

SUNSHINE COAST Environment Council



Federal Election 2025 Nature & Climate Policy Asks

- *The Sunshine Coast Environment Council (SCEC) is strictly non-partisan in its election asks and does not direct any voting or party preferences nor does it endorse candidates*

Nature

What's needed...

Invest 1% of the Federal Budget annually in Nature

Nature underpins Australia's economy and overall well-being. But right now, less than 0.1% of the federal budget is invested to protect it. Increased investment is needed to prevent ecosystem collapse and long-term economic losses.

Allocation of at least 1% of the federal budget to conservation and ecosystem restoration.

Establish a \$5 billion Biodiversity Fund to protect high-value landscapes and habitats.

Proper funding of conservation and restoration to reverse biodiversity loss and ensure compliance.

Strong nature laws

Australia boasts incredible biodiversity found nowhere else in the world, yet it is a global extinction hotspot. Out-dated current nature laws are failing. To stop biodiversity loss and protect vital ecosystems, the government must urgently reform the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) in line with the Samuel Review.

Enforcement of strong National Environmental Standards to protect critical habitats and address cumulative impacts.

Establishment of an independent Environmental Protection Australia to oversee enforcement and decision-making.

[Expanded Protected Areas](#) to meet the 30x30 commitment (protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030).

[Funding for recovery teams](#) and development and implementation of a recovery plan for all threatened species with additional funding for improved research and data

[Guarantee the centering of First Nations and community participation in decision-making](#)

[Funding to support our UNESCO Biosphere Reserves Corridor](#): Sunshine Coast, Noosa & Great Sandy

Climate

To combat climate change, we must aggressively reduce carbon emissions across all sectors of the economy and support a just transition to renewables

What's needed...

- Keep fossil fuels in the ground
- Achieve 82% renewable energy by 2030
- Set and plan for a 2035 emissions reduction target
- Help all households benefit from well-designed, sustainable and climate-responsive homes
- Set and plan for a 2035 emissions reduction target
- Strengthen climate adaptation and disaster resilience
- Well-sited and appropriate scale renewables that are a win for nature and climate
 - Support [Building Renewables to Benefit Nature and Communities](#)
- Ongoing funding for the [Sunshine Coast Blue Heart Project](#)
- No nuclear - the renewable transition is underway - the future is renewable not radioactive

Natural Resource Management & Biosecurity

Protecting our natural resources is crucial for environmental sustainability, biodiversity and economic prosperity.

[Natural Resource Management](#)

Australia's iconic landscapes face enormous threats, and this decline impacts the economy as well as our quality of life. We are a global hotspot for biodiversity, but we're also in the midst of an extinction crisis. And while the onus is on land managers to manage farmland sustainably, they're expected to do so while also delivering higher yields and better quality produce to international markets in a more and more complex operating environments.

At the same time, experts point to the growing sovereign risk of degraded natural resources and a changing climate and what that means for society and the economy.

What's needed...

- Investment in Queensland's vital Natural Resource Management sector by supporting [Ready to Tackle the Crisis - NRM Regions Queensland](#)

Biosecurity

What's needed...

- Accept the recommendations of the 2024 senate inquiry, including to rapidly review the adequacy of funding.
- Urgently increase resources for the Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce to support self-treatment by residents in all affected local government areas.
- Commence development of a funding package for fire ant eradication beyond 2027.
- Establish a stand-alone fire ant response authority to run the eradication program.
- Scale up public engagement to strengthen public support for fire ant treatments
- Support [Turning the tide on extinctions: Invasive Species Council](#)

Sustainable Practices and Circular Economy

A transition to a circular economy is essential for reducing waste and promoting resource efficiency and environmental sustainability.

What's needed...

- **A mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for packaging**—introduced by 2026, requiring producers to fully fund the collection and recovery of their packaging, with mandatory reduction and reuse targets.
- **Fastrack a national collection scheme for soft plastics**, ensuring producers cover the cost of recycling of all soft plastics.
- **Continued regulation by Commonwealth, State, and Territory Governments** to phase out problem plastics while mandating reusable packaging systems to reduce waste at the source.
- **New rules requiring all major stadiums and public events** to eliminate single use packaging by switching to reusable cups and containers.