

NPAQ COUNCIL NOMINEES 2025

Ben Richardson

Ben is an experienced governance leader with over two decades of executive, board, and advisory experience across the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors. He brings deep expertise in board governance, stakeholder engagement, and long-term strategy, with a strong track record of driving transformation in complex environments.

Ben has advised purpose-led businesses and served on the boards of community, health, sport, and employment-focused organisations. His previous roles include Chair and Director – Fundraising for The Liver Foundation, where he played a key role in shaping national engagement and philanthropic strategy. He is known for building strong stakeholder relationships and supporting teams to open doors, nurture partnerships, and align with community-focused missions.

With a pragmatic and outcomes-focused approach, Ben supports organisations to evolve with integrity, deepen community impact, and deliver sustainable outcomes across governance, funding, and leadership.

Brett Moore

I am originally from Arizona in the US where I completed my undergraduate degree in Regional Development and Business Management at the University of Arizona. While in University I played first grade rugby and upon finishing my degree moved to Sydney to continue playing rugby. During my time in Sydney, I gained employment at Oracle as internal sales team leader role supporting energy and water utilities to adopt Oracle technology. I then shifted my domain focus to geography related systems.

With this shift in focus, I took a career break with my now wife where we drove across the entire US and Canada visiting 15 national parks. I then arrived back in Brisbane where I spent my time in spatial technology organization across spatial survey technologies of remote sensing satellite imagery and LiDAR to support large infrastructure providers adopting spatial data sets to optimize their asset planning/performance and mitigate risk. I then gained employment at Australia's largest distribution electric utility where I lead information technology teams who support field delivery and maintenance of the Queensland energy grid. In 2021 I also became an Australian citizen and recently moved to back to Brisbane after 3 years living in Boulder, Colorado.

Christian Bowman

I am a marketing, governance, and customer engagement leader with over 20 years' experience across not-for-profit, higher education, and corporate sectors. I hold a Master of Laws in Enterprise Governance from Bond University and have served on governance and ethics committees for RSPCA Queensland, Griffith University, and Bond University. Throughout my career, I have delivered large-scale digital and engagement projects, managed multi-million-dollar budgets, and led community initiatives that doubled engagement at RSPCA Queensland. Living alongside Springbrook National Park, I bring both professional expertise and a deep personal commitment to conservation, aligning strongly with NPAQ's mission and values.

Russell Watkinson

NPAQ Council member for 2 years and chair of the NPAQ Advocacy Committee for 4 years.

I have been on 4 boards of not-for-profit organisations and past Graduate member of AICD.

My career has been in parks and natural resource management at senior executive level.

Keith Twyford

The key experiences and skills that I could bring to the Council include:

- Over 35 years of management experience in protected areas (terrestrial and marine), biodiversity conservation and NRM from across Australia, the Pacific and SE Asia.
- Extensive knowledge, experience and professional networks in the Queensland parks and state forests system. This comes from my previous work experience with QPWS in the Great Sandy Region (Fraser Island/K'gari, Cooloola, Great Sandy Straits) (1994-96) and the central-west region of Queensland, including the Great Barrier Reef (2002-08). My understanding of the Queensland parks system gained through previous employment has been complemented by work trips and personal visits to many parks and forests across the state (from Cape York to the Wet Tropics, through western and central Queensland, and into the SE).
- Exposure to and sound knowledge of protected areas and NRM from other jurisdictions in Australia (particularly South Australia and Victoria) and Pacific Island countries. I also have 18 years' experience in the international development sector. I would bring a sense of context and perspective that might be of value to the Council.
- Extensive state, national and regional professional networks.
- Employment and experience with a diverse range of organisations and funders. These range from state government environment agencies to private sector to philanthropic organisations, including Australia's biggest the Minderoo Foundation. I have also worked for a variety of different funders – Global Environment Facility (GEF), Global Climate Fund (GCF), World Bank, and bilateral donors (DFAT, New Zealand MFAT).

Liz O'Rourke

With a love of national parks, wilderness and conservation, and with a background most recently in ecotourism along with extensive business management and marketing expertise, I believe I could bring a unique perspective to the NPAQ board.

Most recently, I've completed six years as the Executive Officer of Great Walks of Australia, part of Tourism Australia's Signature Experiences of Australia program. As the sole employee and business manager, I transformed the brand, including roll out of a new marketing strategy, developed a powerful community of walkers around the world, grew international trade partners and secured high profile publicity, all of which resulted in significant sales increases for members and widespread brand recognition.

Reporting directly to a board, I also led our board meetings and acted unofficially as company secretary, preparing FMRs, papers and minutes, facilitating board changes with ASIC, and other related company activity.

My love for parks also extends to working in a voluntary capacity as Australian Territory Manager for Quiet Parks International - a not for profit dedicated to certifying and preserving quiet places of nature around the world - and fingers are crossed QLD will secure the first the Quiet Park in Australia in 2026.

Prior to working at Great Walks, I had a 20 year history working in marketing and digital strategy, including running my own digital agency, working as Head of Marketing and running a full service marketing agency, and working with some of the world's biggest music artists in the music industry, including Beyonce, Arctic Monkeys, Delta Goodrem and more on their marketing and digital activity.

Having lived in QLD on and off for 30+ plus years, I understand the immense value and USPs of our state's natural assets, and I am gung-ho about working to protect, expand and celebrate our amazing parks.