Capricorn Conservation Council (CCC) Strategic Plan 2025-2026

Acknowledgment of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the **Traditional Owners of the land and waters** we work to conserve and protect, **Darumbal Country and Woppaburra Country**. We pay respect to **Elders past, present, and emerging**, who hold the **memories, culture, and dreams** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Introduction

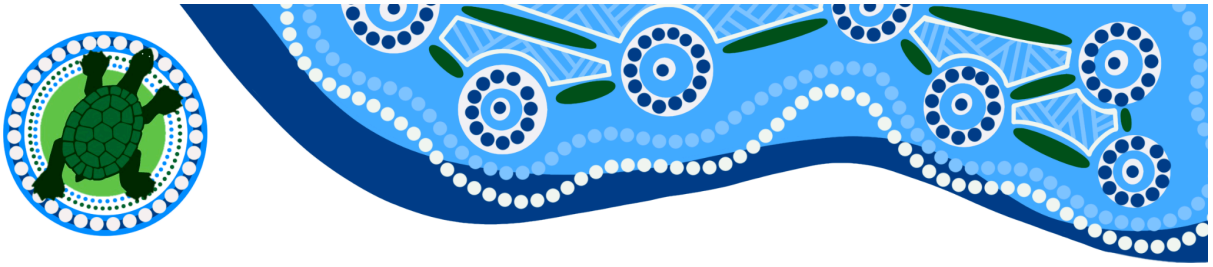
Since 1973, Capricorn Conservation Council (CCC) has been a leading **voice for the environment** across Central Queensland. Committed to **protecting, conserving, and enhancing biodiversity**, CCC works closely with **Traditional Owners and Elders**, ensuring that environmental advocacy aligns with **Indigenous leadership, truth-telling, and cultural knowledge**.

CCC collaborates with **Queensland Conservation Council (QCC)**—our primary funding body—as well as local councils, government agencies, conservation groups, businesses, schools, and universities. As a **non-partisan** organization, CCC respects political diversity while advocating for **environmental justice, sustainability, and community-led conservation**.

Our Values

CCC is committed to:

- **Biodiversity Protection** – Conserving and enhancing the ecosystems of Central Queensland.
- **Indigenous Leadership** – Being guided by **Traditional Owners and Elders**, ensuring all conservation efforts respect and amplify their voices.
- **Science-Based Advocacy** – Empowering the next generation through **scientific knowledge and environmental leadership**.
- **Sustainability & Climate Action** – Advocating for **carbon emission reduction** and **sustainable land management**.
- **Community Engagement** – Ensuring **inclusive participation** in conservation efforts, providing environmental education and advocacy opportunities.



Primary Focus Areas

1. **Protecting and enhancing biodiversity** through science-based conservation and advocacy.
2. **Strengthening Indigenous leadership** in environmental governance and decision-making.
3. **Collaborating with QCC** and other stakeholders to fulfill our strategic goals.

Strategic Partnerships & Obligations

1. Obligations to Queensland Conservation Council (QCC)

- Actively participate in **QCC campaigns and meetings**.
- Support **sustainable renewables advocacy** in Central Queensland, ensuring **Traditional Owners and Elders** lead decision-making.
- Attend **Minister for the Environment Round Table (MERT) Meetings** and contribute to key policy discussions.
- Work closely with **QCC's First Nations Protect Country Strategist**, ensuring **Indigenous-led conservation initiatives**.

2. Commitment to the Local Environment

- Address **community environmental concerns**, providing advocacy and support.
- Submit **policy recommendations** on local environmental projects.
- Provide **public education, resources, and research** on regional biodiversity.
- Foster **partnerships with government, conservation groups, schools, and businesses** to enhance environmental outcomes.
- Ensure **Traditional Owner and Elder leadership** in all advocacy efforts.

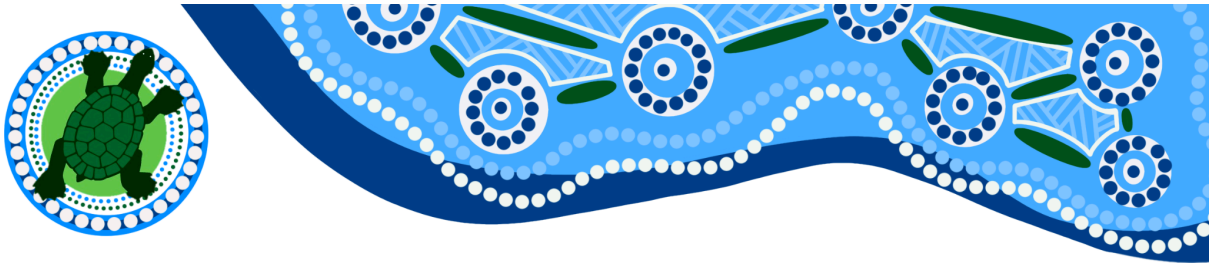
Key Goals for 2024-2025

Governance & Organizational Strengthening

- **Completed and approved a full suite of Governance Documents.**
- **Finalised the 2024-2025 budget and developed projections for 2025-2026.**
- **Secure additional funding** to improve CCC's **HR, payroll, and administration** support.

Indigenous Leadership & Reconciliation

- **Ensure First Nations leadership** is represented in CCC's **Executive Committee**.



- Implement **ongoing Indigenous Cultural Awareness Training** for **staff, committee members, and volunteers**.
- **Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)**—led and guided by Indigenous consultants.
- **Amend the CCC constitution** to **offer free membership** to all **Indigenous people**.
- **Secure funding to employ an Indigenous Identified person** in a leadership role.

Biodiversity & Conservation Advocacy

- Relaunched the **"Biodiversity – Your Life Depends on It" campaign**, integrating **Indigenous cultural perspectives**.
- Collaborate with **Thoolbar Designs** on **conservation-focused merchandise** and educational materials.
- Advocate for **renewables projects** that prioritize **Indigenous land rights and environmental safeguards**.
- Engage in **land restoration and conservation** activities, guided by Traditional Owners and Elders.

Community Engagement & Public Outreach

- Host a **minimum of two General Meetings** for members and the wider community.
- Organize at least **two community events** focused on **environmental action and advocacy**.
- Strengthen CCC's **Youth Sub-Committee**, ensuring young leaders have a **platform for biodiversity advocacy**.
- Expand **partnerships with schools and universities**, integrating conservation education into curricula.

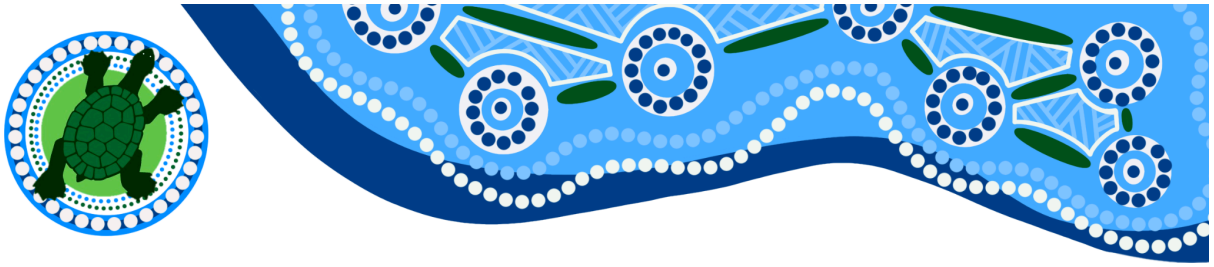
CCC 2025–2027 Budget & Funding Strategy

Current Financial Position

Capricorn Conservation Council's financial outlook remains stable and strategically focused on growth. CCC's core operating funds include:

- Continued support from the **Department of Tourism, Environment, Science and Innovation (DETSI)** — currently delivering over **$65,000 per annum** for staffing and operational support;

- Ongoing support via the **Queensland Jobs & Energy Plan (QJEP)** grant — currently valued at approximately **$19,000 per annum**;



- Confirmed local government funding from **Rockhampton Regional Council** for event delivery and Indigenous partnership development;

- Annual grant contributions of up to **$5,000** from **Australian Wildlife Society**, **Rockhampton Regional Council**, and **Livingstone Shire Council**, all expected to continue through 2027.

CCC is actively working to build strategic partnerships and co-funding agreements with environmental organisations and corporate sponsors to expand its reach and impact.

Funding Priorities (2025–2027)

In line with our Strategic Plan 2025–2026 and Budget Narrative, CCC's funding efforts are focused on:

1. **Securing New Grants**
   To support core staffing, administration, and the operational expansion required to deliver CCC's ambitious program of work — including science-based conservation, public advocacy, and Indigenous-led initiatives.

2. **Supporting Indigenous-Led Conservation**
   Prioritising grants and partnerships that grow our **Caring for Country** programs, embed **First Nations leadership**, and enable local custodianship of environmental management and community education.

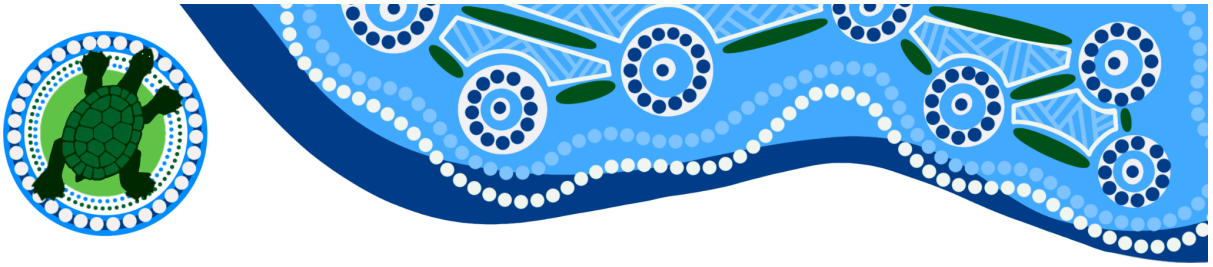
3. **Diversifying Income through Sponsorships & Partnerships**
   Building relationships with corporate and philanthropic organisations that align with CCC's values, expanding co-investment in youth engagement, biodiversity campaigns, and community resilience work.

4. **Investing in Community Engagement & Education**
   Allocating funds to develop education resources, public workshops, policy submissions, and regional advocacy campaigns that empower Queenslanders to act on environmental challenges.

Future Directions & Sustainability Plan

CCC is committed to **long-term sustainability** through:

- **Expanding Indigenous leadership in environmental governance.**
- **Securing stable and diversified funding sources.**



- **Strengthening community participation** in conservation efforts.
- **Building cross-sector collaborations** to advance biodiversity protection.
- **Advocating for government policies** that support sustainable development and biodiversity conservation.

Conclusion

CCC stands at the forefront of **environmental advocacy and reconciliation** in Central Queensland. Through **Indigenous-led conservation efforts, science-based policy recommendations, and strong community engagement**, we are creating **a lasting impact for biodiversity, cultural heritage, and future generations**.

Together, we are a **voice for the environment**—for this generation and the next.

Acceptance of Agreement

Coordinator

Name: Sophie Louise George

Signature: S George

Capricorn Conservation Council Committee

Chair: Loretta George

Signature: L. George