

# Conservation Council of Western Australia **2021**

## A bold vision for conservation, climate and communities in WA





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**The Conservation Council of WA is proud to present this report as the state's foremost non-profit, nongovernment conservation organization, representing almost 150,000 supporters and 105 member groups. CCWA has been an advocate for conservation and a sustainable Western Australia for more than 50 years, working directly with the government, media, industry, community groups, and political parties to promote a more sustainable WA and to protect our natural environment.**

*We acknowledge that we meet and work on the land of the Nyoongar people. We pay respect to their Elders – past, present, and future – and acknowledge the important role all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play in advancing a more sustainable Western Australia.*



# A bold vision for conservation, climate and communities in WA

## Priorities for the WA Government

**WA needs a bold vision for our economy, environment, and action on climate change. A new way of thinking that can solve environment challenges while future-proofing our economy, creating jobs and providing a better quality of life for all West Australians.**

The goals and targets set out in this document provide a blueprint for tackling climate change and addressing WA's biggest environmental challenges. But this is more than a plan for our environment and climate.

This is a plan to create thousands of secure, well-paid jobs by investing in future growth industries with the benefits shared among all West Australians. These measures will improve the quality of life for everyone, while providing new hope and real opportunities for those who have been missing out.

If this plan is implemented, it will invigorate regional economies while supporting our communities, farmers, and businesses to flourish as part of a cleaner, fairer and more sustainable future for Western Australia.

Through this plan, we can create a stronger and fairer economy while protecting our unique environment and dramatically cutting the carbon pollution that is driving our climate to get hotter, drier, and more dangerous.

Together, these transformative goals and measures will position WA as a leader in the emerging global economy, protect our unique environment, and deliver thousands of jobs and real opportunities for communities and businesses across WA.

**We call on all political parties and candidates contesting the 2021 WA election to commit to the policies, investment, and leadership required to achieve the following goals.**

- **350,000 clean jobs by 2025**
- **Halve carbon pollution by 2030**
- **700% renewable energy by 2040**
- **2,500 conservation partnerships by 2025**
- **1% of Gross State Product invested in conservation**
- **Zero loss of endangered wildlife habitat by 2022**
- **10 million hectares of revegetation and carbon farming by 2025**
- **1 million hectares of forest protected for nature and climate by 2025**

This document explains each of these goals and describes how it can be achieved. While the WA Government must play a critical role, the goals cannot be achieved by government alone. We invite all sectors, communities, landholders, businesses, and agencies to work together in partnership with government to realise this exciting vision for our state.

In addition, the document provides concrete policies and actions that environment groups are asking all political parties to commit to for the next Term of Government. These policies and actions will help deliver the goals for conservation and action on climate change and address other important priorities for our environment and communities.

# Our environment and communities are facing huge challenges



Right now our climate, environment and communities are facing unprecedented challenges that demand urgent action.

Climate change is making drought, fire and other extreme weather events more frequent and more dangerous. Combined with decades of unsustainable land management, this presents huge challenges for the viability of regional communities and threatens the natural resources like soil and water that we all depend on.

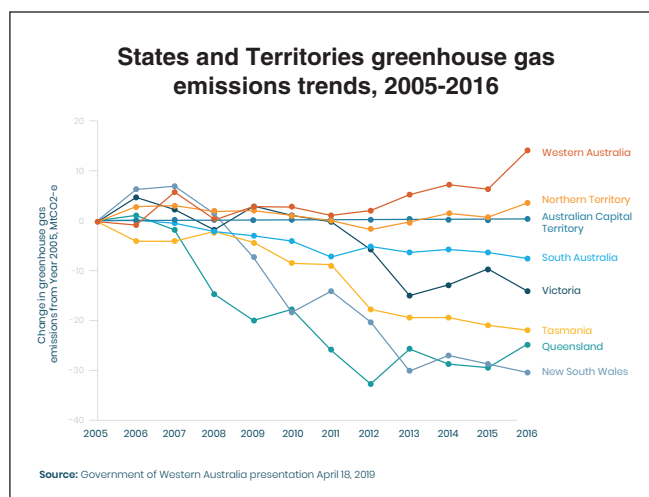
Western Australia home to unique plants and animals found nowhere else. But in many places our wildlife and biodiversity are facing collapse as the number of endangered species grows, and the available habitat for wildlife shrinks every year. If we don't act now to address these challenges, many of these species will be lost forever.



Numbat (classified Endangered)

The WA Auditor General has identified a chronic lack of funding for the protection and management of wildlife in WA, and has warned that millions of hectares of farmland are under threat from salinity and soil degradation. State of Environment reports have described high rates of clearing, logging, burning and other habitat loss, while weeds, pests, feral animals and a drying climate are also taking their toll.

Expansion of the highly polluting Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) industry has seen our state's carbon pollution climb to record levels, with per-capita pollution now higher than almost any country in the world. The exposure of our economy these industries is harming our competitiveness and while workers in these industries face insecure employment and lack a transition plan to cleaner alternatives.



Now is the time for bold, urgent, and decisive action. The good news is that with new ways of thinking and working together, the solutions to these challenges can deliver a stronger, fairer and more competitive economy while providing new jobs and opportunities for all West Australians.

# Western Australians will vote for a clean economy and a healthy environment

**Independent state-wide polling over the past 18 months shows that action on climate change and protecting our environment are high priorities for West Australians across all voting groups.**

The research shows that strong policies on climate change, environment and conservation are vote winners and parties have an opportunity to win support from voters by adopting such policies.

There is overwhelming support for action on climate change, and it is a vote changer.

- 50% of West Australians would be more likely (27%) or much more likely (23%) to vote for a political party with strong policies on climate change and carbon pollution.<sup>1</sup>
- There is overwhelming (85%) support for stronger action on climate change. One in five believe it should be treated as an emergency while just 4% oppose stronger action.<sup>2</sup>
- Over 60% believe that the McGowan Government should be doing more to address climate change in WA and 77% of respondents believe it is unacceptable for WA's carbon pollution to continue to rise.<sup>2</sup>
- There is very widespread concern about climate change among West Australians, with 73% either very concerned (31%) or quite concerned (42%).<sup>1</sup>

## West Australians believe climate action will bring more jobs and a stronger economy

- 73% believe action on climate change will either benefit the economy and bring new jobs, or will have no overall negative impact. 67% believe that action on climate change can bring new industries to WA to broaden the economy and only 12% believe it will harm the WA economy.<sup>1</sup>

## There is strong support for expanding national parks and funding conservation programs

- 75.5% support or strongly support the WA Government's Plan for our Parks 5 Million hectares.<sup>3</sup>
- 70% believe new National Parks and Marine Parks are good for creating jobs and the state economy.<sup>3</sup>
- 81.6% support WA Government funding for conservation jobs.<sup>3</sup>

## West Australians want to see an end to native forest logging

- 78% believe that logging of native forests should be phased out and all timber needs sourced for sustainable plantations<sup>1</sup>
- 78% believe that all remaining native forests should be protected to provide homes for wildlife and maintain a healthy environment<sup>1</sup>

## There is strong support for protecting Aboriginal heritage

- There is widespread (74%) agreement that mining companies should be required to seek traditional owner approval before impacting Aboriginal heritage sites.<sup>1</sup>

## West Australians do not support new gas developments

- A majority of West Australians support a ban on new gas developments and 64% believe that WA should be phasing out gas and replacing it with renewable energy and only 14% disagree.<sup>2</sup>
- Western Australians (80%) overwhelmingly support requirements WA's biggest polluters to offset pollution through job-creating projects like tree planting, carbon farming and renewable energy.<sup>2</sup>
- 69% believe governments should look beyond the short-term use of gas as a transition fuel<sup>1</sup> and investing in gas is the least preferred option for economic recovery.<sup>3</sup>

1 Patterson Research Group survey of 854 WA residents over 18, November 2020

2 Patterson Research Group survey of 925 WA residents over 18, September 2019.

3 uComms survey of 854 residents across state electorates of Joondalup, Hillarys & Scarborough, 29 January 2021

4 Patterson Research Group survey of 964 WA residents over 18, June 2020.



# 350,000 clean jobs by 2025

Action on climate change presents the most significant jobs and development opportunity in Western Australia's history. Growing new clean industries and cutting pollution in existing workplaces can deliver thousands of jobs, and exciting opportunities for businesses and workers in all sectors and all communities across our state.



Low carbon industries like renewable energy, carbon farming, tourism, hospitality, and even clean manufacturing and mining are already delivering clean jobs. The Clean State Jobs Plan shows how the number of clean jobs in WA can be created through practical action on climate change.

**A target of at least 350,000 clean jobs for WA workers by 2025 could be delivered by:**

- **70,000 new clean jobs in low-carbon growth industries.** These include renewable energy, carbon farming, sustainable tourism, recycling, green metals, land management, conservation, and clean technology.
- **280,000 existing jobs made clean in workplaces that take action to cut carbon pollution.** This could involve improving energy efficiency, purchasing renewable energy, using electric vehicles, embracing clean manufacturing and farming practices, and making other changes that save money and create jobs. Over 90,000 jobs would be made clean here in WA if just 10 of the state's biggest polluters became carbon neutral.



# 700% renewable energy by 2040

WA is internationally recognised as one of the best places on Earth to support renewable energy, with excellent wind, solar and wave resources across our state. With huge potential to power new industries on renewable energy and export our renewable power and products overseas, there is potential to grow and provide jobs for WA working families in the future.

International conservation organisation WWF has released a report outlining how Australia can achieve 700% renewable energy and the CEO of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) has suggested this target could be achieved by 2030. With our world-leading undeveloped natural renewable energy resources and advanced industry capabilities, WA is well placed to achieve this.



## How can WA achieve 700% renewable energy?

### 1. Meeting current electricity demand with renewable energy.

Eventually, all of Western Australia's current electricity demand can be met with renewable energy – this is called 100% renewables.

### 2. Powering new industries with renewable energy.

Other industries such as transport, mining, and industrial operations using diesel, gas or other fuels can be electrified and converted to run on renewable energy. This would double the amount of electricity generated by renewable energy we used here in WA (200% renewable energy).

### 3. Exporting renewable energy and renewable energy products.

Additional renewable energy can be exported in various ways, including creating hydrogen fuels for export, establishing subsea cables to export electricity, and exporting manufactured products like green steel made using Renewable energy. This could see WA achieve 700% renewable energy or more.



# Halve carbon pollution by 2030

In 2020 the McGowan Government set an aspirational goal of achieving zero net emissions by 2050. This goal is in line with the Paris Agreement, however the government has not released a policy framework or plan detailing how it will be achieved and no targets have been set for 2030 or earlier.

To help address this gap, CCWA has commissioned global experts Climate Analytics to develop the first carbon budget for Western Australia. This describes the maximum amount of carbon pollution that can be released in WA between now and 2050, consistent with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

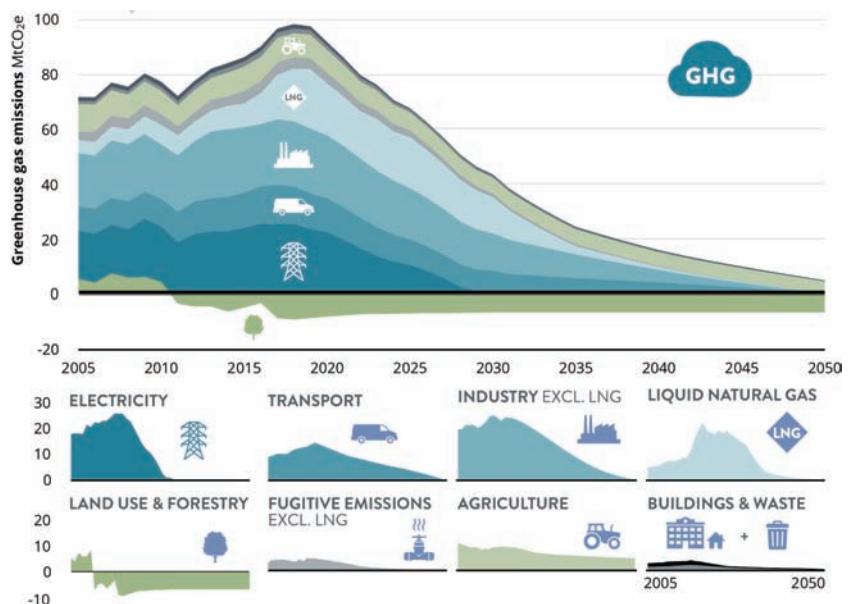
The budget demonstrates that WA pollution must begin to go down immediately, with a 50% reduction by 2030 at the latest. For every year that pollution continues to grow, deeper cuts will have to be made in the future for WA to remain within this carbon budget.

Independent modelling shows that achieving this goal is possible with existing technology and will produce economic benefits for our state. Billions of dollars in investment will be attracted to WA from private industry building renewable energy generation, developing carbon farming and other business opportunities to reduce WA pollution. This will create thousands of jobs, lower energy bills, and provide exciting opportunities for communities and businesses across the state.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

### Paris Agreement compatible pathway for all sectors

GHG emissions pathway for each of the sectors following a transformation consistent with the Paris Agreement in each of those sectors. Total GHG emissions peak around 2020 and decline to about 49% below 2005 levels in 2030, reaching net zero around 2050 contingent upon maintaining a large sink in the LULUCF sector. Consistent with national projections, the LULUCF sink is expected to slowly decline from recent high levels due to saturation of reforestation and other activities. It also assumes vegetation conversion (deforestation in broad terms) leading to emissions is effectively halted by 2025, which would require policy intervention. National projections assume ongoing deforestation losses.







# 2500 conservation partnerships by 2025

**Vast areas of our state are affected by climate change, soil degradation, habitat loss and other challenges that are having severe impacts on our environment, our natural resources and our economy. In order to address these challenges, WA needs a new vision for joined-up land management and conservation across all land tenures.**



Photo: Donna Chapman

For such a vision to succeed, it must be based on new and strengthened partnerships between government, landholders, community groups, Traditional Owners, and businesses, harnessing the capacity of each towards management of our land and natural resources at a landscape scale.

Land management is essential to maintaining a healthy environment, protecting wildlife, and preserving the natural resources like soil and water that we all rely on. It also provides jobs, contributes to regional economies, improves agricultural productivity, delivers social benefits, and helps tackle climate change. Management actions include fire control, managing pests and weeds, revegetation, and other actions to protect soil and water.

With the right vision and planning, 2,500 conservation partnerships across WA can be achievable by 2025. This would provide a network to deliver conservation and land management across large areas, engaging communities and landholders in ways that provide direct and real economic benefits. These partnerships would build on existing programs including Land for Wildlife, Landcare, voluntary conservation groups, Aboriginal Ranger programs and conservation partnerships involving pastoral lease holders, mining companies and state and local government landholders.

To achieve the scale that is necessary and harness the benefits that are possible, this would involve partnerships with:

- at least 1,750 private landholders
- 250 pastoral leaseholders
- 250 Aboriginal groups, and
- 250 mining companies and other businesses.

The State Government would play a catalysing role for the formation of these partnerships and community groups, NRM agencies, conservation organisations, and philanthropists would also be involved. Ongoing monitoring of conservation outcomes would be embedded in the partnerships and supported by a coordinated network of community or citizen scientists.

Funding and other resources to support these partnerships would come from State and Commonwealth government as well as private, and philanthropic investment. Payments for biodiversity and carbon offsets would provide an additional income stream to support management activities.



# 1% of Gross State Product invested in conservation

Western Australia is a global hotspot for unique wildlife that exist nowhere else on Earth, but the management of our natural areas, including national parks and conservation reserves, remains chronically underfunded. As a result, our ecosystems and wildlife are declining, and significant areas of land are unmanaged and becoming further degraded by fire, feral animals, weed invasion and other threats.

Western Australia's total land area is just over 2.646 million square kilometres. While some areas are in national parks and conservation reserves, the majority is in private ownership, unallocated crown land (UCL) or pastoral lease. To maintain our unique biodiversity and provide homes for wildlife investment is required in the management of all these areas.

The state's principal conservation and land management agency (DBCA) have an operational budget of just \$400m per year; however, this is inadequate to manage even the existing conservation estate. The Commonwealth Government, Local government, private sector landholders, and conservation organisations also contribute funding to conservation management; however, little data exists on how much is spent and what outcomes are achieved.



Fairy Tern nesting site at Hill River Estuary. Photo: Alanna Smith



Fairy Terns. Photo: Cherilyn Corker

**A target of 1% of Western Australia's gross state product would see \$2.6 billion spent on conservation, land restoration and management every year, or around \$10 per hectare when averaged across the entire state.**

This estimated to deliver a 2-3-fold increase in current conservation spending and would generate thousands of additional jobs for regional communities. We call on the next State government to adopt this target and invite others to contribute towards achieving and exceeding it by 2025 at the latest.



# Zero loss of habitat for endangered wildlife

**The majority of original wildlife habitat in WA has already been lost or degraded by clearing, logging, grazing, burning, mining and other impacts. In some areas, less than 5% of the original habitat remains. What we have left is critical to our wildlife's survival and must be protected from further loss and damage. This includes both large-scale clearing and the incremental loss of small areas that together add up to significant cumulative impacts.**

Our state is a global hotspot for its diversity, home to unique animals such as the Carnaby's cockatoo, numbat and ringtail possum and a unique a dazzling array of wildflowers and other plants. Most of these are found nowhere else on Earth. The number of species classified as endangered is growing year by year, and even once common and widespread species are in significant decline.

The biggest threat facing wildlife is the loss of 'habitat' – or the homes and food that our wildlife needs to survive. Habitat includes nesting hollows in old trees where cockatoos and possums make their homes, wetlands and rivers where birds and fish can breed, natural forest, woodlands and heath where plants, insects and animals find food and shelter.

Achieving zero loss of habitat is a critical step in halting the further decline in our unique native wildlife.

This means no further clearing or logging of the forests, wetlands, woodlands, sandplain heaths and other natural areas that provide food and homes for endangered wildlife. The first step towards this goal is a comprehensive state-wide scientific audit of wildlife habitat. A moratorium of broad-scale land clearing and a significant reduction in land-clearing overall should be put in place until the whole process is complete.



Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos. Photo: Philippa Beckerling



# 10 million hectares of revegetation and carbon farming by 2025

**A long-term effort to restore and replant native vegetation on degraded land across our state will be critical to bring back native wildlife, provide employment, improve farm productivity, tackle salinity and drought, and address climate change.**

Carbon farming can play a crucial role in supporting landscape restoration and reforestation, protecting WAs unique and endangered wildlife and ecosystems and improving the resilience of natural areas threatened by climate change. Income from carbon credits

WA has enormous potential to grow a carbon farming and land restoration industry that benefits farmers, Traditional Owners, and regional communities.



Photo: Donna Chapman

A target of 10 million hectares represents less than 4% of Western Australia's total land area, yet it would have the potential to remove around 30 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere per year - roughly one third of the state's total carbon emissions.

**This target could be achieved with:**

- 4 million hectares of revegetation and carbon plantings on degraded and salt-affected farmland in the State's South West and agricultural zone.
- 3.5 million hectares of pastoral lease managed to allow regrowth of native vegetation and encourage the return of wildlife.
- Protection of 1.5 million hectares of forests and other native vegetation that would otherwise be at risk of logging and clearing.
- Savannah burning by Aboriginal Rangers covering 1 million hectares in the Kimberley.





# 1 million hectares of forest protected for nature and climate by 2025

**Managing our remaining native forests for conservation and sustainable industries and completing the transition of the state's timber industry to plantation forestry presents a huge opportunity for investment and job creation in the state's Southwest over the next decade and beyond.**

The WA Government has an exciting opportunity to create jobs in a growing sustainable economy for our Southwest by protecting native forests, expanding the plantation timber industry, and supporting sustainable forest businesses including tourism, carbon farming, honey production, and other sustainable industries.

At present, nearly 1 million hectares of southwest forest are at risk of permanent damage from unsustainable logging operations which are destroying native forest at the rate of 10 football fields every day. Despite their severe impact on native wildlife, these logging operations are exempt from wildlife protection laws and are operating at a financial loss to taxpayers. Damage to native forests by logging operations is costing jobs and opportunities for southwest communities by holding back the potential of sustainable forest-based industries like tourism, carbon farming and honey production.

Protecting and managing forests is an essential action in addressing climate change and reducing carbon pollution in the atmosphere. By eliminating the threat of logging from WA's southwest forests and instead managing them for sustainable industries, up to 60 million tons of carbon pollution over ten years could be prevented or removed from the atmosphere. This 'carbon sequestration' capacity of forests has the potential to generate significant revenue and employment for southwest communities, through the sale of carbon credits.



Photo: Kim Redman



# Delivering a healthy environment, strong communities and safe climate

## Actions and policy priorities for the next WA Government

We are calling on all parties and political candidates contesting the 2021 WA state election to commit to the following policies and actions to support a healthy environment, strong communities and a safe climate in Western Australia.

### Provide leadership on climate change and carbon pollution

- Ensure WA's carbon pollution peaks in 2021; set a state-wide target of 50% reduction in carbon pollution by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.
- Develop carbon pollution reduction plans for each sector that are consistent with achieving these goals, while ensuring that no communities are left behind.
- Legislate to reflect the above carbon targets, establish a statutory Climate Change Authority, and require regular reporting on WA's progress towards meeting these goals.
- Establish an Office of Climate Action and Clean Jobs in the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Appoint a dedicated Minister to assist the Premier, a dedicated Cabinet committee, and a Premier's climate and Jobs Roundtable with stakeholders to advise the government.
- Commit to a carbon neutral public service by 2025, including all government owned enterprises, public housing, services and utilities.

### Create jobs in renewable energy and clean industries

- Establish legislated renewable energy and renewable energy export targets, including 90% of renewable energy for the Southwest Interconnected System and 700% renewable energy exports by 2030.
- Continue to invest in WA's Green Hydrogen Strategy to ensure that WA becomes a global leader in this industry.
- Develop a Green Metals Strategy to utilise WA's renewable energy and minerals resources to create clean manufacturing jobs and position WA as a leader and driver of emerging green metals industries.
- Work with proponents and the EPA to ensure all large new industrial developments in WA are powered by renewable energy.





## Phase-out fossil fuel exports and transition WA's biggest polluters to clean energy

- Deliver thousands of jobs for West Australians in carbon farming, renewable energy and other projects by phasing in requirements WA LNG exporters to offset carbon pollution.
- Develop and implement a decarbonisation and transition plan for WA's existing LNG export industry that addresses pollution from existing facilities and supports the transition to renewable hydrogen exports.
- Reject Woodside's Burrup Hub proposals, including the Browse Basin and Scarborough gas developments which would produce 6 billion tons of carbon pollution during their lifetime.
- Reject proposals for new or expanded fossil fuel production in WA through fracking and pass legislation to permanently ban fracking across the entire state.
- Place a ban on further oil and gas exploration in WA and set a target for phasing out WA's fossil fuel exports by 2035.
- Develop a plan to retire all coal-fired power stations within 5 years and assist workers transition to sustainable industries.
- Work with other large existing industries to transition to renewable energy sources for their energy needs.

## Protect wildlife and wildlife habitat

- Develop a program to establish 2,500 conservation partnerships with landholders, community groups, Traditional Owners and others by 2025.
- Urgently undertake a comprehensive audit of endangered wildlife and wildlife habitat across the state and publicly release the results.
- Implement policies to ensure that there is zero further loss of habitat for WA's endangered species by 2022.
- Fully fund, update and implement recovery plans for all endangered species in WA.
- Pass new laws to provide more robust protection for the habitat that WA's species of plants and animals require.
- Commit funding to revegetate 10,000 hectares of harvested pine plantation areas on the Gnanarra mound to provide food and habitat for endangered cockatoos.
- Reject damaging road proposals including Roe8, realign the Bunbury Outer Ring Road (southern section) to avoid the environmentally sensitive Gelorup corridor, protect remaining roadside vegetation in the Wheatbelt, and ensure all new roadworks avoid clearing areas of native vegetation.
- Update planning laws to ensure remnant vegetation is retained in subdivisions and to prevent broad scale clearing of bushland for residential developments.

## Protect the Exmouth Gulf

- Protect Ningaloo - Exmouth Gulf from industrial development.
- Secure Exmouth Gulf's globally significant natural and cultural heritage, and the tourism jobs, social values and research, education and joint-management activities that rely on its health now and into the future.
- Commit to a resourced action plan for Exmouth to become an example of sustainability and resilience.

## Protect forests and support sustainable forest industries

- Immediately protect the highest conservation value forests for climate and wildlife in the south-west.
- Support the transition of the south-west native forest logging industry to plantation-based timber production by supporting the development of a world-class farm forestry sector to grow WA's timber locally while delivering multiple co-benefits.
- Ensure that the next 10-year Forest Management Plan (2024-2033) supports sustainable forest industries and protects native forests from logging operations.
- Place a moratorium on further clearing of the Jarrah forest for bauxite mining.



## Expand National Parks and protected areas

- Continue the Plan for Our Parks initiative; including protecting the former pastoral leases purchased for conservation, protecting the Buccaneer Archipelago, Helena Aurora Range and creating a new Great Southern Marine Park to rival the Great Kimberley Marine Park, alongside protection of other special and important places
- Complete the Fitzroy River National Park to protect outstanding cultural and environmental values and protect the natural and prevent unsustainable water allocation from the river system
- Continue with the permanent protection and rehabilitation of the Beeliiar wetlands
- Place all Bush Forever urban bushland sites in permanent protection and ensure adequate resources for ongoing management of these areas.

## Protect our wetlands and rivers

- Undertake a state-wide assessment of the health, threats, environmental values and conservation status of wetlands and river systems and provide permanent protection for wetlands
- Place a moratorium on any further filling, draining or clearing of wetlands and commit to a plan for protecting high conservation value wetlands in conservation estate.
- Complete and implement the wetland buffer guidelines to ensure remaining wetlands are not further degraded or compromised.
- Commit to a Healthy Rivers Policy that protects our river systems and ensures rivers are not degraded by unsustainable water use by irrigation or extractive industries, like has occurred in the Murray Darling Basin.



## Take action on sustainable transport

- Continue to deliver and complete Metronet in a way that minimises land clearing, and other environmental impacts, maximise opportunities for sustainable transit-oriented developments around stations.
- Install solar panels and batteries on all stations, and power the expanded train network with 100% renewable energy.
- Provide incentives for electric vehicle use, purchase electric vehicles for government fleets and develop a network of electric vehicle charging facilities across the metropolitan area and regional areas
- Develop a plan and commit funding to an electric tram network across the Perth metropolitan area by 2030
- Renegotiate bus purchase contracts to provide an electric bus fleet assembled here in WA, with all busses to be made electric by 2025
- Commit to funding to build 2,000 km of dedicated bicycle routes and trails across Western Australian towns and cities over the next five years.
- Ensure a regular and affordable passenger rail service to Bunbury and investigate the development of fast electric trains to Bunbury, Albany and Geraldton.





## Support indigenous participation and protect Aboriginal heritage

- In consultation with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal groups, pass new legislation to protect Aboriginal Heritage and require Traditional Owners' consent for all decisions affecting Aboriginal Heritage.
- Continue and expand the Indigenous Ranger Program to support ranger groups for all government-owned lands, and transition National Parks and conservation reserves to joint management and vesting with Traditional Owners.
- Update the Conservation and Land Management Act to allow for the joint vesting of marine parks, and protection of cultural values.
- Create a dedicated unit within government to support the development of Aboriginal-led carbon farming, renewable energy, tourism, natural heritage protection, and other sustainable indigenous enterprises.

- Support and promote regenerative agriculture practices and invest in the development of a carbon-neutral grains export industry for WA.

## Unlock WA's carbon farming potential

- Continue and expand current efforts to support the development of a new carbon farming industry in WA's outback to deliver jobs and support WA's carbon pollution reduction goals.
- Build on the WA Carbon Farming initiative by investing \$100m in a WA Carbon Farming and Land Restoration Fund to deliver carbon farming opportunities that maximise environmental and economic co-benefits.
- Map WA's Blue Carbon assets and opportunities and develop a WA Blue Carbon Strategy to establish demonstration projects and support a WA blue carbon industry's development.



## Support sustainable farms and rangelands

- Reform legislation and tenure arrangements for Western Australia's 527 Pastoral leases and improve land condition reporting for pastoral lands to support sustainable communities and land management practices in the outback.

## Manage the impacts of a changing climate

- Lead the development of comprehensive climate change adaptation plans for each sector in consultation with stakeholders and work with Local Governments to develop local climate adaptation plans.
- Introduce a Climate Emergency and Adaptation Levy (CEAL) on WA's largest carbon emitters at the rate of \$1.50-\$3 per tonne and create a special fund to allocate the revenue to climate emergency services (such as bushfire suppression, emergency services in extreme weather events, drought assistance) and adaptation measures (such as coastal erosion, local adaptation plans, wildlife relocation etc.)

## Improve bushfire management

- Review bushfire policies to better target fuel reduction efforts; enhance rapid response and suppression capability; and implement ecologically sustainable fire management to protect people, property and the natural environment.
- Transition away from a hectare-target-based approach to prescribed burning and towards a strategic, targeted approach incorporating indigenous fire management techniques and focusing on protecting assets and maintaining natural carbon stores.
- Provide a dedicated Indigenous fire management fund to establish local Indigenous fire management teams in regional areas, connected with regional volunteer bush fire brigades.
- Establish a Climate Emergency Services Levy at a rate of \$1.50 per tonne of carbon emissions from WA's biggest polluters, to contribute to the increasing costs of responding to climate-related extreme weather events including bushfires, cyclones, floods and droughts.

## Reform environmental laws and improve governance and transparency

- Reinstate regular State of the Environment (SoE) reporting and ensure key recommendations from State of the Environment reports are implemented.
- Establish an independent specialist environmental court to allow a merits-based review of environmental decision making in WA, with rights for third-party participation.
- Support the strengthening of national environmental laws as recommended by the Independent EPBC Act Review, including scrapping exemptions for native forest logging under Regional Forest Agreements.
- Reject expanded bilateral agreements that delegate Commonwealth powers and responsibilities for environmental approvals to the State government.
- Increase transparency by making information held by the government relating to environmental regulation, assessments and decision making available to the public.



## Take action on waste and pollution and ensure a nuclear-free WA

- Commit to a phase out of single use plastics and zero waste to landfill.
- Ensure the priority use of recycled materials in all government construction contracts and purchasing decisions.
- Support the growth of the local e-waste recycling industry and develop a strategy for all e-waste to be recycled here, including batteries and solar panels.
- Update the Perth Air Quality Management plan and extend the plan to regional areas.
- Pass legislation to ban uranium mining permanently throughout Western Australia.
- Ensure the complete rehabilitation of WA's proposed uranium mine sites to the highest standards possible.

## Support community participation in conservation

- Restore and increase funding for community and environment groups to support community education and involvement in on-ground environmental projects and sustainability initiatives.
- Restore secure funding for the Western Australia's peak conservation organisation to represent the sector and participate in government consultation, policy development and decision making that builds community confidence.

