

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

A FUTURE
FOR ALL OF US



CLIMATE CHANGE

The Greens will ensure a swift transition to a zero-emissions economy powered by 100% renewable energy that looks after people, builds the green jobs of the future and ensures a gas-free future for WA.

This is it. We are in a climate crisis. We're seeing its effects all around us: hotter summers, devastating bushfire seasons, decreased rainfall and rising sea levels. To make matters worse, it's those that are doing it toughest that are also hardest hit by the impacts of climate change, starting with our First Nations communities, the farmers in our regions, and young people whose futures are determined by the actions we take today.

There is good news though. While WA is especially vulnerable to climate change, we have a competitive advantage to lead climate action and the renewable energy transition. This will create thousands of high wage jobs and a more resilient, diverse economy, particularly for our regional areas as we navigate our way out of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Greens have a plan for a rapid, carefully managed transition to a zero-emissions economy that is powered by renewable energy and keeps coal and gas firmly in the ground. This plan will also regenerate our environment whilst drawing down millions of tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere, creating thousands more jobs in the process and putting people and communities at the heart of these solutions.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Repower WA - rapidly transitioning to 100% renewables**, banning fracking and phasing out coal and gas
- ▲ **Accelerate a zero-carbon economy** - decarbonising our buildings, transport network and industry
- ▲ **Create thousands of green jobs and ensure no-one is left behind** in the transition to a zero carbon future
- ▲ **Regenerate our forests, wetlands and oceans** - drawing down millions of tonnes of carbon emissions in the process
- ▲ **Legislate targets for achieving net-zero emissions and 100% renewable energy** and deliver a long-term climate change strategy for Western Australia

REPOWERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA.



RAPIDLY TRANSITIONING TO 100% RENEWABLES, BANNING FRACKING & PHASING OUT COAL AND GAS

WA is blessed with an abundance of renewable energy resources giving us a competitive advantage in the global renewable energy economy¹.

But instead of embracing a renewable future, the Labor and Liberal parties continue to receive millions in donations from fossil fuel companies and lock in massive gas projects.

The two major parties continue to support a gas industry that's just as dirty as coal, operates without effective controls, pays very little in taxes or royalties and is the greatest driver of Australia's increasing emissions. In fact, all current and proposed gas projects in WA would contribute nearly half of WA's total annual GHG emissions².

This means the WA Labor Government is fueling the climate crisis rather than solving it. It also means we're missing out on renewable energy, cheaper power bills and the thousands of clean jobs that come with it.

The Greens are committed to a clean energy future. We will deliver a rapid, planned phase-out of coal and gas that supports fossil fuel workers and communities through the transition to clean, green jobs of the future.

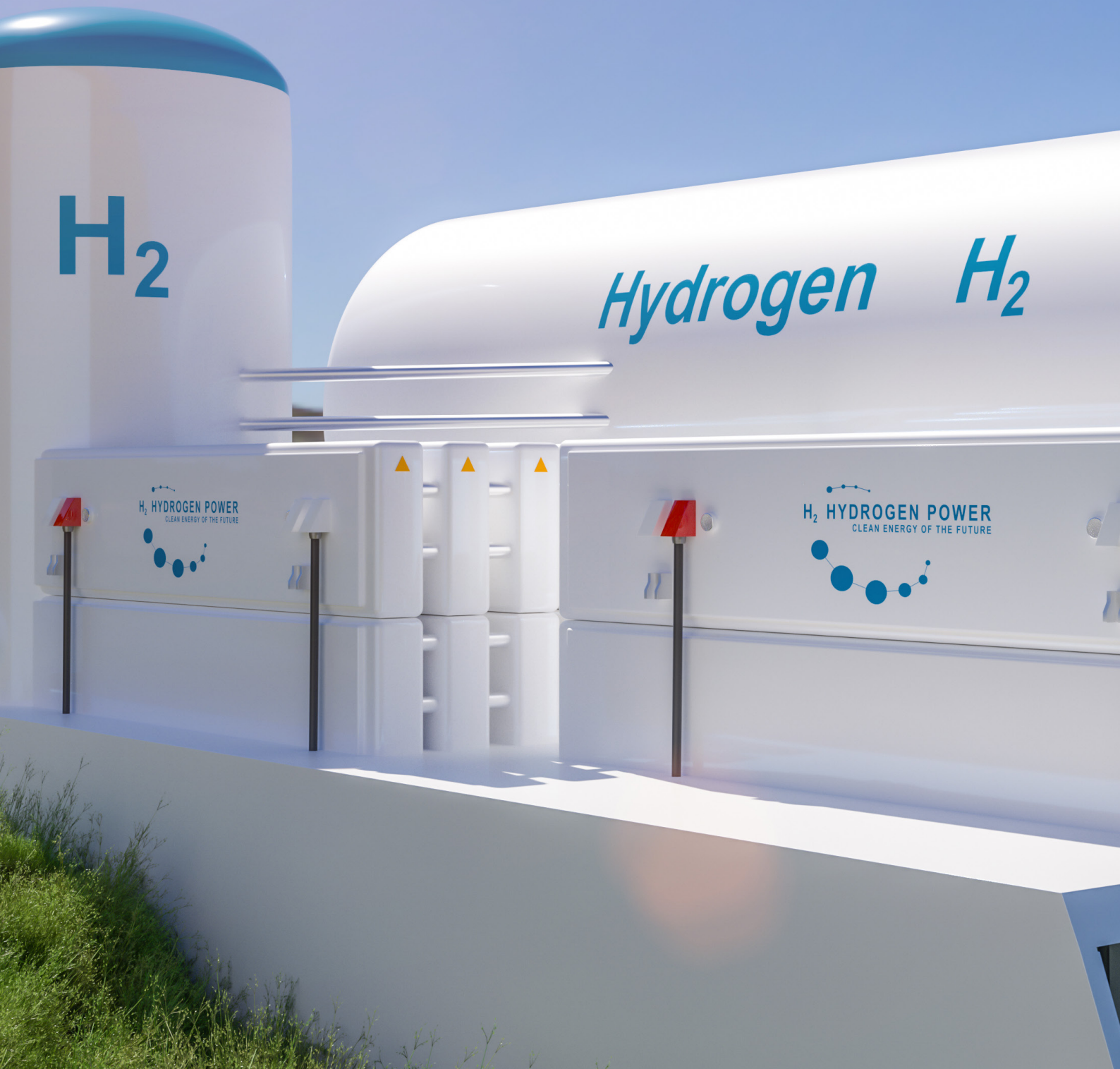
The Greens will invest in the technologies to build a decentralised, reliable renewable energy grid fit for the 21st century that makes energy more affordable to all Western Australians. This plan will give

us a competitive advantage on local clean, green manufacturing opportunities, like lithium ion battery production and exporting excess clean energy to the world. And we must end corporate donations to political parties to stop the gas industry's stranglehold over government policy.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Phase out coal and gas to meet targets of 100% renewable energy by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2035.** This will include immediately banning fracking and stopping new or expanding gas projects. It will also include a just transition plan to support coal and gas workers and communities to retrain and transition to alternative industries
- ▲ **Create 10,000 jobs a year with an initial \$500 million a year State Renewables Investment Fund** to support projects that help accelerate the renewable energy transition, advance micro-grid and decentralised technologies and ensure energy is affordable to all Western Australians, such as large scale battery storage³
- ▲ **Reform market and pricing agreements** to support peer-to-peer trading and shift to decentralised energy grids
- ▲ **Ban corporate donations to political parties**

ACCELERATING A ZERO-CARBON ECONOMY.



DECARBONISING OUR BUILDINGS, TRANSPORT NETWORK & INDUSTRY

WA must rapidly reduce carbon emissions from all sectors of our economy if we are to meet our commitment to keeping global warming below 1.5C degrees. This will take leadership, investment and cooperation across all sectors of society.

There are some incredible businesses, projects and communities innovating and piloting new ideas for a zero carbon future - it's imperative that government supports and accelerates this transition.

The Greens will invest in net zero emissions strategies across our economy with a focus on buildings, transport and industry.

So much of WA's housing stock desperately needs energy efficiency upgrades whilst many new buildings continue to be built to poor energy efficiency design standards. Living in inefficient homes is expensive and unhealthy. Yet 80% of WA's social housing stock is below the national energy standard and the average energy rating for a pre-2005 home is 2 stars⁴, resulting in those who can least afford it paying more for their energy use.

Transport is Australia's second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, and has seen the largest growth of any sector since 1990 (62.9%)⁵. Electrifying our public transport system, investing in cycling and active transport infrastructure, and fast tracking the electric vehicle revolution will both drastically reduce emissions and result in healthier, less polluted places to live and work.

WA's access to cheap renewable energy and abundance of minerals make us uniquely positioned to benefit from the clean, green industries of the future, like lithium ion battery and green steel manufacturing.

The Greens are committed to investing in these sunrise industries, creating high wage jobs for thousands of workers whilst transitioning WA to a zero carbon economy.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Build 15,000 new social houses** to 7.5-star (NatHERS) energy rating, retrofit existing social houses, and implement financial incentives to retrofit private housing⁶
- ▲ **Electrify our public transport system** by fast-tracking the electrification of our bus fleet to 2025, and investing in trackless trams as the missing link in our public transport system⁷
- ▲ **Invest in cycling and active transport infrastructure** - spending \$60 million per year on expanding and upgrading cycle and pedestrian paths, creating better connections to other transport modes and improving the accessibility of the city⁸

- ▲ **Invest \$50 million to roll out the electric vehicle fast-charging network across WA** by 2025 and introduce incentives for people to purchase EVs for private use and a state government fleet target of 100% by 2030
- ▲ **Create a WA Sustainable Industry Investment Fund** to drive the transition to clean manufacturing and industry with \$2.5 billion in investments over ten years⁹, creating 55,000 new jobs. Identified sectors include green steel, lithium battery manufacturing and green hydrogen
- ▲ **Invest in Western Australia's recycling infrastructure & circular economy** to ensure plastics, glass, electronics and construction & demolition waste can all be processed and re-used here in WA





**PUTTING PEOPLE AT
THE HEART OF CLIMATE
SOLUTIONS.**

CREATE THOUSANDS OF GREEN JOBS & ENSURE NO-ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

No one should be left behind in the transition to a zero carbon future. Our climate solutions must put people first, especially those most vulnerable and those on the frontline of the climate crisis such as First Nations communities, farmers in our regions, and young people whose futures are determined by the actions we take today.

We need to invest strategically in new, clean industries of the future. We need to adequately plan for and provide training, support or retirement options for coal and gas workers as we phase out these old industries. We should be investing in jobs-rich low carbon sectors like environmental conservation, the public sector, the creative industries and care economies like teaching and health care which provide meaningful work and contribute enormously to society.

The Greens have a plan to take hold of the exciting opportunities in the clean, green industries of the future, creating thousands of high wage jobs whilst putting people and equality at the heart of it all.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Ensure that First Nations People play a fundamental role in co-designing and leading climate solutions** - in particular for restoration projects on country and bushfire preparedness plans. This includes increased funding for WA's Aboriginal Ranger program. It also includes funding for new Indigenous enterprises such as Indigenous tourism and cultural centres

- ▲ **Develop comprehensive transition plans** with and for coal and gas workers and communities, including training and support

- ▲ **Deliver substantial investments in clean, green jobs** to both properly address economic recovery and meet climate targets. Targeted investments included in this policy would lead to 10,000 jobs in renewable energy¹⁰, 55,000 jobs in green industry¹¹, 10,000 jobs in environmental restoration and carbon sequestration¹², 60,000 jobs building and retrofitting low-carbon homes¹³ and over 1,000 jobs for leadership and entrepreneurial opportunities for First Nations Peoples

- ▲ **Grow the care economy and creative industries** and restore the public service sector

- ▲ **Provide universally accessible and free childcare**, to ensure gender equality in the workforce and to better support women to participate in the next boom of low carbon industries and start-ups

**REGENERATING OUR
ENVIRONMENT.**



REGENERATING & PROTECTING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT - DRAWING DOWN MILLIONS OF TONNES OF CARBON IN THE PROCESS

Our soils, forests, oceans and wetlands are some of our most valuable assets when it comes to tackling the climate crisis. These ecosystems are all vast carbon sinks, drawing down and storing carbon from the atmosphere. In addition, they support our unique biodiversity, flora and fauna and contribute to our health and wellbeing. When these critical ecosystems are destroyed or damaged the carbon they hold is released, further exacerbating our carbon emissions crisis.

Unfortunately here in WA our major parties continue to support the irresponsible destruction of our native forests. WA now has the second-highest rate of primary deforestation in the country¹⁴ whilst returning a loss on its native forest operations. It is an environmental and economic disaster.

In addition, decades of unsustainable agricultural and pastoralism practices have resulted in poor soil quality, increased salinity and greater vulnerability to drought in our regions. While in the Perth metro area, years of uncontrolled urban sprawl has seen Perth lose 75% of its bushland and 80% of its original wetlands to development and our marine environments across WA have suffered devastating losses to biodiversity and health.

It is critical that we protect and regenerate our remaining ecosystems and rebuild new connecting corridors between them to support biodiversity, build climate resilience, and sequester carbon. Partnerships with government, Traditional Owners, farmers and pastoralists, scientists, communities and households will be critical in this endeavour.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **End native forest logging** and develop a sustainable plantation forestry industry producing long term products like housing and furniture
- ▲ **Support farmers, pastoralists and their communities** in adapting to regenerative practices
- ▲ **Support community-led regeneration projects** such as Gondwana link, NRM groups, and emerging marine 'blue carbon' sink opportunities in mangrove, seagrass and tidal marsh restoration projects by investing in a \$125 million per year Nature Fund¹⁵

LEGISLATING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY.



LEGISLATE CLIMATE EMERGENCY TARGETS & DELIVER A CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOR WA

WA needs strong, legislated targets, clear plans to get there, and accountability to measure our progress if we are to reach net zero emissions and give business and industry the certainty it needs to invest in clean, green solutions for the future.

WA is the only state in Australia with rising emissions and, according to the WA Labor Government, this will continue for years to come. We are also only one of two states remaining that is yet to introduce a renewable energy target. This is not good enough.

And, we need to be acting to address the changes we are already facing due to climate change. We need comprehensive adaptation plans to ensure we build resilience into our communities and industries now.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Legislate targets of 100% renewable energy by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2035** (with an interim target of 75 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030) in line with leading climate science
- ▲ **Implement a Climate Change Strategy** that includes proposed pathways and timelines for meeting targets and embeds climate change at the heart of all government decision making, and across every sector's response. This includes

a just transition plan for workers and communities impacted by the strategy and equity measures for low-income households

- ▲ **Establish a Climate Change Council to provide the government with independent advice** on how to meet the targets and ensure accountability. This Council will be made up of diverse representatives across different sectors including transport, built environment, industry and agriculture, with both metro and regional focus, as well as First Nations representative bodies
- ▲ **Develop a WA Climate Resilience & Adaptation Plan to be reviewed every 5 years.** This plan will include state-wide water sensitive strategies to cope with our rapidly depleting water sources; bushfire risk management plans that adopt recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements; and grant programs to support adaptation strategies for our farming and fisheries industries

1. Ross Garnaut, Superpower: Australia's low carbon opportunity, Black Inc., 2019
2. Clean State & CCWA. 2019. 'RUNAWAY TRAIN: The impact of WA's LNG industry on meeting our Paris targets and national efforts to tackle climate change'. https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/ccwa/pages/11567/attachments/original/1576569041/Clean_State_LNG_Report_DIGITAL.pdf?1576569041
3. Based off research including Australia Institute's 'Will-o'-the-ISP: Estimating renewable energy employment under the Integrated System Plan' (<https://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/P648%20Renewable%20job%20estimate%20%5BWeb%5D.pdf>) and Clean State's '26 Big Ideas for 200,000 Jobs: A Clean State Plan for WA Jobs' (www.cleanstate.org.au/jobs-plan)
4. Western Australian Legislative Council Question on Notice 2614, 23 November 2019. [https://parliament.wa.gov.au/Hansard/hansard.nsf/0/f66e88e3b075253b482584c4001a3040/\\$FILE/C40+S1+20191128+p9567a-9567a.pdf](https://parliament.wa.gov.au/Hansard/hansard.nsf/0/f66e88e3b075253b482584c4001a3040/$FILE/C40+S1+20191128+p9567a-9567a.pdf)
5. Climate Council. 2018. 'Waiting for the Green Light: Transport Solutions to Climate Change'. <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/transport-climate-change/>
6. Refer to The Greens (WA) 2021 State Election Housing initiative (to be released 2021).
7. Refer to The Greens (WA) 2021 State Election Sustainable Cities, Liveable Neighbourhoods initiative (to be released 2021).
8. Refer to The Greens (WA) 2021 State Election Sustainable Cities, Liveable Neighbourhoods initiative (to be released 2021).
9. Recommendation taken from Beyond Zero Emissions' "Collie at the Crossroads" report <https://bze.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Collie-at-the-Crossroads.pdf>
10. Based off research including Australia Institute's 'Will-o'-the-ISP: Estimating renewable energy employment under the Integrated System Plan' (<https://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/P648%20Renewable%20job%20estimate%20%5BWeb%5D.pdf>) and Clean State's '26 Big Ideas for 200,000 Jobs: A Clean State Plan for WA Jobs' (www.cleanstate.org.au/jobs-plan)
11. Refer to The Greens (WA) 2021 State Election Local Green Manufacturing initiative (to be released 2021).
12. Refer to Clean State's '26 Big Ideas for 200,000 Jobs: A Clean State Plan for WA Jobs' (www.cleanstate.org.au/jobs-plan)
13. Refer to The Greens (WA) 2021 State Election Housing initiative (to be released 2021).
14. Refer to: <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/917a98ab-85cd-45e4-ae7abcd1b-914cfb2/files/state-territory-inventories-2017.Pdf>
15. Refer to The Greens (WA) 2021 State Election Protecting & Restoring Our Environment initiative (to be released 2021).