



NATURE FUND

A PLAN TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

THE
GREENS

LIKE NOWHERE ELSE ON EARTH

Australia is like nowhere else on earth. More than 80 per cent of our plants and mammals and almost half of our birds are only found here. But too many of our most precious and iconic species are under threat.

We are in the middle of an extinction emergency. Nearly 2,000 Australian species are threatened with extinction and, for more than half of these, we have no recovery plan.

We've seen the dramatic decline of native species - from the tasmanian devil to the koala, marine turtles to the murray cod. Invasive species, the destruction of habitat, disease and the effects of climate change are all contributing to the crisis unfolding before our eyes.¹

Yet the government has continued to cut funding for conservation and environmental protections.² These cuts are a huge step in the wrong direction. Just when nature needs us most, the government is driving species closer to extinction.

¹ "Invasive species and habitat loss our biggest biodiversity threats." 11 Dec. 2018, <http://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/news/invasive-species-and-habitat-loss-our-biggest-biodiversity-threats>. Accessed 5 Feb. 2019.

² https://www.cpsu.org.au/system/files/cpsu_submission_to_faunal_extinction_inquiry.pdf

A PLAN FOR RECOVERY

The Australian Greens have a plan to reverse this decline and kick-start the recovery our environment so urgently needs. By putting \$2 billion each and every year over ten years into a Nature Fund we will tackle all three drivers of decline - invasive species, habitat destruction and climate change.

OUR PLAN WILL ENSURE:

- **Every single threatened species will be protected**, with a team of experts working on the ground to ensure populations, habitat and their future;
- **Our protected estate will double**, with twice as much land in our national reserve system and protection for all publicly owned native forests;
- **Australia's farmers will be world-leading** with environmentally sustainable, proven practices that reflect their roles as custodians of the land;
- There will be **less pollution** in our cities, parks and oceans;
- **The impact of droughts will be less intense**;
- Our oceans will be better protected with **twice as much highly protected marine reserve** system area;
- **5,000 Indigenous Rangers will be working on country**, protecting the land and sea, combating invasive species, managing risks from bushfires and drought, and monitoring the health of our waterways; and
- **There will be thousands of full-time jobs created across the economy**, year in, year out, helping to build a future where the most precious parts of Australia's flora, fauna, land and sea are protected forever.

OUR PLAN WILL MOBILISE THE BIGGEST INVESTMENT IN BIODIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY. WE WILL TIE TOGETHER THE LATEST RESEARCH AND PROVEN PROGRAMS WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS, GOVERNMENTS, NONPROFITS AND PRIVATE LANDOWNERS, TO ADDRESS EVERY PRESSURE ON OUR THREATENED SPECIES THAT EXISTS, NOW, AND INTO THE FUTURE.

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SAVING OUR SPECIES

Nearly 2,000 of Australia's native species are facing extinction. The Greens have a plan to bring them back from the brink, and help our unique wildlife and landscapes to thrive. Our Nature Fund will protect Australian flora and fauna from invasive species, create new safe havens for threatened mammals and properly fund the development of recovery plans for every species at risk.

INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL

Australia has hundreds of different kinds of invasive weeds, diseases, insects, animals and an unknown number of invertebrates.³ The State of the Environment 2016 report⁴ notes that about 80 per cent of species are at risk from the impact of invasive species.

Invasive species inflict enormous harm on Australia's soil, vegetation and wildlife. They have the potential to decimate Australian native populations, which are not adapted to compete with introduced pests. Large infestations of invasive plants can block access to waterways, present a significant fire hazard and in some instances, completely eliminate all other plants.⁵ Exotic invasive plant species represent one of the greatest threats to biodiversity in the world.⁶ They also inflict an economic cost. Farmers point to harms caused by invasive animals such as wild dogs, feral pigs and carp on their livestock and crops. Weeds are estimated to cost grain producers \$3 billion a year alone.⁷ With the total cost of invasive species to Australian agriculture being much, much higher.

Australia needs a well-funded and nationally coordinated program for managing invading species and the damage they cause.

The Greens will:

- Dedicate \$140 million a year to a national invasive species action plan;
- Deliver an up-to-date inventory of species already introduced;
- Fund research to identify new species likely to be imported and assess the ecological risk they pose to native species and habitats;
- Coordinate national and local agencies to assess threats and put in place management plans to prevent and contain economic damage, disease, and the ecological impacts of invasive species;
- Implement rapid response plans that streamline approvals and spell out responsibilities for dealing with infestations before they get a secure foothold; and
- Lead new collaborations with farmers, industry and businesses to control trade in species of greatest concern.

³ "Pest species and pathogens | Australia State of the Environment Report." <https://soe.environment.gov.au/theme/biodiversity/topic/2016/pest-species-and-pathogens>. Accessed 7 Feb. 2019.

⁴ <https://soe.environment.gov.au/>

⁵ "Australia's silent invaders - Curious - Australian Academy of Science." 11 May. 2017, <https://www.science.org.au/curious/earth-environment/invasive-species>. Accessed 15 Feb. 2019.

⁶ Gallagher, R. V., & Leishman, M. R. (2015). Invasive plants and invaded ecosystems in Australia: Implications for biodiversity. In A. Stow, N. Maclean, & G. I. Holwell (Eds.), *Austral Ark: The State of Wildlife in Australia and New Zealand* (pp. 105-133). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139519960.008>

⁷ "Impact of weeds on Australian grain production - GRDC." <https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications-all-publications/publications/2016/03/impactofweeds>. Accessed 7 Feb. 2019.

FUND RECOVERY PLANS

There are more than 1,900 listed threatened species in Australia. Dangers like climate change, competition from invasive species and habitat destruction impact heavily on our natives species. But each threatened species has its own particular set of challenges to contend with.

To take just one example, Northern Australia's Gouldian Finch is facing serious food shortage as a result of inappropriate fire management.⁸ As a result it is currently listed as endangered, serving as a reminder of the way species are integrated into their landscapes, the cascading impact of management decisions, and the importance of comprehensive recovery plans.

Species like the Gouldian Finch are sliding towards extinction, but it's not too late to arrest the decline. If we're prepared to combine our existing expertise, experience and energy with a long-term commitment to investment from government, we can save the Gouldian Finch and all threatened species.

The good news is that these interventions aren't expensive. Australia spends billions of dollars a year on tax breaks for big business and big polluters. Meanwhile, the difference between the Gouldian Finch's survival and extinction is an average annual investment of \$255,000.^{9, 10}

In fact, we could protect every threatened species of bird in the country with an annual investment of around \$10 million dollars.¹¹

The process for turning around the fortunes of an entire species is with the development and implementation of Threatened Species Recovery Plans. Threatened Species Recovery Plans are the Australian Government's key instrument for bringing threatened species back from the brink. Developed under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act, they bring together the knowledge, science, and actions necessary to recover threatened species and ecological communities.

Today, the Liberal Government spends just \$70 million a year implementing these plans.¹² Most of the plans are out-of-date. Many have been developed and not signed off. Nearly all are underfunded. When a plan requires \$1 million to implement, and the government is only stumping up half, it is compromising the future of our species.

To combat this, we will ramp up annual investment to \$455 million a year, in long-term, targeted funding, creating 5,400 jobs. This money will allow the full implementation of every recovery plan already developed. It will be spent right around the country, by experts working on the ground, shoulder-to-shoulder with landowners, state and local governments, volunteers and community groups, creating jobs and boosting local economies. Even better, it offers these threatened species a lifeline.

We will make sure that these recovery plans are implemented in full, with proper funding for national and local action - now. And we'll establish new national environmental laws which include strong provisions to protect critical habitats and climate refuge for species. Our unique species cannot afford to wait.

⁸ "National Recovery Plan for the Gouldian Finch (*Erythrura gouldiae*)."
http://www.territorystories.nt.gov.au/bitstream/10070/214471/1/Gouldian_Finch_nrp.pdf. Accessed 13 Feb. 2019.

⁹ In 2018 dollars.

¹⁰ "National Recovery Plan for the Gouldian Finch (*Erythrura gouldiae*)."
http://www.territorystories.nt.gov.au/bitstream/10070/214471/1/Gouldian_Finch_nrp.pdf. Accessed 13 Feb. 2019.

¹¹ "Recovery planning - Birdlife Australia." <http://www.birdlife.org.au/documents/OTHPUB-Recovery-Planning-Report.pdf>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2019.

¹² "Dozens of animals and plants join Australia's threatened species list." 13 May. 2018, <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/dozens-of-animals-and-plants-join-australia-s-threatened-species-list-20180512-p4zexo.html>. Accessed 8 Feb. 2019.

To give you an idea of the kind of species we're talking about, how much it will cost and how many jobs it will create, we've put together this sample list featuring threatened species across the country:

STATE	THREATENED SPECIES	INVESTMENT (PER YEAR)	JOB'S CREATED (FTE)
NSW	Koalas	\$8.9m	95
VIC	Leadbeater's Possum	\$5.9m	70
QLD	Marine turtles	\$2m	25
WA	Carnarby's Cockatoo	\$1.7m	15
SA	Australian Sea Lion	\$4.1m	40
TAS	Tasmanian Devil	\$2.7m	40
NT	Northern Quoll	\$680,000	8
ACT	Smoky Mouse	\$420,000	7

NEW RECOVERY FUNDS

Less than half of Australia's threatened species have a plan to save them. To date there are approximately 446 national recovery plans that cover less than 800 of our 1,947 threatened plants, animals and ecosystems.

Of these, at least 315 recovery plans are more than five years old. The vast majority of these have not been reviewed since their original preparation.

To protect precious plants, wildlife and habitats, we need new and updated recovery plans for every one of the species and places under threat.

We must also address departmental staff cuts which are leaving our threatened species to die out. In the last ten years, the Department of Environment and Energy has lost a quarter of its staff, slowing down progress in protecting species and preventing recovery plans from being created and updated to take account of changing threats to our natural world.¹³

The Greens will invest \$1.23 billion over a decade to restore the average staffing level for the Department of Environment and Energy back to 2012-13 levels, and allow staff numbers to grow in line with the population it serves.¹⁴

We will invest a further \$200 million in resourcing the new recovery plans and their delivery. With greater resources, the Department will be better equipped to ensure the prompt, transparent and regular release of data on threatened species and their habitats, and to carry out detailed monitoring and evaluation.

¹³ "APS Employment Database internet interface (APSEDii) | Australian ..." <https://www.apsc.gov.au/aps-employment-database-internet-interface-apsedii>. Accessed 7 Feb. 2019.

¹⁴ Current ASL is 1,993. 2012-13 ASL was 2,235 for the equivalent department and 483 for the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

The Greens will support community level action to help implement recovery plans by investing \$72 million in conservation councils. And we'll make sure that Environmental Defender Offices (EDOs) have the resources they need to protect the environment with the full force of the law. With an extra \$47 million, EDOs will be able to fight wildlife crime and habitat destruction.

This investment will sit alongside the new generation of environment laws we'll be overseeing. These laws will replace the outdated EPBC Act and usher in a new era of high level environmental protection.

MAMMAL HAVENS

Introduced species have been the single biggest factor in native species extinction since Australia was colonised.¹⁵ Some species have been driven to the edge of extinction on Australia's mainland as a result. But on islands, separated from the mainland and free from invasive species, their populations have continued to flourish. These islands serve as 'havens', insulated from the risk of introduced predators and competition for resources, protecting species from permanent extinction. And because Australia's extinction crisis is so bad, we need a lot of them. We can't make more islands - but we can make new havens on the mainland.

It's a model with proven results. Today, there are 13 species that would be extinct if not for their presence on islands or within fenced havens.¹⁶

Unfortunately, protection is patchy. Over 40 per cent of predator-threatened mammals have no haven protection. What's needed is a massive expansion of the haven program, with national coordination, to ensure populations of threatened mammals are protected across the board. The haven program will be rolled out in alignment with projects through the National Invasive Species Action Plan, to ensure that habitats which are gradually secured from the threat of invasive species can be transformed into havens for threatened ones.

The Greens will establish 39 strategically placed havens across the country.

Working through the National Species Recovery Hub, this program will ensure the protection of at least three populations of every predator-susceptible mammal in the country. We'll also invest in multi-species recovery teams, to offer a coordinating and guiding hand and ensure the ongoing management of haven populations.

Havens can be the difference between saving a species and losing it to history. But as species recover from acute extinction threats, they will need to be returned to the broader Australian landscape. That's why this program will work with the National Reserve System Program, to rebuild landscapes that are once again able to sustain our native wildlife.

¹⁵ "Wildlife - Australian Wildlife Conservancy." <http://www.australianwildlife.org/wildlife.aspx>. Accessed 8 Feb. 2019.

¹⁶ "Getting strategic with havens - Threatened Species Recovery Hub." <http://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/news/getting-strategic-with-havens>. Accessed 8 Feb. 2019.

OUR LAND AND OCEANS

We believe wholeheartedly in the responsible and respectful stewardship of the land. The land we live on, the water we drink and the food we eat must be protected from pollution and over-development. In recent years, our land has suffered as a result of our changing climate and the more frequent fires and floods it brings, along with unsustainable development like logging in native forests.

Government cuts to the bodies and programs committed to protecting our land have undermined vital work to look after it. We will end the cuts and restore funding of \$4.4billion over the next decade.

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT

We're seeing bushfires occur with growing frequency, greater intensity, and more destructive capacity. But instead of investing to reduce the impact of bushfires, the Liberal National Government has cut programs that do exactly that. That's why the Greens will restore the National Bushfire Mitigation Program (NBMP).

Australian average surface air temperature has increased by 0.9°C since 1910, due to increased carbon pollution. These warmer, drier conditions have seen the number of extreme fire days increase since 1973. The federal government must do more to abate the growing risk of bushfires across the country. This includes reducing our total greenhouse gas emissions and increasing our commitment to bushfire hazard reduction.

Our plan would see the NBMP fixed, extended and bolstered. The NBMP is a federal spending program aimed at boosting state and territory efforts to reduce long term bushfire risks. It was originally worth \$15 million over three years (2014-2017):

- \$2.2 million was allocated to support the National Burning Project delivered by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council;
- \$1.5 million was allocated to a mechanical fuel load reduction trial, overseen by the Department of Agriculture, which was heavily criticised as a front to provide logs for chipping; and
- The remaining funds were distributed to the states and territories to be issued as grant funding to organisations, government-bodies and community groups.

We'll extend the life of the policy, make sure it is not a front for the logging industry and double grant funding to almost \$10 million a year to support local groups to mitigate the specific bushfire hazards facing their communities. We'll also set aside dedicated funding for long-term scientific study of bushfire mitigation strategies, technology and innovation.

LANDCARE FUNDING

The Liberal National Government's cuts to Landcare have put the program under immense stress. The National Landcare Program (NLP) supports vitally important work across Australia's amazing landscapes, from helping small farmers develop new land management techniques, to providing grant funding for communities to play a bigger part in caring for the land they live on. Yet the Coalition Government has drastically cut funding to the program, undermining its vital work. The Greens have been in the fight for Landcare funding for years - managing to secure an extra \$100 million in 2016. Now we'll fully restore this crucial program to health, increasing funding by \$84 million a year over the course of the next Parliament. With extra funding, the NLP can provide for the productive and responsible use of our land and safeguard it for future generations.

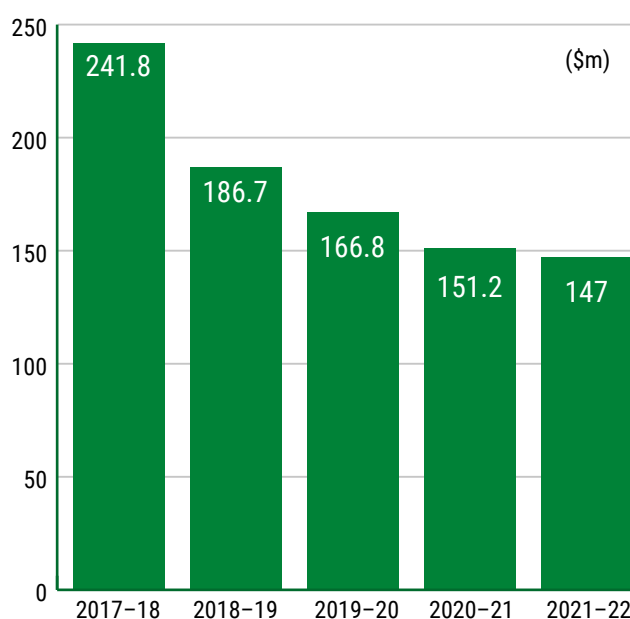
The NLP was funded to \$1 billion over four years from 2014-15.¹⁷ In 2017-18 it was announced it would receive a further \$1 billion over six years, representing a cut per year of \$83.3m.¹⁸ The National Landcare program is principally funded through the National Heritage Trust of Australia, which is declining in value per year through the forward estimates:

The NLP currently funds a wide range of programs, including:

- Regional Land Partnerships: a \$450 million program to protect, conserve and provide for the productive use of Australia's water, soil, plants, animals and the ecosystems in which they live;
- Funding for new Indigenous Protected Areas;
- Smart Farms Program: a \$134 million program to support farmers, fishers, foresters and regional communities to make the most of precious land and water resources in a sustainable way;
- Environment Small Grants: \$5 million in one-off community grants to tackle everything from invasive pest and weed management, revegetation, erosion control and threatened species conservation to community engagement and Indigenous land and sea planning; and

The Coalition's underfunding of the National Landcare Program puts at risk all these programs and more. The Greens will restore funding and protect our most precious resource.

**National Heritage Trust of Australia
Special Account**



Source: Department of Environment and Energy 12018-19 Portfolio Budget Statement, p.38

¹⁷ "Report on the Review of the National Landcare Program." <http://www.nrm.gov.au/system/files/resources/fb8af1b3-f8fc-4b07-9334-4ae013dag188/files/nlp-review-final-report.pdf>. Accessed 5 Feb. 2019.

¹⁸ "National Landcare Program Phase Two." <http://www.nrm.gov.au/national-landcare-program>. Accessed 5 Feb. 2019.

NATIONAL RESERVES

If we are to have any hope of maintaining our biodiversity - the magnificent array of flora and fauna found only here - we need to maintain and expand our National Reserve System (NRS). Our NRS is made up of a national network of public, Indigenous and private protected areas. It covers nearly a fifth of our land mass and includes land and inland freshwater.

Despite the scale of habitat loss in Australia, and our deep and growing understanding of the importance of protected areas in saving our threatened species, the establishment of new protected areas across Australia has slowed to a trickle.

Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) make a substantial contribution to the NRS and in time are likely to form the majority of protected areas, though funding arrangements need more security. We will guarantee long term predictable funding for Australia's IPA network and work with traditional owners to help ensure IPAs are secure from all incompatible land uses to protect biodiversity and cultural values.

INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS

Invest an additional \$20 million per year in Indigenous Protected Areas and increase the number of Indigenous Rangers to 5,000 by 2025.

Rangers in Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) are delivering essential environmental services across Australia's land and seascapes by controlling invasive weeds and feral animals, maintaining quarantine and biosecurity, protecting threatened species, improving native habitat through traditional and contemporary fire management, lowering Australia's greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable land use practices and contributing to vital environmental research and monitoring. And, in the process, the Indigenous Rangers Program is helping to boost social, cultural and economic outcomes for First Nations Australians.

The Indigenous Rangers Program has been a resounding success. For every \$1 invested, it returns \$3 in environmental and socioeconomic benefits.¹⁹ What's more, it boosts rural Indigenous communities. The Productivity Commission has highlighted the success of Indigenous ranger positions in creating real jobs - particularly in remote areas where many other programs had struggled to deliver. And a recent review by Allens Consulting found the true costs of the Working on Country program were at least 17-23 per cent less than book costs.²⁰

The Government is investing \$20 million a year in Indigenous Protected Areas,²¹ and a further \$83 million a year on Indigenous Ranger groups. But with the Indigenous Protected Area network growing, it needs more funding to ensure it can be managed effectively. A long term target of 5,000 Indigenous rangers across all work types is essential.²²

The Greens will:

- Increase funding for Indigenous Protected Areas by \$20 million a year;²³
- Expand the Indigenous Protected Area network by a further investment of \$15 million;²⁴
- Accelerate investment in Indigenous Ranger groups with an additional \$347 million over five years; and
- Establish a long-term target of 5,000 Indigenous Ranger positions filled nationally by 2025 across all work types, to meet the scale required across the continent as new IPAs are introduced into the National Reserve System, and commit to a ten year funding horizon for Indigenous rangers, prioritising permanent ranger positions.

¹⁹ "Consolidated report on Indigenous Protected Areas following Social Return on Investment analyses", https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/SROI-Consolidated-Report-IPA_1.pdf. Accessed 7 Feb. 2019.

²⁰ "Assessment of the Economic and Employment Outcomes of the" <https://www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/workingoncountry/publications/pubs/woc-economics.pdf>. Accessed 7 Feb. 2019.

²¹ "Landcare billion-dollar spending details revealed by Federal ... - ABC." 26 Sep. 2017, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2017-09-27/federal-government-reveals-more-landcare-funding-detail/8989736>. Accessed 7 Feb. 2019.

²² All work types includes part-time, full-time, casual and contractors, with a priority on ensuring funding for permanent ranger positions.

²³ Funded through National Landcare Program.

²⁴ Additional funding, one-off, through Landcare but separate to regular appropriations

END DEFORESTATION

It's time to end the destructive logging and deforestation destroying our wildlife, carbon stores, regional landscapes and water catchments.

Logging threatens a huge range of vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species. The list includes some of our most-loved species - the critically endangered Leadbeater's possum in Victoria, the critically endangered swift parrot in Tasmania, and the vulnerable koala in New South Wales.

Native forest logging reduces the quantity of water in water catchments and risks contamination of water supply. And, because a regrowth forest is more vulnerable to fire, it increases fire risk to surrounding forests and communities.

Logging not only hurts the land, water and our precious wildlife, it also hurts the climate. Half a tree's weight is carbon²⁵ and when a forest is logged most of the forest carbon ends up being released. It is estimated that after logging only 4 per cent of the forest carbon in a forest ends up being stored long term as wood products. Logging of forests also reduces the rate at which a forest stores carbon - put plainly, a mature forest soaks up more carbon than a regrowth forest.

Regional Forest Agreements have been an abject failure when it comes to managing all these risks, but particularly in protecting threatened species. More than 500 listed threatened species live within areas covered by Regional Forest Agreements.²⁶ The Commonwealth's Threatened Species Scientific Committee has identified logging, in one form or another, as a threat to more than 60 animals on the government's own list of vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species.

Yet our current environmental laws exempt logging activities from assessment and approval provisions under Regional Forest Agreements. These exemptions are based on outdated assessments of forest ecosystem health, but are continuing to be extended or rolled over.

Native forest logging is an industry in decline. Commercial plantations, farm forestry and alternative fibres are more cost-effective and environmentally-sustainable, creating more jobs and less damage. The industry is already largely based on plantations with 87 per cent of the logs harvested in Australia coming from plantations in 2016-17.²⁷ Plantations are better for jobs, too. Softwood plantations employ about three times as many employees per hectare compared with native forest logging operations. We must end the destruction of our native forests and ensure their protection.

The Greens will:

- End the destruction of Australia's native forests by repealing the Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002;
- Ensure long-term sustainability of regional jobs and local wood products industries, by completing the transition to 100 per cent plantation-sourced timber and fibre, ending all logging clear-felling in public native forests;
- Ban the use of native forest wood for generating electricity; and
- Invest \$20 million in research and development to support a long-term wood and fibre products industry from plantations (which already account for 87 per cent of our wood products), other fibre sources such as hemp, and farm forestry.

²⁵ "Climate change in drones' sights with ambitious plan to remotely - ABC." 24 Jun. 2017, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-06-25/the-plan-to-plant-nearly-100,000-trees-a-day-with-drones/8642766>. Accessed 29 Jan. 2019.

²⁶ "Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications" 11 Jul. 2017, https://www.aph.gov.au/~media/Committees/ec_cte/estimates/bud_1718/EnvironmentandEnergy/QoN85supplementary.pdf. Accessed 7 Feb. 2019.

²⁷ "Background Paper 16: Some Features of Finance in the Agriculture" 6 Jun. 2018, <https://financialservices.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/Documents/fsrc-paper-16.pdf>. Accessed 11 Feb. 2019.

CONSERVATION ON PRIVATE LAND

Conservation Covenants play a critical supportive role to the National Reserve System, by permanently protecting privately-held land to protect and sustain our rich biodiversity.

They're also tremendously durable: 99.9 per cent of multi-party covenants established since 1951 are still in place today.²⁸

But 80 per cent of Australia's land mass remains outside the protected area estate.²⁹ And the capacity for privately-owned land to contribute to the preservation of our biodiversity has barely been tapped.

Part of the reason for that is because the current process of establishing conservation covenants is often bureaucratic, lengthy and costly. Landowners may need to contend with legal costs, paperwork, conveyancing and a tax system that doesn't recognise the cost and value of conservation.

The Greens will:

- Provide landowners grants of up to \$25,000 for conservation actions related to their conservation covenant management plan;
- Initiate a review into the treatment of expenditure on conservation works in accordance with a covenant program's management plan, with a view to:
 - Making this expenditure fully tax deductible against income;
 - Giving landowners flexibility and choice by permitting either direct deductibility for gifts and conservation management expenses, or tax credits equal to the value of the deductible expense, that can be claimed up to 10 years following the deductible expense's incidence, at the deductor's discretion; and
 - Offering a financial incentive equal to the value of foregone revenue for local governments to exclude covenanted properties from rates payments; and
- Establish a \$20 million a year grant program for non-government organisations to apply for funding to monitor existing conservation covenants remotely and in-situ. These funds can include funding for aerial photographs, remote-sensing and predictive modelling techniques, for remote breach identification, as well as annual site visits where remote identification is impossible.

²⁸ Hardy, Mathew J., et al. "Exploring the Permanence of Conservation Covenants." *Conservation Letters*, vol. 10, no. 2, 2016, pp. 221–230., doi:10.1111/conl.12243.

²⁹ "Ownership of protected areas | Department of the Environment and" <http://www.environment.gov.au/land/nrs/about-nrs/ownership>. Accessed 5 Feb. 2019.

MARINE RESERVES

Australians love their coastline. From sightseeing and surfing to snorkelling and diving we know all too well the importance of our marine areas to our lives and our identity. By expanding the marine reserve system we will make sure that Australia's extraordinary marine biodiversity is conserved. A comprehensive, representative marine reserve system would have the added benefit of moderating the impact of climate and extreme events by protecting healthy reef and mangrove ecosystems.

This system will also provide cultural, recreational and significant financial benefits. The Great Barrier Reef (which is part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park), for example, contributes approximately \$5.7 billion to the Australian economy annually and supports a workforce of 69,000.³⁰

Completing the comprehensive, representative Australian marine reserve system will require an additional 15.8 per cent of Australian waters, 137 million hectares, to be included in highly protected areas, transforming marine parks back to more highly protected marine reserves, and disallowing bottom trawling.³¹ With \$247 million in fisheries adjustment assistance over four years we can ensure a comprehensive, representative marine reserve system.

This sits alongside our policy to ban new offshore oil and gas, standing alongside our neighbours in New Zealand to protect our oceans and marine habitats.

³⁰ A further announcement will be made outlining a new structure for managing funding for the Great Barrier Reef, including the reallocation of the \$444 million grant to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

³¹ Funding for monitoring and management of this expanded reserve is included in the funding for the Director of National Parks.



NATIONAL PARKS

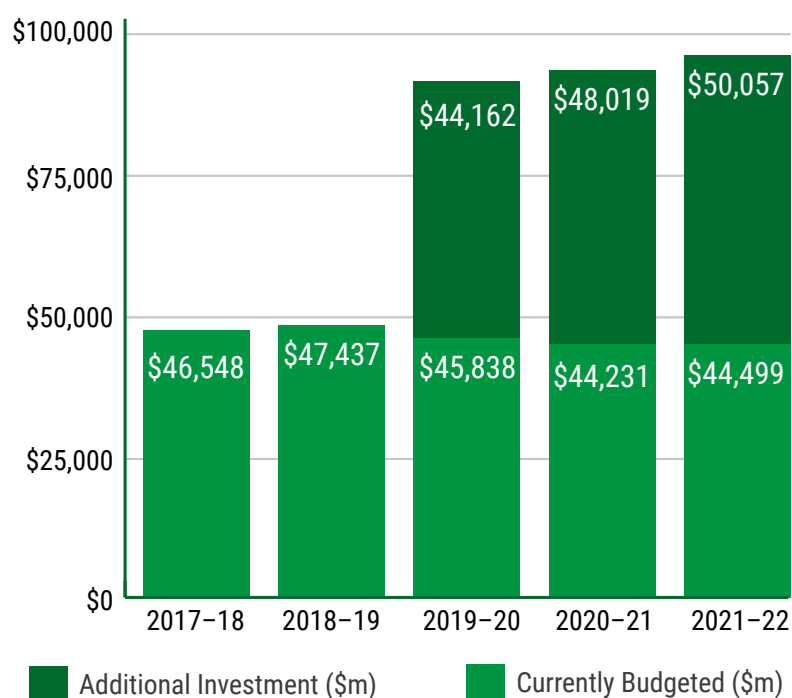
The Director of National Parks (DNP) is responsible for the management of six national parks, the Australian National Botanic Gardens, and 59 Commonwealth marine reserves. This is a huge job and touches on many of our threatened species with the land and sea managed by the DNP making up critical habitat.

With nearly 1.4 million tourists visiting Australia's national parks each year, tourism to our National Parks helps to fund conservation and visitor programs, along with supporting the local economy and generating revenue for the traditional owners of Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Kakadu and Booderee.

This critical work is partially sustained by private sector money, because the work of the DNP and the team working behind the DNP through Parks Australia cannot be achieved with the level of funding from government alone.

By properly resourcing the DNP we will allow them to spend more time focused on the important work of managing our beautiful National Parks and ensuring a bright future for this network of habitats.

Director of National Parks revenue from government



Source: Portfolio Budget Statements 2017-18, Budget Related Paper No. 1.7 Environment and Energy Portfolio, p. 221

GREEN FARMING

Agriculture is one of the most aggressive drivers of habitat destruction on the planet. But it's also an invaluable source of export income, regional economic activity, jobs, opportunity and food and fibre. Australian agriculture feeds the world. But agriculture should not feed a planet and harm it at the same time. It's vital we steer a course to strengthen environmental outcomes, without breaking the back of an industry already exposed to an increasingly volatile climate and the financial challenges of farming.

Australia's agriculture sector is one of the least subsidised in the world. But we know subsidies, when targeted at encouraging improved environmental outcomes, are proven to help farmers and the planet.³²

Australia needs a viable, long-term agricultural industry. But to have it we need to ensure that agriculture and the environment aren't at odds with each other. Carefully directed environmental subsidies - to encourage farmers to reduce fertiliser use, improve land productivity and reduce water consumption - help ease pressure for land clearing and improve gross yields per hectare. It's better for the farmer, it's better for the planet.

The Greens will make available \$80 million a year in direct agricultural subsidies for farmers to improve per-hectare yield without degrading the land.

We will also fund a large scale rollout of the Whole of Paddock Rehabilitation Program. The Whole of Paddock Rehabilitation Program is an Australian-first, developed by farmers in conjunction with Greening Australia. It's an entirely voluntary program that allows farmers to repair degraded or cleared paddock over 10 hectares of size through the planting of a broad range of native trees and shrubs in widely spaced belts across the land. The paddock is 'rested' by excluding livestock for a period of five years. Unlike other land restoration programs, this involves no land lost to production. Instead, payments are made to farmers in return for 'renting' the land for five years while a mix of native trees and shrubs are established.

Land restored through the program is more fertile, healthier, and demonstrates higher yields than its pre-restoration state. Farmers report ewes with lambs actively seeking out windbreaks created by the landscape restoration, and the lambing per centage for twinning ewes has increased by over 140 per cent.³³

A number of independent reviews have found the program to be one of the most cost-effective, impactful programs for landscape restoration in practice today, in some instances able to deliver equivalent environmental and socioeconomic outcomes at half the cost of other programs.³⁴

The Greens will fund a broad national rollout of the Whole of Paddock Rehabilitation program with a \$5.3 million a year investment through the National Landcare Programme.

This will boost agricultural productivity, reduce land salinity, strengthen habitat networks and deliver meaningful outcomes to both farmers and the environment.

³² Tanentzap, Andrew J., et al. "Resolving Conflicts between Agriculture and the Natural Environment." *PLOS Biology*, vol. 13, no. 9, 2015, doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1002242.

³³ "Introducing... Whole of Paddock Rehabilitation (WOPR) - RNC Alliance." <http://www.mcalliance.org/WebRoot/mcalliance/Shops/mcalliance/4BE0/E130/3A68/98C7/D9BB/CoA8/D218/D366/WOPR-intro.pdf>. Accessed 8 Feb. 2019.

³⁴ "Softening the agricultural matrix: a novel agri-environment scheme" 1 Nov. 2015, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/rec.12304>. Accessed 8 Feb. 2019.

LOCAL GREENING PROGRAM

Australian cities make up nearly 90 per cent of the population, making us one of the most urbanised nations on the planet. Cities and their councils play a crucial role in the fight against a changing climate.

Cities are also at the coal face of the impacts of climate change. They face increasing threats from fire, flood, wind and heat. Coastal councils need to upgrade and update seawalls and groynes, as well as clean litter that pollutes the oceans and decimates local biodiversity. River communities face increasing pressure to restore and revitalise the waterways that form the backbone of the local environment and economy.

The Greens will establish a Local Greening Program, to provide grants to local councils across the country to consult with their community, assess climate-change vulnerabilities and develop adaptation plans. Funding will contribute to:

A. HEALTHY RIVERS

Australia is the driest populated continent on the planet. Our inland waterways are home to an enormous range of flora and fauna.

Our waterways are under pressure; from climate change, invasive species, water management, land use and development. As waterways suffer, so do the species that rely on them for their survival.

As part of The Greens' Local Greening Program, funding will be made available to restore urban waterways and habitat corridors back to health.³⁵

This funding will contribute to initiatives to rebuild wetlands, rivers and creeks to places for people, plants and animals to share and enjoy, free from plastic, pollutants and abandoned shopping trolleys.

B. URBAN CANOPY PROGRAMS

Tree coverage in cities provides more than just shade. Trees can reduce temperatures by up to 8°C, reducing air conditioner use and carbon emissions by an estimated 12-15 per cent per annum. 'Green roofs' can store significant amounts of water and reduce the run-off entering sewer systems and waterways. Urban canopies filter the air, reduce emissions, and can play a vital role in re-linking fragmented habitat as a result of urban development by supporting biodiversity.

The Local Greening Program will make grant funding available for local councils to embark on Urban Canopy Programs, to establish and expand sustainable urban forests. Canopies will consist of a wide distribution of age and species of flora, which reduces management costs and improves resilience.

³⁵ For contrast, the ALP has a \$200m urban rivers grant program over five years. It also goes to fund indigenous rangers employment, citizen science and education, bird boxes and tearing up cement.

C. COLLABORATIVE COMPOSTING

Composting improves soil ecology, saves organic waste going to landfill, and reduces the associated costs paid by councils and businesses.

Collaborative composting programs see councils work with businesses such as supermarkets, food markets, florists, and commercial food courts to introduce large-scale composting of organic food waste. The organic compost produced is used by council groundskeepers to maintain soil and plant quality, and may also be sold or given to landscapers and residents.

Waste collection represents a substantial cost to businesses and councils - redirecting and converting organic waste into compost will save money that would otherwise fund it going to landfill. Creating organic compost also reduces the need for synthetic fertilisers.

D. OCEAN-BASED BINS

The Australian invention, the Seabin, is currently being trialled in Sydney and Melbourne, and is operating in 11 countries around the world.

Each Seabin unit can remove half a tonne of debris from the ocean a year, including 90,000 plastic bags. It is designed for use in the floating docks of marinas, private pontoons, inland waterways, residential lakes, harbours, ports and yacht clubs.

Seabins function as a rubbish disposal receptacle with a pump and water filtration system that is designed to suck debris out of water that passes through it. Each unit simultaneously provides automatic, 24-hour collecting of floating rubbish, oil, fuel and detergents, as well as monitoring of water quality for research and long-term data analysis.

Local councils seeking to trial the technology in their area will be eligible to apply for grant funding for a 12-month trial under the Local Greening Program.

These policies will sit alongside the Greens plan to fix our broken waste management system, phase out single-use plastics and implement a national container deposit scheme.

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

The world that future Australians will inhabit is being built today. Business-as-usual is burning carbon that will warm it, and cutting taxes for those who burn it. The Liberal government is ripping billions out of renewables and handing billions to mining companies, land clearers and water thieves.

We have a vision to build something better. Where Australians work with nature, not against it. Where we treat our land like it's a partner, not a product. Where we save species, not push them to extinction.

Acute threats can be managed in the moment, but unless we make a sustained and focused effort to future-proof our natural environment, new pressures and threats will emerge.

If we don't invest today in restoring habitat, preparing for a changing climate and monitoring long-term progress, there will come a point in the not-too-distant future where scientists tell us no amount of investment will overcome an uninhabitable planet.

ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Long-term monitoring is how we take the pulse of our natural environment. Without it, we can't identify how ecosystems are coping with the pressures of a drying continent - and step in when we need to.

The dozen sites in the Long Term Ecological Research Network (LTERN) cover some of our most beautiful and diverse ecosystems - deserts, rainforest, savannahs and alpine regions - and collect data to answer questions specific to each ecosystem. The oldest field locations have been running continuously for 73 years.

Of 80 ecological communities listed as threatened by the Australian government, only 24 are monitored, and LTERN studies account for the longest and most reliable data sets. Without their work, we would not have noticed a population collapse of marsupials and mammals in Northern Australia, as we saw in Kakadu National Park in 2010. Thanks to LTERN, we could identify that frequent fires had decimated vegetation - which was providing protection for native mammals from feral cats. Without it, we wouldn't have known there was a problem, let alone what was causing it. We would have continued to think the ecosystem was intact.

Despite the vital nature of this kind of research and monitoring its funding was cut at the end of 2017, removing the largest source of monitoring of threatened fauna and their ecosystems in Australia.³⁶ We know that this monitoring work is vital for saving our threatened species and to make sure we protect ecosystems so less species end up on the threatened list in the first place.

The Greens will restore the LTERN, and with it the vital research we need, with an investment of \$1.5 million per year through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy.

³⁶ "Australia to ax support for long-term ecology sites | Science | AAAS." 11 Aug. 2017, <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/08/australia-ax-support-long-term-ecology-sites>. Accessed 7 Feb. 2019.

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

Land clearing has a devastating impact on the environment. It's one of the biggest threats to Australia's biodiversity. From the direct impact it has on the landscape to its contribution to climate change, we know that Australia has a serious land clearing problem.

Bulldozers used to flatten trees and bushland can crush native wildlife instantly. Those injured by the land clearing often die from starvation, exposure or predation by invasive species. Land clearing removes a protective shield from predators, and fragments existing habitats into a disjointed patchwork. It heaps pressure on populations forced to compete for a shrinking supply of food, water and shelter, along with new invasive species who are more easily able to navigate cleared terrain.

An estimated 50 million birds, mammals and reptiles are killed by deforestation and land clearing every year in Queensland and New South Wales alone. That's nearly 100 every minute. But the impact of land clearing and deforestation on the environment extends beyond its immediate harm to wildlife:

- When vegetation is destroyed by bulldozing or logging, carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere. Greenhouse gas emissions from native forest logging and land clearing may total as much as 100 million tonnes a year - the equivalent of six months' worth of coal fired power pollution.³⁷
- The loss of vegetation cover reduces the moisture available to produce rain and loses the natural heat reflectors of leaves, raising surface temperatures, worsening droughts and aggregating the impacts of climate change.³⁸
- Land clearing exposes soil to erosion and salinity. This not only degrades the soil's fertility and agricultural productivity, it also harms our river systems. Water flows through cleared land, picking up fertilisers, pesticides, salt and sediment along the way. It pollutes our inland waterways and changes the physical composition of rivers and streams, while threatening species that rely on clean water to survive.³⁹

Land clearing is about more than habitat destruction. It's ultimately not enough to simply end the destructive practice of land clearing - what's needed is an enormous effort to restore the landscape and repair the damage.

Independent modelling by Reputex found that the combined impact of a \$5 billion investment and an end to land clearing could reduce Australia's carbon emissions by between 501 Mt and 846 Mt by 2030.⁴⁰ That's halfway to our Paris target - demonstrating how achievable and unambitious the target is.

³⁷ "A plan to: End deforestation and land clearing Save our iconic native" http://climatechangeauthority.gov.au/sites/prod.climatechangeauthority.gov.au/files/files/CFIper cent202017per cent20August/Submissions/TWS_ZERO_DEFORESTATION.pdf. Accessed 8 Feb. 2019.

³⁸ "Land clearing triggers hotter droughts: new research finding - UQ News." 26 Oct. 2007, <https://www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2007/10/land-clearing-triggers-hotter-droughts-new-research-finding>. Accessed 8 Feb. 2019.

³⁹ "Water Quality in Rivers and Streams - Commissioner for" https://www.ces.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/publication-documents/factper cent20sheetper cent2013per cent20per cent20FreshWater_o.pdf. Accessed 8 Feb. 2019.

⁴⁰ "REPORT: Large-scale abatement potential of the Australian land" 1 Jun. 2017, <https://www.reputex.com/research-insights/report-large-scale-abatement-potential-of-the-australian-land-sector/>. Accessed 8 Feb. 2019.

And because carbon sequestration increases as vegetation matures, by 2050 a \$5 billion investment could abate 2 billion tonnes of carbon emissions, which is the equivalent of making the entire Australian economy carbon neutral four years earlier than otherwise.

The potential for carbon sequestration from improved land use practices is too great to squander or ignore. It is a low-cost, high-value abatement opportunity that can achieve greater emissions reduction - at a lower cost - than taking every vehicle off the road.⁴¹ That's why the Greens are taking landscape restoration seriously - it's good for the land, it's good for the climate, it's good for people and it's good for the planet.

This \$5 billion investment will fund a series of measures designed to improve the landscape, including coordinating with environmental managers employed through the Green Job Guarantee to work at a local level on revegetation, habitat conservation and haven establishment, inland waterway management, soil restoration, conservation covenant training and monitoring, as well as threatened species recovery plan implementation and infrastructure upgrades with local councils and community groups.

Climate adaptation could not be more urgent with climate change already straining our electricity grid, our rivers, our wildlife and our infrastructure.

If we fail to adapt ahead of time we will continue to experience first-hand the costs of delay.

Without the right information, we risk losing our already narrow opportunity to do something about it. Our response will require a whole-of-government approach. That's impossible unless we have the tools to deliver it.

The National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) was established to coordinate the national response to climate change and rising sea levels. Following years of Liberal budget cuts it was finally fully defunded in 2018.

We know how important it is to understanding what's going on so we can get the right policy response, that's why the Greens will reinstate funding for the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility. NCCARF will synthesise and coordinate the latest research so local communities, urban planners, engineers and government decision-makers can manage threats like heatwaves, floods, bushfires and cyclones.

SEED BANK

Planning for the future includes preparing for worst case scenarios. In the event that we continue to see declines in populations of native plants, the role of seed preservation will be ever more important.

The Australian Seed Bank Partnership is a national collaboration of nine conservation seed banks and two flora-focused organisations. It conserves Australia's native plant diversity through collaborative and sustainable seed collecting, banking, research and knowledge sharing, playing a crucial role safeguarding Australia's plant populations and communities.

The Greens will contribute \$800,000 a year for three years to ensure the health of the Australian Seed Bank Partnership.

⁴¹ "REPORT: Large-scale abatement potential of the Australian land" 1 Jun. 2017, <https://www.reputex.com/research-insights/report-large-scale-abatement-potential-of-the-australian-land-sector/>. Accessed 8 Feb. 2019.

GREEN JOB GUARANTEE

Protecting nature should be a real job. That's why we've budgeted for a 10,000 strong workforce of trained, qualified environmental managers to be deployed across the country. This massive mobilisation is what's needed to deliver nationwide habitat restoration and conservation. Under our plan, we will protect our environment and achieve enormous social and economic benefit at the same time.

A WORKFORCE FOR NATURE

Protecting nature takes hands-on intensive conservation. The Liberal Government's 'Green Army' program was funded with money that was ripped out of Landcare. It paid as little as half the minimum wage,⁴² was restricted to young people and utilised unemployed workers without skills or experience in land conservation to perform manual labour. Many projects were poorly-targeted⁴³ and often simply duplicated work already being performed by people with environmental expertise.⁴⁴

Because it was focused on putting unemployed young people to work, the Green Army had high dropout rates. People who were shuffled into Green Army projects swiftly left when they were offered a job in their actual field of work, training or experience.

But the Green Army's huge flaws shouldn't put us off creating good programs that equip people to work on the most pressing environmental challenges of our times.

We know the scale of the challenge is enormous. The international consensus of climate experts suggests the planet has, at most, 12 years to avoid the most dangerous levels of climate emergency. Transformation is the only response. To do it, we must climate-proof our local infrastructure, fundamentally restructure our energy grid, achieve landscape-scale environmental protection and restoration, and invest in the science, research and monitoring that allows us a real-time window into the threats we face and the progress we're making.

None of this is possible without a mass mobilisation of resources: financial, political and people power. We know that the restoration economy has huge potential benefits for the environment but also its own positive social and economic outcomes.

The Greens will:

- Create 2,000 scholarships a year for five years, from 2020, that offer a guaranteed job for successful applicants that complete training in environmental conservation and management;
- Establish a workforce of up to 10,000 trained, qualified environmental managers to be deployed across the country to work with teams of experts, volunteers and community groups on protecting and preserving Australia's threatened species and biodiversity; and
- Pay every environmental manager a living wage, commensurate with their status as a skilled worker.

42 "Tony Abbott's green army will be paid half the minimum wage." 2 Mar. 2014, <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/tony-abbotts-green-army-will-be-paid-half-the-minimum-wage-20140301-33st7.html>. Accessed 20 Feb. 2019.

43 "The Green Army's scant environmental credentials | The Saturday Paper." 10 Dec. 2016, <https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/environment/2016/12/10/the-green-armys-scant-environmental-credentials/14812884004075>. Accessed 20 Feb. 2019.

44 "Malcolm Turnbull kills off Tony Abbott's Green Army - Financial Review." 4 Dec. 2016, <https://www.afr.com/news/tony-abbotts-green-army-gets-its-marching-orders-20161203-gt3eg2>. Accessed 20 Feb. 2019.

Average direct full-time equivalent jobs created, per year, per state

COMPONENT	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	NT	ACT	TOTAL
Species	1,290	490	980	1,450	460	730	460	750	6,610
Land	220	60	290	440	200	80	600	240	2,130
Future	760	530	680	640	300	160	330	810	4,210
TOTAL	2,270	1,080	1,950	2,530	960	970	1,390	1,800	12,950

Job figures have been produced using a range of sources, a selection of which is briefly outlined below:

- Select capital-intensive initiatives have been produced by basing expenditure distributions on similar existing government programs, net of departmental costs. Resulting distributions are assessed using the economic impact analysis methodology designed by the Flinders University Australian Industrial Transformation Institute through the Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network, modified to update for 2016 census data and ANZSIC industry subdivisions. Results are aggregated to a state-level and rounded to the nearest 10.
- Departmental jobs figures are based on historical average staffing levels and geographic distributions of staff.
- Threatened Species jobs are produced using the geographic distribution of known populations of threatened species, existing projects and existing funding, weighted for threat level and proximity to other threatened species. Recommended actions from within each species' recovery plan are mapped to ANZSIC industry subdivisions and cost estimates are uplifted by the consumer price index then netted for existing funding.

Please note that employment impact estimates are not estimates of the Parliamentary Budget Office and have been produced separately.

PAYING FOR THIS PLAN

This is how we will invest \$2 billion a year in our proposed Nature Fund. This fund is fully funded, using revenue obtained by putting a price back on carbon and making big polluters pay for the damage they are doing to our environment.

OUR SPECIES

Cost over forward estimates **\$2.9b**

Cost over decade **\$8.2b**

Annual full-time equivalent jobs created ⁴⁵ **6,610**

- Developing recovery plans for every threatened species in the country
- Implementing every Threatened Species Recovery Plan
- Committing \$140 million a year to an Invasive Species Action Plan
- Establishing invasive-species-free havens for every mammal susceptible to predators
- Investing in community-level action through conservation councils and Environmental Defender Offices

OUR LAND AND OCEANS

Cost over forward estimates **\$2.4b**

Cost over decade **\$6.5b**

Annual full-time equivalent jobs created ⁴⁵ **2,130**

- Restoring funding cuts to Landcare
- Protecting habitat through a \$200 million a year investment into the National Reserve System Program
- Increasing funding for Indigenous Protected Areas by \$20 million a year
- Reinstating the National Bushfire Management Strategy with additional federal funding
- Ending deforestation and land clearing
- Reforming the Conservation Covenant tax structure and investing in in-situ monitoring
- Establishing a comprehensive marine reserve system
- Increasing funding to protect Australia's national parks and Commonwealth reserves
- Incentivising farming investments in environmentally-sustainable inputs and infrastructure
- Empowering local councils to roll out river clean-ups, urban canopies of native flora, collaborative community-based composting and coastal debris removal

OUR FUTURE

Cost over forward estimates **\$1.8b**

Cost over decade **\$6.7b**

Annual full-time equivalent jobs created ⁴⁵ **4,210**

- Investing \$500 million a year in massive, landscape-scale protection and restoration of the continent
- Establishing a Green Job Guarantee, creating 10,000 scholarships for qualified land managers to be paid a living wage to work on the ground in the community and on country delivering conservation priorities
- Reinstating funding for the Long Term Ecological Research Network and the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility
- Triple funding for the Australian Seed Bank Partnership to improve and maintain coverage of at least 75 per cent of all threatened vegetation

⁴⁵ Costs are aggregated based on estimates produced independently by the Parliamentary Budget Office. Job creation estimates are separately produced based on the methodology outlined in this document.



NATURE FUND

Authorised by Senator Richard Di Natale, Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600.

