



**ANIMAL
JUSTICE PARTY**

BRISBANE 2020

CAMPAIGN COMMITMENTS

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Declaring a Climate Emergency

The Animal Justice Party recognises that we are in the midst of a climate and ecological emergency and will use any position within Council to act locally.

Our commitments for Brisbane 2020 are:

1. Declare a climate and ecological emergency.
2. We are committed to working with all elected councillors to create a comprehensive climate and ecological emergency action plan with bipartisan support within the first year of our term, ensuring this then remains at the centre of all decisions made by Council. This plan will focus on spreading the truth, halting biodiversity loss, focusing on restoration and reparation, stopping GHG emissions and working together to create new solutions.
3. Collaboration is key; we will work with any federal government, state government, community, or business to fix the climate and ecological disaster.
4. Increase Sustainability Grants and introduce specialised Climate Action grants of up to \$20,000 per project for not-for-profit organisations
5. Introduce school climate action grants of up to \$30,000 per project for students and school communities to develop sustainability projects and/or to upgrade facilities to those that are climate appropriate.
6. Implement a solar saver program to provide access to affordable solar panels - Council provides interest-free loans to instal panels for residents, businesses and organisations (like in Darebin).
7. Implement rigorous sustainability and climate and ecological mitigation criteria in the Brisbane City Plan 2014 and all Neighbourhood Plans that all new development operations need to meet.
8. Remove all NALL/VPO exemptions that permit the clearing of important trees.
9. Introduce a star rating for businesses to indicate their level of eco- and climate-friendly practices monitored through transparent and independent compliance procedures. Businesses that achieve high ratings receive council discounts and positive publicity
10. Provide climate-friendly, plant-based catering at all Council events.
11. Advocate for Neighbourhood Plans to include vertical and rooftop gardens, reducing heat within the city.

Bringing Bees to Brisbane

The Animal Justice Party wants to entice native bees to our city, recognising their important ecological function and the joy they bring to Brisbane residents.

Our commitments for Brisbane 2020 are:

1. Create insect-friendly habitat through “pollen highways” by planting natives in garden beds on footpaths, nature strips and separating bikes and pedestrians from cars
2. Facilitate “Native Verge Garden” workshops for each residential block. Locals can get hands-on lessons about planting and maintaining a verge garden that will benefit native animals and insects.
3. Keep native bee hives on public land and in council buildings (native bees have no sting) to make Brisbane the ‘City of Native Bees’.
4. Transform King George Square, Reddacliff Place and other paved public spaces into bee-friendly native flower gardens.

Reversing Urban Sprawl

The Animal Justice Party does not believe in the infinite growth or expansion of a city. But while our population continues to grow, we must encourage quality, high density development within our urban footprint and end the destruction of bushland and green space. Not only will this give nature space to breathe but will improve Brisbane's transport efficiency.

Our commitments for Brisbane 2020 are:

1. End the construction of new low-density housing estates on bushland or farmland.
2. Encourage medium to high density development in inner city suburbs, especially around existing public transport infrastructure.
3. Oppose a ban on townhouses, but rather implement minimum design standards regarding appearance and sustainability.
4. Trial a free, high-frequency electric shuttle mini-bus for locals to get to suburban train stations, reducing demand for roads and cars.
5. Reward ratepayers for native tree cover with rates discounts.
6. Shrink the city's urban footprint by buying back and converting outer properties to native bushland, creating a green belt. Increase funding for Council's Bushland Acquisition Program from \$7.3M (2020-2021) to \$50M.

Keeping Brisbane Clean

The Animal Justice Party is dedicated to busting litter and pollution which is damaging to our local environment, including our precious waterways. We believe that the solution involves getting community, business and industry on board with 21st century waste management and introducing innovative ways to build roads and drains.

Our commitments for Brisbane 2020 are:

1. For businesses, make recycling collection services mandatory - whether serviced by Council or private operators.
2. Place “drain socks” on storm drains to catch litter before it ends up in the local creek.
3. Trial using recycled plastic to resurface roads, like Redland City Council.
4. Commit to doubling the number of community compost programs from twenty-five to fifty by 2024.
5. Increase the number of covert and overt cameras used to catch illegal dumpers.
6. Reward business using eco-friendly practices with a Council star-rating scheme (see our commitments on the Climate and Ecological Emergency for more information).

Restoring Victoria Park

Brisbane has the greatest biological diversity of any capital in Australia. Our vision for transforming Victoria Park will bring many health, environmental, cultural and recreational benefits to Brisbane's residents, notably its animal residents too. It will also represent a drawcard for visitors and establish Brisbane on par with other international cities, such as Tokyo with its Institute for Nature Study Natural Reserve. Visitors will be able to see many native plants and animals up close on guided tours, without having to visit a zoo.

Our commitments for Brisbane 2020 are:

1. Establish a strategy to "greenprint" Brisbane City (as Melbourne has already), key to this being giving over Victoria Park to create a wildlife oasis protected from any further urban encroachment by:
 - a. planting 50,000 native trees and plants appropriate to the area to revegetate the land and provide habitat for native wildlife, especially any local species under particular pressure and that would benefit from increased habitat in this area;
 - b. undertaking any associated/necessary landscaping to improve the area for habitation by native species;
 - c. ensuring works address the welfare of the wildlife by incorporating any/all appropriate and necessary Wildlife Movement Solutions (WMS) and as per the *Fauna Movement Solutions Strategy* prepared by the Brisbane Catchments Network (May 2019) that have proven to be effective. A small section of the Inner Northern Busway intersects a corner of the park is already covered;
 - d. remaining sensitive to any existing heritage elements/requirements including existing built and natural elements such as significant trees or other landscape features; and
 - e. maintaining existing buildings and carparks, including the driving range - with revenue going back into the park rehabilitation.

It is expected that this would bring back native wildlife including species of birds, bats, possums, small reptiles, frogs, bees and other insects.

2. Establish an ecologically sensitive nature walk through parts of the area to enable recreational and educational access for residents, including guided tours. These walks would connect to venues on site, such as the indigenous facility.

3. Collaborate with QUT to establish an onsite Eco Research Facility, a sister site to their existing Samford Ecological Research Facility
4. Honour the land's significance to traditional owners and acknowledge the history of the site by establishing a culturally appropriate facility in collaboration with the indigenous community. Victoria Park was a traditional camping ground.
5. Native fruits, berries and other plants could be grown on site and utilised at the facility. Adopt the original name used by the Indigenous Turrbal clan, "Barrambin", in some capacity.
6. Oppose the construction of outdoor concert stages and other park features which would be detrimental to surrounding wildlife.

Caring for Brisbane's Companion Animals

The Animal Justice Party knows that companion animals have a special place in Brisbane's heart; they're family and this city is their home too. We think there's much more we can do to make this city safer and more inclusive of their needs, from better animal-friendly infrastructure to better animal-oriented services.

Our commitments for Brisbane 2020 are:

1. Change the language used by Council; call animals 'companions' and not 'pets'. Recognise the needs and individuality of animals in Council communications and explain the obligations of human guardians, including the financial cost (>\$1,500p.a) over their lifetime.
2. By 2022, build 50 new closed-off dog parks with best-practice design.
3. Provide Council-funded community 'guardian and companion' education sessions teaching animal behaviour, first aid, care and socialisation.
4. Introduce free registration and education/training sessions for animals adopted from shelters, the RSPCA and other approved rescues. Actively promote adoption of rescues.
5. Introduce higher registration fees for undesexed/breeding age dogs that have come from a 'pet shop' or breeder.
6. Investigate all options to stop 'pet shops' selling non-rescued animals.
7. Educate the community on the value of adopting rescue animals.
8. Make it easier for those fleeing domestic violence to change their companion animal's registration details or reclaim their companion from Council shelters.
9. Help victims fleeing domestic and family violence by providing board for their companion animal free of charge and linking in with other social services; support shelters that also accept animals.
10. Reframe barking and other 'nuisance' issues as behaviours that can be improved with better welfare standards, e.g. more socialisation.
11. Crack down on guardians who fail to clean up after their companion animals by increasing fines from \$266 to \$532 and increasing enforcement in known hotspots (e.g. Teneriffe).
12. Mandate that new residential developments must provide adequate greenspace for both humans and companion animals; dogs need somewhere

to be walked.

13. Introduce Council incentives for guardians who take their dogs to social places and training, e.g subsidised day care to stop issues stemming from loneliness.
14. Subsidise vets to provide free desexing to the community.
15. Trial a sterilization/birth-control program to humanely manage Brisbane's free-living cat colonies. Evaluate the effectiveness of the trial and any health impacts.
16. Support the existing trial of allowing companion animals on CityCats and extend this to other public infrastructure.

Having Fun Without Harming Animals

The Animal Justice Party believes that 2020 is the year to finally ditch animal exhibits, circuses, petting zoos, rodeos and other forms of entertainment relying on animal captivity. Our vision for Brisbane is a city with lots of fun things to see and do with the family while knowing that no one has to suffer for our entertainment.

Our commitments for Brisbane 2020 are:

1. Prevent the commercial use of animals for human entertainment (e.g. animal circuses, petting zoos and rodeos) from taking place on council land and investigate other options to keep these events out of our city.
2. Stop petting zoos and animal exhibits during Council-supported events and instead support local sanctuaries & shelters and encourage people to visit these instead.
3. Not advertising or promoting any commercial events that use animals as entertainment in Council publications.

Supporting Animal Rescuers

The Animal Justice Party will fight to ensure that animal rescuers, who are providing an important public service to our community, are properly funded by Brisbane City Council for the work they do in our city. Injury to wildlife is a sad reality of modern living; we have a collective duty to provide the best care possible where an animal is hurt.

Our commitments for Brisbane 2020 are:

1. Expand Brisbane's "native wildlife ambulance" service from 1 vehicle to a fleet of 5, increasing the rescue budget from \$122K to \$500K.
2. Double the limit for Native Wildlife Carers Grants from \$5K to \$10K and further promote these to wildlife carers.

Saving Brisbane's Koalas

The Animal Justice Party is incredibly concerned by the dwindling koala population within the Brisbane area and the increasing fragmentation of their habitat. Pretty soon koalas will be wiped out from our city because they can no longer live safely or connect with one another.

Our commitments for Brisbane 2020 are:

1. Run an ongoing Brisbane Koala search project for residents and rescue groups to report and accurately record specific koala populations and deaths in the Brisbane city limit. Encourage this 'citizen science' with a dedicated app or online form via the Council website.
2. Create and publish an interactive map to show active koala habitats and ongoing population changes in the city limit over time.
3. Introduce electronic signage to reduce speed and develop awareness of koalas' movement in hot spots between the months of August and February.
4. Invest greater resources in Council's "Wildlife Movement Solutions" programs
 - a. Increase funding for Biodiversity Planning from \$0.94M to \$10M (in 2020-2021).
 - b. Trial painting road sections and rumble strips to further alert drivers to koala movements along the perimeter of the 'Triangle of Death' (between Cannon Hill, Mount Gravatt and Carindale).
 - c. Build wildlife fencing along Boundary Rd.
 - d. Overhaul and improve construction of Compton Road overpass by widening and adding soil depth for overgrowth that would encourage use by koalas.
 - e. Build an underpass connecting Compton Road to surrounding forest.
5. Provide 'How to live with and protect wildlife' information cards for residents living in the ('Triangle of Death').
6. Restructure our city to reconnect koala populations and stop the current inbreeding. Shrink the city's urban footprint by buying back and converting outer properties to native bushland, creating a green belt. Increase funding for Council's Bushland Acquisition Program from \$7.3M (2020-2021) to \$50M.
7. Investigate all options for Council to stop developers clearing koala habitat and then simply paying for future offsetting.

8. Offer rates discounts tied to koala-friendly tree cover, especially for land around existing koala populations in the city's outer suburbs and within the 'Triangle of Death'.

Getting along with Flying-Foxes

Flying-foxes are incredible animals with an important role in the reproduction of plants, pollinating flowers and dispersing seeds. Brisbane is home to 20 or more permanent camps with three species: the black flying-fox, the little red flying-fox and the grey-headed-flying fox. The Animal Justice Party will push for these wonderful animals to be welcomed, protected and celebrated in Brisbane.

Our commitments for Brisbane 2020 are:

1. Protect the 20+ flying-fox camps in Brisbane by stopping nearby clearing and planting native food trees on adjacent public land.
2. Trial protective fencing around camps like that in Perrin Park, Toowong, together with signs informing residents of the importance of flying-foxes.
3. Hold a review into the amount of electrified and barbed wire fencing in Brisbane which is known to injure and kill flying-foxes. Amend local laws and policies to protect flying-foxes.
4. Run non-intrusive eco-tours and viewings of flying-fox camps, especially at dusk as they set out for the night.

Living Safely with Kangaroos

Our national icon should be free to live safely with us, but unfortunately encroaching development and dangerous roads mean that too many kangaroos are injured or die in outer Brisbane.

Our commitments for Brisbane 2020 are:

1. Establish speed control measures such as speed humps and chicanes on the roads around areas with known kangaroo populations, including the Wacol Prison Area (Wacol Station Road, Grindle Road, Wilruna Drive and Brisbane Terrace) and Centenary Village Darra (Warrender Road, Sananda Street, Kakoda Street and Service Road). Speed limits will be reduced to 40km/h at dusk and dawn to prevent vehicle collisions. Consult with local rescue, welfare and conservation groups to ensure speed controls are located in the best places.
2. Conduct a two-year trial of surveillance equipment around Wacol, to deter potential acts of cruelty. Contact local animal rescue groups to determine where is the best place to place the cameras. These cameras can also be used for monitoring populations. If successful, implement this monitoring elsewhere.
3. Invest further funds into Council's Wildlife Management Solutions program to provide more wildlife underpasses to keep them off the roads and to prevent traffic accidents (road kill).
4. Preserve current native animal habitats and increase this by acquiring land, actively creating a greenbelt through Council's Bushland Acquisition Program.
5. Implement tree and native grass planting in the area to provide sufficient food, away from urban centres and roads.
6. Lobby the State Government to prevent kangaroos being added to the 'pest' list.
7. Provide 'How to live with and protect wildlife' information cards for residents in areas with kangaroos populations.

Coexisting with Deer

The Animal Justice Party rejects that idea that deer are animals to be shot and killed. While local governments have obligations under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, we will push for nonlethal control methods and peaceful living with deer. Many locals in Brisbane's west do not consider deer as pests, but as local wildlife. Indeed, even Queensland's coat of arms features a deer. Brisbane is home to rusa, fallow and red deer with some populations being traced back to 1870.

Our commitments for Brisbane 2020 are:

1. Revegetate more parcels of land with known deer populations including Mt Crosby, Upper Brookfield, Brookfield, Pullenvale, Kholo, Jindalee, Mt Ommaney, Seventeen Mile Rocks and Oxley.
2. Update BCC's 'Biosecurity prevention and control program for the management of deer' to introduce nonlethal methods like contraception as opposed leg traps and shooting.
3. Investigate the prospect of Deer Sanctuary to educate the community, attract tourists and raise funds for further humane research and management. Relocate deer to the new sanctuary where possible.
4. Provide information regarding deer population and numbers killed with statistics on the Council website.
5. Lobby the Queensland Government to end the killing of deer.
6. Improve community education including signs in areas with known deer populations and provide information to ensure residents are aware of the risks, especially stags during mating season.

(Position:) Stopping Corruption

Note: The Animal Justice Party has policies for animal and environmental issues (which we focus our campaigns on) and also has positions for human-only issues (which we care about, but do not campaign on).

The Animal Justice Party relies upon our core values of Kindness, Equality, Rationality and Non-Violence in forming our position to stamp out corruption in all of its forms. Corruption is insidious and undermines the rule of law, destroys public confidence in government and seeks to give power, influence and resources to a privileged few with criminal and unethical intent to the detriment of the broader community. Corruption is also often detrimental to animal and environmental protection. Alan McSporran, Chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) stated "Recent corruption investigations have exposed a number of significant and systemic corruption risks in the local government sector."

The AJP supports the efforts of integrity and accountability agencies that oversee our democratic processes including the Electoral Commission Queensland (ECQ) and CCC. The AJP supports all efforts to improve equity, transparency, integrity and accountability in local government elections and decision-making. Specifically, the AJP supports all recommendations in the CCC's Operation Belcarra report and the implementation of these by the Queensland Government. We also support similar measures in other jurisdictions, including the introduction of a federal Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

Internally, AJP representatives will maintain high ethical standards with zero tolerance towards corruption; the AJP will promptly refer any matters it is aware of involving corruption to the relevant authorities.