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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