Capricorn Conservation Council
Biodiversity Members Meeting
November 16th 2024
Coordinators Presentation

Acknowledgement Of Country

Gudamulli- Hello,

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Elders of the Land we meet on today- Darumbal Country. I pay respect to the Elders- past and present as they hold the memories, the culture and the dreams of the Darumbal People. I thank Darumbal Traditional Owners and Elders for all they have taught me, for their guidance, their leadership, their mentorship and their knowledge sharing. I thank Nhya Nicky for giving me permission to burn the fire strong in my belly. I thank Malcolm Mann for the language I have permission to use. I thank Uncle George and Uncle Wade for bringing me up. I thank all Darumbal mentors that share culture, storytelling and truth-telling with me. I thank all the Traditional Elders and Owners I work with across Central Queensland. I acknowledge and respect them, their Elders, their Ancestors, their story lines. I acknowledge and respect the spirit that has been shared with me, the spirit that surrounds me and inspires me. The spirit that brings me on Country to care for Country and to nurture and conserve and protect. I stand strong as an Indigenous ally, I call for Indigenous guidance, leadership and mentorship in everything I do. I respect the lands and Country I walk on, always, and I thank my mentors and leaders for teaching me how to- the right way, the Indigenous led way.

I would now like to share a quote from Uncle Bob Muir. Thank-you Uncle Bob for sharing your knowledge with us.

“All traditional people have that built in need that they have to look after Country, and then having yourself feeling the same way, it is a very powerful feeling and having the same kind of urge. Maybe you don’t have to be Aboriginal as such, but if your born in this Country and you believe the spirit is strong in this Country, no matter who you are, surely you are going to be effected by Our Culture”- Uncle Bob Muir

Biodiversity- your life depends on it

‘Biodiversity- your life depends on it’ a campaign launched by former Co-Ordinator, the legendary Michael McCabe, provided educational tools and resources to educate CCC members and the wider community of the important, significant, threatened and endangered Biodiversity- species and environments across our region.

This campaign integrated landscapes and environments across our region, identifying significant flora and fauna- providing descriptions, information and actions to protect and conserve our Biodiversity.

CCC's mission from 1973 has been the ongoing protection, conservation and enhancement of Biodiversity across Central Queensland. We are a voice for the environment, for Biodiversity, for this generation at the next. We will ensure this legacy lives on and is the leading value and guiding mission of the organisation.

Across our region there are devastating impacts on Biodiversity, anthropogenic impacts causing climate change, altering species geographic range, displacing species across the region and the necessity of species to adapt to harsh environmental conditions.

Across our region there is significant land clearing, destruction and elimination of species habitats and homes. This increases the loss of biodiversity as our flora and fauna have no wildlife corridors, no essential habitats, no place to disperse and adapt. More than ever, we, united, need to protect what is left. The remnants, the old growth, the existing habitats and ecosystems are all essential to ensure the continuation and protection of our biodiversity.
This biodiversity is what buffers our ecosystems, it's what ensures the continuation of nutrient and hydrological cycles, it's what provides us with health & nutrition, it's what keeps us safe in bush-fires, storms, heat waves. Without it, we too will perish alongside the landscapes being degraded.

Together, we need to collaborate- restore and rehabilitate ecosystems, we need to help each other, strengthen each other's efforts and empower and elevate our projects to ensure success. We need to lift each other up, share our resources, our knowledge, our challenges and triumphs. Together, our joint mission will protect Biodiversity- and our reliance on it.
I would like to thank all CCC Members, partners, supporters and organisations who are coming together to do just that. We all make a difference, every contribution helps. Together, we are a voice for the environment, for this generation and the next.
Into the future our Biodiversity campaign will stand strong, as we continue working alongside other organisations such as KIEEC, Cap Coast Eco Warriors, Lock the Gate, QCC, Cap Catchments, Native Plants Capricornia, Capricorn Caves, Landcare, the Council, local, state and Federal government and of course Traditional Owners and Elders.

Working on Country

CCC's work, protecting the environment and biodiversity has led the organisation on a path of reconciliation and truth-telling. As Co-Orindator it has been foundational for me to establish relationships, mentorship and guidance from Traditional Owners and Elders.To protect and care for Country, I must connect to Country and its People. It has been a primary part of my work- seeking leadership, guidance and permission to do what I do to protect Country. It has been integral to ensure values are aligned, knowledge is shared and respected to restore, rehabilitate and heal Country. Here at CCC we elevate and empower Indigenous voices to ensure our mission, while providing opportunities, equality and equity to

all Indigenous People. Again, I would like to thank everyone who has been part of this journey, I could not do this work without you. I am proud to say all CCC employees, committee members and many of our general members have now commenced Indigenous Cultural Awareness Training, which is just the start of our commitment to Traditional Owners, Elders and Country. CCC will continue to build partnerships and extend its work advocating for the protection and conservation of Country- led by Indigenous People. Our collaboration with Thoolbar Designs is just part of this work, and everytime our members wear our T-Shirts they can know they are on the journey of reconciliation and Biodiversity protection with CCC.

Letter to Queensland Premier Hon. David Crisafulli

Recently, CCC provided a letter to Queensland Premier, Hon. David Crisufulli requesting the immediate reinstatement of the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry. CCC stands in solidarity with Chairperson, Joshua Creamer and his team and asks the Queenlsand Government to continue walking the path of reconciliation. I would now like to read you extracts from this letter:

Dear Hon. David Crisafulli,

"I write to you as Coordinator of the Capricorn Conservation Council (CCC) to express our support for the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry and to advocate for its urgent reinstatement. We at CCC strongly believe in the essential work of this Inquiry, recognising its pivotal role in sharing Australia's history through the voices of First Nations People. The Inquiry's mission is critical to acknowledging and addressing the impacts of colonisation and invasion on Country, thereby paving a meaningful path toward reconciliation across Queensland and our nation.

We believe that the Inquiry is essential to advancing the rights of First Nations People to manage and protect their land and cultural heritage. This process of truth-telling, healing, and knowledge sharing reinforces the enduring connection of First Nations People to Country, a connection that is foundational to the work we undertake.

In solidarity with the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry, CCC will amplify this message and actively promote Queensland's commitment to reconciliation. As environmental advocates, we recognise that our mission to protect and preserve the environment is intrinsically linked to upholding the rights and restoring the stewardship of First Nations People over Country. We urge your government to demonstrate leadership by reinstating the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry immediately.

Thank you for considering this important request. CCC looks forward to supporting Queensland's continued path toward reconciliation and the recognition of First Nations' vital role in safeguarding the environment and its heritage"

https://cccqld.org.au/news/submissions/

Working with YOUTH and elevating their voice for the environment

CCC is proud to work with our Youth Members, elevating their voice for the environment and ensuring their vision for the future is part of our journey. CCC is honoured to work alongside Zahara, Chair of the CCC Youth-Sub Committee, Shane, Freya, Shanique and Matilda. This subcommittee has created their Terms of Reference, inline with the CCC Constitution and Strategic Plan and have begun implementing campaigns, education and advocacy across the region. The Youth Sub-Committee provides CCC direction and guidance and ensures the future and the next generation is considered in all that we do. From the YSC TOR:

1.1 The Youth Sub Committee will work towards:

Raising youth voices for the protection of the environment- for this generation and the next. Raising awareness about environmental issues across the region. Working in collaboration with the CCC Coordinator and Committee to achieve these outcomes.

The Youth Sub Committee was founded by Youths and its members are within the ages of approximately 10-20 years old.

1.2 The Youth Sub Committee sets out to achieve:

Raising our voices to be heard by the wider community, council, local, state and national government- in collaboration with Capricorn Conservation Council Coordinator and Committee and Queensland Conservation Council.

Promoting and raising money for projects that protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity across the region.

Collaborate with other not-for-profit groups, land care groups, schools, universities and more to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity.

1.3 The Youth Sub Committee with adhere to:

The Strategic Plan 2024/2025 - CCC.docx, the Capricorn Conservation Council Constitution https://cccqld.org.au/policy/constitution/ and abide with Capricorn Conservation Council policies and procedures https://cccqld.org.au/policy/

2.1 The Youth Sub Committee will provide guidance and desired outcomes for the future of our region's environment- across the community.

The Youth Sub Committee will provide advice to the CCC Coordinator, Committee and wider community on environmental issues across the region- and desired outcomes.

The Youth Sub Committee will work to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity across Central Queensland.

The Youth Sub Committee will work in partnership with Capricorn Conservation Council to achieve our Purpose and Objectives.

The full TOR can be viewed online: https://cccqld.org.au/policy/
The YSC are actively seeking expressions of interest for Youth Members to join, please let me know if you're interested. We also require some adult members to support and facilitate the YSC efforts and activities, please let me know if you can help.
Thank-you to the Youth Sub Committee- please make sure you grab a YSC Containers for Change Flyer and stay tuned to our social media as we make some very special announcements.

Working with the Committee and Strategic Plan 2024-2025
At the June 2024 AGM, the outgoing committee and I were proud to launch the annual strategic plan. This set the direction of CCC, ensuring our legacy lives on, while achieving sustainable short and long term goals. The incoming committee has been dedicated to ensuring the execution of the Strategic Plan and I thank them for all they have achieved in collaboration and consultation with myself, Coordinator- it has been extraordinary. The Strategic Plan can be viewed online and outlines our values, our primary focus, obligations and goals.

From the Goals the Committee and I have have achieved:

- Governance Documents for Management and Operational Procedures
- Assurance that CCC has financial sustainability.
- Working towards an adaptive, live Financial Budget
- Building partnerships to ensure First Nations leadership on the CCC Committee
- All current Committee Members have commenced and completed Cultural Awareness Training
- Ongoing collaboration with First Nations organisations, businesses and events.
- Released the 'Biodiversity- your life depends on it' campaign in collaboration with Indigenous Artist- Thoolbar Designs..
- Gained funding for Payroll and Admin Support
- Hosting a minimum of 2 meetings and 2 events per year.

These achievements have advanced CCC well into the future, to ensure the sustainability of the organisation. Each goal has been completed with professional input, much care and great consideration. I thank the Committee again for all their efforts- and the commitment of Chair Angie, ensuring CCC is executing best practices, is constantly improving and evolving and for providing a safe, inclusive and inspiring atmosphere for all of us.

Future ambitions & Call to ACTION
Into the future, and in the lead up to the AGM, the Committee and I will finalise the remaining goals of the Strategic Plan. The Committee and I will workshop what the following year looks like for CCC and we ask our members for their input into this process. We will also seek

members' guidance and acceptance to make the necessary changes to the Constitution. If you would like to be involved in the future of this organisation, now is the time to raise your voice- join up and renew your membership.

Within the next year, collaborations with community groups and environmental organisations will continue and strengthen. We have some exciting events in the planning stages we can't wait to share with you. CCC will continue to advocate for Biodiversity, and the protection, conservation and enhancement of the environment in everything we do! We will focus our efforts on working 'on the ground' with the community, Traditional Owners and Elders, and sharing our knowledge with schools, Universities and the next generation.

CCC will work closely with Queensland Conservation Council- Claire, Jen and Steph and the QCC Regional Environmental Advocate who will be employed in the region. The REA will work alongside CCC to ensure better outcomes for the environment and biodiversity as we make the transition to renewables. This employee will be selected from CQ and work alongside CCC, our members, the wider community, Council, local and State Government and Traditional Owners. Thank-you so much to QCC for listening to our requests for assistance, the roll out of renewables does require better consultation, better policy, better planning, and a community and biodiversity approved Framework. This will be delivered in this role, through CCCs & QCCs collaborative approach. We will provide opportunities next year for our members to meet with the REA and share their knowledge with them.

Conclusion

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the incredible work we are doing together at CCC. From our dedicated members and committee to our passionate Youth Sub-Committee, our Traditional Owners and Elders, and our collaborative partners, your commitment ensures that the protection and conservation of Country and biodiversity remains our guiding mission.

As we move forward, let us stand united in our efforts, inspired by the guidance and leadership of Indigenous mentors, the resilience of our ecosystems, and the voices of the next generation. Together, we can continue to nurture and protect the land, celebrate its unique biodiversity, and advocate for its future with dedication.

This is our shared responsibility, our legacy, and our promise to the generations to come. Let us carry this spirit of collaboration and reconciliation in all we do, ensuring that the voices of people, Country, and environment remain strong and central in our mission.

Thank you for your continued support, your passion, and your belief in the power of collective action. Together, we are a voice for the environment — for this generation and the next. Let us keep walking this path, with respect, purpose, and determination.