

**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