



ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY

GOLD COAST 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 Gold Coast 2020 are:

1. Declare a climate emergency and set to a target of 100% renewable energy for council operations by 2028.
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. 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.
5. 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).
6. Implement rigorous climate sustainability and ecological mitigation criteria into the Gold Coast City Plan 2016 that all new development operations need to meet.
7. Encourage the community to adopt a target of net zero GHG emissions by 2040.
8. 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
9. Provide climate-friendly, plant-based catering at all Council events.

Caring for the Gold Coast's Companion Animals

The Animal Justice Party knows that companion animals have a special place in our 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 Gold Coast 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. Make it easier for those fleeing domestic violence to change their companion animal's registration details or reclaim their companion from Council shelters.
8. 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.
9. Reframe barking and other 'nuisance' issues as behaviours that can be improved with better welfare standards, e.g. more socialisation.
10. Mandate that new residential developments must provide adequate greenspace for both humans and companion animals; dogs need somewhere to be walked.
11. 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.
12. Subsidise vets to provide free desexing to the community.

13. Trial a sterilization/birth-control program to humanely manage the Gold Coast's free-living cat colonies.
14. Raise Animal Breeder Application Permit Fee for breeders applying for an increase in the number of animals on site.

Habitat & Wildlife

The Animal Justice Party believes that the natural world must be protected and celebrated. This means ending and reversing urban sprawl. 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 Gold Coast 2020 are:

1. Support land management and acquisition to protect and conserve wildlife habitat with a goal to increase native tree cover from 50% to 65% of land area by 2040.
2. Acquire more wildlife habitat through rewilding of land previously developed or farmed, growing our city's greenbelt.
3. Encourage increased growth in and support for wildlife-based Gold Coast tourism.
4. Create an education campaign for all ages on living peacefully with wildlife.
5. Allocate \$250K to start a 24/7 Gold Coast native wildlife ambulance service in conjunction with a veterinary clinic (estimated annual upkeep of \$110K) with the view to expand this fleet over time.
6. Stop land clearing for housing developments and look to sustainable eco-friendly options.
7. Increase the annual budget for the Conservation & Environment Program from \$44.9M (2019-2020) to \$80M.
8. Review the Vegetation Management Code to increase the number of trees protected and decrease the number removed. Over 90% of the city's trees are on private land.
9. Remove application option for protected vegetation to be heavily pruned, damaged, removed and/or transplanted off-site under the Vegetation Management Code.
10. Incentivise landholders to retain native flora with rates discounts for tree cover.
11. Fund community programs, especially around schools, allowing groups to take control of their neighbourhood and plant native flora.
12. Increase the number of free trees provided to residents, e.g. from 2 to 5 per

rates notices.

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 the Gold Coast 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 Gold Coast 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. Refrain from advertising or promoting any commercial events that use animals as entertainment in other Council publications.
4. Oppose any new greyhound racing track from being built on the Gold Coast.

Saving Koalas

The Animal Justice Party is incredibly concerned by the dwindling koala population on the Gold Coast 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 Gold Coast 2020 are:

1. Introduce a moratorium on all tree felling in Coomera.
2. Run an ongoing Gold Coast Koala search project for residents and rescue groups to report and accurately record specific koala populations and deaths on the Gold Coast. Encourage this 'citizen science' with a dedicated app or online form via the Council website.
3. Create and publish an interactive map to show active koala habitats and ongoing population changes in the city limit over time.
4. Introduce electronic signage to reduce speed and develop awareness of koalas' movement in hot spots between the months of August and February.
5. Provide 'How to live with and protect wildlife' information cards for residents.
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.
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.

Also refer to our commitments regarding the Light Rail Extension.

Light Rail Extension

The Animal Justice Party is concerned by the proposed light rail extension through Burleigh Heads and its potential impact on the local koala population. The extension (Burleigh Heads to Coolangatta 3B) will cut right through known habitat, leading to disruption and vehicle strikes.

Our commitments for Gold Coast 2020 are:

1. To establish the affected area of Burleigh headlands as a priority koala area.
2. Investigate the impact of the proposed light rail extension on koala populations within the affected area.
3. Investigate alternate routes for the light rail extension 3B which avoids the priority koala habitat area of Burleigh Headland.
4. Investigate the viability of a wildlife overpass from Burleigh Heads national park to the reserves in the west of Burleigh Heads.

Oxenford Quarry

The Oxenford Quarry has been operating for 25 years with a recent application to expand the site and extend its operations. The Animal Justice Party would prefer to see this site rehabilitated for wildlife.

Our commitments for Gold Coast 2020 are:

1. Support the *Residents Against the Oxenford Quarry Expansion* in their opposition to the Development Application.
2. If the Development Application does not get approved, totally rehabilitate the land and attract wildlife to return.

(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.