
Overview of 2001 Southern Queensland Biodiversity Recovery Conference

Biodiversity - the Big Picture

What biodiversity conservation progress has been made, both positive and negative, since the 2000 biodiversity recovery conference?

On the one hand we are continuing to lose our biodiversity to a range of threats including land clearing, weed invasion, feral animal predation and inappropriate fire regimes. On the other hand, new initiatives such as the Regional Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP) process, the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAPSWQ) and Natural Heritage Trust Stage Two (NHT2) offer considerable opportunities for achieving biodiversity outcomes. The South East Queensland Regional Nature Conservation Strategy provides an excellent framework for assisting the delivery of these outcomes; built as it is on a growing foundation of biodiversity conservation initiatives by Local Governments, community groups and landholders.

How do we maximise the ability of the RVMPs, NAPSWQ plans, NHT2 and other key processes and initiatives to deliver biodiversity conservation outcomes? How do we make sure the science is right? What gaps still exist? Who will fill these gaps, and how and when?

These were the questions asked by the 2001 Southern Queensland Biodiversity Recovery Conference, which brought together over 100 key biodiversity decision-makers at local, regional, State and National level.

The Conference was an initiative of the Southern Queensland Biodiversity Network, and was facilitated by a funding contribution from the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency and in-kind support and assistance from Crows Nest Shire Council. The Conference was held from 29 October to 2 November 2001 at the Lake Perseverance Recreation Centre near Toowoomba.

Presentations covered the full spectrum of biodiversity conservation activities and issues in South-East Queensland, from regional-level planning to on-ground action on individual properties. The presentations centred on the following themes:

- Setting the scene.
- Perspectives on private land biodiversity conservation.
- Protecting biodiversity using the best available science.

- Developing markets for ecosystem services.
- Local Government initiatives and innovations.
- The human factor in biodiversity conservation.

The presentations culminated in a Conference Resolutions session.

The 2001 Conference proceedings

The proceedings of the 2001 Southern Queensland Biodiversity Recovery Conference can be purchased from the Lockyer Catchment Centre, Ph. 07 5465 4400.

Contents:

Introduction

Conference Resolutions

Setting the Scene

- Keynote Presentation: Dr. Jeremy Thompson, Manager Biodiversity Planning, Queensland Environmental Protection Agency. *A Regional Nature Conservation Strategy for South-East Queensland.*
- Peter Voller, Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines. *Regional Vegetation Management Planning in South West Queensland - A Model for Regional Consultation for Vegetation Management Reforms.*
- Paul Harris, Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines. *Regional Vegetation Management Planning in South East Queensland.*

Perspectives on Private Land Biodiversity Conservation

- Russell Turkington, landholder. *Threats to Achieving Good Biodiversity Outcomes.*
- Robert F. Skitch, Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines. *Encouraging Conservation Through Valuation.*
- Doug Cook, landholder. *Nature Conservation on Freehold Land - Some Views, Particularly Regarding Land Tax.*
- Sally Stephens, Bush for Wildlife National Coordinator. *Nature Conservation on Private Land - Where Does it Fit?*
- Carole Rayner, State Bushcare Coordinator. *Land for Wildlife.*
- Valmai Burnett, landholder. *Integrated Native Forest and Native Pasture Management.*

Protecting Biodiversity - Using the Best Available Science

- Keynote Presentation: Sean Hoobin, Queensland Murray-Darling Officer, World Wide Fund For Nature. *Protecting Aquatic Biodiversity - Using the Best Available Science... and Taking Precautionary Action.*
- Monika Rhodes, Griffith University. *Maintaining the Biodiversity of Insectivorous Bats in Suburban Brisbane by Providing Artificial Roost Habitat.*

- Wardell-Johnson, G., Kanowski, J., Catterall, C., Proctor, H. and Reis, T.; Rainforest CRC, The University of Queensland, & Griffith University. *Measuring the Restoration of Rainforest Biodiversity: A Case Study in Research Design, and its Implications for Establishing Monitoring Frameworks.*
- Luke Leung, D. G. Kay, A. M. Beresford, N. Finch, A. Hooke, M. Boyd, & S. Brown; The University of Queensland. *Managing Impacts of Introduced Predators on Native Wildlife in the Helidon Hills.*
- Peter Sparshott, Birds Australia and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. *Woodland Birds Project - Queensland.*
- Bat Advisory/Recovery Team. *Submission on the Management of Bats on State Lands as Part of the Southeast Queensland Regional Forest Agreement Process.*
- Stuart Collard, The University of Southern Queensland. *Ecological Services Provided by Vegetation Remnants of the Brigalow Belt Bioregion.*

Special Guest Presentation

- Carl Binning, Principal Research Economist, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems. *Developing Markets for Ecosystem Services.*

Local Government Initiatives and Innovations

- Bruce Boyes, Crows Nest Shire Council. *Innovation in Action: The Crows Nest Shire Natural Resource Management Program.*
- Dr. David Manning, Crows Nest Shire Council. *The Use of Land Resource Information in the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Conservation of Biodiversity.*
- Michelle Milton, Gatton Shire Council. *Managing Biodiversity Through the Gatton Shire IPA Planning Scheme.*
- Sharyn French, Logan City Council. *Managing Natural Areas in Logan City.*
- Alison Buchanan, Noosa Shire Council. *Bushland Management Sponsorship.*
- Gerard Brennan & Rick Galbraith, Crows Nest Shire Council. *Striking the Balance - Achieving Biodiversity Conservation Outcomes in Local Government.*

The Human Factor in Biodiversity Conservation

- Keynote Presentation: Professor Ockie Bosch, School of Natural and Rural Systems Management, The University of Queensland. *Processes and Mechanisms for Integrating Research and Management.*
- Keynote Presentation: Professor Helen Ross, School of Natural and Rural Systems Management, The University of Queensland. *Community Initiative in the Conservation of Biodiversity.*
- Greg Ford, North East Downs Landcare Inc. *Understanding Human Perspectives and Values: The Key to Achieving a Balance Between Agricultural Production and Biodiversity Conservation.*
- Jeanette Mill & Fiona Hall, Australian Network for Plant Conservation. *The Australian Network for Plant Conservation.*

- Arnold Rieck, Society for Growing Australian Plants (Ipswich Branch). *Another Weed Poster!*
- Cuong Tran, South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium. *The South-East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Project - An Update and Reasons for its Success.*
- James McKee, Greening Australia Queensland. *Community Nature Conservation - Practical Biodiversity.*
- Sue Pechey, Environmental Protection Agency. *Oral History in the Field.*
- Nigel Kimball, Crows Nest Shire Council & The University of Queensland. *Public Participation in Natural Resource Management in Crows Nest Shire.*

Appendices

- List of Conference Participants.
- Excerpt from *Regional Nature Conservation Strategy for South-East Queensland.*