

SUSTAINABLE CITIES & LIVEABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

A FUTURE
FOR ALL OF US



SUSTAINABLE CITIES, LIVEABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS.

The Greens plan for a sustainable, connected and prosperous Perth.

The way we design our cities and neighbourhoods plays a critical role in the social wellbeing, environmental sustainability and economic prosperity of our communities. At their best, cities and urban neighbourhoods are places of connection, innovation, sustainability, economic prosperity and wellbeing.

With more than two-thirds of the world's population set to be living in cities by 2050, it is vital we plan for sustainable, connected and prosperous cities.

In recent years Perth has continued to expand rapidly, but this growth has been largely on the urban fringe, uncoordinated and at the expense of our communities and environment.

Decisions by Government have meant that more than 70% of our urban bushland and 80% of our wetlands have been destroyed by suburban sprawl and developments on the fringe¹, with devastating impacts to our biodiversity and environmental and population health.

This uncoordinated sprawl is increasing greenhouse gas emissions and accelerating the impacts of climate change. It is also contributing to rising inequality by locking in automobile dependence, higher transport costs and reduced access to public infrastructure and amenities for those living on the fringes and lower socio-economic suburbs.

The Greens will make Perth a truly sustainable, prosperous and connected city through an integrated plan across transport, urban planning, green spaces, sustainable design and community initiatives.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Invest in accessible, connected, and safe public transport** including free off-peak travel and the introduction of trackless trams and light rail
- ▲ **Create walkable, 20-minute neighbourhoods**
- ▲ **Increase public green spaces and the urban tree canopy**
- ▲ **Implement sustainable and climate resilient design** across the Perth region
- ▲ **Create safe and welcoming communities**

ACCESSIBLE, CONNECTED & SAFE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Years of inadequate planning and insufficient investment in public transport has left Perth residents heavily dependent on private vehicles. Unless we change the way public transport is currently planned and prioritised, congestion will continue to rise, increasing the negative impacts to our community, businesses and the environment.

Heavy rail infrastructure typically caters to inner-city workers and is less effective in serving cross-city commuters². And while the Metronet plan³ will improve connectivity for some outer suburbs, there are still many gaps to be filled. **To address this, the Greens will implement an integrated trackless tram and light rail network across metropolitan Perth by 2030.**

Due to its lower cost and ease of installation, a trackless tram system will provide the vital link needed to reduce private vehicle use, congestion and pollution, while reducing the growing spend required to maintain current road systems^{4,5}.

Public transport is critical to reducing carbon pollution and congestion, but it is also key to creating liveable, pedestrian friendly cities. Far too often cities and neighbourhoods are designed around roads and private vehicles -- not for the community they serve. The Greens want to bring people back to the main street, to the local centres and to local businesses.

To achieve this, **the Greens will introduce free public transport for off-peak periods.** Between 9am - 3.30pm and 7pm - 6am on weekdays, and all day Saturday, Sunday & public holidays, all TransPerth and TransRegional public transport will be free.

This approach will reduce capacity issues on existing transport and will encourage reduced car use into high pedestrian areas, creating greater foot traffic for local businesses and increased vibrancy for local neighbourhoods and precincts. The Greens will also freeze cost increases for peak travel.



Source: #DesignPerth

Electrifying and expanding our public transport system and investing in active transport, such as cycleways and footpaths, will further reduce carbon emissions, all the while creating the necessary stimulus for a COVID-19 recovery. **That's why the Greens are committed to electrifying our bus fleet by 2025, and will invest \$60 million per year on expanding and upgrading cycle and pedestrian paths across Perth.**

Over the next decade, The Greens will invest \$3.6 billion in clean, safe, affordable public and active transport. By properly funding rail and bus services, and ensuring that everyone has access to safe walking and cycle paths in their suburb, we can help people get where they're going quicker, reduce our carbon emissions, and make our towns and cities more liveable.



The Greens will:

- ▲ **Fund the public transport that's needed, committing an extra \$3.6 billion into expanding rail and bus services over the next decade⁶**
- ▲ **Electrify our public transport system** by fast-tracking the electrification of our bus fleet to 2025
- ▲ **Complete the missing link in our public transport system by installing a trackless tram and light rail network** across metropolitan Perth, beginning with a Murdoch to Fremantle route, the Glendalough to Scarborough Beach route, and the long-promised Knowledge Arc between UWA Crawley and Curtin University⁷
- ▲ **Provide free off-peak travel** on TransPerth and TransRegional public transport services
- ▲ **Invest \$60 million a year in cycling and active transport infrastructure**
- ▲ **Dedicate the last carriage of every train to bike commuters**, and retrofit bike racks on public buses
- ▲ **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

CREATING WALKABLE 20-MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Perth is one of the most sprawling and disconnected cities in the world. This means we face several urban challenges including traffic congestion, lack of housing choice and affordability, and loss of natural habitat.

High quality infill and transit-oriented development is one of the best options we have to address these pressing urban challenges, while safeguarding the existing character and green spaces of our established suburbs.

It costs the government \$150,000 to provide infrastructure for every new lot in outer developments, whereas it costs just \$55,000 per lot in infill developments⁸.

That means taxpayers are paying \$94.5 million for every 1000 homes built on the fringe of Perth. Despite this, the McGowan Government refuses to put a hard border around Perth's ever expanding suburban footprint.

The Greens will help create walkable 20-minute neighbourhoods, where communities have easy access to the services and recreational activities they need to live a good life.

Building more vibrant, higher density activity centres and high streets around transport hubs will allow local businesses to thrive, community services to be easily accessible for all, and provide more diverse and affordable housing options.

20-minute neighbourhoods will improve our quality of life and make our communities more connected and sustainable.

The Greens will also introduce Third Party Appeal Rights to bring Western Australia inline with the rest of the country, and to guarantee the community has an equal voice to developers when appealing development decisions that do not meet community expectations.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Establish an urban growth boundary around metropolitan Perth** and increase the urban infill target to 60%
- ▲ **Work with local governments to facilitate walkable 20-minute neighbourhoods** and community-oriented precincts
- ▲ **Enable community-driven planning by ensuring strong community engagement** is at the centre of all state and local decision-making
- ▲ **Introduce Third Party Appeal Rights**

INCREASING PUBLIC GREEN SPACES AND URBAN TREE CANOPY

Increasing green spaces and tree canopy cover in our cities and neighbourhoods helps cool our streets by up to 6 degrees and improves our physical and mental health.

An increase in urban trees and green spaces significantly contributes to drawing down carbon, supports a water sensitive city, provides habitat for native species, and ensures a more climate-resilient city for us all to enjoy into the future.

With smart planning, we can all live within a five minute walk of our local park or greenway, stay cool in summer, and protect Perth's precious natural places.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Protect our significant remaining urban bushland, in particular managing all Bush Forever Sites**
- ▲ **Rebuild 200ha per year of green corridors and ecological links between existing natural habitats and parks over the next decade**
- ▲ **Double Perth's urban tree canopy cover by 2040**, working with local government and community groups to undertake new plantings and maintain existing tree care on local streets, backyards and verges
- ▲ **Engage a First Nations Stewardship Committee** to ensure First Nations knowledge and cultural sites are at the heart of all urban bushland and green space planning



SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT DESIGN - WATER, ENERGY, WASTE

We can create climate-resilient cities and sustainable neighbourhoods by designing our water, energy and waste systems to be renewable, reusable and circular.

WA has experienced a dramatic reduction in rainfall over the past 50 years⁹. This threatens the places we call home and means our city and neighborhoods are highly vulnerable to further impacts of climate change.

We must secure our water future by reducing our use, reusing what we can and redesigning for a water-sensitive city.

With real incentives from the government, Western Australia can also become a renewable energy superpower, powering our homes, businesses and economy with clean energy.

With renewable energy representing the cheapest form of new energy, **the Greens have a plan to power our communities with 100% renewable energy by 2030.**

Closing the loop on our resource use through recycling is another essential step towards a circular economy. WA's current recycling system is woefully inadequate. At the moment we recycle only 48% of our waste and send much of it offshore due to a lack of recycling infrastructure.

The Greens will set a target of recycling 90% of waste and 100% of food and garden organics by 2025, creating opportunities for up to 3,000 new green jobs¹⁰.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Establish a set of performance standards for best-practice waterwise urban development** and regulate industry to ensure all new developments meet these standards
- ▲ **Require all government projects to meet 6 star Green Star 'as built' sustainability ratings¹¹**
- ▲ **Create living streams and parklands from current drains or basins** in partnership with local governments, doubling the current target
- ▲ **Mandate all new public housing developments to meet a 7.5 NatHERS energy rating** and improve the energy efficiency of existing public housing
- ▲ **Create a 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 West Australians
- ▲ **Commit to a WA target of 90% resource recovery by 2025 and 100% of food and garden organics, creating up to 3000 jobs**
- ▲ **Push for 100% of e-waste to be recycled in WA¹² creating up to 1000 full time jobs**

CREATING WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

Everyone should feel welcome in our cities and communities. Building connected communities that look after everyone requires considered planning of our physical spaces and investment in community amenities and programs.

We must ensure First Nations Peoples have a leadership role in our city's future and that First Nations culture is central to our city's identity. Our public spaces and places should be for everyone - including disabled people, young families and the elderly.

We build community and support equality if we deliver excellent community services like childcare facilities and community centres.

By supporting initiatives that activate our public spaces such as arts projects, greening our streets, alfresco dining and local markets we activate community life, support local businesses and help make the City and neighbourhoods safer.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Invest \$4.4m to support new and existing Cultural Tourism businesses and initiatives**
- ▲ **Invest \$100 million to increase accessibility** to public buildings, public spaces and to nature (See An Accessible WA)
- ▲ **Introduce the 'Communities Rebuild Better' fund for activation projects** that support local communities, local businesses and local economies
- ▲ **Allocate \$3 million per year to support long-term planning and a financially stable and sustainable arts sector**

1. EPA. 2015. "EPA: Compact city needed to protect future of Perth-Peel environment". <https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/media-statements/epa-compact-city-needed-protect-future-perth-peel-environment>

2. CleanState. 2020. '26 Big Ideas for 200,000 Jobs: a Clean State plan for WA Jobs'. <https://www.cleanstate.org.au/jobs-plan>

3. Refer to <https://www.metronet.wa.gov.au/>

4. Curtin University. 2019. "Could trackless trams replace light rail?" [https://news.curtin.edu.au/stories/could-trackless-trams-replace-light-rail/#:~:text=Curtin%20sustainability%20expert%20Professor%20Peter,\(photo%3A%20Sam%20Proctor\).&text=We%20also%20travelled%20to%20Zhuzhou,basis%20for%20trackless%20tram%20technology.%E2%80%9D](https://news.curtin.edu.au/stories/could-trackless-trams-replace-light-rail/#:~:text=Curtin%20sustainability%20expert%20Professor%20Peter,(photo%3A%20Sam%20Proctor).&text=We%20also%20travelled%20to%20Zhuzhou,basis%20for%20trackless%20tram%20technology.%E2%80%9D)

5. Peter Newman. 2018. "Why trackless trams are ready to replace light rail". <https://theconversation.com/why-trackless-trams-are-ready-to-replace-light-rail-103690>

6. Refer to the Australian Greens Recovery Plan, 2020: <https://greens.org.au/recovery>

7. CleanState. 2020. '26 Big Ideas for 200,000 Jobs: a Clean State plan for WA Jobs'. <https://www.cleanstate.org.au/jobs-plan>

8. The Australian Greens et al. 2016. "#DesignPerth". https://greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/DESIGN_PERTH_FINAL_REPORT.pdf

9. Runoff is reduced from 420 billion litres a year to now just 25 billion litres. Refer to: <https://www.wa.gov.au/service/natural-resources/water-resources/program-waterwise-perth-action-plan>

10. Based on calculations by Beyond Zero Emissions in The Million Jobs Plan: https://bze.org.au/research_release/million-jobs-plan/

11. Refer to green star rating tool: <https://new.gbca.org.au/rate/rating-system/design-and-built/>

12. WA generates about 73kg of e-waste per person, or roughly 198,000 tonnes per year. Refer to: CleanState. 2020. '26 Big Ideas for 200,000 Jobs: a Clean State plan for WA Jobs'. <https://www.cleanstate.org.au/jobs-plan>