



Protect the Bush Alliance

At a meeting in Brisbane on Monday 16 July 2012 it was agreed to form an Alliance of organisations and individuals to help protect the flora and fauna of Queensland from increasing threats to their survival. The meeting included representatives of Birds Queensland, BirdLife Southern Queensland, National Parks Association of Queensland and Wildlife Queensland. Since then, a number of other organisations have joined the Alliance.

Aims

- To advocate the protection of areas of High Conservation Value (see definition below)
- To identify and encourage activities that improves understanding of their biodiversity and other environmental values.

Membership

Membership is open to any organisation, business or individual that endorses these aims. It is expected that members will have a wide range of views on other issues, but will work together to achieve the aims of the Alliance. There is no membership fee.

Please fill out the [membership form](#) and if you would like to participate in surveys, in any capacity, [please fill out our questionnaire](#).

Meetings are held monthly, and all members are welcome to attend. Email will be used between meetings to exchange information and formulate policy.

Members may be invited to carry out identified activities such as animal or plant surveys, letter and postcard campaigns, photographing threatened areas, helping to write submissions on issues threatening our bush and its biodiversity. The Alliance needs members – if your organisation is a member, you should join too.

By joining the Alliance, you will help Protect the Bush

Action Priorities

Some items need immediate action.

- Examination of proposed changes to conservation legislation and recommended action.
- Surveys of the biodiversity of areas under exploration for coal mining in the Galilee Basin, including additional surveys of Bimblebox Nature Refuge <http://bimblebox.org/>
- Mining and development activities in inappropriate places.
- Collection of data on Priority State Forests.
- Input into the development of [Regional Plans for Central Queensland and the Darling Downs](#):

Members are asked to submit other items for action.

Information

A PowerPoint presentation about why the Alliance believe it is important to protect Queensland's Biodiversity is available from emailing: coordinator@ptba.org.au

Contacts

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High Conservation Value Areas

There are six main types of HCV area, based on the definition originally developed by the Forest Stewardship Council for certification of forest ecosystems.

HCV1. Areas containing globally, nationally or regionally **significant concentrations of biodiversity values** (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).

HCV2. Globally, regionally or nationally **significant large landscape-level areas** where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

HCV3. Areas that are in or contain **rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems**. **HCV4.** Areas that provide **basic ecosystem services** in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).

HCV5. Areas fundamental to meeting **basic needs of local communities** (e.g. subsistence, health).

HCV6. Areas critical to local communities' **traditional cultural identity** (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities). From the Charter of the High Conservation Resource Network (<http://www.hcvnetwork.org/>)

HCV areas include properties in the **National Reserve System** and **Important Bird Areas**.

The National Reserve System

The National Reserve System is Australia's network of protected areas, conserving examples of our natural landscapes and native plants and animals for future generations. Based on a scientific framework, it is the nation's natural safety net against our biggest environmental challenges.

The reserve system includes more than 9,400 protected areas covering nearly 14 per cent of the country almost 106 million hectares. It is made up of Commonwealth, state and territory reserves, Indigenous lands and protected areas run by non-profit conservation organisations, through to ecosystems protected by farmers on their private working properties.

(from <http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/nrs/index.html> Accessed 17 June 2012)

The National Reserve System includes Queensland's **Nature Refuges**, where mining is currently permitted.

Important Bird Areas

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are sites of global bird conservation importance. Each IBA meets one of four global criteria used by BirdLife International. IBAs are priority areas for bird conservation.

Refer <http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/important-bird-areas>