and implement sustainable and environmentally friendly alternatives, not forgetting the interests of Downs' locals. In addition, their *Keep Toowoomba Cool* campaign addresses the challenges posed by Queensland's rising yearly temperatures. The DDEC works to mitigate extreme heat by fostering mature trees and implementing smart planting practices.

Intending to shield delicate undergrowth, people, and animals, these trees are planted strategically to maximise canopy coverage and consequently minimise the harsh impact of the sun's oppressive rays.

The Darling Downs Environment Council **strives to build a better ecological future for the region**. The Council believes that working with the local community is the best way to accomplish its mission. As an active and engaged organisation, they are just as keen to invite volunteers into their broad tent as they are resolved to protect the Darling Downs' unique ecosystem.

🔗 Visit the DDEC website to donate, volunteer, become a member, or keep updated at: <https://ddec.org.au/>

(Written by Dominic Anderton - HOPE researcher Qld)

Your financial support is sought! – <https://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/donations/>

We invite members and supporters to consider making an annual financial contribution to help cover our operating costs of approximately \$20,500 p.a.

Currently, our income is derived from project grants, fund-raising, corporate sponsorship and donations, but falls well short of our requirements.

Your financial support, by way of an annual pledge or donation, will considerably help us to achieve better financial viability.

Please help us to continue our efforts in advocating for responsible stewardship of the environment and supports adopting sustainable long-term solutions to the manifold environmental problems facing humanity.

National agencies



Boomerang Alliance—It's Time For The Reuse Revolution In Australia

With over 40,000 supporters in Australia, **Boomerang Alliance (BA)** is working towards a recyclable, zero-waste future across the Asia Pacific region. **BA points the finger at plastic producers.** They want packaging producers to take responsibility for their waste and pollution.

To do so, BA has put together well-crafted and thoughtful policies aimed at politicians. For example, BA has laid out a *National Packaging Solution* and continues to support and lobby for *Cash for Container* programs across the States and Territories.

The goal is to persuade government officials to implement rules, standards, and regulations that will keep companies in check. But BA also encourages Australians to take part at the micro level. **Producers may carry the blame, but everyday Aussies can still make an effort** to purchase biodegradable alternatives, properly recycle their refuse, and contribute to container deposit schemes.

Specialising in waste reduction, BA tackles the problem of plastics and other harmful materials polluting the environment. **BA lobbies for renewable and reusable alternatives to single-use plastic.** Single-use plastic products are strewn across Australian beaches and parks, but BA points out that they are more than just an eyesore. The sheer volume of improperly dumped and discarded waste—metric tonnes—threatens marine and other animal life. Because these plastics are non-reusable, non-perishable, and not biodegradable, retail plastic bags, cartons, and even party balloons become enduring contaminants.

BA's vision is to ensure our planet is healthy by maximising resource efficiency and achieving a zero-waste society. With two strategic objectives serving as a benchmark for success, Boomerang Alliance knows what it wants:

1. To transition to a zero-waste society by leveraging strategic opportunities to drive best practice resource efficiency and recovery.
2. To significantly cut Australia's contribution to oceanic plastic pollution.

In all, their message is simple: **if you can't reuse it, don't use it.** Plastics, too slow to decompose naturally, are untenable. BA recognises the serious harm of non-reusable plastics and the long-term consequences on Australia's remarkable, varied, and unique ecosystems.

🔗 To arm yourself with the facts and keep up to date with all things Boomerang Alliance, check out their campaigns and reports on their website at: <https://www.boomerangalliance.org.au/>



LOCK THE GATE—Working Together to Stop Coal and Gas

“Join farmers, Traditional Custodians, conservationists and urban residents in the urgent battle to protect our land, water and climate. Before it's too late.”

Formed in 2010, **Lock The Gate (LTG)** declared that farmers would “lock their gates” to the rapacious energy industry. As a

grassroots organisation, LTG's mission to protect Australia's natural, cultural, and agricultural resources is coming straight from the mouths of Australians most affected by unsustainable government energy policy.

LTG's vision is of a healthy and empowered community where, through fair and democratic means, land, water, food, and energy are not compromised by coal mines and gas fields. **LTG is working to reduce the impact and constrain the extension of fossil fuel projects.** Projects that overlook the needs of those most affected and disregard the wellbeing of Australia's environment.

LTG encourages volunteers and anybody else concerned for the health of national flora and fauna, wetlands and rivers, along with the world's uncertain climate future, to lobby federal ministers, name and shame offending companies (for example, Glencore and Whitehaven Coal), and partake in sponsored events and community action.

Lock The Gate lives by five central aims:

1. To protect the health of all Australians.
2. To protect Australia's Aboriginal and cultural heritage.
3. To protect Australia's water systems.
4. To protect Australia's agricultural land for food and fibre production.
5. To protect Australia's bushlands, wetlands, and wildlife.

🔗 To help LTG meet these aims, visit their website and become a fellow GateKeeper:

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



Places You Love (PYL) Alliance

Australian Nature—If You Love It, Help Save It

Australia is home to incredible landscapes, wildlife, forests, and reefs. And yet, for all this wonder, Australia must own up to its poor environmental record. **Places You Love (PLA)** gets to the heart of the issue: **nature can't afford business as usual**. The organisation is partnered with dozens of organisations such as Greenpeace, the Australian Rainforest Conservation Society, and the

Nature Conservation Council.

With the help of everyday Australians, **PLA's mission is to pressure government into reconsidering policies** that drive climate change, habitat destruction, deforestation, pollution, and the introduction of invasive species into delicate ecosystems. As things stand, Australia's failing nature laws and the ensuing damage has brought "globally significant wildlife, land and seascape to breaking point." PLA hopes to leverage the government's recent Nature Positive legislation of 2024, which will provide a package of reforms, including new institutions to administer and further strengthen current environmental protection laws.

The organisation encourages businesses and landowners to sign an open letter to voice support for PLA's vision and ensure the government sticks to its word. **Individuals are asked to seize the opportunity to create "strong new laws" to prevent further degradation of our precious environment**. The time is now. Hundreds of people have already given voice to their support for nature, the PLA asks you to add yours.

Despite the urgency, the organisation soberly considers the complexities inherent to policies designed to protect Australian ecosystems. **PLA calls on politicians and volunteers to join their call for strong nature laws that:**

- Genuinely protect and restore nature.
- Ensure the community has a legal voice in standing up for nature.
- Truly value and respect the rights, knowledge and cultures of First Nations Peoples.

Their resources page offers graphics and videos for their various projects, such as their *If You Love It, Help Save It* campaign, whose promotional material can be shared across social media.

To contribute, PLA recommends joining the movement through their partner organisations, listed at the bottom of their website.

🔗 Visit their website at: <https://www.lockthegate.org.au/>



Australian Earth Laws Alliance—Ethical Futures For People And Planet

Australian Earth Laws Alliance's (AELA) theory of change is embedded in “Earth jurisprudence.” Far from abstract legal theory, AELA’s “Earth laws” asks our industrial, mechanised, and consumer society to **stop and think**: does our system of governance undermine the integrity and health of the earth? By combining academic research with community-based projects and advocacy programs, AELA works to conserve and protect Australian bioregions.

AELA takes a multidisciplinary approach to environmental challenges.

The organisation considers the many legal, economic, political, and educational elements to identify society’s missteps in order to find a solution. Five core themes guide AELA’s theory of change:

1. Changing culture.
2. Reconnecting with what matters.
3. Building community.
4. Building alternatives.
5. Transforming law and governance.

AELA conveys these themes through various **educational courses**, including an *Earth-Centres Futures* course and an Introduction to Earth Laws course, with one testimonial reading “...this course was fantastic, thought-provoking, extremely informative, relevant and positive in the face of adversity.”

AELA’s mission is to have society pivot from a human-centred worldview to a growth-focussed, Earth-centred worldview. The current relationship humans have with their environment is destructive and predatory. The nature of unbridled consumer culture is that it cannot recognise when enough is enough. AELA stands athwart our ‘extractivist’ tendencies, urging Australians to recognise their ecological limits. In doing so, citizens will have the intellectual tools necessary to reframe their perception of a healthy—and global—society and to build “regenerative human societies and nurture the health of the wider Earth community.” However, for this shift in perspective to take place, AELA urges Australians to **work hard, be compassionate, and remember our sense of justice.**

You can become a Friend of AELA with a quick and easy tax-deductible donation. Their events page will keep you up to date on webinars, lectures, workshops, and more.

🔗 To find out more, visit their website at: <https://www.earthlaws.org.au/>



International agencies



Earth Charter International

"We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace." – Earth Charter Preamble.

Earth Charter International (ECI) turns conscience into action. Following the Earth Charter, a document outlining 16 principles organised underneath four pillars, **the ECI is on a mission: to bring about the global transition to a sustainable future**, and their approach is holistic. To fulfill their vision, the organisation works to raise awareness, promote the adoption of the Earth Charter, encourage adherence to the Charter's principles and pillars, and present the Charter as a soft law document.

The ECI's uses the Charter as a moral compass and as field guide. For any bold endeavour to succeed, it is necessary to adhere to a particular vision of the future and follow guiding principles. By following the Charter and sticking to its core values, the ECI is able to develop considered policies and projects that are necessary to begin the transition into a sustainable future. To ensure that future, we must consider the Earth Charter's four pillars:

1. Respect and care for the community of life.
2. Ecological integrity.
3. Social and economic justice.
4. Democracy, nonviolence, and peace.

Importantly, being an 'Earth' Charter, the ECI reminds us that to meet these expectations, we must recognise that **the burden is shared**. To realise the Charter's noble aspirations, **"we must decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility."** We may live in different countries and on different continents, but we share one environment, one Earth. The ECI looks to the Charter, its preamble, its four pillars, and its 16 principles for guidance and direction in its mission to achieve global sustainability.

The ECI's program is comprehensive. **The organisation performs two functions: it directs volunteers and contributors, and it also educates them.** For example, younger individuals can get involved through the *Youth Programme*, and businesses can even apply to adopt the Earth Charter as part of the ECI's *Business and Ethical Leadership* course. Groups and individuals may also educate themselves through a variety of sustainability and ethical leadership courses and conferences, such as courses on international law and sustainable urban development, with additional access to a virtual library of lectures and publications.

🔗 You can follow all things ECI and partake in their courses on their website at: <https://earthcharter.org/>



International Campaign To Abolish Nuclear Weapons—Nuclear Weapons Don't Protect You

"Nuclear weapons are the most destructive, inhumane and indiscriminate weapons ever created."—ICAN

The **International Campaign To Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)** is a coalition of non-governmental organisations promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nation's Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

On account of their activism and commitment to nuclear disarmament, **ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017**, in recognition of their work to "draw attention to the catastrophic consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons". ICAN frames the nuclear disarmament and its justifications not only by stressing the immediate danger these weapons pose to society if used, but also by **highlighting the destructive capacity these weapons have on the environment**, more notably the crippling effects of long-lasting radiation and the risk of a nuclear winter.

Inspired by the success of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, ICAN began in Australia and was formally launched in Austria in 2007. Their coalition is broad and deep, ranging from local peace groups to global federations. Representing millions of people around the world, ICAN is part of a worldwide community striving to solve a global threat.

ICAN hosts online and in-person events throughout the year, including rallies, symposiums, and art exhibitions. **Each year, ICAN concentrates its efforts in an Action Week.** During this week, ICAN will raise awareness of a particular problem facing advocates. To facilitate a world free of nuclear weapons, the 2024 Action Week highlighted the significant financial cost of manufacturing and maintaining nuclear weapons, money that could be better spent on education, disaster relief, and other services.

What can you do about nuclear weapons? ICAN has the answer: push back against international efforts to procure and stockpile the world's most dangerous weapons through protest, raising awareness, and writing to your government. Visit their website and check out their latest press releases, country reports, and ways to contribute.

🔗 Learn more about ICAN here: <https://icanw.org.au/>



International Pollutants Elimination Network—For a Toxics-Free Future

For over 25 years, the **International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN)** has been an international leader on chemical safety. Acknowledging the global impact of hazardous material, IPEN works alongside public interest NGOs based largely in low and middle-income countries. **IPEN goes where help is needed most.** These nations are most susceptible to the deleterious effects of pollution, waste, and

harmful substances due to underdevelopment. By strengthening global and national chemicals and waste integrity policies, and contributing to research, IPEN is building a global movement for a toxics-free future.

Major IPEN projects include global egg sampling, where eggs are tested for persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and other toxic chemicals. They have conducted extensive studies to assess lead levels in paint in much of the Global South, along with research into the flow of mercury into aquatic environments and its subsequent entry into the food chain.

IPEN has had a tremendous impact on global chemical safety. The organisation has contributed to the banning of an increasing number of harmful substances, in addition to successfully lobbying for further controls and review of other dangerous materials. **They have developed chemical management programs for developing and transitional countries, taking the burden off underdeveloped governments.** In doing so, IPEN increases public awareness of chemical issues and elevates the profile for safe chemical management among governments, scientists, and social and environmental movements.

IPEN, with its regional hubs around the world and connections with grassroots and national groups is positioned at the frontier of strong international chemical standards. By reducing and eliminating the world's most hazardous chemicals and halting the spread of toxic materials, IPEN is paving the way for a toxics-free future. They even occasionally hire, working with the International Pollutants Elimination Network is more than just volunteering; it is a career. Indeed, for some, it is a calling to bring about IPEN's dream of an environment **"no longer harmed by the production, use, and disposal of toxic chemicals."**

🔗 Visit IPEN and learn more: <https://ipen.org/>
