

## GREEN AUSTRALIA

### Restore nature. Save our forests & animals. Green our cities & suburbs.

Our environment is in crisis. Pollution, deforestation, and corporate greed are pushing our natural world to the point of collapse. We are in the middle of a climate and extinction emergency. To protect our environment and save our wildlife, we need to restore our landscape, protect our native forests, and clean up our rivers.

Australia is like nowhere else on earth. It is home to between 600,000 and 700,000 species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world.<sup>1</sup> But too many of our iconic species are facing extinction. Australia's iconic places – the Great Barrier Reef, the Murray Darling Basin, our beautiful forests, beaches, and rivers – are all under threat. Big corporations are taking too many natural resources and leaving behind too much pollution.

The Greens understand that there are no jobs on a dead planet, and without clean air, water and soil for food, there is no future. There is no strong economy without a healthy environment.

The Greens will introduce strong environmental laws, and create jobs that protect and restore the environment, and green our cities and suburbs.

Our plan will create thousands of jobs restoring nature, protect habitat and halt the extinction crisis.

### THE GREENS WILL:

- ▲ Stop the extinction crisis – Zero extinction by 2030
- ▲ Green Australia and restore wildlife habitat
- ▲ End native forest logging
- ▲ Save the Great Barrier Reef
- ▲ Environment Protection Laws and Watchdog to enforce
- ▲ Make our rivers swimmable by 2030
- ▲ Save the koala from extinction
- ▲ Save the Murray Darling from corporate greed

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment - <https://www.awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened>

## PAYING FOR OUR PLAN

By making billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share of tax and winding back handouts to big polluters, we can build a better life for all of us.

1 in 3 big corporations pays no tax and many big corporations and billionaires send their profits offshore tax free.

The Greens will tax billionaires with a new 'billionaires tax', require big corporations making excessive profits to pay a 'corporate super-profits tax' and axe billions of dollars in handouts to the coal, oil and gas giants that are driving the climate crisis.

When big corporations and billionaires pay their fair share, everyone can have the services they need for a better life.

## STOP THE EXTINCTION CRISIS – ZERO EXTINCTION BY 2030

Our biodiversity is in serious decline. While climate change and pollution are putting huge stress on ecosystems like the Great Barrier Reef - habitat loss and the loss of plants and animals is making the impacts of the climate crisis even worse.

The mass extinction of our natural world is a threat to all of us. The Greens are committed to a Zero Extinction target by 2030 – meaning no more species loss, restoring ecosystems and protecting habitat from land clearing and degradation.

Protection of the world's land and sea is needed to halt the extinction crisis and ensure sustainable habitats for our native animals and plants. The Greens are committed to the

international goal of protecting at least 30% land and 30% sea by 2030 – 30x30.

To achieve Zero Extinction by 2030 the Greens will invest in a mass greening and restoration program, introduce strong environmental laws, end native forest logging, and ensure mines and big developments are assessed on their climate impacts before approval.

## GREEN AUSTRALIA

*"We must rewild the world. Rewilding the world is easier than you think. A century from now our planet could be a wild place again. We have to do what nature has always done. It worked out the secret of life long ago. As species can only survive when everything around it is surviving"*  
– David Attenborough

Nearly 2,000 Australian species are threatened with extinction. Invasive species, mining,

over-development, and land-clearing are killing our wildlife, native grasses and wildflowers. The 2019 bushfires, fueled by climate change, threatened the survival of many of our animals and native plants even more.

To protect our wildlife and halt extinction, the Green Australia Plan will invest \$24.4 billion over the decade to restore habitat, regenerate forest and bushland, coastal areas and rivers and reclaim green spaces in our cities and suburbs.

Our Green Australia Plan will:

- Protect all threatened wildlife and species and save them from extinction
- Plant 2 billion trees by 2030
- Restore bushfire ravaged forests and bushland
- Clean up our rivers, lakes and beaches
- Invest in our public parks and conservation areas
- Stop invasive species and weeds
- Fund local communities to restore nature spots, create green spaces and protect local wildlife
- Support farmers and landowners to create and restore habitat on private land.

Green Australia will create 10,240 direct and 17,740 indirect new jobs,<sup>2</sup> and protect the most

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<sup>2</sup> Job Calculation Methodology: A job is defined as per existing ABS definition of employment, and as reflected in ABS data sources used to derive job multipliers. Job numbers are additional employment positions in 2024-25. The method for calculating direct jobs numbers was: (1) Derive a jobs multiplier for the relevant industry division or subdivision from *ABS 8155: Australian Industry* by dividing 'Sales and service income' into employment. (2). Apply this jobs multiplier to the total administered or capital spend for the relevant policy component. The spend was sourced from the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) costing for Green

precious parts of Australia's flora, fauna, land and sea, forever.

## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION LAWS

Australia's environment laws are too weak and are failing to protect our environment and wildlife which is making the climate crisis worse. Mining companies and big developers want even weaker regulations, so they can pollute more, clear more land, and make more profit.

The Greens will introduce strong, national laws that protect nature, stop pollution, and stop the extinction crisis.

The Laws will have:

- An Independent Environment Protection Watchdog – to enforce the laws
- Strong environmental standards
- Climate and pollution assessments for all large projects before approval – the 'climate trigger'
- Ban on destroying koala habitat and the habitat of other threatened species
- Logging operations operating under the same strong environment laws as other activities – scrapping the failed regional forest agreements
- A climate trigger which would ensure mining, drilling and large-scale land clearing projects would need to be assessed on their climate impact.

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Australia. Note the PBO did not calculate the jobs figures. The primary source for indirect (supply chain) jobs was the Economic Policy Institute: Updated employment multipliers for the U.S. economy. Indirect jobs were calculated as a factor of direct non-public service jobs.

While we work to reduce carbon emissions, we must stop making pollution worse. Assessing the emissions of fossil fuel projects and tree-destroying developments is one of the easiest steps this Parliament could take to save the planet.

## SWIM 2030 - MAKE OUR RIVERS AND LAKES SWIMMABLE AGAIN

Under the Green Australia plan Australia's rivers and waterways will be restored and clean enough to swim in within the next decade.

Intensive environmental restoration, clean up and water management would see urban waterways like Adelaide's Torrens River, Melbourne's Yarra River and Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin become swimmable, creating jobs and boosting tourism.

## THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN

Corporate greed and climate change are killing our nation's largest river system. Too much water is being taken for mega-irrigation by big corporations, leaving little for downstream communities and even less for the environment.

The climate crisis makes things even worse.

The Murray Darling Basin is Australia's largest and most complex river system, spanning four states and one territory. More than 2.2 million people live in the Basin, including people from more than 40 different First Nations. It contains sixteen internationally recognised and protected wetlands, and provides a habitat for 120

waterbird species and more than 50 native fish species.

Despite billions of dollars spent on the Basin Plan, political interference, corruption, and corporate greed has derailed the objective of restoring enough water to the environment to sustain the River and save it from collapse.

The Greens will not sit by as Australia's food bowl turns to dust. We will:

- Put science - not corporate greed - at the centre of River management and water recovery targets
- Get the Basin Plan back on track by reinstating water buybacks to recover water and deliver the plan in full and on-time
- Purchase water to deliver the outstanding 450GL to South Australia
- Suspend all federal government payments for programs that don't return water to the environment and have no scientific basis
- A Federal Royal Commission to clean up corruption and mismanagement, save the river system, and reinstate confidence that science is at the centre of decisions
- Complete a full audit of water licences and storage throughout the Basin including both domestic and internationally held licences
- Work with state governments to ensure the 44 recommendations of the South Australian Royal Commission are implemented in full.

## SAVE OUR GREAT BARRIER REEF

Following successive coral bleaching events, half of the coral cover of the Great Barrier Reef has died from climate change and poor water quality. The Reef narrowly avoided an "In Danger" listing at the last World Heritage Committee meeting - the government has been given one last chance to take serious action to protect the Reef.

As one of the seven natural wonders of the world, an employer of 60,000 people and one of our greatest tourist attractions, we must take serious action to protect what's left of our Reef.

### The Greens will:

- Act rapidly on global warming with detailed plans to boost clean energy and ban new coal and gas, including stopping the proposed Adani mega coal mine
- Improve Reef water quality with a \$2 billion grant fund over 10 years available to scientists, governments and farmers to improve farming practices and repair reef catchments, and setting legal caps on water pollution by catchment
- Reclaim the balance of the \$443 million grant made to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, and reallocate the funds through an updated grants process for Reef funding
- Strengthen the Reef's champions, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Australian Institute of Marine Science with \$90 million in extra funding, greater independence and stronger powers including to regulate coastal development
- Stop damaging coal and gas port expansions including at Abbot Point and

pristine areas like the Fitzroy Delta and Cape York Peninsula

- Ban all offshore dumping of dredge spoil - the Reef is not a rubbish dump
- Address illegal fishing and overfishing, including ending hammerhead shark fishing
- Make shipping safer for our Reef and seafarers with compulsory marine pilotage.

## PROTECTING AND RESTORING NATIVE FORESTS

Australians love our native forests. We love to escape the demands of everyday life to explore these unique and diverse places.

Native forests provide clean air and water and store enormous amounts of carbon. They underpin local communities which rely on tourism to create jobs.

Despite Australia's natural wealth and our love for nature, our environment is under threat like never before. Logging of native forests is destructive, increases fire risk and increases the devastation from fire and global heating.

### The Greens will

- End the destructive logging that is destroying wildlife habitat, water catchments, carbon stores, the beauty of our forests, and opportunities for tourism and recreation
- Protect all forests on public land, including the takayna / Tarkine in Tasmania, Great Forest and Emerald

Link in Victoria, key koala habitats in NSW, all remaining Karri and Jarrah forests in the south west of Western Australia, and native forests elsewhere around the country

- Immediately end all exports of woodchips from native forests and all industrial scale clearfelling and woodchipping of native forests.

- Support for workers transitioning from native forest logging to jobs in the plantations, farm forestry and other sectors.

**FIND ALL OUR POLICIES:**

[greens.org.au/platform](https://greens.org.au/platform)

## SUPPORTING PLANTATIONS AND FARM FORESTRY AND REGIONAL JOBS

The Greens will ensure long-term sustainability of regional jobs and local wood products industries by completing the transition to 100% plantation and farm forestry sourced timber and fibre. Already almost 90% of Australia's wood production comes from plantations.

The Greens will deliver a comprehensive plan to support plantations, farm forestry and forestry jobs in regional communities, including:

- \$10 million for research and planning a strategy on how the forestry sector can sustainably support Australia's transition to net zero emissions
- \$20 million to fund the research and development of sustainable wood products sourced from plantations and farm forestry and greater use of recycled and alternative fibres, and to rapidly transition the remaining sawn timber production that is sourced from native forests to plantation, farm forestry and urban forestry timbers.
- \$40 million to provide support for farm forestry, including through the regional forestry hubs