



Richard Noske  
President  
Birds Queensland  
c/- [rae.clark@bigpond.com](mailto:rae.clark@bigpond.com)

**28 January, 2015**

Dear Dr Noske

Thank you for your correspondence seeking the policies of the Queensland Greens on conservation of birds and their habitat. We do not have any policy which is solely focused on birds, but we do have some detailed policy in regards to habitat preservation and biodiversity which I believe is highly relevant to this important goal.

The Queensland Greens believe that biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem processes maintain the Earth's life support systems including the climate system. Their protection, conservation and restoration can be achieved by minimizing the loss and fragmentation of habitats, species decline from land clearing, avoiding unsustainable land use, inhibiting the spread of invasive species and should take into account the natural stressors of fire, drought, floods, storms and cyclones (all exacerbated by climate change).

The protection, conservation and restoration of biodiversity is essential for the wellbeing of all life on Earth. In regards to Queensland, we believe that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, farmers, the Queensland Government (public land) and private landholders all have a critical role to play in natural resource management, protecting the productive landscape, maintaining our cultural and natural heritage, and in restoring and protecting Queensland's biodiversity. The use of natural resources by all human enterprises must be sustainable and not compromise the integrity or availability of such resources for other species and natural processes.

The continuing decline of Queensland's biodiversity poses an unacceptable threat to human and ecosystem health and is reducing our capacity to cope with major ecological threats such as climate change.

Establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of terrestrial, freshwater and marine protected areas managed primarily to protect biodiversity and the improved resilience of our ecosystems is vital. This includes all areas of high conservation value (including regrowth) of state, regional and local significance.

Adequate resources, recognition and support should be delivered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, landholders, Queensland Government agencies, industry groups and other peak organisations, community groups and others, managing and restoring Queensland's biodiversity and environment. This includes resources to prevent new ecologically invasive threats, management of weeds, feral animals and diseases, improving grazing land management and the phasing out of inappropriate fire regimes.

The Greens support a statutory mandate, incumbent on planning authorities and affiliated agencies (public and private), to place higher priority on the preservation of ecologically significant,

endangered or threatened ecosystems and species. This includes maintaining and increasing systems of viable 'habitat corridors' between remnant ecosystems.

Adequate resourcing, political support, improved accountability for the relevant government agencies and legislative reform are all necessary to ensure politically resilient, effective and robust environmental protection and monitoring.

The Queensland Greens support the review and restoration of the Queensland Biodiversity Strategy, and associated legislation, policy and regulation. We will ensure adequate funding for timely implementation and enforcement in order to restore, enhance and protect the resilience of Queensland ecosystems to climate change and other impacts.

The Greens believe we need to amend the *Nature Conservation Act* to identify and protect ecological communities, protect the habitat of near threatened species; and permanently exclude mining activities in, and from impacting upon, all protected areas and those with high conservation values at state, regional and local levels.

We support an increase in the budget for protected area management to ensure that management plans for all National Parks are developed, adequately funded and implemented.

We will support the resilience of Queensland's wildlife and natural places against climate change by expanding the protected area estate to 20% by 2020, including 15% in national parks, as well as ensure additions are based on the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system principles and are strategically targeted to re-connect fragmented wildlife corridors and establish climate refugia (e.g. continue the buy-back of the Daintree).

We will also amend the *Vegetation Management Act* to protect endangered, near threatened and high conservation value regrowth vegetation, all remnant and high value regrowth vegetation in urban areas, and vegetation in riparian and wildlife corridors. We support the provision of structural adjustment to landowners proven to be adversely affected by these amendments.

The Greens do not support the use of offsets for clearing of endangered or near threatened remnant and high value regrowth vegetation. Where viable, we will remove or modify structures impeding tidal flow in areas which were once wetlands, to restore wetland functionality and habitat.

The Greens will strengthen the legislation for protection against and management of invasive species and adequately fund implementation programs.

The Greens support increased funding for community legal services and restore funding to the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO), and the provision of funding for public interest environmental litigation through Legal Aid.

The Greens also support the restoration of the *Wild Rivers Act*.

Thank you for giving the Greens the opportunity to outline our policies in this area. Please get in touch if you would like further details or clarification.

Yours sincerely



Penny Allman-Payne  
Convenor, Queensland Greens