



Private Land Conservation in Queensland

The Wildlife Land Trust

The Wildlife Land Trust is a growing network of sanctuaries promoting best conservation practices and protecting wildlife and habitats across Australia and the world. Our program is completely free and complements all other land protection arrangements with government and non-government groups.

Our program offers access to grants, wildlife events and expert advice on all conservation issues you may have, as well as support for any local wildlife issues. We can offer advice on various aspects of managing your sanctuary as well as help to property owners who would like to seek stronger legal protection for their property's natural values.

Building communities is a big part of what we do – our monthly newsletters and biannual Wildlife Lands publications allow our members to share their stories, and our website and social media are a fantastic resource for wildlife news, events and information.

Visit our website to learn more: <https://www.wildlifelandtrust.org.au/>

Guardians of the Wet Tropics

If your property is close to the World Heritage listed Wet Tropics Bioregion, you may be interested in joining Guardians of the Wet Tropics, a community group managed by Ingrid Marker. This group aims to build wildlife corridors, establish buffer zones and improve existing habitat across the Wet Tropics Bioregion.

Guardians of the Wet Tropics works alongside Traditional owners, landholders and community groups to enhance habitats and conserve threatened species in the Wet Tropics, with a particular focus on the conservation of southern cassowaries.

They connect landholders through dialogues and workshops, addressing specific land management issues including invasive species and fragmentation. They also assist landholders with conservation-based management plans, using local expertise to develop strategies for preserving the biodiversity and ecological values of the region.

To learn more, contact 30-year resident of Mission Beach and dedicated wildlife advocate Ingrid at cassowarykeystoneconservation@gmail.com or 0438 688 229.

Landcare Australia

Conserving habitat and protecting native species is a community effort – Landcare Australia helps to coordinate volunteer groups for community-wide programs. These groups help to resolve environmental issues, restore habitat, contribute to ecological surveys and much more.

This is a great starting point for learning more about wildlife in your area and the resources available to preserve and restore habitat. It's also a great chance to expand your conservation work outside of your property boundaries, and connect with likeminded people in your community.

Search for local groups using the directory here: <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/>. If you're in Kuranda, check out the Kuranda Envirocare program here: <https://www.envirocare.org.au/>

Land For Wildlife

If you're looking to learn more about your sanctuary and how best to conserve it, Land for Wildlife is a fantastic resource for local knowledge in South East Queensland. This program is free and non-binding, and you'll receive a personalised conservation plan for your property when you sign up.

Some local government groups will also supply free native trees and resource book, and several have small grants available for Land for Wildlife members. To learn more, click here:

<https://www.lfwseq.org.au/about/>

Voluntary Declarations

A Voluntary Declaration is a new program introduced by the Queensland Government to protect areas of native vegetation on private land. VDecls can help to protect regrowth vegetation which is either of high conservation value or vulnerable to degradation.

VDecls provide a streamlined procedure for landholders to protect vegetation on their property. This process can make it easier and more cost effective to participate in conservation incentive programs and rehabilitate degraded areas.

A VDec is a commitment – once vegetation is protected under this process, it is registered on title and binding to all current and future owners until the agreed-upon conservation outcome is achieved. Though they cannot provide the same level of protection as a Nature Refuge or Special Wildlife Reserve, VDecs strike a balance between protecting native vegetation and allowing for other uses for the land.

We strongly recommend seeing a financial and legal advisor before applying for a VDec. If you would like to learn more, [click here](#).

Private Protected Areas

Queensland's Private Protected Area program aims to preserve areas of high biodiversity value. Through this program, landholders partner with the department to protect their land through a binding conservation agreement to create a Nature Refuge. To be eligible, a property must be of a high biodiversity value on the property, landscape and strategic levels.

The Department of Environment and Science supports landholders with specialist advice on how best to manage their Nature Refuge, as well as providing access to community groups and conservation programs in the area. Financial incentives may be provided through the [NatureAssist](#) program, and [small grants](#) are also offered from time to time.

Though Private Protected Areas are formed under a binding covenant in-perpetuity, the department will work with landowners to ensure that they can continue using the land for sustainable living, recreation or production purposes.

You can apply for a Nature Refuge conservation agreement through Queensland Trust for Nature: <https://qtnf.org.au/investing/landholders/>