

Climate Change in Western Australia: The Wilderness Society WA Submission



The Wilderness Society WA welcomes the opportunity to feed into the McGowan Government's climate policy, which will ultimately influence WA's climate roadmap.

We are advocates of ensuring that the climate emergency is acted upon as swiftly as possible to halt runaway emissions and ensure feedback loops aren't activated which would threaten not only our way of life, but decimate our remaining wilderness and threatened species, which are already on the brink. We believe the best way of enacting this change in WA is through transforming our energy markets & protecting our biodiversity.

The key opportunities to act for climate in Western Australia, are multiple and varied - yet these policy positions enacted will be vital

Transform our energy markets through:

- Investing heavily in renewable energy and battery storage options, would decentralise and stabilise our energy networks.
- Enacting a moratorium on 'Petroleum acreage releases', would effectively put a cap on fossil fuel expansion across the state.
- Revisiting the decision to allow gas fracking across the State and enacting a full ban.
- Canceling any current uranium mining approvals, ruling out the practice across WA, inline with WA Labor policy.
- Setting a renewable energy target for our state.

Protect our Biodiversity through:

- Protecting our threatened species, with a priority focus on mapping and conserving critical habitat.
- New laws to halt deforestation and reform land clearing regulation and policy - with an aim to protect our highest conservation value vegetation, including our old growth forests.
- Create a WA carbon fund, which is funded from current fossil fuel operations which have not pollution limits in WA. Use the funding to re-plant biodiverse ecosystems which can capture tonnes of carbon and help rebuild regional biodiversity outcomes.

Western Australia has some of our continent's greatest natural assets, and is home to some of the last intact wilderness regions on the planet - like the Kimberley and the Great Western Woodlands. We have the opportunity to transform these regions into world class renewable biodiversity hubs.

The Kimberley Renewable Energy Roadmap report¹ outlines our vision for creating hundreds of jobs, and up to \$15 million per year by investing in solar, wind and batteries for remote communities.

The decisions that we make today, will be the future our children will be living in decades to come.

Kind regards,

Jenita Enevoldsen
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The Wilderness Society WA

¹ <https://reneweconomy.com.au/plan-to-shift-kimberley-to-renewables-could-save-15m-a-year-84085/>