

The last three years have seen things only become worse for our environment. Queensland's unique environment is on the line – brought to its knees by years of bad government, removal of protections and wilful destruction. Here's a taste of what we have witnessed:

The Great Barrier Reef

- ! Dredging and dumping of spoil in reef waters.
- ! Coastal development continuing unabated despite the condition of the Reef being poor and declining, including the Cairns port dredging proposal.
- ! Government determination to establish one of the largest coal ports in the world at Abbot Point which will threaten a GBR wetland of national importance.
- ! 2012-2013 saw the weakening Coastal Protection in Queensland - adding further pressure to the Reef.



Climate Change

- ! Overwhelming support for fossil fuel industries whose pollution is causing climate change.
- ! Greatly reduced support for renewable energy with the cancellation of government programs and the cutting of solar feed-in tariffs for households.
- ! Denial of climate crisis planning and mitigation, especially for sea level rise despite irrefutable evidence of the need for it.



Uranium Mining

- ! The 2012 overturning of the prohibition on uranium mining in Queensland and support for the establishment of uranium mines.

Public Rights to Appeal

- ! Stripping away of public democratic rights to challenge major mining developments, allowing coal mines to be approved with minimal public and judicial oversight.
- ! Reductions in community appeal rights and consultation periods relating to the Water Act, the Regional Planning Interests Act, and the proposed Planning Development Act.
- ! Withdrawal of funding for the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) Queensland.



On 31 January, vote to put effective environmental protection back on the agenda.

Cape York Peninsula Protection

- ! Abandonment of the process to seek World Heritage status for significant areas of Cape York Peninsula.
- ! The 2014 repeal of the Wild Rivers Act, leaving rivers exposed to mining, irrigation and other threats.

Water/Planning

- ! Removing the concept of Ecologically Sustainable Development from legislation protecting water resources.
- ! Giving privileged access to water for mining companies, including unlimited access to groundwater.



Corporate Welfare

- ! Increasing subsidies to the fossil fuel industries, with current plans to provide hundreds of millions of taxpayers' funds to create a 400km rail line for Indian mining giant Adani, and to develop the Abbot Point coal export port.
- ! Unmonitored coal-seam gas developments eating up state reserves and productive farmlands.

Land Clearing

- ! The 2013 amendments to the Vegetation Management Act, allowing clearing in some riparian areas and for undefined 'high value agriculture'.
- ! Reducing support for regrowing native bushland.



National Parks

- ! Ongoing commercialisation of National Parks, shifting the focus away from conservation to exploitation (including grazing and hunting).
- ! Agreement for logging in conservation reserves earmarked for future National Park status.
- ! Tearing up of the SEQ Forest Agreement, preventing areas slated for protection from becoming new National Parks.

It's time for a Positive Change to protect our precious environment.

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
VOTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

More information: qldconservation.org.au and caf nec.org.au

Queensland Conservation is the state's peak body for nature. CAFNEC is the peak environment body for Far North Queensland

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Authorised by N. Hungerford, Campaign Coordinator, QCC, 9/10 Thomas Street, West End, Queensland, 4101