



National Biodiversity Response
PO Box 1715
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Submission to Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2020

Queensland Conservation (QCC) is the peak environment organisation in Queensland with over 60 environment and resource management organisations in its membership.

QCC welcomes the opportunity to comment on this consultation draft concerning Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2020.

As a general comment, QCC is disappointed with this consultation draft which is weaker and less ambitious than both the *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biodiversity 1996* and the *National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2006*.

A common theme of our submissions to the Commonwealth concerns national leadership. We strongly believe that it is an obligation of the Commonwealth to provide leadership in issues of national significance, not simply facilitate a debate.

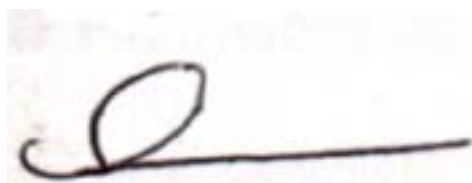
We believe that setting a leadership agenda is about setting goals (not simply expressing aspirational goals) and providing a pathway to achieve these. This is the appropriate course of action for the Commonwealth. We believe that an action plan or implementation strategy that sets out clear, time-specific outcomes and assigns responsibilities is a pre-requisite for a national biodiversity conservation strategy.

It is unfortunate that this consultation paper does not seek to set such an agenda and approach and as a result is a disappointing document. We strongly urge that a draft strategy rectifies this and sets out a Commonwealth-led strategy to initiate, fund bioregional biodiversity planning through a cooperative and integrated approach across all tiers of government.

In summary, QCC recommends a more detailed and strategic approach to biodiversity conservation, that includes measurable targets for the following:

- More protected areas, including marine
- Systematic bioregional planning
- Biodiversity conservation incentives
- Protection for threatened species and communities-supported by financial incentives
- Investment in threat reductions
- Targets for specific species and ecosystem recovery
- Protect for climate refugia
- A national whale and dolphin sanctuary
- National and consistent Biodiversity monitoring
- A biodiversity conservation fund
- Consistent biodiversity protection legislation across jurisdictions

We look forward to the Commonwealth playing such a leadership role.



Toby Hutcheon
Executive Director
Queensland Conservation