

Minister for the Environment
and Tourism and Minister for
Science and Innovation

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



Our reference: CTS 11149/26

23 JUN 2026

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Mr Chris Thomas
Chief Executive Officer
National Parks Association of Queensland
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Dear Mr Thomas

Chris

Today the Crisafulli Government handed down the 2026–27 Queensland Budget.

This year's Budget lays the foundations for a fresh start in the face of significant international and national pressures. Despite these challenges, the Budget continues to deliver on our commitments, all with no new or increased taxes.

Queensland's natural assets are the envy of the world, and the 2026-27 Budget continues investment in protecting them and making them even better.

We are delivering a record investment to protect the Great Barrier Reef, expanding and improving our protected areas, constructing new wildlife hospitals, backing threatened species conservation and investing in waste reduction and recycling across the State.

We are also getting on with the job of tackling feral pigs, invasive weeds and pests that threaten our landscapes, waterways and native wildlife. Protecting the environment means actively managing it, and this Budget backs that work.

At the same time, we are upgrading national parks and improving visitor experiences so more Queenslanders and visitors can connect with nature, appreciate our unique environment and help build support for its long-term conservation.

Attached is a summary of key Environment portfolio initiatives.

Thank you for the important role you play in conserving and enhancing Queensland's environment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Powell".

Andrew Powell MP
Minister for the Environment and Tourism
Minister for Science and Innovation

Environment

The 2026–27 Queensland State Budget is focused on protecting the Great Barrier Reef, expanding our protected areas, and improving national parks.

It backs our recently launched *Queensland Waste Strategy Less Landfill, More Recycling 2035* by investing in waste reduction and recycling capabilities across our state, so we can help better protect what makes Queensland special for current and future generations.

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING: \$975 million over five years to support the new *Less Landfill, More Recycling 2035: Queensland Waste Strategy* including \$487 million through the Waste Reduction and Recycling Activation Fund to boost recycling and reduce landfill.

RESOURCE RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE: \$37.4 million in 2026-27 for Resource Recovery Infrastructure under the SEQ City Deal to increase resource recovery rates, facilitate organics recycling and progress the South East Queensland region towards a circular economy.

ZERO LITTER TO THE BAY: \$9.2 million in 2026-27 to partner with local governments to upgrade stormwater network infrastructure to prevent litter escaping into Moreton Bay, as part of the \$35 million investment over five years for Zero Litter to the Bay 2030.

REEF AND CATCHMENT WATER QUALITY PROGRAM: a record-breaking **\$330.5 million** over five years to continue delivering the Queensland Reef and Catchment Water Quality Program to support healthy waterways, community stewardship, and resilient landscapes across the Great Barrier Reef and its catchments.

QUEENSLAND PROTECTED AREAS: \$139 million over four years and \$34 million per year ongoing for an enhanced capital program focused on growing Queensland's protected areas and enhancing visitor infrastructure.

WILDLIFE HOSPITALS: \$20 million as part of the \$39.6 million investment to support the construction and expansion of five wildlife hospitals around the state, increasing their capacity to provide care to sick and injured native wildlife.

THREATENED SPECIES AND KOALAS: funding of \$7.9 million for threatened species in 2026-27 and funding of \$13 million for koalas in 2026-27.

MORE RANGERS, BETTER NEIGHBOURS: \$17 million over three years from 2027-28 for additional investment in infrastructure, plant, and equipment to support the management of national parks across Queensland by the additional rangers under the '*More Rangers, Better Neighbours*' initiative. This builds on our investment of \$84.6 million over five years and \$29.6 million per year ongoing to add more rangers under the initiative, which also includes enhanced protected area management including of pest and weeds.

FIRE PROTECTION ON PARK: \$5.7 million delivered in 2026-27 to support additional fire vehicles, fire units, and support equipment, as well as upgrades to management networks and infrastructure, to ensure community safety and safeguard natural and cultural values.

GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS: \$1.5 million to support local lead initiatives that achieve meaningful environmental outcomes.

The Budget Papers and further details on these and other initiatives are available on the Queensland Government website at budget.qld.gov.au.