WWF PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

2013-2016
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Priorities for the next Australian Government  

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Australia is a diverse land that is rich in environmental wonders, unique wildlife and natural resources. But our natural assets are subject to multiple and mounting threats, all of which are exacerbated by global climate change.

As one of the world’s largest and most experienced independent conservation organisations, WWF is at the forefront of environmental protection in Australia, helping to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

WWF partners with all sectors of the community and has a reputation for scientifically rigorous and practical solutions. We work with government to help shape legislation and policy that safeguards all that Australians hold dear and we make the voices of our supporters heard on the issues that matter to them.

We need your support

There is much at stake and time is of the essence.

Maintaining and restoring the health of Australia’s natural assets, while also promoting sustainable economic development, demands vision, leadership and immediate action from the next Federal Government. In partnership, WWF can demonstrate ways to maintain a strong economy without destroying the places we love and the biodiversity so important to our way of life.

WWF-Australia calls on all candidates and political parties contesting the election to put the environment firmly back on the political agenda.

In particular, we urge the next Australian Government to:

- Protect our precious Great Barrier Reef: invest in cutting pollution, prohibit dumping of dredge waste, protect its precious coast, ensure safer shipping and create Reef Bank.

- Tackle climate change: secure stronger emissions reduction targets, maintain a price on carbon, support renewable energy, ratify Kyoto2 and provide long-term climate finance.

- Protect the Places we Love: retain federal approval power for federal matters under the EPBC Act and increase the protection for the places and species we love

- Keep the Heart of Borneo pumping: support sustainable livelihoods and conservation, and build local capacity

- Recognise traditional and cultural knowledge: support the Working on Country program by appointing more Indigenous rangers, male and female
World Heritage-listed corals dying

The Great Barrier Reef is a natural wonder of unparalleled beauty that inspires people the world over. A haven for marine life, it is home to more than 1,500 species of fish, 411 types of hard coral, one-third of the world’s soft corals, 134 species of sharks and rays, six of the world’s seven species of threatened marine turtles, and more than 30 species of marine mammals.

The Great Barrier Reef is recognised by Australians, and the world, as one of the premier global environmental icons. The Reef draws almost 2 million visitors to Queensland each year and generates close to $6 billion annually for the Australian economy.

But far from being well protected, this complex World Heritage-listed ecosystem is seriously threatened. Since 1985 more than half of the reef’s coral has been lost, largely due to crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks caused by land-based fertilizer and pollution run-off. Unprecedented ports development is proposed and yet existing ports are half empty. Shipping traffic is likely to grow to 7,000 coal tankers per year, risking disaster in accidental grounding in narrow Reef channels.

The World Heritage Committee is deeply concerned with the future of the Reef and is considering placing the Reef “in danger” unless ports, dredging, shipping and pollution are better managed. It is imperative the Reef is not placed on this ‘list of shame’ to protect Australia’s famous reef tourism industry.

Over-fishing, which is thought to be responsible for a 90% drop in coral trout numbers, is an additional stress on a reef environment that is increasingly experiencing warmer sea temperatures and coral bleaching.

An investment that pays dividends

Up to $500 million is needed now to support farmers to implement profitable practices that cut pollution running off to the Reef.

This investment will help boost the farmer’s bottom line by keeping soil and chemicals on-farm where they boost productivity, and not in the Reef where they pollute. Investment should be targeted at the highest risk pollutants and areas to ensure maximum ‘bang for buck’ – particularly targeting fertilizer run-off in the Wet Tropics which drives crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks.

Unnecessary port proposals should be abandoned. If shipping does grow we must learn to work our existing port infrastructure harder and smarter to avoid irreversible damage of the Reef’s seabed. Existing ports should avoid unnecessary dredging and require safer shipping protocols. Dredging and shipping accidents are expensive, and action to avoid both makes good economic sense.

The Australian government should also invest at least $40m to protect fragile fish stocks and fisheries. There are just too many boats, chasing too few fish, making too little money.

Structural adjustment could lead to fewer boats making more money, leading to fewer ecosystem impacts from a more viable fishing fleet.
Of course, protecting the reef has additional economic benefits beyond conservation. It is also an investment in the continued security of coastal communities and provides significant benefits to the Australian economy. Reef industries, such as tourism and fishing which depend on a healthy environment, contribute billions annually to the Australian economy and employ about 63,000 people.

WWF calls on all candidates and political parties to:

- Invest up to $500m to support farmers implement profitable practices which cut Reef pollution, particularly in the Wet Tropics and Burdekin to tackle the fertilizer run-off which feeds crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks

- Prohibit the industrial-scale dumping of dredge waste in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

- Constrain the future footprint of industrial development to existing, long-established port areas and protect undeveloped and pristine regions from industrial development including Fitzroy Delta/Keppel Bay and the Far Northern Section of the Reef.

- Adopt and adequately resource the draft North East Shipping Management Plan with additional measures to prohibit rogue vessels from entering the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

- Commit to and resource a pilot for Reef Bank – a funding mechanism to generate significant new funds that will improve the coordination, prioritisation and cost-effectiveness of actions to repair the Reef.

- Maintain the independence, mandate and at least existing funding of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to ensure its role as the Reef’s primary custodian is sustained

- Commit $30 million to a GBR Harvest Strategy for the net, line and trawl fisheries to ensure more sustainable and viable reef fishing sectors

2 CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Solutions for a healthy, safe and competitive Australia

Australia is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It poses significant threats to our infrastructure, natural resources, agriculture, health, environment, species and economy.

While Australia has always experienced climate variability and extreme weather, with increased global warming we will experience what experts describe as a “climate on steroids”.¹ According to the Climate Commission, recent Australian heat waves and bushfires were exacerbated by climate change, and a significant body of peer-reviewed science suggests that we will experience more extreme climatic events in coming decades.² Scientists predict

² Noting regional variations and varying levels of certainty with respect to some types of extreme weather.
that a global temperature rise of 2-3°C will result in about 20-30% of the Earth’s species being put at risk of extinction.\textsuperscript{3}

However, Australia is blessed with solutions. Abundant renewable resources give us a competitive advantage when it comes to capitalising on the opportunities that are arising as the world moves to limit global warming and create a low-carbon economy powered by renewable energy.

Set scientific targets

It is in Australia’s national interest to keep global warming to \textit{well below} 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels. Allowing global warming to go above this threshold will test our nation’s capacity to adapt and would have dire consequences for natural systems. Indeed, if we are serious about avoiding dangerous climate change, WWF believes that Australia should be advocating for global action that will limit global warming to no more than 1.5°C.

To retain a 50% chance of staying below the 2°C threshold, atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases must be stabilised at no more than 450 parts per million (ppm) of CO\textsubscript{2}-equivalent by 2100.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) this will require developed countries to cut their pollution by 25-40% below 1990 levels by 2020. However, current emission reduction targets put us on track for at least a 4°C rise in global temperatures.\textsuperscript{4}

Independent modelling for the Garnaut Review concluded that Australia should commit to a 25% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020 as our contribution toward meeting the 2°C goal. With the international community aiming to have a new global agreement in place by 2015, Australia must be willing to strengthen its 2020 target.

Retain the carbon price

Independent analysis confirms that Australia’s carbon price is providing a boost to renewable energy and supporting the move away from coal.\textsuperscript{5} Revenue raised from the carbon price is underpinning unprecedented levels of investment in clean energy innovation. This is helping Australian businesses to remain competitive at a time of great global uncertainty and helping households to transition to cleaner technologies.

Removing the carbon price now would be contrary to international trends. In 2013, 35 countries and 18 sub-national jurisdictions, including California and seven Chinese provinces will have a carbon price in place. These schemes are expected to cover over 880 million people or 30% of the global economy and around 20% of global emissions.\textsuperscript{6} By 2015, South Africa and South Korea will also have schemes in place.

Since 2007 the global market for clean energy has grown by 70% and is now worth around $260 billion annually. In 2011, more money was invested in renewable energy than fossil fuel power sources like coal and gas. Yet Australia is currently ranked only 31\textsuperscript{st} on renewable energy development\textsuperscript{7}. This is despite having abundant

renewable energy resources – such as solar, wind, geothermal, wave and tidal – and the skills and knowledge to become a low-cost renewable energy economy that attracts industry and exporting technology.

The carbon price mechanism will place a limit on carbon pollution when the transition to an emissions trading scheme takes place in 2015. This guarantees that Australia's pollution targets will be met. Unless they are accompanied by a firm cap on emissions, no other policies put forward during this election can offer such a guarantee.

Many economists and two seminal reports – the Shergold Report, prepared under the Howard Government and the Garnaut Climate Change Review, prepared under the Rudd Government – advocated an emissions trading scheme. The Shergold Report concluded

"An Australian emissions trading scheme would allow our nation to respond to future carbon constraints at least cost ... Other forms of government intervention would impose a far heavier burden on economic activity ... Emissions trading enables the market – not government – to decide which new or existing technologies will reduce emissions at least cost. Emissions trading also encourage the development, for trade, of offsets ... [and] will help new economic opportunities to emerge."

Introduce a safety Renewable Energy Target

Research commissioned by WWF found that without a high carbon price and no increase in the Renewable Energy Target (RET) beyond 2020, the deployment of most renewable technologies will begin to stall by the end of this decade. For some technologies – such as geothermal and solar thermal – deployment could stall for more than three decades.

The report recommends a banded or weighted safety RET with specific regulated targets/weights for each renewable resource and with a mechanism to phase-out support as each technology becomes competitive in its own right. The analysis finds that the safety RET would only be needed between 2020 and 2030, after which time almost all renewable energy technologies are expected to be viable without ongoing support. The research also found that Australia could achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050, but to achieve this we would need a 2030 target of 50%.

Neighbourly support - Leveraging global action?

Climate change is a global problem that requires a global solution. After more than two decades of negotiations, a commitment from all major greenhouse polluting countries – including the US, China, and India – to take on binding emission-reduction obligations under a single international agreement, exists. The deadline for having this new agreement in place is 2015. Australia's international actions will influence the effectiveness of negotiations in the next three years.

WWF welcomes the commitment from all sides of politics to Australia's participation in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. This is one of the most important contributions Australia can make to building momentum towards a stronger and more effective global deal in 2015.
In addition to supporting strong international legal architecture, Australia is well placed to increase its support for poor and vulnerable countries – to help them invest in clean energy, protect their forests and adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. With Australian know-how and financial support, our neighbours in the Asia-Pacific region can play an important part in responding to the global climate crisis.

WWF calls on all candidates and political parties to:

- Commit to reducing Australia’s emissions by at least 25% below 1990 levels by 2020
- Put a price and limit on carbon pollution, like an emissions trading scheme
- Support renewable energy by retaining the 41,000 GWh Renewable Energy Target (RET) 2020 target and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC).
- Increase the RET to 50% by 2030 to provide a safety net for renewable energy investments post-2020.
- Retain the Carbon Farming Initiative, ensuring there is sufficient demand to unlock at least 15 million tonnes of abatement per year by 2020.
- Support global action by ratifying the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol before the end of May 2014.
- Commit to scale up long-term finance from $200 million each year to an average of $350 million to support poor and vulnerable countries in the face of climate change.

3. PROTECT THE PLACES AND SPECIES WE LOVE

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act) is the legislative backbone by which the federal government protects the critical wildlife and places of natural beauty that Australians love. The Act provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places and provides the framework for the assessment and approval process that business and industry must follow.

Just as the EPBC Act determines the laws, policies, and assessment processes, the National Reserve System, Australia’s network of protected areas on land and sea, provides a critical safety net for wildlife habitats, natural landscapes, rivers and oceans.

WWF-Australia calls on the next Australian Government to strengthen the laws that protect the species and places we love and to fortify the safety net provided by our system of parks and reserves.

Strengthen Environmental Laws

In the area of the assessment and approvals, the large number of projects that have been approved demonstrates that this is a system that is working. The small number of projects that the Commonwealth has not approved, such as the Shoalwater Bay coal port or Traveston Dam are projects that would have degraded World Heritage values or helped drive endangered wildlife toward extinction.
WWF believes the efficiency of assessment processes can be improved whilst still having the federal minister retain approval powers for projects that affect commonwealth environmental matters. A streamlined ‘one-stop-shop’ for project assessment processes would result in increased certainty and reduced duplication for business, which coupled with the use of assessment standards would create a system that achieves environmental outcomes and improved efficiency for business and industry.

**Protect our National Parks**

The National Reserve System on land is a vast collection of protected areas of many different owners and managers. The National Reserve System (NRS) component of Caring for Our Country, including Indigenous Protected Areas, has been the main driver of strategic protected area growth following a national strategy adopted by all governments.

WWF research shows that protected areas are the most effective way to secure survival of threatened wildlife. In addition to priceless ecological services, the NRS is also the fundamental asset of a nature-based tourism industry that attracts approximately $20 billion in foreign exchange to Australia each year.

The fivefold boost in NRS program allocation in 2008 has allowed purchase of 2.3 million hectares of new protected areas. The investment has been extremely cost effective, with permanent protection costing the Commonwealth only $43 a hectare and leveraging 4-5 times that amount from partners for acquisition and in perpetuity management. We estimate that 75% of areas purchased since 2008 advanced Australia’s progress toward the 2020 Aichi Target to have an ecologically representative protected area system over 17% of Australia, the highest efficiency yet recorded.

Another 15.7 million hectares of Indigenous Protected Areas have been added to the NRS on land and sea, and delivering not only conservation outcomes, but social, economic and cultural outcomes for participating communities for a low $1.43 a hectare.

WWF proposes that the terrestrial NRS program needs another major boost up to $170 million per annum from existing budgets to ensure that our NRS is truly ecologically representative and secures critical wildlife habitats against extinction. Rather than purchase alone, much more investment needs to flow into incentivising protected area covenants negotiated with landholders.

To prevent inappropriate activities like logging or grazing in national parks, WWF supports the proposal of the Places You Love alliance that national parks be treated as an additional matter of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act.

**Protect our Underwater Wonderlands**

Australia is a world leader in marine reserve management and our Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) play a crucial role in safeguarding the vibrant life within our oceans. MPAs also complement fisheries management actions and

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14 **Aichi Biodiversity Targets** address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society; reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use; improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services; enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building; http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/default.shtml

15 http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/rationale/target-11/

16 That is any protected area assigned International Union for Conservation of Nature management categories of Ia (strict nature reserve); Ib (wilderness area) or II (national park).
enhance other economic activity such as tourism. Well-designed networks of ecologically-representative MPAs can even afford better protection against environmental stressors like climate change.

Australia has the world’s third largest marine jurisdiction, which makes protection of our marine resources critically important. Scientific monitoring is vital to marine park management to establish a baseline and ongoing measures of success. WWF supports community and corporate involvement in research as we work together to better manage our ocean environments.

Australians have been fortunate that the growth of Commonwealth Marine Reserves has enjoyed bipartisan support. The Howard Government in 2004 expanded the Great Barrier Reef Marine National Parks from below 5% to 33% of the total Reef among other reserve declarations. Then just this year, the present government expanded marine reserves across our entire marine jurisdiction. This decade marks a truly historic bipartisan legacy that Australians should be immensely proud of.

Also, research shows that marine national parks closed to mining and fishing on the Great Barrier Reef and elsewhere, have unleashed spectacular rebounds of long suppressed fish and other marine life. This benefits not only biodiversity conservation, the primary goal, but as a useful by-product can boost fishing, by stabilising fish stocks outside reserves and ensuring fisheries have an insurance policy against future climate change.

But as the ongoing crisis of the Great Barrier Reef shows, declaring, managing and monitoring marine reserves are just part of the picture. The reserves will be undermined without commitment to management of the ongoing stresses of shipping, industrialisation, illegal fishing, invasive species, shore-based pollution, and climate change.

WWF calls on all candidates and political parties to:

- Retain federal approval powers for federal matters in the EPBC Act to ensure Australia’s national and international obligations to protect and conserve biodiversity are not delegated to states and territories
- Enact a new EPBC Act trigger to protect national parks from inappropriate uses and exploitation
- Provide $40 million a year for effective management, public awareness, research and compliance to secure the new marine reserve system.
- Commit to a science-based process to extend the national marine reserve network to waters not covered by the bioregional marine planning process
- $170 million a year to the growth of the terrestrial National Reserve System on government, private and Indigenous land, to ensure that all native wildlife is secure.

4. HEART OF BORNEO

The highland rainforests known as the Heart of Borneo are some of the most biologically diverse habitats on Earth. Straddling Indonesia and Malaysia, and extending through the foothills to Brunei, they provide direct jobs and livelihoods for over one million people and indirect jobs and livelihoods for 11 million more.
The region protects water catchments that supply 19 million people and it stores about 3.2 billion tonnes of carbon (five times Australia’s annual emissions), making it one of the world’s largest carbon sinks. This rich environment is also one of the last strongholds on Earth for critically endangered orang-utans, elephants, rhinos and clouded leopards.

**No boundaries to cooperation**

The governments of Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia are working together to effectively manage the forest resources and conserve a network of protected areas, productive forests and other sustainable land.

The Heart of Borneo Initiative seeks to create an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable economy. In Indonesia, the initiative is being implemented through national and provincial laws. The combination of national and local government leadership, regional cooperation, private sector engagement and community support makes the Heart of Borneo Initiative an ideal flagship program for sustainable economic growth in the region, and Australian Government support for Indonesia.

Australian support for our closest neighbours would help to alleviate poverty, conserve iconic threatened species like the orang-utan and underline the importance of sustainable development – all at an affordable cost (less than 0.25% of the existing aid budget).

**WWF calls on all candidates and political parties to:**

- Assist in the completion and implementation of provincial and regional sustainable economic development plans ($10 million out to 2016-2017).
- Create a sustainable business investment facility to help implement sustainable forestry, utilize degraded lands for palm oil production, and reduce carbon emissions from landuse ($30 million out to 2016-2017).
- Build resilient economies to improve local livelihoods and secure sustainable access to natural resources ($10 million to 2016-2017).

### 5. RECOGNISING CULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

**Respecting cultural knowledge**

The Australian Government Indigenous ranger programs have achieved significant environmental outcomes and helped to close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage. The Working on Country program provides economic development, builds community capacity and social capital, and supports the emergence of positive role models and community leaders, while respecting traditional authority and cultural knowledge. This program has empowered communities to manage the natural and cultural values of their traditional estates and generated meaningful employment opportunities in remote regions. However, there is considerable scope to expand the program.
**Demand for new recruits**

The central and southern Great Barrier Reef and south-western West Australia are currently under-served by Indigenous rangers, despite a keen interest among Aboriginal communities to look after their country.

WWF would like to see ranger programs established in the towns and cities of the Great Barrier Reef coast – where Indigenous populations are largest and environmental impacts are greatest. The impact of port developments, poor water quality, boat strikes and fishing-gear entanglements on turtles, dolphins and dugongs could be addressed by establishing ranger programs in Townsville, Mackay, Bowen, Rockhampton, Gladstone and Bundaberg.

WWF recommends there be 100 new Great Barrier Reef rangers dedicated to conserving turtle and dugong populations, including tackling illegal poaching and feral pig predation of turtle nests. The current Indigenous Sea Ranger programs also need to be expanded to give Indigenous communities greater responsibility for the management and protection of their Sea Country and marine flagship species.

Additional rangers are also needed to protect the natural and cultural features of the Southwest Australia Ecoregion (SWAE), which are under significant pressure from the destruction and fragmentation of habitats, introduced plants and animals, and the impacts of climate change. WWF recommends that 50 new ranger positions be created to help conserve this global biodiversity hotspot. These rangers would help to facilitate Noongar reconnection to country and broker new relationships with landholders who own properties with important biodiversity values and cultural heritage sites.

**More women on country**

Women currently occupy less than one-third of Indigenous ranger positions. The gender balance in the Indigenous ranger workforce needs to be improved, in recognition of the fact that women traditionally have different sites and species of cultural importance.

Enabling women to become work ready and study towards TAFE certification is just as important as for their male counterparts. Female coordinators and mentoring programs for women new to formal training environments and employment is critical to their success.

There is a renewed push for women’s ranger groups to cater to the Indigenous women possessing strong environmental and cultural knowledge and project ideas, such as the development of traditional medicine products and native seed nurseries.

While some Indigenous women prefer to work within a mixed team, others (like the Bardi Jawi Oorany Women’s Group in the Kimberley) have chosen to complement their male counterparts by establishing separate groups.

**Job security and equality**

Expanding the Working on Country program will allow Indigenous communities to assume greater responsibility for the management and protection of their land and sea country. However, ongoing funding is required to ensure that ranger positions are adequately resourced and provide long-term job security.
WWF believes that ranger positions should be equivalent in stature to national and marine park rangers. This can be achieved by establishing training and career development pathways to ensure that Indigenous rangers have full enforcement, compliance and investigative powers.

WWF calls on all candidates and political parties to:

- Expand the Working on Country program to 1,000 Indigenous ranger positions by 2016, at a total additional annual cost of $26 million
- Of the 270 additional positions, commit to 100 new rangers on the Great Barrier Reef and 50 new rangers in south west WA; and
- Provide incentives for women to apply for all new ranger positions.

6. SAVINGS FROM REDUCING WASTEFUL SUBSIDIES

Provide incentives to change

The Australian Treasury raises over $18 billion in public revenue from excise duties on liquid and gas fuels each year but then spends $5.87 billion of this revenue on a fuel tax credit scheme for some industry sectors, in some cases reducing net excise paid to zero. Aviation fuels attract excise levels much lower than those for other fuels, representing a net revenue loss of $960 million a year. Fuel tax credits have been reduced for some sectors by an amount equivalent to paying the prevailing price on carbon emissions. Major users of fuels however, remain exempt from most excise, while households pay the full excise. Fuel excise is best treated as a broad-based revenue measure that applies to all liquid and gaseous fossil fuels and all sectors equally without concessions or credits. Any carbon pricing should be over and above the excise.

Phase out accelerated depreciation rules

Existing accelerated depreciation rules allow assets to be written off long before the end of their real economic life, representing a significant loss of revenue. The Business Tax Working Group explored reforms such as reducing the first-year formula for depreciation from 200% to 150%; removing unrealistically short statutory lifetime write-offs for assets; and disallowing immediate write-off for first-use mining exploration equipment and other expenses. This last reform has been implemented in part in the 2013-14 budget representing a saving of $1 billion over four years or an average of $250 million a year.

However if all of these reforms were implemented, the yield could be many times greater yielding $1.5 to $3.8 billion a year in savings while making the depreciation rules more equitable and more reflective of the real economic life of assets.

WWF calls on all candidates and political parties to:

- Phase out the fuel tax credit scheme and recover up to $5 billion a year in tax revenue currently foregone; and
- Phase out all accelerated depreciation tax concessions, and recover over $1.5 billion a year in tax revenue currently foregone.
In summary, WWF-Australia calls on all candidates and political parties to:

- Protect our precious Great Barrier Reef: invest in cutting pollution, prohibit dumping of dredge waste, protect its precious coast, ensure safer shipping and create Reef Bank.

- Tackle climate change: secure stronger emissions reduction targets, maintain a price on carbon, support renewable energy, ratify Kyoto2 and provide long-term climate finance.

- Protect the Places we Love: retain federal approval power for federal matters under the EPBC Act and increase the protection for the places and species we love.

- Keep the Heart of Borneo pumping: support sustainable livelihoods and conservation, and build local capacity.

- Recognise traditional and cultural knowledge: support the Working on Country program by appointing more Indigenous rangers, male and female.
About WWF-Australia

WWF-Australia is part of the WWF International Network, the world’s largest and most experienced independent conservation organisation. It has close to five million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries.

WWF’s mission is to stop the degradation of the planet’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

Conserving the world’s biological diversity

Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable

Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

With over 250,000 supporters in Australia, including 50,000 social media followers, and active projects around the country and the Oceania region, WWF works to conserve Australia’s plants and animals by ending land clearing, addressing climate change, and preserving and protecting our fresh water, marine, and land environments.

WWF achieves this by working on the ground with local communities, and in partnership with government and industry, using the best possible science to advocate change and effective conservation policy.

For more information on WWF’s work in Australia, visit our website: wwf.org.au, or https://www.facebook.com/wwfaustralia or Twitter: @WWF_Australia