



gecko out&about

May 2025

Welcome to our newsletter where we share our latest news, projects and activities!

Last week our Campaign Coordinator Sara Hicks represented Gecko at the Environment Minister [Andrew Powell MP's](#) roundtable.

Alongside colleagues from around QLD, we raised important concerns and opportunities to grow ecotourism with local communities and Traditional Owners, improve management of protected areas and threatened species programs, build resilience to heat and hazards through nature-based solutions, engage with the sector in developing a new Koala Conservation Strategy, address the flawed offset policy, explore private land stewardship and natural capital market opportunities, and much more.

Thanks to Minister Powell for meeting with QLD conservation groups. We look forward to future discussions.

Inside:

Embracing the Gold Coast's
Energy Transition
PAGE 02

Protect Queenslanders
from Heat and Hazards
PAGE 03

Gecko May Talk: Biophilic
cities
PAGE 04

Springbrook Cableway:
Call to Action
PAGE 05

Gecko and Gold Coast
Climate Action Network
(GCAN) - Engaging with
City of Gold Coast
PAGE 06-07

Community LearnScape
Garden update!
PAGE 08

Embracing the Gold Coast's Energy Transition

We hope some of our members made it to see Debi and Stephen's sustainable upgrades as part of the Gold Coast's Renew Sustainable House Day 2025. If not, we'll be sharing highlights soon!

Gecko's Nature and Renewables project lead Kate Baldry is rolling out an exciting program to engage with different sectors about the Gold Coast's energy transition. Embracing the transition underway (we're powered by 40% solar and wind already!) opens opportunities for households, businesses, education and more. If you're in the education sector, the next event is for you!

Please contact Kate: projects@gecko.org.au

Electrify Gold Coast is a new initiative led by local energy champion Judy McLennan. If you made it to the Electrify Everything event, you'll know how exciting this project is for our region. Check out the coming event in Burleigh.

Electrify Gold Coast Forum

Tuesday 20 May | 6:00 PM | Burleigh Leagues Club - 80 Pacific Ave, Miami 4220

As part of the Electric Communities Network, we're building a movement of electrification champions across the Gold Coast. The forum will be more than just a discussion. It's about action. You'll hear from local experts, connect with other electrification enthusiasts, and be invited to help shape three key projects:

- **Project 4220** – Electrifying across a postcode as a model for others
- **Strata Solutions** – Tackling the challenges and unlocking the potential of electrifying apartments and townhouses
- **Community Education** – Promoting and sharing practical knowledge about electrification

Please join this community event if you care about clean energy, reducing emissions, and community resilience. Come ready to get involved – we're building something powerful.

Let's Electrify Gold Coast!

Register here:

<https://events.humanitix.com/electrify-gold-coast-forum>

Protect Queenslanders from Heat and Hazards

Cyclone Alfred was a reminder of the increasing climate hazards facing Queenslanders. In response, Gecko is part of the statewide Heat and Hazards campaign, led by nine regional conservation groups, calling for government action to protect communities from worsening summer heat, floods and storms.

The campaign urges the Queensland Government to establish **QHeat2050**, a program to support local governments with heat risk strategies, and to enhance **QCoast2100** with updated flood modelling and non-competitive funding for adaptation.

Communities want proactive, climate-resilient solutions, such as nature-based strategies, not just rebuilding!

Contact Sara at climateadvocate@gecko.org.au for the policy brief or more information.

HEAT & HAZARDS
Keep Queenslanders Safe

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- Revamp the QCoast2100 Program
- Establish a QHeat2050 Program
- Promote Nature-based Solutions
- Support the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils Program

Gecko May Talk: Biophilia...more marketing spin or the key to making a beautiful and liveable city?



noun. bio·phil·ia ,bī-ō-'fi-lē-ə -'fēl-yə :

a hypothetical human tendency to interact or be closely associated with other forms of life in nature: a desire or tendency to commune with nature.

Gecko Environment Council is pleased to announce our Gecko Talk for May will be 'Biophilia...more marketing spin or the key to making a beautiful and liveable city?' presented by Philip Follent, Follent Architecture.

Philip's advocacy for a better built environment, along with his acknowledged expertise in master planning, education, architecture and engagement with indigenous communities (for example, the PIA and AIA multi-awarded MYAC indigenous eco-cultural infrastructure project, Cairns) has enabled indigenous, local and state entities to achieve quality assets of long-term benefit and civic pride.



**28 May, 6 pm
Currumbin RSL**

**Book your (free)
ticket here.**



Springbrook Cableway: Call to Action

We need your support:

Join our coalition of community organisations and individuals who oppose a cableway. To join and receive updates, email advocacy@gecko.org.au

·Sign and share the petition with your networks.

·Talk about it and raise awareness!

Please get in touch with us to protect Springbrook National Park together!

Find out more on our website

Gecko and Gold Coast Climate Action Network (GCAN) - Engaging with City of Gold Coast

As part of the GCAN, Gecko is engaging with the City of Gold Coast about the proposed **Advanced Resource Recovery Centre** and the next stages of implementing the City's **Climate Resilience and Sustainability Strategy**.

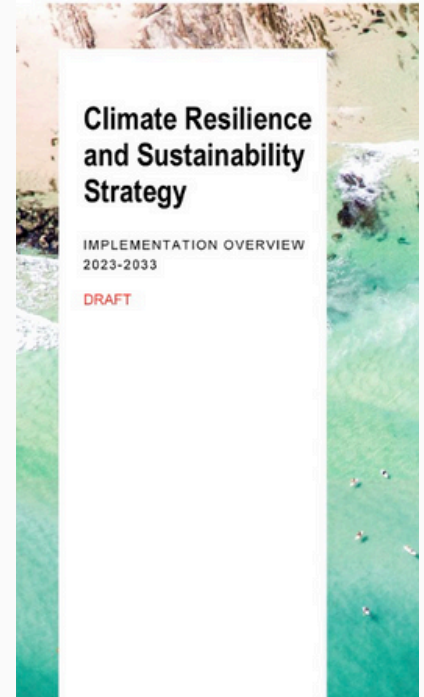
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Strategy Implementation

The City's draft Implementation Overview 2023–2033 was recently presented to Councillors for consideration. Representatives from GCCAN met with the City's climate team to review the draft, which focuses on three key goals: building resilience, creating a lower carbon future, and achieving net zero emissions in city operations by 2050.

GCCAN welcomes the plan's adaptive management approach and emphasis on cross-sector collaboration. To be truly effective, the City must also invest in community-led initiatives, including partnerships and small grants, to empower local action on emissions reduction.

This strategy reflects many of the GCCAN Priority Recommendations made in 2024, outlining a clear pathway toward a more climate-resilient Gold Coast. We commend the City's leadership in embedding climate action into local governance.

For a copy of the draft, contact us at climateadvocate@gecko.org.au



Advanced Resource Recovery Centre (ARRC)

The City is also exploring the feasibility of a state-of-the-art ARRC. Gecko recently met with the project team to discuss key environmental considerations, including impacts on water, air, and koala habitat, as well as opportunities and concerns related to the facility's proposed waste-to-energy component.

While the ARRC will emit some carbon dioxide, it will prevent far greater emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, by diverting waste from landfill. The plant operates in a closed water cycle and is expected to emit only hydrogen, oxygen, and CO₂, with no harmful air pollutants.

Plans are underway to offset the loss of koala habitat by restoring and strengthening a nearby wildlife corridor, likely exceeding the recommended 3:1 offset ratio.

Education will be critical. A waste education centre is proposed, and Gecko is advocating for partnerships with leaders like Seed the Ground to enhance community awareness around waste reduction and diversion.

To get involved or learn more, contact Sara at climateadvocate@gecko.org.au.





Next stage of Community LearnScape Garden update!

The Community LearnScape Gardens have taken a major step forward with Landmark Environmental working on the creek side of the gardens this month. Landmark was engaged in carrying out some of the “heave lifting” as the frog pond needed work, some trees needed to be removed and the footpaths needed redoing.

The yard around the pizza oven has not been quite so lucky yet. In Cyclone Alfred, we lost the big cyprus tree and it took the pizza oven cover with it. Our garden club is busy getting that fixed and getting rid of the stump left behind.

Join our club for a little bit of native, educational gardening and a lot of fun! The club meets once a month.

To join or to find out more, email volcoordinator@gecko.org.au



Volunteer

Our current volunteer opportunities include a Gecko Talks coordinator and a Communications volunteer. Email support@gecko.org for these and other volunteering opportunities.



Donate

Make a one time donations or become a Gecko Friend and join our regular donors program. [Visit our website for more information.](#)



Become a member

By becoming a member you lend your voice for us to speak for the environment and you will get in-dept access to the work we do. Do it for our natural environment, rich biodiversity, and for the places we value and love! [Join on our website.](#)

DISCOVER YOUR PERFECT VENUE

Welcome to Gecko

Gecko
139 Duringan St.

ENQUIRE NOW

07 5534 1412

www.gecko.org.au

139 Duringan St, Currumbin

hallhire@gecko.org.au

With affordable rates, creek views, tables and chairs available as well as a well-equipped kitchen, Gecko Hall is the ideal space to host a wide range of events.

Now taking bookings for 2025! Get in touch today.

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Council

~ working for the environment since 1989

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