



## ESA-SCBO 2022 Conference Statement

Two of Australia's peak environmental science societies, the Ecological Society of Australia and the Society for Conservation Biology (Oceania), met jointly on Dharawal country in Wollongong, NSW, Australia this week with more than 900 delegates in attendance. The theme of the conference was about reconnecting with nature and each other. Delegates voted to adopt the following Conference Statement during the final Plenary session on Thursday 1st December:

Recognising that healthy environments underpin the health of people, culture, communities, industry, agriculture, and all aspects of life;

Recognising that climate change and the global biodiversity crisis are fundamentally driven by increasing human populations and resource consumption;

Respecting the cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Indigenous people and recognising the deep sophistication of First Nations knowledges of biodiversity and ecosystems and;

Recognising that human impacts on the environment need to be addressed equitably and fairly, while respecting human rights;

Conference delegates agreed to the following three resolutions to Australian governments and communities:

1. that governments and communities recognise and act now to address fundamental drivers of the biodiversity and climate crises by limiting the negative impacts of humans on ecosystems.
2. that governments and communities invest in the mitigation and control of known, high-level and widespread threats to Australia's environments, including land clearing, unsustainable native forest logging, water resource development, invasive species, pollution, climate change, overfishing and disease, working in genuine collaboration with Indigenous people and supported by the information in the 2021 [State of the Environment Report for Australia](#).
3. that governments and communities invest in targeted, long-term collection and analysis of data and incorporate both Indigenous Knowledge and international scientific information to inform effective policy and management for protecting environments, recovering species and restoring ecosystems.

In addition, the delegates also agreed that peak environmental science organisations, including multidisciplinary specialists, involved in research, policy and management of our environments should work more closely together to support Australian governments and communities with high quality scientific advice on necessary measures and resources to address Australia's most pressing environmental problems.