



NATURE COMMITMENT REPORT 2025

WHERE DO PARTIES STAND ON ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ISSUES?

5 COMMITMENTS FOR A NATURE-POSITIVE FUTURE

The next election is a decisive opportunity to make nature a priority; to shift away from nature-negative practices towards a nature-positive, net-zero future. Heading into the 2025 Federal Election, WWF-Australia aims to understand where Australian parties and independents stand on the environment and climate—and give the public clear information on what to expect from their future representatives.

In December 2024, WWF identified five key actions that our political leaders should implement in the next term—to make our economy more resilient, and to reverse the climate and biodiversity crises. WWF reached out to Australian political parties and independents to understand their stances on these five issues, comparing their responses with our recommendations for building a Nature Positive Australia. These commitments are expanded in the report: [Towards Nature Positive: WWF Policy Asks for the Next Australian Government](#).



The following five commitments are most critical to catalysing Australia's transition to a Nature Positive future.

- 1 Invest 1% of the budget into nature.** Less than 0.1% of the budget is spent on biodiversity. A significant increase in nature funding is urgently needed to reverse nature loss, including significant investment for First Nations communities to manage Country.
- 2 Complete the reform of Australia's nature laws.** Weak national nature laws continue to allow the destruction of habitats critical to threatened species, fast-tracking our extinction crisis. Urgent protection of our fragile environment is needed to halt the decline of our wildlife by completing the reform of Australia's nature laws as a national priority.
- 3 Catalyse global and regional ocean protection.** Multiple and cumulative threats are severely impacting our oceans, as well as the livelihoods of communities and marine life. Urgent action to protect oceans at both a national and regional level and conserve key marine species is essential.
- 4 Build a nature-positive economy.** Australia's economic and financial systems continue to rapidly degrade nature. To reverse this, Australia must address the underlying economic drivers of nature loss, and reform the economic rules of the game.
- 5 Replace fossil fuels with renewable energy.** A healthy and stable climate underpins all life on Earth, supporting both nature and people. The Australian Government must do everything possible to stabilise global heating to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. We need a just transformation to renewable energy, increased energy efficiency and improved energy access alongside a phase-out of all fossil fuels.

WWF-Australia is a non-political, science-based organisation that advocates for evidence-based policies to regenerate and protect nature. The purpose of this survey is to raise awareness of WWF's policy asks and how the policies of different parties and independents align with them. It is also an important tool for us to engage with different parties and independents on our policy asks and advocate for them to match them.



NATURE COMMITMENT SURVEY RESULTS

1. Invest 1% of the budget into nature

Australia's ongoing nature crisis is a direct result of decades of insufficient funding for environmental protection. Less than 0.1% of the budget is spent on biodiversity. Meanwhile, the Australian Government is estimated to spend \$26.3bn—50 times more—per year on subsidies for activities that are likely to harm nature.



Commit 1% of the national budget to nature

**Australian
Labor Party**



**Monique
Ryan**



**Liberal National
Coalition**



**Andrew
Wilkie**



**The
Greens**



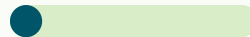
**Allegra
Spender**



**Zali
Steggall**



KEY



Doesn't align with WWF ask



Partially aligns with WWF ask



Aligns with WWF ask

NATURE COMMITMENT SURVEY RESULTS

1. Invest 1% of the budget into nature



Commit 1% of the budget to nature

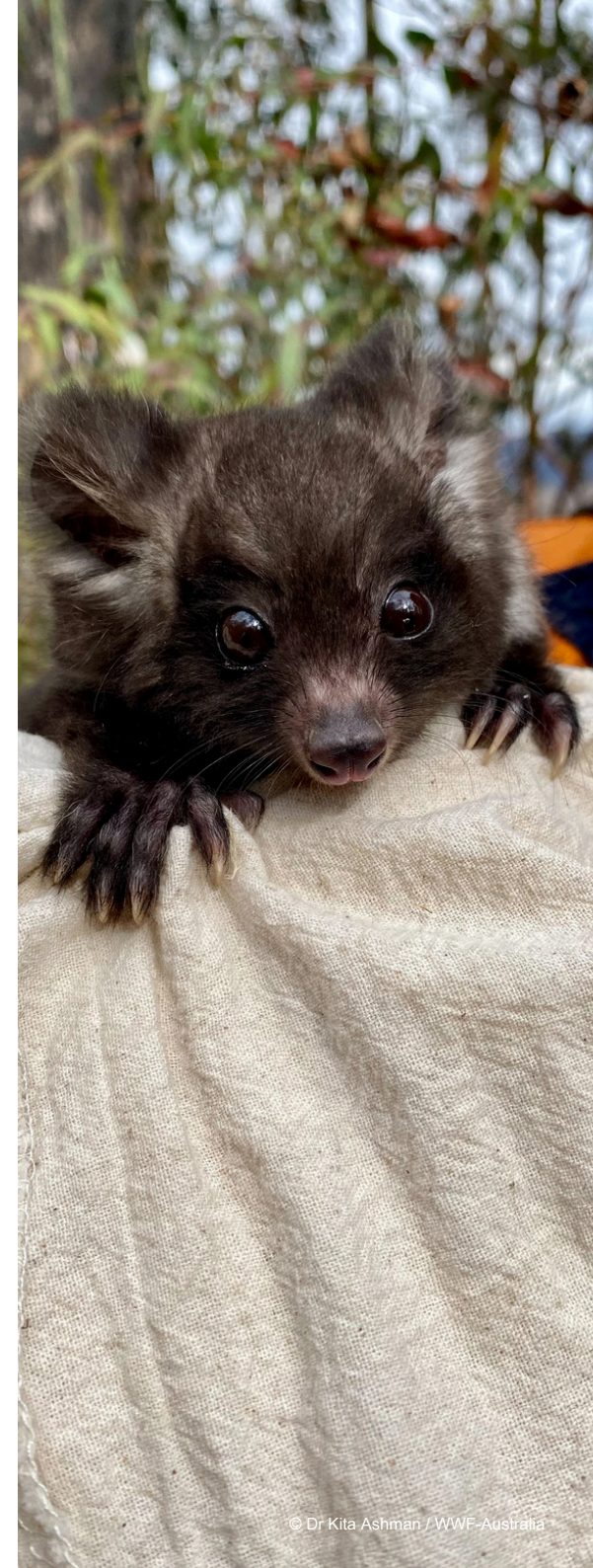
Despite an overwhelming majority of Australians in favour of greater investment in Australia's environment, neither of the major parties are committing the required funds to protect and restore our natural environment.

The Australian Labor Party (ALP) states they are committing \$14bn over the forward estimates to protecting, restoring and regenerating nature, however most of this is not specifically for nature programs. Analyses by WWF, ACF, The Biodiversity Council and others note a slight increase for nature programs in the 2025-26 budget, but that levels of nature spending remain below 0.1% of the budget. This is consistent with historical spending analysed in the 2021 State of the Environment report. The Government's March 2025 announcement of \$250m over five years for protecting bushland was welcomed—but it's offset by other nature programs coming to an end (e.g. Saving Native Species). Based on current policy commitments it is unlikely there will be increased nature funding beyond 0.1% of the budget.

The Liberal National Coalition (the Coalition) has made no public commitments to increase nature funding.

The Greens and independents Monique Ryan, Andrew Wilkie and Zali Steggall all support 1% of the federal budget spent on nature.

Independent, Allegra Spender, supports increasing federal investment in nature, particularly for the priority areas identified in the Threatened Species Action Plan and through government investing in the Nature Repair Market. She did not indicate support for funding above \$2bn per year and stated that the 1% target should be reached through public and private means, particularly given the current budget deficit.



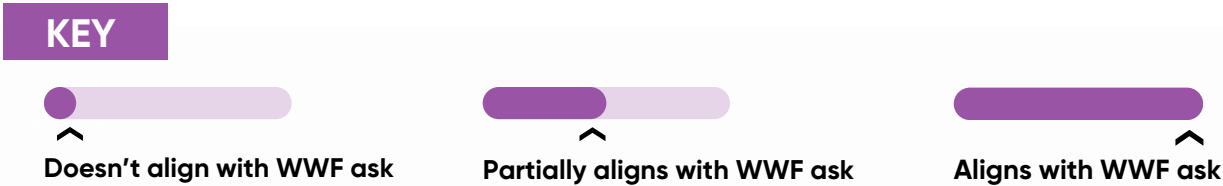
NATURE COMMITMENT SURVEY RESULTS

2. Complete the reform of Australia's nature laws

Weak national nature laws continue to allow the destruction of habitats critical to threatened species, exacerbating Australia's extinction crisis. Five years after an independent review, progress on these essential reforms has been minimal. Urgent protection of our fragile environment is needed to halt the decline of our wildlife by completing the reform of Australia's nature laws as a national priority.



Reform nature laws in the first year of Parliament



NATURE COMMITMENT SURVEY RESULTS

2. Complete the reform of Australia's nature laws



© Etchd Photography / WWF-Australia

Reform nature laws in the first year of Parliament

Encouragingly there is broad support for reforming Australia's broken nature laws across all parties and independents. However, there are varying levels of support for the full suite of reform elements that WWF view as critical to achieving nature laws that genuinely protect our environment.

The ALP said they will reform federal environment laws, including establishment of a national Environment Protection Agency (EPA) as soon as possible, following further consultation with stakeholders. The Prime Minister is quoted as saying this will involve a different model to the one proposed in 2024. No commitment has been made to the broader reforms promised and recommended by the independent review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) —the Samuel Review—including national environmental standards.

The Coalition has also committed to reforming federal environment laws, however they do not support a federal EPA. Their policy is to reduce green/red tape and accelerate project approvals, including through accreditation of states to administer the EPBC Act. They support national environmental standards, but not outcomes based standards as recommended by the Samuel Review. For these reasons it is likely that the Coalition's approach to reform will produce weaker nature laws with fewer environmental protections.

The Greens and independents all support reforming Australia's nature laws. This includes support for a national EPA, a legislated definition of 'nature positive', an information and data agency, environmental standards and cultural heritage protection laws.

NATURE COMMITMENT SURVEY RESULTS

3. Catalyse global and regional ocean protection

Multiple and cumulative threats are severely impacting our oceans, as well as the livelihoods of communities and marine life. Australia has historically been a global leader in ocean conservation, but over the past decade, our international standing has declined. To restore Australia’s reputation as a true world leader in ocean conservation, urgent action to protect oceans at both a national and regional level and conserve key marine species through blue corridor conservation is essential.



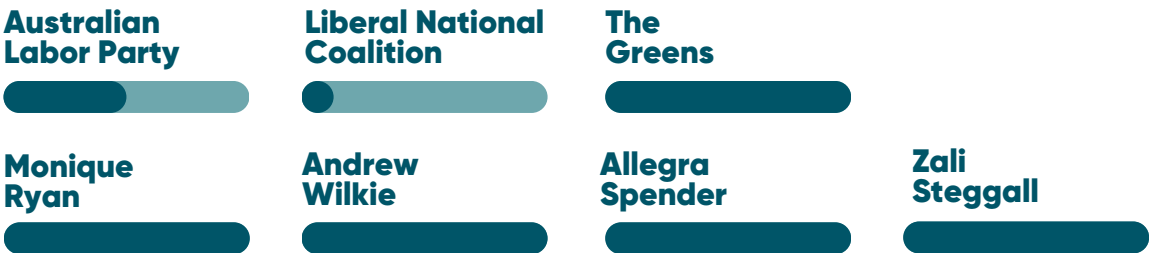
1. Protect 30% of Australia's oceans as highly-protected areas



2. Establish a 'blue corridor' for whales



3. Eliminate plastic pollution



KEY



Doesn't align with WWF ask



Partially aligns with WWF ask



Aligns with WWF ask

NATURE COMMITMENT SURVEY RESULTS

3. Catalyse global and regional ocean protection



Protect 30% of Australia's oceans as highly-protected areas

Overall there was strong support for ocean protection across survey respondents. While around half of Australia's oceans are designated marine parks, less than one quarter are highly protected and free from all extractive use. Apart from the Coalition, all parties and independents pledged to fully protect 30% of Australia's oceans, in line with the globally agreed goal of protecting at least 30% of global oceans by 2030.

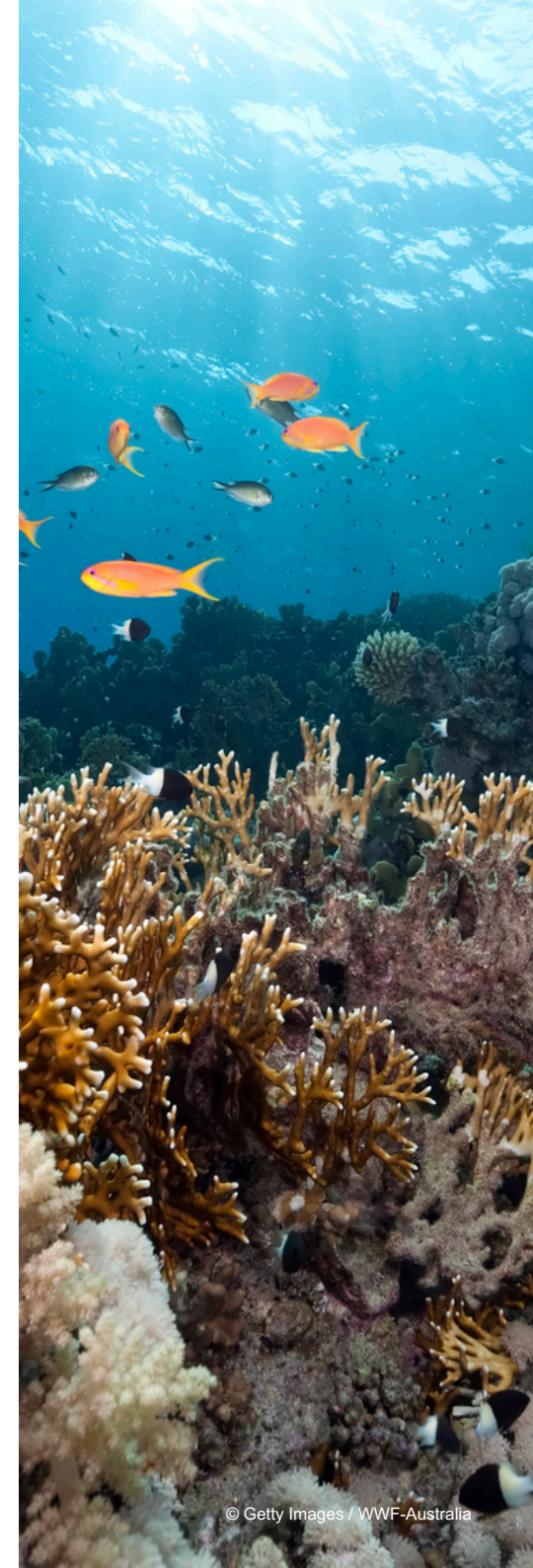
Establish a 'blue corridor' for whales

The Greens and four independents support creation of a 'blue corridor' for whales. This would comprise a range of actions across multiple ocean sectors, including addressing increasing threats to whales in Australian coastal waters and Australia's formal acceptance of the High Seas Treaty. The ALP support completion of the Treaty approval process by June 2025 and therefore partially align with WWF's blue corridor priorities. The Coalition strongly supports the High Seas Treaty but has not made specific commitments to blue corridors conservation.

Eliminate plastic pollution

Strong support for eliminating plastic pollution is mostly evident across the board. All four independents and the Greens support ambitious plastic packaging reform. They also commit to ensuring that Australia maintains a leadership role in UN plastic pollution treaty negotiations as part of the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) to End Plastic Pollution.

The ALP joined the HAC to End Plastic Pollution in 2022 and has pledged to continue this work. The ALP has committed to reforming packaging laws, including rules for mandatory packaging design standards and targets. The Coalition has not committed to packaging reform or a proactive role in treaty negotiations.



NATURE COMMITMENT SURVEY RESULTS

4. Build a nature-positive economy

Australia's economic and financial systems continue to rapidly degrade nature. To reverse this, Australia must address the underlying economic drivers of nature loss, and reform the economic rules of the game. Aligning economic incentives, policies and financial flows with nature positive goals is necessary to build a nature-positive, 'net-zero' economy.

1. Require businesses to report on their impacts to nature



2. Remove subsidies that negatively impact nature



3. Develop nature-positive industry transition pathways



KEY

Doesn't align with WWF ask

Partially aligns with WWF ask

Aligns with WWF ask



NATURE COMMITMENT SURVEY RESULTS

4. Build a nature- positive economy



Requiring businesses to report on their impacts to nature

While there was broad support for nature-based disclosures, not everyone agreed they should be mandatory. The Greens and independents Monique Ryan, Andrew Wilkie and Zali Steggall all commit to making nature disclosures mandatory in the next term of Government. The ALP referenced their Nature Positive Matters initiative which encourages uptake of nature-related reporting by its members. However no specific commitment or consideration of mandatory nature-based disclosures was provided. Allegra Spender said that she supports the current voluntary approach to nature-based disclosures and believes this should be kept under review as the market matures and a nationally consistent disclosure framework is established. The Coalition has no stated plan with regard to mandatory nature-based disclosures.

Remove subsidies that negatively impact nature

Both the Coalition and the ALP have no stated plan to address harmful subsidies for nature. The ALP noted they have acted to ensure public funding isn't inappropriately provided to subsidise fossil fuel extraction. For example the National Reconstruction Fund legislation ensures public funding isn't directed towards fossil fuels and the Industry Research and Development Act and Future Made in Australia Act prohibit funding to coal and gas. However they provided no specific commitment to address subsidies that have an adverse impact on nature. All four independents and the Greens commit to a Productivity Commission inquiry into the size and impact of nature-negative subsidies in Australia.

Develop nature-positive industry transition pathways

The Greens and independents Monique Ryan, Andrew Wilkie and Zali Steggall all align with WWF's ask to develop nature-positive industry transition pathways to build a nature-positive, net-zero economy. The ALP referred to the circular economy framework it launched in 2024 which sets out priorities for industry; the built environment; food and agriculture; and resources, however, made no commitment to considering nature-positive industry transitions, like those that have been developed for climate. The Coalition has no stated plan to support industries to transition. Allegra Spender partially supports but noted that environment laws must first be addressed, and an independent Environment Protection Australia set up first before transition pathways are developed.



NATURE COMMITMENT SURVEY RESULTS

5. Replace fossil fuels with renewable energy

A healthy and stable climate underpins all life on Earth, supporting both people and nature. But rapidly changing climate is seriously threatening the safety of people and causing the loss of so many of our natural wonders. We need a just transformation to renewable energy, increased energy efficiency and improved energy access alongside a phase-out of all fossil fuels. This is the most impactful way to limit emissions rapidly and keep global warming below 1.5°C.



1. 100% renewables for Australia's energy system



2. Phase out fossil fuel exports



3. Build Australia's clean exports future



KEY

Doesn't align with WWF ask

Partially aligns with WWF ask

Aligns with WWF ask

NATURE COMMITMENT SURVEY RESULTS

5. Replace fossil fuels with renewable energy



100% renewables for Australia's energy system

There is overall support for Australia to reach 100% renewables by parties and independents except for the Coalition. Monique Ryan, Andrew Wilkie and Zali Steggall responses all align with WWF's ask to power Australia's economy by 100% renewable energy by 2035. Allegra Spender and the ALP support reducing use of coal as quickly as possible and supports Australia's targets for 82% renewable energy by 2030. Currently the ALP and the Coalition have not publicly committed to a timeline for phase out of coal-fired electricity, however the ALP have made significant investments to keep Australia's transition to renewables on track including its Rewiring the Nation program.

Home electrification is broadly supported although not all parties and independents are committing to the bold household package that WWF believe is required. ALP have committed to a \$2.3bn investment in a new home battery program that will provide a 30% discount on the cost of batteries for households and small businesses, as well as additional measures for social housing, apartments and community batteries. Allegra Spender also has a policy package to support 800,000 households to lower their power bills for good through rooftop solar, home batteries and energy upgrades including zero interest loans for households. The Greens have a substantial package to support household electrification and energy upgrades. WWF wants to see stronger commitments to broader household energy upgrades that support low income and rental households with \$5bn per year for 10 years. This package is supported by the Greens, Andrew Wilkie, Zali Steggall and Monique Ryan, and in principle supported by the ALP.

Phase out fossil fuel exports

The Coalition have made no commitments to phasing out fossil fuel exports, and instead have committed to expand gas exploration and drilling. The ALP have continued to approve new and expansion of fossil fuel projects and have not committed a timeframe for ending approvals, nor phasing out fossil fuel exports. Neither parties align with WWF's policy position to phase out fossil fuel exports although the ALP are more active in building the clean export industries needed to replace fossil fuels and are actively restricting the use of public funds towards fossil fuels in key legislation. The Greens, Andrew Wilkie, Monique Ryan and Zali Steggall all support phasing out fossil fuel exports by 2035. Allegra Spender wants to phase out fossil fuel subsidies and help our trading partners decarbonise, but does not support a blanket ban on fossil fuel exports by 2035.

Build Australia's clean exports future

The ALP has existing significant investments in Future Made in Australia and commitments and vision for Australia to become a renewable energy superpower, this includes supporting investments in green metals. The ALP, The Greens and the independents all align with WWF's policy position to build Australia's clean exports future. The Coalition do not align with WWF's position as they have made no commitments to supporting a renewable exports future.

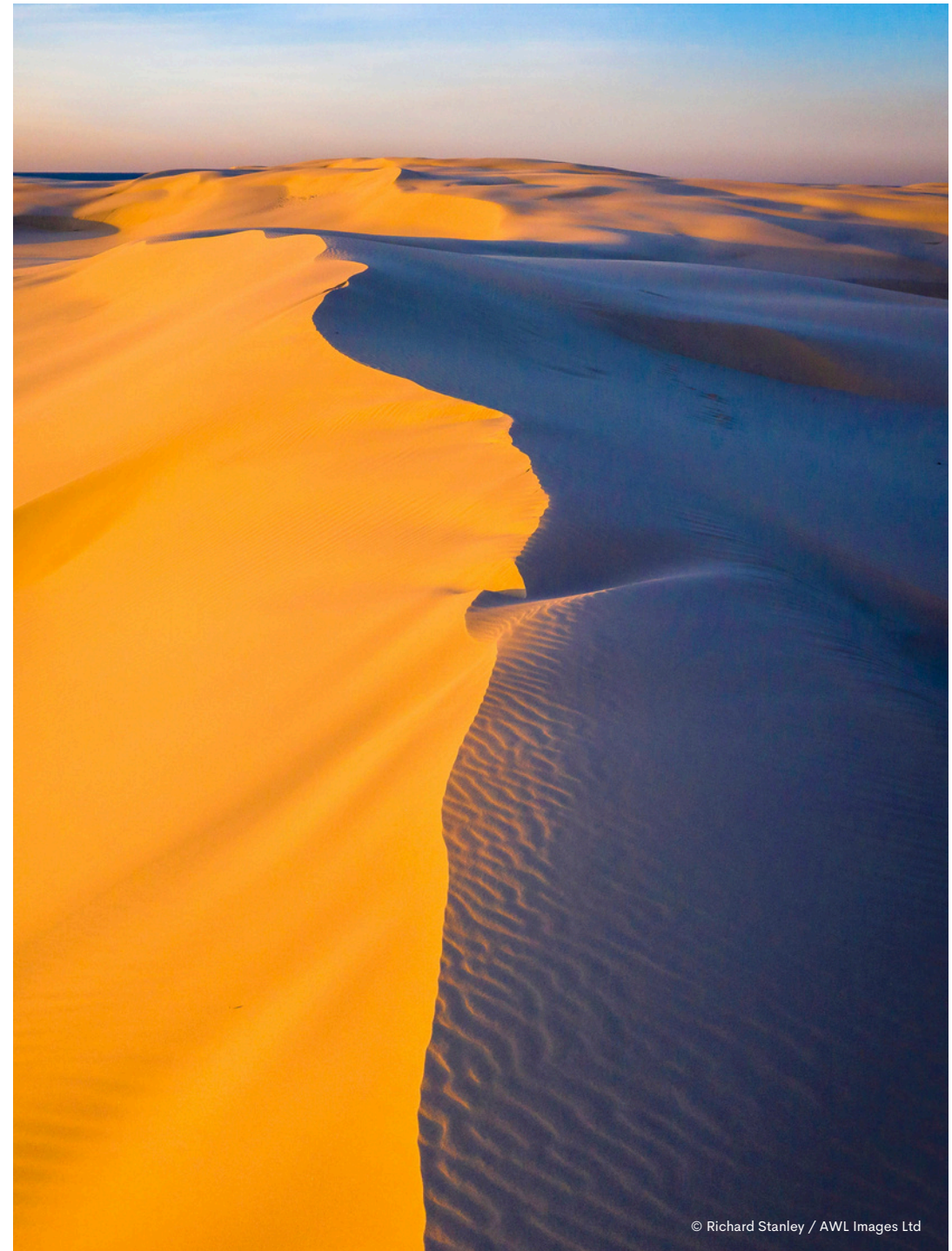
METHODOLOGY

In December 2024, WWF identified key actions that our political leaders should implement in the next term of parliament, to make our society and economy more resilient, and to stop the climate and biodiversity crises. In early 2025, WWF sent a questionnaire to all parties and independents to understand their position on WWF's key policy asks.

For each question, the parties were asked to respond to each policy ask by choosing a range of options, representing a greater or lesser degree of commitment to policies that could help Australia address these nature crises. For each question, the parties had the chance to elaborate on their answers to clarify their positions. Both the answers and the written contributions have been taken into account in WWF's analysis. In instances where parties did not provide sufficient information in their response to determine an assessment, public positions and policy statements were taken into consideration. Responses were assessed on whether they aligned, partially aligned or didn't align with WWF's policy asks.

The questionnaire was sent to all parties and independents currently in Government. They received several requests from WWF to complete the questionnaire. Parties and independents that did not respond have not been included.

To view parties and independents' responses to our questionnaire, [click here](#).



© Richard Stanley / AWL Images Ltd

Acknowledgements

WWF-Australia acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and their continuing connection to their lands, waters and culture. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present, and their emerging leaders. We recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have cared for Country for millennia, and we seek to learn from Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing. We acknowledge that sovereignty of this land was never ceded.

WWF-Australia

WWF is one of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organisations, with over 30 million supporters and a global network active in nearly 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, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

WWF-Australia National Office
hello@wwf.org.au

WWF® and World Wide Fund for Nature® trademarks and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF-World Wide Fund For Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund).
All rights reserved.

For contact details and further information, please visit our website at wwf.org.au



© stock.adobe.com / WWF-Australia



THE CRITICAL DECISIONS WE MAKE TODAY WILL SHAPE AUSTRALIA'S TOMORROW.

© Getty Images / WWF - Australia

WWF-Australia National Office

Level 3, 45 Clarence
Street, Sydney, 2000
GPO Box 528
Sydney NSW 2001

Tel: +1800 032 551
hello@wwf.org.au
@WWF_Australia
wwf.org.au



Working to sustain the natural
world for the benefit of people
and wildlife.

together possible™ wwf.org.au