



# *Lockyer Uplands Catchments Inc*

*... caring for native habitats*

## *STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025*

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Lockyer Uplands Catchments Inc (LUCI) is a not-for-profit association of landholders and their supporters dedicated to the conservation of native habitats and the wildlife they support.

## History

LUCI began as the Friends of Dwyers Scrub (FoDS), a small group of local landholders, who became registered volunteers with Queensland Parks and Wildlife and commenced a monthly weeding program in their local conservation park.

Realising the long-term health of the park and its capacity to provide habitats for native fauna was dependent on the health of habitats in the surrounding landscape, the FoDS team embarked on a journey to engage local landholders in caring for and connecting native habitats on their own properties. Incorporating in 2016 to become LUCI, the association of landholders has grown each year and expanded their activities to include citizen science, property planning and community education projects in addition to the FoDS weeding program.

## The Lockyer Uplands Landscape

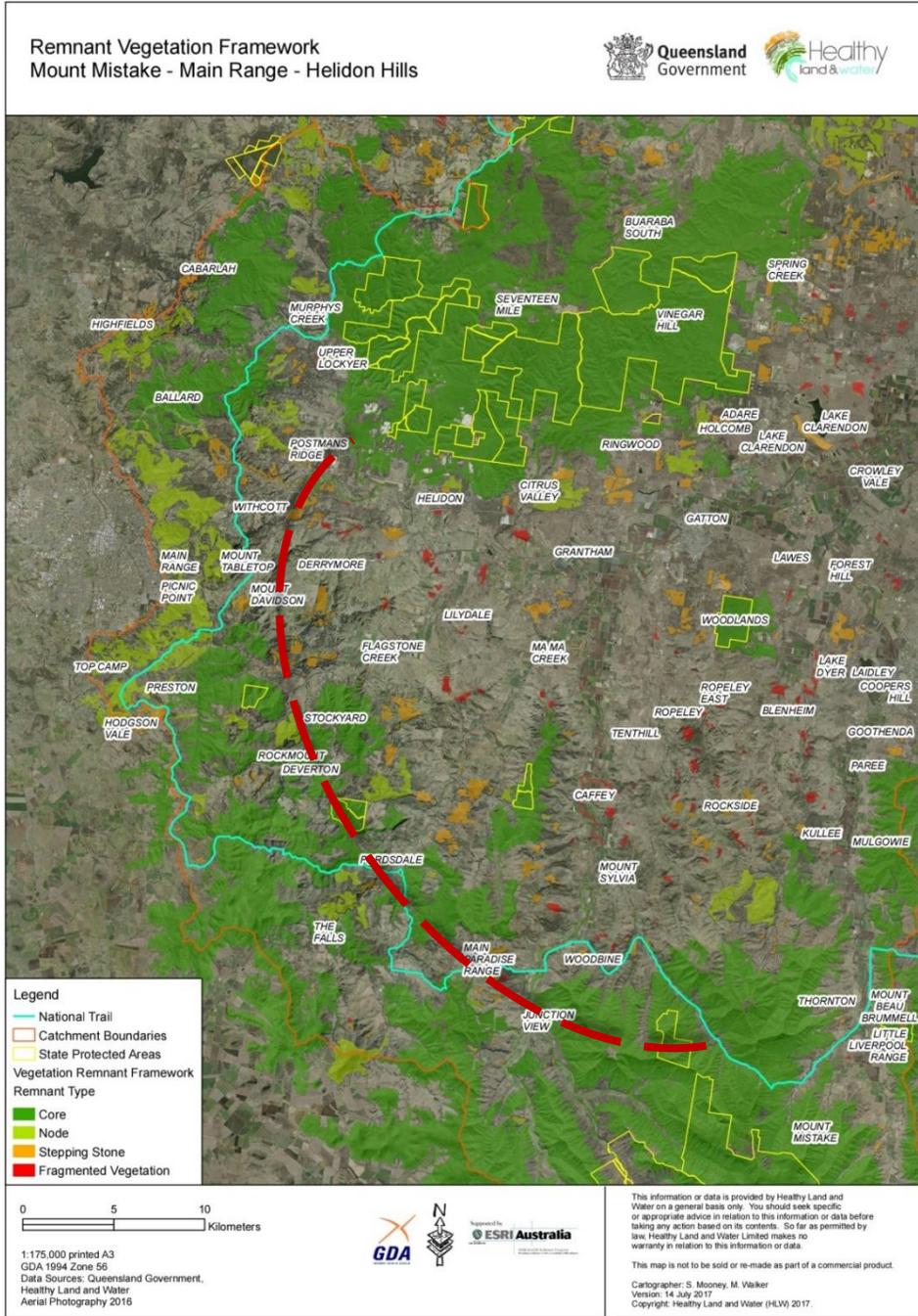
LUCI's aspiration is to continue to connect landholders and patches of native habitat along the biodiversity corridor in the western region of the Lockyer Valley. The Main Range-Helidon Hills corridor is recognised in the State Government's regional planning framework [ShapingSEQ](#) as one of a number of regional biodiversity corridors in which connectivity is to be maintained and enhanced to achieve biodiversity outcomes.

The corridor features ridges and escarpments of sandstone and basaltic columns which support a range of regional ecosystems including different types of Eucalyptus forests and woodlands as well as Semi-evergreen vine thicket vegetation communities. These include many significant plant species such as the Brush Sophora, White Cliff Bottlebrush, Slender Boronia, Stream Clematis and Bailey's Cypress Pine. The region's diverse habitats support a number of vulnerable, near threatened or endangered animals including Koala, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Powerful Owl, Black-breasted Button-quail, Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, Red Goshawk, Long-nosed Potoroo and Grey-headed Flying-fox.

By caring for native habitats, LUCI members and supporters are providing for the survival and wellbeing of native fauna endemic to our landscape.

# LUCI's landscape of interest – western biodiversity corridor

LUCI's aim is to enhance connectivity along the Main Range-Helidon Hills Regional Biodiversity Corridor



## LUCI's Vision

Improve native habitat connectivity across private and public tenures in our local landscape and as part of the Main Range-Helidon Hills Biodiversity Corridor and the Great Eastern Ranges Corridor.

### Objectives

To achieve its vision of connectivity, LUCI pursues three objectives:

- Raising awareness of natural systems;
- Encouraging better land management options; and
- Improving environmental outcomes.

Objectives	Strategies	Long-term Outcomes
1. Raise awareness of natural systems	<b>LEARN</b> Provide opportunities for landholders to increase their knowledge of native species and habitats on their own property and in the local landscape	O1 Landholders are more knowledgeable about the native species and habitats in their local landscape
2. Encourage better land management options	<b>CONSERVE</b> Support landholders' conservation efforts on their own land	O2 Improved health of native habitats on landholders' properties and in the landscape O3 Threatened species continue to use habitats in the local landscape
3. Improve environmental outcomes	<b>CONNECT</b> Encourage and support landholders to collaborate on restoring connections between native habitats in the landscape	O4 Improved native habitat connectivity across our local landscape O5 Local landholders are a best practice example of collaboration on conservation of native habitats

## Strategy 1: **LEARN**

**Provide opportunities for landholders to increase their knowledge of native species and habitats on their own property and in the local landscape**

Main activities	Desired outcome	Indicators
<p><b>Fauna surveys on private properties.</b></p> 	<p>Landholders are more knowledgeable about the native species and habitats that are potentially on their properties and in the local landscape.</p>	<p>At least 75% of participating landholders say they have an increased understanding of local vegetation communities and native habitats and the fauna they support.</p>
<p><b>Special Interest Walks and informal walks on members' properties.</b></p>	<p>Landholders are more knowledgeable about local flora and fauna, regional ecosystems and native habitats.</p>	<p>At least 75% of participating landholders say they have an increased understanding of regional ecosystems and the fauna they support.</p>
<p><b>Workshops and media to share information on native species and their habitats, biodiversity conservation and healthier land management.</b></p> 	<p>Landholders are more knowledgeable about biodiversity in the local landscape and undertake some measure of conservation activities on their land.</p>	<p>There are follow-up enquiries post-events and increased landholder participation in LUCI activities.</p>

## Strategy 2: CONSERVE

### Support landholders' conservation efforts on their own land

Main activities	Desired outcome	Indicators
<p><b>Property Planning Group</b></p> 	<p>Participating landholders have an increased understanding of the ecosystems and native habitats and fauna they support on both their own property and in the local landscape.</p>	<p>Participating landholders' develop, implement and evaluate detailed action plans for their properties.</p> <p>Native habitat on participating landholders' properties is improved and/or expanded as evidenced through inputs into the Property Planning Group meetings.</p>
<p><b>Habitat restoration projects</b></p> 	<p>Improved health of native habitats on landholders' properties and in the landscape.</p> <p>Threatened marker species continue to use habitats in the local landscape.</p> <p>LUCI landholders are recognised for their conservation achievements.</p>	<p>Landholder monitoring shows reductions in feral animal abundance and extent of weeds in the local landscape.</p> <p>Monitoring indicates continuing presence and enhanced distribution of threatened marker species in the landscape.</p> <p>Requests for information on, and public acknowledgement of, LUCI's projects and achievements.</p>

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## Strategy 3: **CONNECT**

### Encourage and support landholders to collaborate on restoring connections between native habitats in the landscape

Main activities	Desired outcome	Indicators
<p><b>Friends of Dwyers Scrub Project</b></p> 	<p>Improved health of native habitats in Dwyers Scrub Conservation Park and in the landscape</p> <p>Threatened marker species continue to use habitats in Dwyers Scrub Conservation Park.</p>	<p>FoDS weed mapping in Dwyers Scrub Conservation Park shows continuing reductions in extent of weeds in the SEVT area.</p> <p>Monitoring indicates continuing presence of threatened marker species in Dwyers Scrub Conservation Park.</p>
<p><b>Connectivity projects</b></p> 	<p>Improved connectivity between patches of native habitat for threatened marker species across LUCI's landscape of interest.</p> <p>Threatened marker species continue to use habitats in the local landscape.</p>	<p>Connections between patches of native habitat across the landscape for key marker species are continually enhanced.</p> <p>Monitoring indicates continuing presence and dispersal of threatened marker species in the landscape.</p>

## LUCI management

LUCI is managed by a committee of elected members, that is President, Treasurer and Secretary, who may invite other LUCI members (e.g. Project Coordinators) to participate in committee meetings. The management committee meets a minimum four - six times a year and convenes an Annual General Meeting combined with a General Meeting.

In addition to this Strategy document, LUCI has developed a Workplace Health and Safety Policy (WH&S) and protocols relating to governance, member privacy, data management and equipment loans. As part of our WH&S system, LUCI undertakes a risk assessment and planning exercise prior to undertaking any public activities.

LUCI receives no funds for operating expenses. Some of LUCI's projects are supported by Federal, State and Local Government grants gained through a competitive process. LUCI works closely with and benefits enormously from the [Lockyer Valley Regional Council](#)'s Environment Officers, Martin Bennett and Chris Hoffmann, and is hugely grateful to the mentoring support from Dr Guy Castley, Griffith University, and statistical expertise provided by Tim Roselli. LUCI seeks to collaborate and/or network with other organisations and groups with similar aims, for example, University of Queensland student programs and researchers, Little Liverpool Range Initiative, Friends of Escarpment Parks (Toowoomba), Friends of Lake Apex, Friends of Gormans Gap, Friends of the Forest Somerset Region, to name a few.

LUCI is a regional alliance partner in the [Great Eastern Ranges Initiative](#) and is a member of [Queensland Water and Land Carers](#), [SEQ Catchments Members Association](#), the [Glossy Black Conservancy](#) and [Protect the Bush Alliance](#).

