



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, TOOWOOMBA QLD 435

(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350)

Ph 07 4639 2135; Email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Website: www.hopeaustralia.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment

ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2026 #02 --- February 2026

Editorial

Around the nation, Australia's state and territory protected areas and wildlife management services are augmented by the work of dedicated not-for-profit conservation organisations that put Australia's protected areas – and the fauna, flora and fungi that inhabit them – at the top of their list of priorities.

Many of these member-based environmental organisations have a long tenure, pre-dating the government-run parks and wildlife services. Today, they work closely with interstate counterparts and federal, state/territory and local governments to advocate for more and better-managed protected areas across the continent. This Special Edition newsletter pinpoints the major challenges these organisations faced in 2025, their key works, and where they'll continue to focus their efforts in 2026.

(Material for this newsletter has been sourced from the organisations' websites.)

Kind regards,

Guest Newsletter Editor: Karin Cox - NPAQ Marketing



[NATIONAL PARKS AUSTRALIA COUNCIL \(NPAC\)](#)

The National Parks Australia Council (NPAC) has a mission to protect, promote and extend national park systems within Australia. Formed in 1975, NPAC is a national body that coordinates and represents the views of a range of state and territory non-government organisations concerned with protecting the natural environment and furthering national parks. NPAC provides a forum for regular communication between state and territory national parks associations and acts as a united voice supporting conservation of the National Reserve System (NRS) across Australia.

A national poll conducted by NPAC in 2012 revealed that more than 89% of respondents agreed that protecting Australia's flora and fauna should be a core responsibility of state and federal governments. Similarly, 89% believed national parks to be one of the best ways to protect Australia's nature, especially from resource extraction, logging, mining and fishing. Furthermore, 85% agreed that we need more government expenditure to manage national parks. A more recent [2024 report by the Biodiversity Council](#) also found that 95% of Australians want more national parks. NPAC and its member groups continue to advocate for more funding and better management of protected areas, especially if Australia is to honour the international commitment made in 2022 at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to set aside 30% of Australian land and waters by 2030.

[Achieving 30 by 30 on land: National Roadmap for protecting and conserving 30% of Australia's land by 2030](#) states that Australia can meet this 30% component through the protection or conservation of an additional 60 million ha; this means protecting a further 8% of the nation's land area, on top of the existing 22% already within the NRS. While privately protected areas can help meet this target, they often lack the rigorous protections of protected areas within the NRS. New protected areas, or those preserved under other effective area-based conservation measures ([using the OECM framework](#)) must also prioritise areas of particular importance for biodiversity and for maintaining ecosystem functions and services; that is, the quality of the landscapes is as important as the quantity.

Despite the goal of 30x30, overall funding for federal and state national park management remains at less than 1% of Australia's gross domestic product (GDP). NPAC believes that state governments should be encouraged to match or exceed a 1% of GDP budget commitment, and that the Commonwealth should incentivise the states to deliver new protected areas. Without adequate expenditure for both the public and private protected area estate, 30x30 will be unattainable and Australia's nature will continue to decline.



[NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION ACT](#)

The National Parks Association of the ACT is a voluntary, non-government organisation and registered charity advocating for the protection of the fauna and flora, scenery, natural features and cultural heritage of [Namadgi National Park](#) and other ACT parks and reserves. They do this through a program of conservation, protection, education and activities.

Key Works in 2025

- Continued the successful campaign to repeal the NSW *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018*. The NSW Upper House voted to repeal the legislation on 27 November.
- A 4-year community education campaign to protect the ACT's high-country bogs and fens, funded by the ACT Government via the Australian Government [Natural Heritage Trust](#).
- Effective advocacy demonstrated by the decision in August by ACT City and Government Services Minister Tara Cheyne not to rebuild two alpine huts destroyed in the 2020 Black Summer fires in Namadgi. We argued that rebuilding was neither value for money nor in line with Burra Charter heritage protection guidelines.

NPA ACT Focus for 2026

- NPA ACT has been awarded a heritage grant to help preserve and protect Aboriginal culture in the ACT. The \$17,151 grant awarded under the 2025–26 ACT Heritage Grants Program will be used to contract specialised rock art conservators and other groups to assess the conservation condition of seven rock art sites in Namadgi National Park and one in Tidbinbilla.
- Stronger focus on fundraising, including for our internationally recognised Rosenberg's Goanna project.
- Broadening the diversity of our membership with a focus on multicultural organisations and activities.
- Bogs and fens campaign (see Key Works in 2025).

**Tasmanian
National Parks
Association**



[TASMANIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION INC \(TNPA\)](#)

The Tasmanian National Parks Association Inc (TNPA), formed in 2001, is a non-profit, non-government organisation committed to the protection of Tasmania's national parks and reserved lands. TNPA reinforces public values, concerns and criticisms to policy makers and managers, while promoting conservation awareness. TNPA's mission is to preserve the integrity of, and expand, the Tasmanian national park system, and to ensure appropriate management of its natural and cultural values.

While approximately 22% of Tasmania is reserved within 19 National Parks, including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, this increases to around 50% when all other categories of conservation reserve are included. However, despite Tasmania "overachieving" on the 30x30 target for terrestrial reserves, there are still other terrestrial areas of Tasmania that deserve protection (e.g. Tarkine and Spero-Wanderer). Tasmania has also underachieved on Marine Protected Areas, with only 1.1% of Tasmania's immediate coastal waters fully protected by high-level protection sanctuary (e.g. no-take) zones. Priority given by recent governments to promoting tourism over protecting natural values, and a lack of funding for park management, threaten the conservation role of reserves.

Key Works in 2025

- [Proposed kunanyi/Mount Wellington zipline](#), which given the lack of public support was refused by the Hobart City Council's planning committee.
- [Response to survey component of a performance review of the effectiveness of the 2016 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan](#).
- [Review of the Maria Island National Park Management Plan](#)
- [Opposition to the proposed multi-day Next Iconic Walk](#) within the Tyndall Range on the west coast of Tasmania.
- Production of a [special edition](#) of the *TNPA News* on fire and the impact of climate change in Western Tasmania.
- Comment on proposed Development Assessment Panels that have the potential to reduce opportunities for stakeholder involvement in land use planning decisions.

TNPA Focus for 2026

- Continuing to raise concerns about the state government's broader agenda of prioritising the commercial returns from mass tourism in national parks ahead of the conservation of the State's natural and cultural values and the preservation of the opportunity for visitors to experience wild nature.
 - Continuing to monitor legislation and planning requirements affecting Tasmania's public reserve system.
 - Continuing to oppose the proposed Development Assessment Panels and lobby for a statutory process for the assessment of development proposals on reserved land.
 - Continuing to keep a watching brief on proposed commercial developments (including those proposed by the State government – e.g. Next Iconic Walk in National Parks and the TWWHA), and to take appropriate action in response.
-



[NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND \(NPAQ\)](#)

Established in 1930, NPAQ is Queensland's oldest non-governmental environmental organisation. NPAQ promotes the preservation, expansion, good management and presentation of national parks, as well as supporting nature conservation in Queensland. Historically, NPAQ has successfully lobbied decision-makers to set aside some of

Queensland's most biodiverse wild places, including Lamington NP, Girraween NP and Daintree NP. NPAQ aims to preserve Queensland's protected areas in their natural condition to the greatest possible extent and to ensure the reservation and preservation of other areas considered to be suitable for protection. They also foster member and public interest in, enjoyment of, and respect for national parks and nature conservation – particularly as part of their [Parks Connect](#) programs – and advocate for appropriate management, effective legal and environmental protections, and balanced measures for visitors to experience national parks while conserving and protecting the natural environment.

Key Works in 2025

- NPAQ focused on advocacy and key alliances, such as [Protect Beautiful Queensland](#) and the [Queensland Tourism and Conservation Alliance](#), to encourage the acquisition of land for protected areas and to transition former State Forests to national parks to contribute to the national 30x30 goal.
- With tourism top of mind for Queensland's Crisafulli government, NPAQ has advocated for private ecotourism development adjacent to protected areas, preserving park values and avoiding any suggestion of "privatising" national parks.
- NPAQ worked closely with NPAC to generate a [Mountain Biking in Protected Areas Position Statement](#) to help inform all levels of government and industry on the management of, and harm minimisation from, mountain biking in Protected Areas.
- [2025 saw Australia's first official Conserved Area \(under the OECM framework\)](#) – Weranga Scarps Nature Refuge, near Dalby. Such private protected areas, particularly those that preserve threatened species or habitat and improve connectivity to generate biodiversity outcomes, represent important additions to Queensland's Protected Area Estate. The need to preserve spaces for threatened species also saw Queensland granted a second Special Wildlife Reserve in 2025 – privately owned Edgbaston Station.
- NPAQ received additional funding from the Queensland Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DESTI) to continue to work collaboratively with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) to establish five Parks Connect programs that encourage responsible park visitation, assist Park Rangers, and create pathways for ongoing ranger recruitment and retention. Such programs have long been established in other states, and the feedback for the Parks Connect [Junior Rangers](#), [Cadet Rangers](#), [Volunteer Rangers](#), [Campground Hosts](#) and [Park of the Month](#) events has been encouraging.
- NPAQ advocated for 300 new Queensland Ranger roles in their [2024–2025 budget submission](#), and the Queensland Government agreed to deliver \$84.6 million over 5 years and \$29.6 million per annum ongoing under the More Rangers, Better Neighbours initiative, including 150 additional QPWS and Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers over 4 years, supporting Traditional Owners in managing land and sea country, and restored funding for 40 specialist fire rangers.

NPAQ Focus in 2026

- Queensland is Australia's most biodiverse state, yet protected areas comprise just 8.9% of its landmass, leaving considerable work to do to protect 17% of Queensland by 2030. The Queensland Government has set a target of an additional 1% (1.8 million ha) by October 2028, and NPAQ will continue to advocate for Yabba Links National Park, a Greater Glider Forest Park and more transitions of State Forests into formally protected areas.

- NPAQ welcomed the news in the Queensland Future Timber Plan that native forest logging will not resume in SEQ and the Association will continue to push for a reduction and end to native forest logging further afield throughout the eastern and western hardwood regions.
 - NPAQ will continue to advocate for addressing the over-visitation of high-traffic parks, such as Queensland's fragile large sand islands, through evidence-based capacity limits and contemporary user pays arrangements.
 - NPAQ also continues to expand and promote the well-being aspects of park visitation, and to educate Queenslanders and visitors about the need for community action, citizen science involvement and conservation action within protected areas and more broadly.
-



[VICTORIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION \(VNPA\)](#)

The Victorian National Parks Association has led the creation, protection and defence of Victoria's special places and wildlife for over 70 years.

VNPA advocates for evidence-based policy to safeguard wildlife, habitat and protected areas. They inspire connections with nature through citizen science, activities, community action and education.

VNPA has worked hard to reverse these backward steps. They've shone a light on various aspects of nature destruction, including opening up national parks for more hunting, illegal grassland clearing, and logging loopholes on private and public land. Throughout the year, the VNPA team worked hard at improving deer management, protecting Dingoes, highlighting the dangers of cuts to key nature institutions and emphasising the popularity of national parks.

Key Works in 2025

- In April 2025, VNPA convened a Future Parks Summit, bringing together over 30 conservation groups across Victoria and Australia. Alarmed by ongoing attacks on parks and management agencies, all agreed to collectively organise against systemic attacks on nature protection.
- With a new premier and environment minister in 2025, Victoria saw delays to creating long-promised parks in the central west and a dropped commitment to create large new national parks in the east. Cuts to parks and management were endless, and the gutting of fisheries officers left the coastline and marine national parks exposed to poaching.
- VNPA confronted unprecedented and coordinated attacks on National Parks in 2024–25. The most prominent was the Great Northern beer controversy in January 2025. When the company announced a \$200,000 conservation partnership, anti-parks groups organised a boycott, falsely claiming the initiative would exclude 4WD enthusiasts. We countered with polling showing 84% of Victorians consider national parks important and 80% support creating new parks, highlighting the boycott represented only a very small, entitled group. Nonetheless, the company capitulated within 48 hours. We recognise these as sophisticated disinformation campaigns that weaponise marginal voices to undermine conservation progress.
- Following Victoria's ban on public forest logging in 2024, VNPA exposed and campaigned against the shift of native forest logging to private land and continues to highlight loopholes which allow continued industrial scale logging
- In November 2025, the VNPA was pleased to finally see tens of thousands of hectares added to the State's protected areas when new legislation created the Wombat-Lerderderg, Mount Buangor and Pyrenees National Parks, Cobaw, Hepburn and Mirboo North Conservation Parks and added Wellsford Forest to Bendigo Regional Park.

VPNA Focus for 2026

Currently, Victoria spends less than 0.5 per cent of its budget on managing national parks and conservation areas. The VNPA will continue to advocate for federal and state governments to invest more in Protected area acquisition and management. Read VNPA's submission towards [achieving 30x 30 on land](#).

- Build a collaborative campaign to mobilise community support for existing and new national parks and protected areas to ensure nature is protected and there ensure safe and equitable access for the community.
 - Ensure funding is committed for new central west national parks.
 - Close legal loopholes that allow forms of industrial scale native forest logging.
 - Seek commitment for new national parks and protected areas including the Great Forest National Park in Victoria's central highlands.
-



[NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES \(NPA\)](#)

The National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) was founded in 1957 on the conviction that humanity has a deep need for, and responsibility towards, natural places and all of the biodiversity, ecosystems, waters, landforms and heritage they contain.

Commonly known as NPA, this member-based conservation charity is committed to protecting, conserving and restoring the integrity and diversity of nature in NSW, its biodiversity, geodiversity, supporting ecological processes and associated cultural values.

The NPA's special focus emphasises the primacy of protected areas (such as national parks) for securing the long-term conservation of nature and associated cultural values—so that the State's core natural areas remain safeguarded for generations to come.

Key Works in 2025

- The Great Southern Forest National Park campaign was one of NPA's latest and largest-ever proposals for a new national park. This vision turned to fruition on 7 September 2025 when the NSW Government announced the formation of the 176,000 ha Great Koala National Park.
- NPA has continued to deliver a premier bushwalking program across NSW through our highly respected walk leaders.

NPA Focus for 2026

It has taken nearly 150 years for Protected Areas to reach 10% of NSW, so even if some other tenures are counted against 30x30, the challenge of reaching 30% by 2030 cannot be overstated. What is beyond question is that the gold standard for conserving nature in the long term is the national parks, nature reserves and marine sanctuaries that make up our Protected Area Estate. To achieve 30x30, we must focus on:

- transferring State Forests, high-conservation value Crown Lands (e.g. Travelling Stock Routes and intertidal zones) and high-conservation-value freehold lands purchased on the open market to the Protected Area Network.
- ending logging in all public native forests and transferring these forests into the Protected Area Estate, with priority to be given to the forests of the proposed Great Koala National Park, Pilliga, Jervis Bay, Southeast region and Barrington to Hawkesbury region.
- establishing fully "no take" Protected Areas in all five marine bioregions, totalling at least 30% of NSW State waters; restoring all revoked sanctuary zones; and rejecting the application of resource management models to Marine Protected Areas.
- identifying and reserving highly under-represented bioregions of Western NSW.
- establishing new reserves on the Cumberland Plain, including the Georges River Koala Park and at least two additional reserves of 200 ha or more.

[NATURE CONSERVATION SOCIETY SOUTH AUSTRALIA \(NCSSA\)](#)



Over six decades, the NCS SA has established itself as one of South Australia's leading not-for-profit conservation organisations, bringing together professional scientists and volunteers who are passionate about speaking and acting

for nature conservation in SA. Their work to conserve native species and habitats within South Australian landscapes focuses on strong partnerships and collaborations and centres on the three main areas: advocacy, research and engagement. NCS programs have influenced thinking about conservation, legislation, policy and led to the protection of large areas of South Australia in the national parks reserve system and elsewhere.

Key Works in 2025

- The NC has dedicated itself to ensuring that South Australia's *Biodiversity Act* is as strong as our environment requires.
- The NCS has been fighting to save Whalers Way since we found out about plans to build a private rocket-launching facility there in 2020, and has been running a long-term monitoring survey to track the decline of bird species in the Mt Lofty Ranges.

[WA PARKS FOUNDATION](#) declined to participate in this Special Edition newsletter.