



NPAQ Members' Meeting

Recent developments and opportunities

PRESENTED BY
CHRIS THOMAS, CEO NPAQ

24 AUGUST 2024



2024-25 State Budget

2024–25 Capital Program Highlights (Property, Plant and Equipment)

- \$20 million under the **Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program** to acquire land to become jointly managed protected area as National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land).
- \$18.1 million for the purchase of additional fire vehicles, fire units and support equipment as well as upgrades to road and fireline networks and management infrastructure to support critical firefighter needs and bushfire risk, to improve community safety and safeguard natural and cultural values.
- \$7.5 million for additional facilities and equipment to support rangers and to enhance visitor information in relation to dingoes (wongari) on K'gari.
- \$5 million towards the construction of the Girraween NP Information Hub.
- \$4.8 million for the vessel replacement program supporting marine parks and wildlife and threatened species management.
- \$4.2 million for the major upgrade of visitor infrastructure at Central Station on K'gari.
- \$3.5 million to provide camping facilities and continued enhancements to the Ngaro track in the Whitsunday Islands NP.
- \$3.2 million towards building and park infrastructure to support visitor recreation, management and access of the Quandamooka Country parks and recreation areas jointly managed with Traditional Owners on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) and Mulgumpin (Moreton Island).
- \$1.8 million to upgrade and build new nature-based visitor experiences and facilities along the Thorsborne trail on Hinchinbrook Island NP.
- \$1.6 million to replace the Jindalba Boardwalk in Daintree NP (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land).



2024-25 State Budget

2024–25 Operating Program Highlights (non-capital expenditure)

- \$21.1 million to support critical firefighter needs and manage bushfire risk in a changing climate, improve community safety and safeguard natural and cultural values, including World Heritage values.
- \$31.3 million over 4 years and \$8.4 million per annum ongoing to continue planned actions under the [South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy](#) that address the decline in koala populations and preserve and restore key koala habitat.
- \$23.5 million over 4 years and \$6.3 million per annum ongoing to continue implementation of the [Threatened Species Program 2020–2040](#) to protect and recover Queensland's most threatened flora and fauna.
- \$14.5 million over 5 years from 2023-24 (indexed ongoing), with funding to support the conservation of dingoes (wongari) and management of public safety on K'gari through additional Butchulla and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service wongari education rangers to improve visitor understanding of wongari risks and the cultural significance of wongari to the Butchulla people.

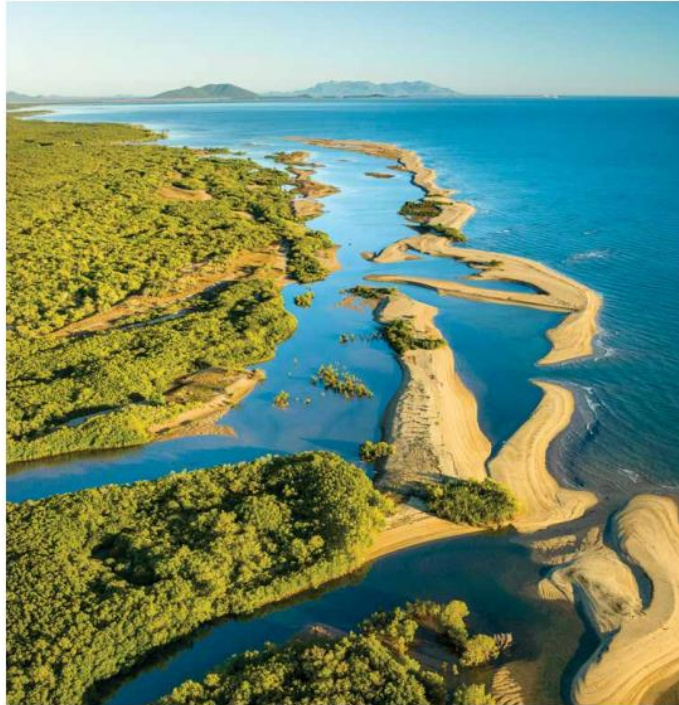
The Department of Tourism and Sport has been allocated the following additional budget

- \$11 million for development of the Wangetti Trail, a 94-km walking and mountain biking trail from Palm Cove to Port Douglas, with public and eco-accommodation facilities.

Budget Estimates

- There are two targets: 17% of Queensland in protected areas (no target date) and 30 by 30, which is a Commonwealth target that Queensland is contributing to (not 30% though)
- Getting to 17% at the current rate of progress will take a long time
- 17% target is aspirational
- Minister is very proud of what is being achieved by Labor and her Department
- \$262.5M commitment to land acquisitions is now fully committed
- Prospective land acquisitions are diligently prioritised using an [assessment framework](#)
- The Opposition has not yet released its environment policy for the future of conservation in Queensland.

Protect Beautiful Queensland



PROTECTING BEAUTIFUL QUEENSLAND

Policy Priorities 2024 - 2028



Five Priorities:

- Private Protected Areas
- Park Expansion
- Tenure Resolution
- Outdoor Recreation
- Park Management



Since release of the PAS...



776,000+ hectares acquired to become protected area



\$4.9M in NatureAssist funding to private landholders



~520,000 hectares expansion of Private Protected Area network

1

One new special wildlife reserve established

| | February 2015 | As at the release of the Protected Area Strategy 2020 – 2030 | Today |
|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Queensland's land area secured in protected areas | 7.56% | 8.26% | 8.60% |
| Land managed as private protected areas | 3.99 million hectares | 4.48 million hectares | 4.99 million hectares |

Queensland's protected area estate has grown by approximately 1.8M hectares since 2015

Edgbaston Reserve (8,000ha) will become Queensland's second special wildlife reserve once dedicated later this year.

The former grazing property provides critical habitat for **26 plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world**, including one of Australia's smallest and most threatened freshwater fish, the critically endangered red-finned blue-eye.



Vergemont Station (352,589ha) contains 34 different regional ecosystems, and was acquired in partnership with The Nature Conservancy Australia and the Wyss Foundation.



The Lakes (35,300ha) includes largely undisturbed remnant vegetation supporting threatened and highly restricted ecosystems.



Recent / Upcoming Events

- Ecotourism Seminar
- New membership model & branding
- Members' Survey
- EOI for Council vacancies
- NPAQ Annual General Meeting – 19 October 2024
- 2024 State Election – 26 October 2024
- Nerang National Park Management Plan – 5 September 2024
- Greater Glider Forest Park – 60,000ha
- NPAQ Revenue Plan 2024-27
- Parks Connect Program



Ecotourism & Protected Areas Seminar, 30 July 2024



Thanks for coming ...





Memberships

- Individual Membership – \$50 per year.
- Household Membership – \$80 per year.

Membership renews annually on 1 September. Memberships taken out before 1 September 2024 will be extended until 31 August 2025.

Donate and Save

We also offer complimentary membership for donors. Those who donate \$200 receive a year's complimentary individual membership. Donors who give \$300 or more receive a year's free household membership. All donations above \$2 are tax deductible.

Members benefits include:

- Voting rights (one vote per membership) at the NPAQ Annual General Meeting/Special Meetings
- Eligibility to nominate (one nomination per membership) for NPAQ Council
- Invitation to member-only meetings, camps, excursions and activities
- Discounts on paid NPAQ events, including Annual Dinner and Romeo Lahey Memorial Lecture
- Hard copy of NPAQ's *Protected* quarterly magazine (one copy of each edition per membership)

Branding & Publications



Protected

Issue 44: Winter 2024

The quarterly magazine of NPAQ



An update from the National Parks Association of Queensland Inc.

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Issue 140: July 2024



Lake Bindegolly National Park

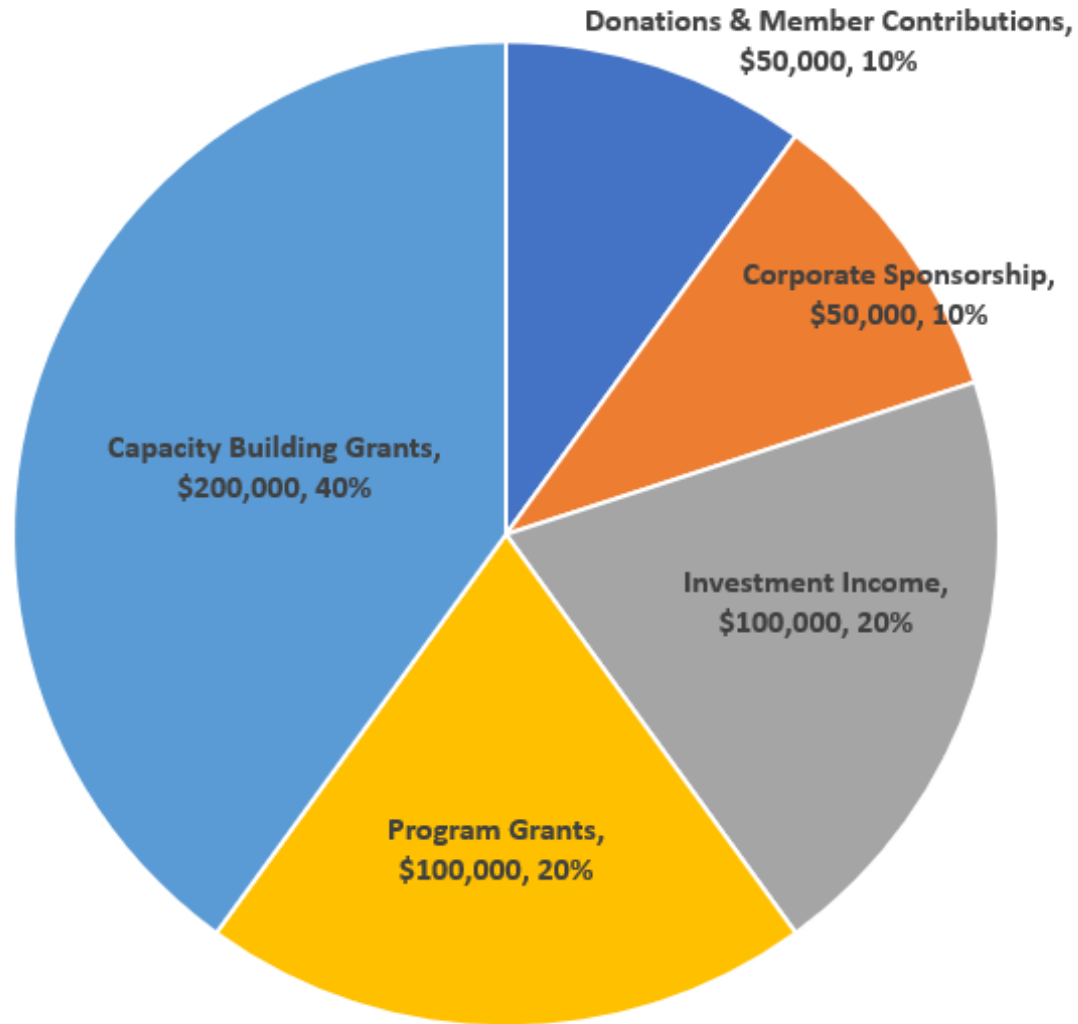
Image: Shirley Claassen/Dreamstime

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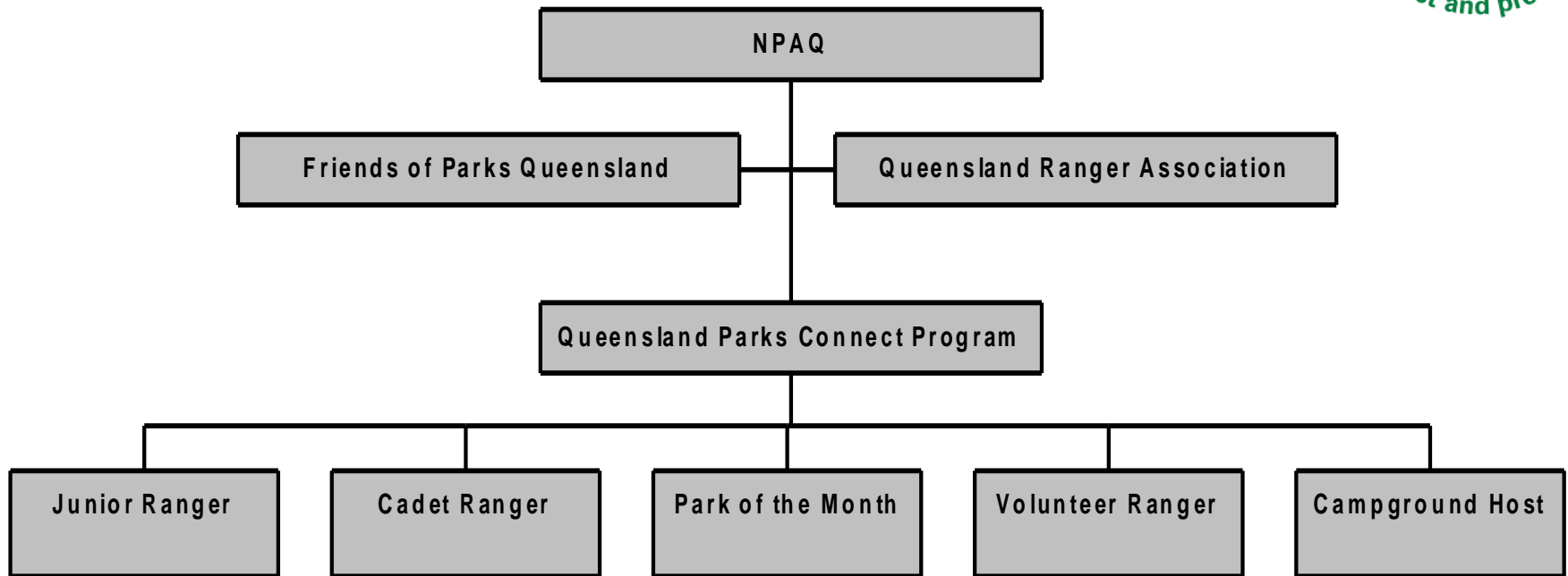
[CEO Update](#)

2024/25 Revenue Plan

Target \$500,000



QUEENSLAND PARKS CONNECT PROGRAM



Delivered in partnership with
the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service & Partnerships