



THE GAP SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE INC.



NEXT MEETING: 26th April

At The Gap State Primary School Resource centre, Crn. Waterworks and Settlement Roads

Guest Speaker: Prof Hugh Possingham, Queensland Chief Scientist

On the 26th of March, we held a half-day strategic planning day, at Taylor Range Club. We thank our expert facilitator Mr Khory McCormick who guided us skillfully and successfully through the day in the presence of Member for Cooper Jonty Bush. It was acknowledged that there are already a number of high profile, well-functioning and valuable community groups providing significant environmental action in The Gap. The purpose of this forum was to establish if there was an opportunity to work together on one or more strategic projects that would create a positive impact that otherwise would not be achieved acting individually on our own. By the end of the meeting, three short, medium and long-term projects were identified that fulfilled the shared values of “community-controlled, connectivity, changing daily behaviours, and focussed activity”:

- 1) *Elevate use of existing capabilities:* Create a registry of community groups active in sustainability matters, encourage residents to volunteer for those, and take greater advantage of readily available opportunities such as reducing energy waste, or planting scrubs and trees on footpaths or kerbsides.
- 2) *The Platypus Project:* The aim to bring platypus back into Enoggera and Fish Creeks excited many attendees, as this would require a focus on water quality, with multiple flow-on effects such as habitat recreation, removal of waste from creek and surrounds, prevention of bushfires that would impact the water quality, removal of feral animals and education of the community.
- 3) *Electricity Independence:* Form a local community energy association, to offer affordable and secure energy to residents; reduce GHG emissions through renewable sources, and generate a surplus that could fund community projects such as 1 and 2.

The agreed next steps were to develop the scope of these projects and establish sub- committees to drive progress. We encourage any member of the community who would like to become involved in one or more of these projects to contact us via email thegapsustainability@gmail.com.

NEXT EVENT: We are very excited to announce that the next guest speaker for our educational forum on the 26th April at The Gap State Primary School, is Queensland Chief Scientist Prof Hugh Possingham. Prof Possingham’s background is in conservation biology and ecology. He uses mathematics, economics and data science methods to retain and improve biodiversity. As Queensland’s Chief Scientist, he encourages communities to engage in this important matter, and works with the government on effective sustainability policies. **Please RSVP to thegapsustainability@gmail.com**

Membership: Thank you to all our friends who have already initiated their membership, we continue our invitation to join. The membership fee is \$5 per annum to cover costs such as insurance, website hosting fee, room hire and facilitated meetings. Please use our Bank Account Name: **The Gap Sustainability BSB124001 Account No: 23277186** and send us your name, DOB, and address to thegapsustainability@gmail.com for the membership registry.

Please stay updated about our activities by visiting our website www.thegapsustainability.org . We now also have an active presence on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/thegapsustainability).

We hope you can join us for our next event on the 26th April, 7.30pm, at The Gap State Primary School resource centre and meet Queensland’s Chief Scientist Prof Possingham.

Yours sincerely The Gap Sustainability Initiative team

