



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia
 The Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP, Treasurer of Australia
 The Hon Murray Watt MP, Minister for the Environment and Water
 The Hon Katy Gallagher MP, Minister for Finance

1 June 2026

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers,

Open Letter: Intergenerational Equity demands greater investment in the protection and care of nature

We write as scientists, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, conservation experts and young people to express our deep concern at a further reduction in federal investment in on-ground biodiversity conservation in the 2026-27 Budget. We request that the government adopt long-term investment in the care of nature, lifting investment in on-ground biodiversity conservation to at least 1% of the budget.

Intergenerational equity

The Government has rightly emphasised intergenerational equity in housing and economic opportunity for younger Australians. But intergenerational policy does not stop at the right to equitable access to housing – true intergenerational policy must consider all aspects of our lives, including a healthy environment.

The Australian Government already understood this 50 years ago; our national environmental law, *the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, explicitly [includes](#) ‘the principle of inter-generational equity—that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.’

Australia's natural environment is in decline

Our environment is essential to all Australians, from the lands and oceans that sustain us, to the air we breathe, the food produced by healthy oceans, soils and pollinators, the boost it gives to our health and the emotional connections we build with each other and the world around us. It defines our national identity and the way others around the world see us.

Australia's environment is officially [assessed](#) as poor and deteriorating. Continued biodiversity decline creates growing economic, environmental and social costs that will ultimately be borne by future generations.

We urge the Government to adopt long-term biodiversity investment that matches the growing scale of the challenge and Australia's commitments, including sustained funding for threatened and declining species and ecosystems, Indigenous land and sea management, restoration, protected areas and environmental monitoring.

Australians want action to protect nature

Benchmark [surveys](#) conducted by Monash University for the Biodiversity Council found that 96% of Australians believe more action is needed to protect the natural environment, with 58% saying 'a lot more' or 'a great deal more' action is required. The surveys also found that 95% of Australians believe more of the federal budget should be dedicated to nature protection, and most people (76%) thought it should be at least 1% of the budget.

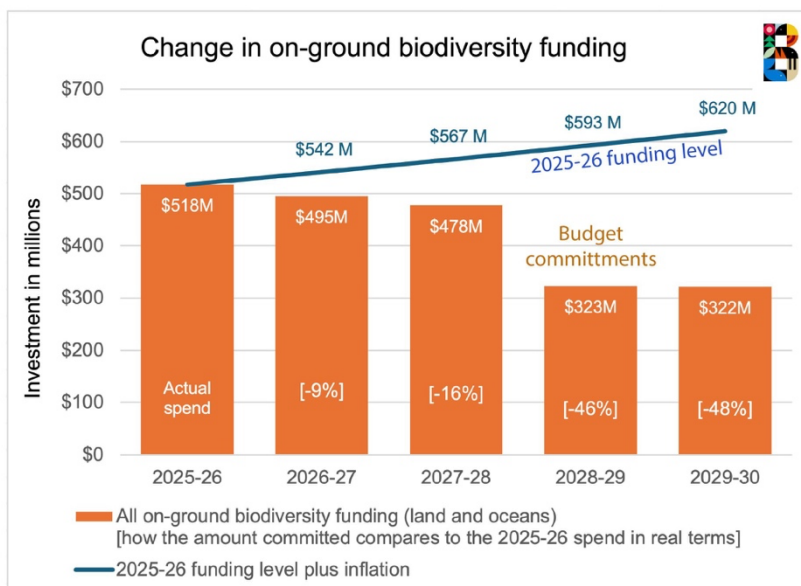
Furthermore, Australia has [committed](#) internationally to halt and reverse biodiversity loss this decade under the [Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#). This includes a commitment to prevent extinctions, conserve 30% of land and oceans by 2030, restore ecosystems, and better manage biodiversity threats.

A budget that will fail nature

Current levels of investment remain grossly [inadequate to achieve these commitments](#) or to meet community expectations that Australia will protect its unique flora, wildlife and ecosystems. We are greatly disappointed by both the inadequate scale and short-term nature of biodiversity funding in the budget. Many conservation programs receive only one or two years of funding despite ecological recovery operating over decades. Short funding cycles undermine workforce capability, partnerships with communities and Traditional Custodians, program effectiveness, and long-term planning.

Compared to actual expenditure in 2025-26, investment in on-ground biodiversity conservation on land and in our oceans will decline by around 9% in 2026-27 in this budget in real terms once inflation is taken into account. By 2028-29, on-ground investment in nature will almost halve in real terms. (See graph)

At the same time, substantial funding has been allocated to environmental regulatory reforms that appear primarily focused on accelerating development approvals rather than improving outcomes for matters of national environmental significance, including threatened species and World Heritage Areas.



We acknowledge and welcome the Government's investment in on-ground conservation programs for the Great Barrier Reef, funding for the Australian Institute of Marine Science to monitor and research the Reef and other tropical ecosystems, the modest two-year extension to the Saving Native Species Fund and two-year commitment to support

recovery efforts for the Maugean Skate, and funding to prepare for the serious impacts of avian influenza. These investments demonstrate the Government recognises the importance of long-term environmental stewardship when sufficient priority is given.

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However, Australia's other ecosystems and more than 2,000 nationally listed threatened species continue to receive grossly inadequate attention and funding. Funding to manage the harm of invasive species has also been cut.

Investment for risk management

Investment in ecosystem monitoring and management is prudent risk management. For example, the Great Southern Reef — a globally significant marine ecosystem supporting thousands of jobs, major fisheries and tourism industries, and around \$12 billion annually in economic activity — is facing major pressure from warming oceans yet lacks a coordinated long-term national monitoring and management program.

Investment in nature protection and restoration can also support long-term regional [employment](#) through ecosystem restoration, Indigenous land and sea management, environmental monitoring and sustainable tourism as part of Australia's growing nature-positive economy.

Nature's value extends well beyond estimates of its financial value. Healthy ecosystems provide clean water, improve human health and wellbeing, social and cultural values, recreation, tourism, and reduce risks of environmental disasters such as harmful floods, fires and algal blooms. These benefits are shared across society and underpin Australia's long-term prosperity and security.

Australia cannot achieve genuine intergenerational equity while passing on a deteriorating natural environment. We urge the Government to adopt long-term funding and to lift investment in the care of nature to at least 1% of the budget.

Yours sincerely,

Scientists, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, conservation experts and young people

Signatories:

Professor Sarah Bekessy

Industry Laureate Professor, University of Melbourne and Lead Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Professor Hugh Possingham

Fellow of the Royal Society, Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA, Professor, University of Queensland and Lead Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Distinguished Professor Michelle Leishman

Director Australian Harmony Centre for Ecosystem Futures at Macquarie University, Councillor Biodiversity Council, Macquarie University

Professor Graeme Cumming

Premier's Science Fellow, Professor, The University of Western Australia and Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Barry Hunter

CEO, North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) and Councillor, Biodiversity Council

"The practice of looking after Country, continues to be undermined by a lack of long-term, structural investment in on-ground operations. Effective stewardship requires stable, multi-decade capital directly allocated to the people working on the ground. As custodians of vast estates across northern Australia, Indigenous Ranger groups and Traditional Owners are constrained by short-term, erratic funding and rigid grant structures that do not respect that wildfire, feral animals and invasive species are long-term challenges."

Professor Jan McDonald

Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law, Professor, University of Tasmania and Lead Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Spencer Hitchen

Conservationist, Environmental Educator and Award-winning Nature Photographer, Age 15

"I continue to Stand UP 4 Nature because I want future generations to see the amazing species I see today. If the decision makers of today truly want to adhere to their promises of "no new extinctions", they must stand up now. Investing in nature is investing in the future of our country & all of us. The decision makers of today have an obligation and a duty to care for my future & the future of the planet we will inherit. Extinction is not an option for my generation." – Spencer Hitchen

Urvee Sarkar

Ecology and Policy Student, University of New South Wales, Age 19

"I was 16 when the Australian government signed the international 30by30 pledge to protect 30% of both our lands and our waters by 2030 - they wouldn't have signed it if it wasn't important. I am now 19. Within the span of 3 years the federal government has decided that in order to meet that target they must decrease nature investment to just 0.04% of the budget. I will be 23 when the target is due - I sincerely hope that I will have a reason to celebrate then." – Urvee Sarkar

Jazmin Bingham

Proud Gomeri woman and youth climate and Indigenous affairs advocate, Age 18

Emily Bradstock

Western Sydney University, Age 24

Kai Lane

Yorta Yorta and Barapa Barapa man and Trainee Ecologist, Habitat Warriors, Age 23

"I lost a lot of hope" - Kai Lane

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Professor Patrick O'Connor AM

Director of the Centre for Global Food and Resources, Professor, Adelaide University and Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Professor Sarah Legge

Honorary Professor Australian National University, Professor Charles Darwin University and Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Professor Gretta Pecl AM

Professor of Interdisciplinary Climate Change Ecology, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies; Director of the Centre for Marine Socioecology, University of Tasmania; and Lead Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Professor Euan Ritchie

President and Fellow of the Australian Mammal Society, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University and Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Professor Lesley Hughes

Professor Emerita, Macquarie University and Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Professor Liam Smith

Director and co-founder of BehaviourWorks Australia at Monash Sustainable Development Institute and Lead Councillor Biodiversity Council

Distinguished Professor David Lindenmayer

Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA, Distinguished Professor, The Australian National University and Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Professor Brendan Wintle

Director of the Melbourne Biodiversity Institute, University of Melbourne and Lead Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Professor Nicki Mitchell

Deputy Director UWA Oceans Institute, Professor, The University of Western Australia and Lead Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Professor Carolyn Hogg

Professor of Biodiversity & Conservation, School of Life & Environmental Sciences and Deputy Director, Sydney Environment Institute, The University of Sydney and Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Professor David Keith

Professor of Botany, Centre for Ecosystem Science at the University of NSW and Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Professor Martine Maron

Professor of Environmental Management, School of the Environment, The University of Queensland; Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Professor Catherine Lovelock

Coastal ecologist and Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, The University of Queensland

"The budget undervalues the role of nature in supporting our economy and society, both now and in the future. We need nature to help adapt to the impacts of climate change. The budget for nature should be increased to reflect these dependencies." – Catherine Lovelock

Distinguished Professor Jennifer A. Marshall Graves

AC, FAA, Distinguished Professor, La Trobe University

Jessica Lane

Miss Earth 2024, Conservation Ambassador, Age 23

"Australia's natural wonders, from the Great Barrier Reef to the Daintree Rainforest, are not only environmentally priceless but vital to our tourism economy. Millions travel here every year to experience our wildlife and landscapes, supporting regional communities and jobs. Yet these ecosystems are under growing threat. Protecting nature is not an expense, it is an investment in Australia's future, economy, identity, and the generations who will inherit it." – Jessica Lane

Harley Fullager

La Trobe University, Age 23

"As a young person undergoing my degree in wildlife conservation, I'm concerned that the environment isn't receiving enough protection to sustain it into the future. Ecosystems and the flora and fauna within them provide important services not only to the environment, but also to human society, and we must protect this for future generations" – Harley Fullager

Elliot Mackenzie

Adelaide University, Age 24

"The budget is shortsighted and misguided. It does not align the governments commitment to reach 30by30 and net zero by 2050. The government must remind themselves that their loyalties must reside with the people and nature, not big corporations." – Elliot Mackenzie

Wakana

Age 20

"As a young person fascinated by Australian nature, I would like to see the government not underrate those precious ecosystems and try best to pass it to next generation" - Wakana

Indie

Early career ecologist, Age 24

"As a young person working in conservation, I feel like this budget - that is meant to be making homes more accessible for young people - is sacrificing everyone's real home - the planet." - Indie

Clancy Lester

Everyday Aussie and Nature Advocate, BeesAndBlossoms, Age 25

"I'm losing hope as a young person by the minute. Could have been an easy fix with a gas export tax. but no. Money is going to all of the friends of our government, billionaires, mining magnates, multinational conglomerates, and Israel. How about we protect the biodiversity of this beautiful country and actually act on climate." – Clancy

Laura Adcock

Age 22

Gabriel

La Trobe University, Age 24

Hannah

Student and Charity Worker, Age 20

Camille Sicangco

PhD Candidate, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University, Age 25

Adele Roeder

Environmental Advocate, Age 23

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Emerita Professor Caroline Gross

Professor in Plant Evolution and Pollination, University of New England

Professor Andrew Lowe

Professor of Plant Conservation Biology, Director of the Environment Institute, Adelaide University

"We derive so much societal and economic value from nature, its essential for us to invest in its long-term recovery and sustainability, which in return will support us" – Andrew Lowe

Professor Dieter Hochuli

Professor of Integrative Ecology and President, Ecological Society of Australia, The University of Sydney

Laureate Professor Ary Hoffmann

Melbourne Laureate Professor of Biology, AC, Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences USA, Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Science, University of Melbourne

Distinguished Professor Irene Watson

Tanganekald, Meintangk, Potaruwutj, Bunganditj, First Peoples, Adelaide University

"Since the beginning of time, we have had a caring relationship with our ngmath our sea country, keep it alive for our children to come. Take responsibility and listen to First Peoples who under duress are still caring for our natural world." – Irene Watson

Professor Veronica Soebarto

Professor, Green Urban Futures Initiative Lead, Environment Institute, Adelaide University

Professor Martin Breed

Professor, Flinders University

"As a parent, scientist and educator, I am very concerned about the status of our nature and the impact that its declining state has on our young people and future generations. We need to invest far more in improving the health of our nature to support not only the biodiversity and ecosystems, but also the health - particularly the mental health - of us, our families, our loved ones and our future generations." – Martin Breed

Professor Thom van Dooren

Professor, University of Sydney

Professor Jim He

Professor of Soil Ecology, The University of Melbourne

"Soil biodiversity is overlooked in the biodiversity study and conservation. It should be included in the relevant research, assessment, policy and funding support systems." – Jim He

Professor Christopher R. Dickman

(FAA) Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, Emeritus Professor in Ecology, The University of Sydney

Professor Don Driscoll

Professor, Deakin University

"Reduced budgets for the environment tangibly push already threatened species closer to extinction. I have worked with the Christmas Island Parks Australia team trying to prevent extinction of extinct-in-the-wild reptiles. When budgets are cut, the number of captive animals that can be retained have been slashed to match. These reduced population sizes have more rapid loss of genetic diversity and are more vulnerable to random events like disease outbreaks." – Don Driscoll

Tasman Sadler

Freshwater Ecology Research Student, Age 23

"As both a young person and a budding ecologist I am disappointed in the decisions made by those in power in regards to investing in our futures. Biodiversity is under greater threats each year, and if we don't prioritise the conservation, research and protection efforts, and properly fund projects that need to happen, we will have larger unfolding consequences across society and the environment" – Tasman Sadler

Nick Carpenter

PhD Candidate in Ecology and Conservation Biology, Queensland University of Technology, Age 23

Mizuki Mae Casuncad

Age 18

Yusuf Sahin

Age 23

loweFoerster

Ecology and Conservation Honours Student at Monash University, Age 22

"As a young person entering the conservation space I find it incredibly frustrating and disheartening to see the government once again fail to adequately support conservation action. Climate change and environmental degradation will affect us and future generations so much more than older generations. Conservation investment must be increased to truly support intergenerational equity." – Matilda Foerster

Amy Young

Age 23

Isabelle Dobie

Student at Adelaide University, Age 19

Kamryn Carter

PhD Student in Conservation Biology, University of Wollongong, Age 23

"As a young PhD student starting out in the field of conservation biology, I am disheartened by the government's lack of care for the biodiversity and environment that we rely on." – Kamryn Carter

Binota Bose Britya

PhD Candidate in Transboundary Water Governance and Human Rights, Adelaide University, Age 25

"Intergenerational equity is not aspirational; it is a legal and ethical obligation. Reduced biodiversity funding transfers irreversible harm onto future generations who bear no responsibility for these decisions. As a doctoral researcher in transboundary water governance and human rights, I emphasise that budget allocations are political choices, not merely fiscal necessities. To underinvest in nature today is to transfer an obligation we chose to ignore onto those who never had a choice." – Binota Bose Britya

Eleanor Hadfield

PhD Candidate, The University of Sydney, Age 24

Alexandra Christo

Age 19

"Every year I feel more and more disappointed with our government. It is extremely frustrating when young people seem to care more for our environment than those who call themselves our leaders. Please step up." – Alexandra Christo

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Professor Devi Stuart-Fox

Professor of Terrestrial Ecology, The University of Melbourne

Professor Anthony J. Richardson

Professor, University of Queensland

Professor David M Watson

Professor of Ecology, Gulbali Institute, Charles Sturt University

Professor Kathryn Williams

Professor, University of Melbourne

"The opportunity to experience, care for, and benefit from nature is vital for human wellbeing. As a nation we must protect these opportunities for future generations." – Kathryn Williams

Professor Jessica Meeuwig

University of Western Australia

Professor Bridget Lewis

Professor, School of Law, Queensland University of Technology

"Australia's biodiversity is declining rapidly, and we need urgent, adequate investment to change that. Scientists and First Nations knowledge holders already know what's needed, yet this budget shows they are not being heard or supported. Without decisive action now, future generations will rightly judge us for letting this critical opportunity slip through our fingers." – Bridget Lewis

Professor Emeritus Michael Clarke

Professor Emeritus, La Trobe University

"As a scientist who has worked in conservation science for 40 years and a grandparent, I am deeply disappointed by the low priority given to conservation in the federal budget. Such ongoing neglect of nature in this unique continent, a key component of our common wealth, amounts to intergenerational theft. I grieve over the loss of wonders my grandchildren will never get to enjoy because of our inaction." – Michael Clarke

Professor Marit Kragt

Professor, UWA School of Agriculture and Environment, University of Western Australia

Professor Cynthia Riginos

Professor, School of the Environment, The University of Queensland

"Deeply disappointed that the government's priorities do not align to the well-being of Australia's unique biodiversity, Traditional Custodians and the young people who will inherit this damaged planet." – Cynthia Riginos

Professor Emeritus Helene Marsh

Professor Emeritus, James Cook University

"The wonders of Australia's extraordinary biodiversity should be the most important component of our legacy to our children, grandchildren and their descendants. Our natural heritage deserves so much more than will be achievable with the diminished funding provided by this budget." – Helene Marsh

Professor David Chapple

Professor of Conservation and Ecology, Monash University

Professor Delene Weber

Professor of Environmental Science, Adelaide University

Professor Michael Kearney

Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, ARC Laureate Fellow, Professor in Ecology at The University of Melbourne, The University of Melbourne

Freya Brunton

Age 18

"As a young person, I am disgusted that the government is spending so little time in investing in our future and instead has re-directed budget cuts to reinforce outdated practices and 'causes', which extend to line politicians and the upper echelons' pockets. Do what is RIGHT not what is EASY." – Freya Brunton

Lucinda Gray

Environmental Geneticist and Zoologist, Honours Student, La Trobe University, Age 22

Johannes

Law Student, QUT, Age 22

Frida Foerster

Student of Environmental Earth Sciences and Indigenous Studies, Age 19

Cynthia Li

An affected young person, Age 25

Julia Baxter

Recent Ecology and Conservation University graduate, Age 23

Cooper Riach

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre, Age 25

"At such a critical moment to address the compounding crises of biodiversity loss and climate collapse, this government has chosen to allocate just 0.06% of the budget for nature. We can say with absolute clarity that this government has failed to meet the moment and, without an urgent increase in funding, our rich and unique bio-regions will be left struggling to survive." – Cooper Riach

Maiya McLean

Environmental Science Honours Student at Monash University, Age 22

"We need to act now more than ever to safeguard Australia's rich biodiversity and collaborate globally to ensure a prosperous future for all people and animals on this planet. The government positions this budget as looking out for young Australians, but I think the real opportunity to do so would be to invest more in our environment, the one home we all share." – Maiya McLean

Aria

Environmental science student, Age 20

"In this dire climate nature should be of highest priority and budget should be raised accordingly" - Aria

Jane

Age 25

"As a young person, not enough is being done to protect what makes Australia so unique- it's incredible nature and biodiversity" - Jane

Braeden Thomson

Age 24

Miss Isha

Age 22

Yiqing Zhang

Age 25

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Professor Saul Cunningham

Ecological Researcher at the Australian National University

Professor Emeritus Philip Batterham

Emeritus Professor, University of Melbourne

"As a biologist I am keenly aware that the pyramid of life that humans sit on top of is being eroded from the bottom due to rapid biodiversity loss of species, most of which may not have been even formally identified. This may be the single biggest threat to humanity. Much more needs to be spent on identifying Australia's biodiversity so that we can protect it." – Philip Batterham

Professor Emeritus S. Don Bradshaw

Emeritus Professor and Senior Honorary Research Fellow, The University of WA

"A good start but more needed to solve the housing crisis created by Howard in 2000" – Don Bradshaw

Professor Emeritus Philip Gibbons

Emeritus Professor in Environmental Science, The Australian National University

"Australia will not provide the same opportunities for future generations if we continue to neglect our environment." – Philip Gibbons

Professor Dale Nimmo

Professor in Ecology, Charles Sturt University

Professor Justine Bell-James

Professor in Law, University of Queensland

Professor Leigh W Simmons

Evolutionary biologist and ecologist, University of Western Australia

"Deeply disappointed by this government's neglect of environmental issues" – Leigh W Simmons

Professor Sam Banks

Director, Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods Sam Banks, Charles Darwin University

Professor Joanna Batstone

Technology Innovator, Royal Society of Victoria

Professor Charlie Huvencers

Professor in Marine Ecology, College of Science and Engineering, Flinders University

Professor Damien Fordham

Professor of Global Change, Deputy Director Environment Institute, Adelaide University

Professor Kirsten Parris

Professor of Ecology, Director of the Office for Environmental Programs, The University of Melbourne

"Australia's unique wildlife and the places they call home deserve our respect and care. This budget does little to support conservation in a time of rapid environmental change. What legacy will we leave future generations if they can no longer see koalas, or frogs, or ancient forests?" – Kirsten Parris

Emeritus Professor David Pannell

Researcher in Environmental Economics, University of Western Australia

Professor Andrew F. Bennett

Emeritus Professor, La Trobe University

Janneke Delhey Peters

Student, University of Melbourne, Age 20

"Once any part of the natural world is lost, it is lost forever. Roads can be repaved, power stations rebuilt, but once destroyed, natural ecosystems, which are more complex than any man-made structure, are destroyed forever." – Janneke Delhey Peters

Frankie Sinaga

AYCC, University of New South Wales, Age 19

"Caring about the environment is caring for the lives and longevity of our nation's youth" – Frankie Sinaga

Brian La Rance

Field Ecologist, Age 22

Lilli Corrias-Smith

Filmmaker, Science Communicator and Environmental Advocacy, Age 25

"This unsatisfactory budget for nature care is not only ethically wrong, it also doesn't even make sense from a capitalist point of view. Australia makes billions of dollars of profit from tourism and mining that both exploit our natural resources; so preserving nature is obviously in the planet's and public interest for overall well-being, survival and also even capitalism." – Lilli Corrias-Smith

Tye Page

Age 20

"As someone who is witnessing the environment change around themselves at an alarming rate and too see that mining and gas corporations still are not being taxed is a massive disappointment to proving environmental justice to the future generations" – Tye Page

Marie-Claire Stevens

President of AYCC UNSW, AYCC UNSW, Age 23

"As a young person, I feel that the government is not committed enough to addressing nature conservation and protection in light of the multiple environmental crises the world is facing. We've traversed 7 of the 9 planetary boundaries critical for earth system function. The minimal contribution to ocean protection is particularly shocking to me." – Marie-Claire Stevens

WenYuan LimSchneider

Student, University of New South Wales, Age 21

Shayan Bidiwale

Student Energy Co-President, University of New South Wales, Age 20

Justin Cheung

Student, University of New South Wales, Age 22

Jake

Undergraduate renewable energy engineer, Age 20

"We must safeguard our natural world for future generations" – Jake

Ava Lecher

Medical Professional, young person

Yahan Yang

Age 19

"Biodiversity is the pride of Australia and I would hope to see the budget put towards it reflect that better." – Yahan Yang

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Professor Bill Breed

Professor in Biological Sciences, Adelaide University

“Every effort and fund available needs to be allocated to the conservation of Australian natural fauna & flora” – Bill Breed

Professor Martin Whiting

Professor of Animal Behaviour, School of Natural Sciences, Macquarie University

“Australia’s unique biodiversity is under siege. Now more than ever we need to conserve our natural heritage and ensure that our unique biodiversity (and healthy ecosystems) are available to future generations.” – Martin Whiting

Professor Keith Christian

Professor of Zoology, Charles Darwin University

Professor Timothy Clark

Professor in Animal Eco-physiology, Deakin University

“Labor has not stepped up to reinstate funding and undo the damage done by a decade of Coalition governments. It seems that both major parties have turned a blind eye to science and the importance of our natural environment. It is time to step up and change that.” – Timothy Clark

Retired Professor Stewart Frusher

Marine researcher.

“In a time of climate crisis, unprecedented biodiversity loss and science clearly demonstrating a decline in sustainability globally, the lack of investment in nature demonstrates a lack of investment in a world that will be fit and functioning for future generations. The current budget turns Australia’s back on its commitments to sustainability, biodiversity and inter-generational equity.” – Stewart Frusher

Professor Susan Laurance

Director of TESS, Professor of Tropical Ecology, Centre of Tropical Environmental and Sustainability Science, College of Science and Engineering, James Cook University

Professor Nathan Bindoff

Climate Scientists and Oceanographer, University of Tasmania

“The environment, and all of its services it provides, is being neglected in this budget.” – Nathan Bindoff

Adjunct Professor Bill Hare

Murdoch University/Climate Analytics

“Many of us in the environment space had great hope when the Albanese government was elected promising to prioritise the environment. Unfortunately, environmental protection, particularly species conservation, has gone backwards. With global warming also beginning to overwhelm species and vulnerable ecosystem the government needs to urgently reverse direction. We will not get a second chance at this.” – Bill Hare

Professor Anne Peters

Professor in Behaviour, Ecology and Conservation, Monash University

“As a mother and evidence-driven scientist I know it is imperative to protect nature for future generations” – Anne Peters

Professor Chris Johnson

Professor of Wildlife Conservation, University of Tasmania

Associate Professor Phillipa McCormack

Associate Professor and Future Making Fellow, Adelaide Law School, Adelaide University

Mr Thomas Goode

Bachelor of Science student, Age 19

Gemma

Conservation student, Age 22

Lucas Tomkins

Millennium Kids Youth Board Member, university student, Millennium Kids, Age 20

“As a 20 year old, I expect climate change to have a large impact on my life, and to witness large biodiversity loss over my lifetime. The fact that this extremely pressing issue for young people is not addressed in the budget is highly disappointing, particularly in a budget that has made other welcome steps to address generational inequality.” – Lucas Tomkins

Marina Vivaldi

University Student in Environmental Humanities , Age 20

“As a young person and student of Environmental Humanities, I feel that the government does not have the best interests of my generation in mind, and is putting our country at risk by ignoring the consequences of climate change.” – Marina Vivaldi

Winnie Liang

Young person

Laura Unicomb

Young person

Simon Hawkins

CEO, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

“From a native title perspective, where our responsibilities to Country are ongoing and recognised under native title, the reduction in government investment in nature care is deeply disappointing and undermines our ability to fulfil those obligations. It weakens First Nations land and sea management, risks cultural knowledge, and shifts this burden forward. Sustained, long-term investment is essential to properly care for Country and support our ongoing obligations across generations.” – Simon Hawkins representing YMAC

Rachel Lowry

CEO, Bush Heritage Australia, Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Adam Bandt

CEO, Australian Conservation Foundation

Tim Allard

CEO, Australian Wildlife Conservancy

Dr Jody Gunn

CEO, Australian Land Conservation Alliance, Australian Land Conservation Alliance

Chrissie Goldrick

Executive Chair, Australian Geographic Society

A healthy environment is essential to the future of all Australians. It must become a national priority – Chrissie Goldrick

Rob Pallin

Director, Paddy Pallin Foundation

“Australia has the worst record in environmental care.” – Rob Pallin

Paula Jones

CEO, Landcare Association of South Australia Inc.

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Professor Mary-Anne Lea

Professor of Marine/Polar Predator Ecology, University of Tasmania

“Australia’s biodiversity is celebrated globally for its uniqueness, yet with each passing year we watch bewildered as more species and habitats become endangered. As cumulative pressures from the biodiversity and climate change crises mount, increasing large-scale investment in effective and holistic nature conservation and restoration is necessary across all biomes if we are to preserve intergenerational equity and the functioning and health of these unique marine and terrestrial ecosystems.” – Mary-Anne Lea

Associate Professor Dejan Stojanovic

Associate Professor in Conservation Biology, Australian National University

Adjunct Professor Andrew Constable

Marine ecology, fisheries, conservation; Climate science; Environmental Policy & Governance, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, & Centre for Marine Socioecology, University of Tasmania

Associate Professor Kate Umbers

Associate Professor in Zoology, Western Sydney University, Managing Director Invertebrates Australia and Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Associate Professor Georgina Drew

Associate Professor of Anthropology and Development Studies, Adelaide University

“A robust biodiversity, ample green cover, adequate wildlife protections, and a healthy ecology for future generations are key components of intergenerational equity” – Georgina Drew

Associate Professor Megan Higgie

Associate Professor in Conservation Genetics & Evolutionary Ecology, James Cook University

Associate Professor Anita Foerster

Environmental Law Academic, Monash University

“There are so many reasons that we should be investing in nature - economic, cultural, social. It is deeply disappointing to see so little foresight in this budget, with more emphasis on fast-tracking environmental approvals than on conserving and restoring the natural systems that sustain us all.” – Anita Foerster

Associate Professor (as of July 1 2026) Stefan Kaufman

Transition Capability Lead: Behaviour & Systems Change, Sustainability Transitions Lab, Faculty of Business and Economics, Monash University

“Investment in nature returns dividends to productivity, wellbeing and resilience. Without it, short term cost of living measure benefits will be overwhelmed as the natural systems we rely on for food, water, shelter and wellbeing further degrade. Investing in nature is also investing in regional Australia, where many current impacts, and immediate benefits of repair occur along with social and political divides.” – Stefan Kaufman

Associate Professor Robert A. Davis

Edith Cowan University.

“In the age of extinction, nature needs to be a budget priority, not an afterthought” – Robert Davis

Associate Professor Carissa Klein

Associate Professor and Director, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science, UQ Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science

Andrew Richards

CEO, National Landcare Network

Jono La Nauze

CEO, Environment Victoria

James Overington

CEO, Environment Tasmania

Stewart Christie

CEO, Terrain NRM, Natural Resource Management practitioner

Matt Ruchel

Executive Director, Victorian National Parks Association

Kirsty Howey

Executive Director, Environment Centre NT

Lara Gallagher

Country Director, The Nature Conservancy

Ann Ward

Chair, Nature Conservation Margaret River Region

“As the chair of a conservation organisation it is so disappointing to see how little attention or funding is given to support biodiversity - our life support system on which we all depend. Please consider what we stand to lose on our planet if we don't give attention to nature.” – Ann Ward

Dr Wayne Harvey FAICD

Royal Society of South Australia

Peter Dixon

President, Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

“The Government has all the information it needs to know it needs to invest in and better regulate biodiversity and restoration. Yet it constantly underinvests and expects praise for its inadequacy”. – President, Peter Dixon

Natalie Kyriacou OAM

Environmentalist & author

It is baffling that we need to make the case to protect the very thing that keeps humanity alive. So, the question for the Prime Minister is this: when faced with overwhelming scientific evidence that the destruction of nature is driving mass suffering and risking extinction for much of life on Earth, do we perceive this as an existential crisis, and will our response match the gravity of the crisis? – Natalie Kyriacou

Janice Chanson

Australasia Manager, Re:wild

Dr Andrea de Kauwe

Conservation Ecology Centre and Southern Otway Landcare Network

“This budget is not intergenerational. Intergenerational equity begins with a legacy of planetary health and stewardship, not one of nature destruction and paucity of funding environmental care. The future of our species is inextricably linked to nature's systems; the environmental crises facing us require 1% of the budget. This isn't too much to gift to Victoria's children and young people.” – Andrea de Kauwe

Bob Makinson

Conservation Botanist

Jess Teideman

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Associate Professor Abbie Rogers

Premier's Early to Mid-Career Fellow, Associate Professor and Director, Centre for Environmental Economics & Policy, The University of Western Australia

"The opportunity costs implied by this declining investment in nature are confronting: the growing losses of biodiversity and ecosystem services from current under-investment are likely to have significant consequences on the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of future Australian generations." – Abbie Rogers

Associate Professor Ali Chauvenet

Associate Professor, Griffith University

"Without nature, meeting the needs of Australians would be even more expensive. For example, research shows that the cost of mental health services would double if people did not have access to wild places such as national parks. Please don't underestimate the future cost of under-spending for nature now." – Ali Chauvenet

Associate Professor Andrew Baker

Associate Professor, QUT

Associate Professor Zoe Doubleday

Associate Professor in Marine Ecology and senior lecturer, School of Biological Sciences, Adelaide University; College of Experts, Australian Research Council

"The impact of Australia's worst algal bloom in 2025 was a visceral introduction to how the health and happiness of people is bound to the health and happiness of the environment. As a marine scientist that teaches the next generation about the natural world, we need to empower and equip that generation so they can build a healthier and more resilient environment." – Zoe Doubleday

Associate Professor Thomas Newsome

Royal Zoological Society of NSW and The University of Sydney

Associate Professor Lee Berger

Associate Professor in Wildlife Health and Conservation, University of Melbourne

Associate Professor Gavin Smith

Associate Professor, Canberra Snake Tracking Project

As a conservation practitioner who studies snakes, and as someone who regularly does environmental monitoring, I have observed first-hand the impacts of ecosystem decline and the increasing pressure being placed on native species. I am frankly appalled at the government's blatant disregard for our environment and disinvestment in nature care work. This is one of your core responsibilities to invest the resources needed now to ensure the future viability of Australia's precious landscapes. – Gavin Smith

Associate Professor Holly Kirk

Associate Professor, Curtin University

"Australia's unique biodiversity and ecosystems are what sets us apart on the world stage, and the health of this environment is fundamental to our future prosperity. The budget utterly fails to provide the proper investment needed to protect this national asset, let alone meet existing commitments the government has made." – Holly Kirk

Associate Professor Yolima Carrillo

Associate Professor, Western Sydney University

"Functioning ecosystems are the most fundamental basis of a functioning society. They need protection." – Yolima Carrillo

Content specialist, Australian Wildlife Conservancy

Dr Cara

Warddeken Land Management Limited

Kim Dravnieks

Conservation and Land Management practitioner

"As a conservation practitioner, I have seen the amount of effort required to preserve and rehabilitate natural biosystems, which are being lost at a shocking rate." – Kim Dravnieks

Ryan Kilgower

Orange-bellied Parrot Coordinator, BirdLife Australia

"When I reflect on all of the volunteers, organisational members and regular people I have been in contact with throughout my career protecting threatened bird species, I find modern Australia. They come from diverse working backgrounds, ages, religions, and cultures. They all deeply care about our environment. An investment into nature recovery is about more than just protecting our precious biodiversity - it is an investment into Australia." – Ryan Kilgower

Erica Martin

Executive Director, Humane World for Animals, Australia

"Our unique biodiversity and fragile ecosystems demand far greater ambition, with stronger targets, sustained investment, and decisive action to halt and reverse environmental decline." – Erica Martin

Cam Walker

Friends of the Earth Australia

Sharon Wright

General Manager, Noosa & District Landcare Group Inc

Healthy country means a healthy future. Let's invest in our future and raise the funding commitment to 1% of the budget. A healthy future is priceless. – Sharon Wright

Allan Briggs

MEd, BirdLife Capricornia

"As a conservation practitioner and team leader for the conservation of the Critically Endangered Capricorn Yellow Chat I am concerned that the budget is totally inadequate when it comes to the conservation of flora and fauna. In particular there is no funding for the implementation of Recovery Plans which simply means that they are just signposts to extinction." – Allan Briggs

Melanie Audrey

Biodiversity Policy and Campaign Manager, The Wilderness Society

"Rather than strengthening protections for native forests, the budget continues Regional Forest Agreements under a new regulatory framework. This includes \$28.0 million over two years from 2026–27 for DCCEEW to work with impacted states to develop landscape-scale approval pathways, allowing existing forestry operations to continue under reformed environmental laws. Scientists and conservation groups had been calling for stronger reform than this continuation of existing arrangements." – Melanie Audrey

Jo Hopkins

Victorian Campaign Manager, Wilderness Society

"Nature and people are inextricably linked, the health of one depends on the other. Australia must invest more in nature for longevity of people and the planet." – Jo Hopkins

Christine Townsend

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Associate Professor Paul Rymer

Associate Professor, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University

“Government investment in nature NOW will support the growing nature market and avoid greater economic, social and environmental costs in the future. We need to provide a better future for our kids to live and chose to have families.” – Paul Rymer

Associate Professor Martijn van de Pol

Global Change Ecologist, James Cook University

Associate Professor Sarah Milne

Environmentalist and Associate Professor in Political Ecology, Australian National University

Associate Professor Scott Hawken

Associate Professor in Landscape Architecture, Adelaide University

“Australia is investing more in environmental destruction than in preventing extinctions and restoring ecosystems and nature. The economics are disastrous and the consequences are irreversible.” – Scott Hawken

Associate Professor Ben Moore

Associate Professor, Ecology, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University

“As a scientist studying the impacts of environmental change, it saddens me to see the ongoing loss of diversity and the lack of investment in halting and reversing this decline. More tragic still is knowing that my children and future generations of scientists will be left with diminished, less resilient ecosystems and will carry the economic and social costs of this.” – Ben Moore

Associate Professor Tanya Latty

Associate Professor of Invertebrate Ecology, University of Sydney, Invertebrates Australia

Associate Professor Alice Jones

Associate Professor, Resilience Ecology, School of Biological Sciences, Adelaide University

Associate Professor Jim Radford

Associate Professor, La Trobe University

Associate Professor Todd McWhorter

Associate Professor of Veterinary Physiology, Environment Institute member, Adelaide University

Associate Professor Carly Cook

Associate Professor in Conservation Science, Monash University

Associate Professor Diego Garcia-Bellido

Associate Professor, Adelaide University

“It is very disappointing that, in 2026, with all that we see happening to the environment in our country and around the planet, the ALP does not stand for further study and protection of Nature: we are running out of time, and taking the dire situation very seriously, as it deserves, cannot be delayed any further: time to lead in this space as well!!!” – Diego Garcia-Bellido

Associate Professor Sophie Petit

Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology, Adelaide University

Associate Professor Ania Kotarba

Associate Professor, Environment Institute, Adelaide University

Conservation expert/practitioner

Russell Watkinson

Conservation expert/practitioner

Jamie Payne-Dave

Conservation expert/practitioner

“True intergenerational equity involves ensuring that the next generation have access to the joys of nature and biodiversity” – Jamie Payne-Dave

Luisa Low

Conservation expert/practitioner

“As a former conservation practitioner, bushcare worker and habitat volunteer, I believe the environment deserves far greater investment in this budget. We are facing one of the most critical moments in history for our environment, precious habitats, wildlife and ecosystems. Nature is not separate from us — we are part of it, and its protection should be among our highest priorities. Without healthy ecosystems, we cannot have healthy communities, economies or futures.” – Luisa Low

Jennie Beeson

Conservation expert/practitioner

Jack Manera

Ecologist, Monash

“Disheartened and upset. I expect more and more progress towards sustainability for the benefit of our people and land.” – Jack Manera

Jennifer Hemer

Conservation expert/practitioner

Chris Banks

Conservation expert/practitioner

Nathalie Laurence

Conservation expert/practitioner

“Working in the natural resources management sector for over 15 years I have seen increasingly urgent pressures met with diminished funding, years of work and investment lost to lack of ongoing funding and a sector that brings so much value to our environment, our native species, our communities, our primary production industry and our overall landscape resilience being expected to do more with less, year after year.” – Nathalie Laurence

V. Power

Conservation expert/practitioner

“As a conservation practitioner, I see habitat loss or decline on a daily basis. There is an urgent and ongoing need for a far greater budget share for the environment. Without a seismic shift in nature care funding, stand-alone Housing 'solutions' seem a very cynical exercise in giving citizens a false sense of security. If you're in government, you can no longer claim ignorance about the PRIME importance of arresting habitat loss and halting the decline in Australia's resource quality.” – V. Power

Amanda Holly

Conservation expert/practitioner

Angela Reid

Protecting Country Against Invasive Species

Heather Kiley

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Associate Professor Prue Francis

Associate Professor of Marine Science, Deakin Centre for Marine Science, Deakin University

“One of the most confronting realities of Australia's biodiversity decline is that my daughters, aged just 10 and 14, have already seen noticeable changes at their local snorkelling spots within only five years of exploring the Great Southern Reef.” – Prue Francis

Associate Professor Thomas White

Associate Professor in Entomology, The University of Sydney

Associate Professor Rohan Clarke

School of Biological Sciences, Monash University

Adjunct Associate Professor Martin J. Steinbauer

Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society of London; Chief Editor of Austral Entomology; Adjunct Associate Professor

Associate Professor Simone Blomberg

Teacher and researcher in evolutionary biology and biosystematics, University of Queensland

“The hallmark of life is diversity. The government's lack of political will to support the environment and our biodiversity is shameful. The government is in the position to actually do something about biodiversity loss but it seems that they have dropped the ball. It's frustrating for a biologist to see the lack of political will to act and instead see further erosion of our biodiversity assets, a death by a thousand cuts” – Simone Blomberg

Associate Professor Tim Langlois

Associate Professor in Marine Biology, The University of Western Australia

“The condition of the natural world, is the most valuable thing we can leave to our children and grandchildren. The EPBC act promises to deliver environmental intergenerational equity, and this requires a level of knowledge and protection that we need to invest in” – Tim Langlois

Associate Professor Susanna Venn

Associate Professor of Plant Ecology, Deakin University

Dr Jack Pascoe

Yuin man and Senior Research Fellow, School of Ecosystem and Forest Science, The University of Melbourne and Lead Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Dr James Fitzsimons

Senior Advisor, Global Protection Strategies, The Nature Conservancy; Adjunct Professor, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University; Adjunct Professor, School of Law, University of Tasmania; Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Dr Rachel Morgain

Deputy Director of the Melbourne Biodiversity Institute, University of Melbourne and Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Dr Jess Marsh

Research Fellow, Adelaide University, Co-chair IUCN Australia Species Specialist Group, Co-founder Invertebrates Australia, Councillor, Biodiversity Council

Dr Scott Bennett

Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania & Great Southern Reef Foundation

Conservation expert/practitioner

“We have some of the most unique animals and areas of natural beauty in the world. Adequate Government investment is needed to get the balance right between the protection of nature and the needs of humans.” – Heather Kiley

Eric Miller

Conservation expert/practitioner

Kyle Skarsgard

Conservation expert/practitioner

Gavin Turrell

Conservation expert/practitioner

“The May 2026 federal budget fails to deliver the funding needed to protect Australia's environment and biodiversity. With ecosystems under growing pressure from climate change and habitat loss, the government's limited investment in conservation is deeply concerning. This lack of ambition risks accelerating environmental decline and undermines efforts to safeguard Australia's unique natural heritage for future generations”. – Gavin Turrell

Sylvie Evans

Wildlife Wonders

James Templeton

Conservation Projects Manager, Conservation Ecology Centre

“After being one of the lucky ones, privileged enough to receive feral government funding and witness the incredible ability it has in enabling informed, strategic, collaborative and ultimately impactful work. It is incredibly disheartening to see the already scarce pool of resources be neglected further with a continued cognitive dissonance between a healthy environment and a healthy economy perpetuated further.” – James Templeton

Georgina Warden

Naomi Nicholas

Cool.org

Christina Ritchie

UQ Student

Nick Crouch

Dr Ascelin Gordon

Elodie

Project Manager Industry, Climateworks Centre

Danielle Eyre

“I was inspired to hope when the Samuel Review led to the Nature Positive Plan, thinking finally the government would act to improve our terrible track record. But nothing of any consequence has been done, and this budget makes things even worse than they were. It's shameful that are a wealthy and technologically advanced nation, but we don't even do the basics to protect our environment and we do even less to restore it.” – Danielle Eyre

Veronica Toral-Granda

Marine Conservation Biologist

“As a marine conservation practitioner I am at loss with the budget for nature. Marine ecosystems and species would be even more overlooked” – Veronica Toral-Granda

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Dr Ralf Buckley

Emeritus International Chair in Ecotourism Research, Griffith University

“Australia signed on to the CBD KMGBF Targets, but it can’t meet them while its conservation laws are weakening and its conservation budget is declining.” – Ralf Buckley

Dr April Reside

Senior Lecturer Schools of: the Environment & Agriculture and Food Sustainability, The University of Queensland

Dr Darren Wong

Future Making Fellow, Adelaide University

Dr Keller Kopf

Senior Lecturer, Charles Darwin University

Dr Jess Moore

Honorary Senior Research Fellow in Data Science, ANU Software Innovation Institute, The Australian National University

Dr Tania Kenyon

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Queensland

“As a reef ecologist, I have seen sections of reef that I love bleach and die during underwater heatwaves. These underwater heatwaves are becoming more frequent, meaning coral reefs can’t recover fully before they’re hit again. True intergenerational equity means that people in 50 years’ time will still marvel at the Great Barrier Reef, and that their coastlines are protected by it. We are running out of time. Energy transition and biodiversity conservation must be top priorities in the budget.” – Tania Kenyon

Dr Stephen Ambrose

Fellow of the Ecological Society of NSW, Councillor of the Royal Zoological Society of NSW, Lead Scientist of Wild Earth Oceania, Principal Ecologist of Ambrose Ecological Services Pty Ltd

Dr Kathryn Reardon-Smith

Senior Lecturer (Environmental Science) & Program Director (Bachelor of Environmental Science), University of Southern Queensland

“Natural systems underpin Australia’s economy and wellbeing, yet they are at significant risk as evidenced by ongoing/accelerating biodiversity loss. As an environmental science academic and educator, I aim to instill a sense of hope and commitment to improvement in students aiming to work in this sector. Sadly, this budget fails to adequately address the chronic underfunding of nature conservation and species recovery, increasing the challenges for this and future generations of graduates.” – Kathryn Reardon-Smith

Dr Shawan Chowdhury

Lecturer in Global Change Biology, Monash University

Dr Michelle Ward

Griffith University

Dr James Dorey

Lecturer in Biological Sciences, University of Wollongong

“I’m signing this on World Bee Day, and I feel like that is very poignant as Australian native bees receive almost no conservation efforts or funding. Despite many seeking to preserve their persistence.” – James Dorey

Dr James Baxter-Gilbert

Assistant Professor, Mount Allison University

Dr Leslie Roberson

Marine Scientist

“Pathetic and shortsighted” – Leslie Roberson

Maryann Doolette

“This budget is lacking in funding for Biodiversity in general”. - Maryann Doolette

Vanda (aka Wanda) Grabowski

President/Secretary, Koala Action Inc.

The government’s investment in nature care needs to be increased if it is to stop the decline of koalas across their natural range. I began working for koalas in 1993. I am saying the same the same things I said then, now. Stop clearing and fragmenting their bushland habitat. All other mitigating measures are tokenistic. Without the trees there will be no food, no shelter and no dispersal opportunities, not only for koalas but for Greater Gliders and thousands of other species. - Vanda (aka Wanda) Grabowski

Amy Tipton

“Effective conservation requires adequate resourcing, urgency, and sustained priority across entire recovery efforts, not just isolated activities. The current proposed budget does NOT allow for that! Continued limitations in funding and attention risk undermining coordinated recovery efforts and weakening species outcomes. Without meaningful investment and commitment, we will see further declines and an increasing push of already imperilled populations towards an irreversible path to extinction.” – Amy Tipton

Dr Murray J. Fletcher

Director (Communication), Australian Entomological Society P/L

Dr Noel Preece

Director, Biome5 Pty Ltd

“Substantial funding to support biodiversity conservation on farming and grazing land is crucial. Native species are not confined to parks and reserves, but dependent on the broader landscape. Farmers can provide the land, but they need incentives to help us meet our conservation goals.” – Noel Preece

Mark Grant

Environmental Manager (Strategy, Policy & Planning), Griffith University

Dr Elizabeth Brunton

Dr James Hopeward

Dr Catherine Young

A budget that does not value the natural world has neglected the real cost of living. – Catherine Young

Michael Gibbs

Environmentalist and owner of Secrets of the Rainforest, Sole Trader

“As someone who is passionate about regeneration and saving the oldest rainforest in the world. This is one of the biggest and most greediest mistakes. Every part of history when the economy system fails as does the civilisation around it. Do what’s right. tax the gas. Protect what’s left and rapidly fix what has been destroyed this past 250 years. A government is made on the people’s vote! And we have spoken. Unanimously.” – Michael Gibbs

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Dr Stefan Peters

Senior Lecturer, Adelaide University

“Australia cannot achieve genuine intergenerational equity while passing on a deteriorating natural environment. Federal investment in on-ground biodiversity conservation will decline by 9% in 2026-27 and almost halve by 2028-29 in real terms, even as our environment is officially assessed as poor and deteriorating. I urge the Government to lift investment in the care of nature to at least 1% of the budget — as 95% of Australians support.” – Stefan Peters

Dr Alexandra Pavlova

Molecular Ecologist and Director of Wildlife Genetic Management Hub, Monash University

“It is heartbreaking to see more and more highly trained expert scientists and practitioners out of job when our work is so much needed!” – Alexandra Pavlova

Dr Georgina Wood

Researcher and Lecturer in Marine Restoration Ecology, Flinders University

Dr Tina Skinner

Research Fellow in Marine Conservation, University of Queensland

“It is incredibly disappointing, and indeed harmful, that the government is reducing federal funding for nature and the environment at a time when investment is needed most. The consequences will be devastating, not only ecologically, but economically for Australia and for future generations.” – Tina Skinner

Dr Elizabeth Sinclair

Senior Research Fellow, The University of Western Australia.

“The absence of political will to allocate an appropriate budget that can properly protect OUR environment, our home, is incredibly disappointing. We are part of nature. Maintaining healthy ecosystems makes economic sense for agriculture and food production, forestry, tourism, and our own well-being.” – Elizabeth Sinclair

Dr Bronwyn Hradsky

Senior Research Fellow, School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences, University of Melbourne

Dr Stuart Dawson

President, Australasian Wildlife Management Society, Honorary Research Fellow, Murdoch University, The Australasian Wildlife Management Society

Dr Aaron Greenville

Senior Lecturer in Spatial Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, The University of Sydney.

“To address true intergenerational equity Australia needs to invest in science to repair nature and not leave our mess for future generations.” – Aaron Greenville

Dr Emily Scicluna

Conservation Biologist, University of Melbourne.

“I am one of many other conservation ecology experts who cannot be more clear; we are at breaking point. Biodiversity has never needed more help than it does now. We are exhausted from continually asking, but we will not give up until it happens. The wild is vanishing and we need to join the rest of the international community who prioritise funding for nature conservation; Australia is far, far behind.” – Emily Scicluna

Dr Ella Vines

Lecturer in environmental law and corporate sustainability regulation, Monash Business School

Dr Daniel Gomez Isaza

“As a conservation scientist, it is heartbreaking to witness the accelerating loss of biodiversity, but even more disheartening is the continued failure to adequately fund the protection of Australia’s unique species and ecosystems before it is too late.” – Daniel Gomez Isaza

Shannon

“As a scientist working in ecological restoration, I am exceptionally disappointed by the budget. Australia has made restoration commitments, and beyond that has a duty of care to the health and resilience of the people and biodiversity that call Australia home. The current budget is simply not sufficient.” - Shannon

Dr Sally Sheldon

Quantitative ecologist, BirdLife Australia

Zachary Amir

Wildlife Data Scientist, Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network & Wildlife Observatory of Australia

Maria Kottermair

Remote Sensing Scientist

Dr Grant Palmer

Wildlife ecologist, academic researcher, BushLook Wildlife Insight

“As a scientist actively involved in biodiversity research and conservation, and in the teaching of aspiring environmental scientists and practitioners, the government's stark lack of investment in the environment is concerning in the short-term, and for long-term conservation of biodiversity.” – Grant Palmer

Dr Marissa Parrott

Conservation Biologist and Vice President, Australian Mammal Society

“As a Conservation Biologist at the forefront of saving endangered species, I have seen the ongoing and increasing collapse of Australia's amazing biodiversity first-hand. Our unique environment and spectacular flora and fauna underpin everything, including community health, wellbeing and economy. Significantly greater investment is immediately required to protect and recover our biodiversity for a better future for all. Once it is lost, it is gone forever - a completely avoidable tragedy.” – Marissa Parrott

Damian Gaona

Fungal Ecologist

Dr Tiana Pirtle

Ecologist

Josh Nitschke

PhD Candidate in Ecology, Flinders University

Dr La Toya Jamieson

Wildlife Detection Dog Officer

Ken Allender

Treasurer / Farmer, Conservation and Land Management practitioner, Deep Creek Landcare

Richard Seaton

Director Terrestrial Birds, Conservation practitioner, BirdLife Australia

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Dr Hannah Thomas

Griffith University

Dr Georgina Falster

Research Fellow (climate science), Adelaide University

Dr Megan Evans

Senior Lecturer, University of New South Wales, Canberra

Dr Nerkez Opacin

Senior Research Fellow Nature and People, University of Melbourne

“As a researcher in nature and people, I have seen how deeply human wellbeing depends on healthy ecosystems, and how greater investment in nature care can strengthen the health, wellbeing and belonging of communities across Australia, while helping people feel more connected to place and to one another” – Nerkez Opacin

Dr Michelle Ryan

Senior Lecturer in Ecology and Environmental Science, Program Lead - Environmental Health, Hawkesbury-Nepean Platypus Project, Western Sydney University

Dr Ray Maher

The University of Queensland

“As Director of Research and a sustainability expert, I'm appalled that this budget does so little to support our home - Australia - and the striking natural places and species we are entrusted to steward. This does not reflect intergenerational equity or the long-term value we receive from this environment”. – Ray Maher

Dr Chantelle Doyle

Research Associate, Conservation scientist ABC Top 5 Alumni, University of New South Wales & Botanic Gardens of Sydney

“As a country with comparatively great wealth, we should, and have capacity to be, great leaders in living with our environment. Currently our extractive mentality causes me great shame. I only hope the future will bring greater bravery in our national leaders, and greater equality for our citizens and environment alike.” – Chantelle Doyle

Dr Alexandra Carthey

Senior Lecturer in Environmental Science, Founder and Director ReHabitat Australia, Macquarie University

“My own children may never be able to snorkel a recognisable Great Barrier Reef, or experience some of the most iconic Australian landscapes and environments, if we cannot get our act together to protect them. We have unique and iconic fauna and ecosystems in Australia, that engender awe and fascination, and contribute so much to how we are seen globally. Yet we continue to allow them to decline and for what? There are no jobs, and no economy, on a dead planet. We have to turn things around, now!” – Alexandra Carthey

Dr Geoffrey Wescott

Marine and coastal expert, Deakin University

“Labor is attempting to be only the least worse on conservation of the major parties. A very low bar. They need to get serious about nature conservation before they are justifiably deserted by sensible young voters” – Geoffrey Wescott

Dr Carla Archibald

ARC Industry Fellow and Lecturer in Environmental Sustainability, Deakin University

Lily Collins

Project Manager in One Health research

“The priorities of multinational corporations and billionaires continue to be put above the wellbeing of the planet and majority of people living on it. Climate and biodiversity should be at the centre of the budget conversation if there is any hope of intergenerational equity.” – Lily Collins

Emily Simpson

Ecologist and PhD Candidate, University of Sydney

Dr Tegan Douglas

Manager Black-Cockatoos, BirdLife Australia

Dr Christina Zdenek

BirdLife Australia

“Australia has the unenviable global record of species extinctions (>100), plus over 2100 species currently threatened with extinction. It's illogical for the government to fail so spectacularly on nature spending when over half of our economy depends on healthy ecosystems, and when 97% of Australians want more action to support biodiversity.” – Christina Zdenek

Stefan Andrews

Marine scientist, Creative Director, filmmaker and co-founder of the Great Southern Reef Foundation

“As someone who works closely with researchers, educators and coastal communities, I'm concerned by the continued lack of long-term investment in temperate reef ecosystems. We cannot properly respond to challenges like marine heatwaves, harmful algal blooms and biodiversity decline without sustained monitoring and coordinated management”. – Stefan Andrews

Evizel Seymour

“After many years working in the biodiversity sector, one of my biggest concerns following COVID was that biodiversity budgets would begin to decline. Sadly, that fear has come true” – Evizel Seymour

Emma Hawthorne

Conservation Engagement and Communications Officer

“We are nature and we rely on natural elements for basic human needs. We therefore need to be spending more on conserving, protecting and restoring nature not just because nature is inherently valuable but for human survival” – Emma Hawthorne

Dr Kerryn Herman

Wildlife Ecologist, BirdLife Australia

“Over 90% of Australians rate our Biodiversity as important. We need our politicians to reflect these community values and make decisions for the people and for our natural heritage. These decisions are not either/or decisions. We just see over and over again that policy and decisions makers CHOOSE to prioritise destruction over sustainability, CHOOSE to ignore the wider community over the loudest voices. Trust in our politicians is eroding along with the natural environment”. – Kerryn Herman

Kristy Gregory

Hotham-Williams River Restoration Coordinator, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, Natural Area Restoration Practitioner

“Biodiversity conservation and restoration is the #1 lever for building climate change resilience - let's invest in this now” – Kristy Gregory

CPA Mellissa Zani

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Dr Billy Geary

Lecturer in Quantitative Ecology, University of Melbourne

Dr Peter Kyne

Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, Charles Darwin University

Dr Tamara Fletcher

Senior Research Fellow in past climate and environments, Adelaide University

Dr Anthony Rendall

Senior Lecturer in Conservation Biology, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University

Dr Joni Pini-Fitzsimmons

Research Fellow, Charles Darwin University

Dr Irene Martin-Fores

Lecturer in Plant Ecology, Flinders University

“Investing in nature is investing in humanity as a whole, the society cannot progress in an abandoned planet” – Irene Martin-Fores

Dr Kylie M. Cairns

Research Fellow in canid and wildlife genetics, Centre for Ecosystem Science and Evolution & Ecology Research Centre, School of BEES, University of New South Wales

Dr Felicity Charles

Research Associate, University of Queensland

Dr Alex Maisey

La Trobe University

“This budget does not reflect the urgency of the biodiversity crises we are witnessing across this continent, nor does it signal hope to young people with aspirations for a safe and prosperous future. We urgently need this to change if we are to meet our aspirations to protect nature in Australia. We must recognise that our own wellbeing is inextricably tied to the health of our environment.” – Alex Maisey

Dr Paula Martinez

The University of Queensland

Dr Perry Beasley-Hall

Postdoctoral Fellow in Entomology

Dr Natalie Briscoe

Research Fellow in School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences, The University of Melbourne

Dr Scarlett Howard

Senior Lecturer and researcher in pollination ecology and animal behaviour, Monash University

Dr Karen Dexter

Senior Lecturer in Marine Ecology and ARC Future Fellow, University of Western Australia

Dr Aaron Brunton

University of the Sunshine Coast

Dr Brenton

Research Fellow

Dr Judit K. Szabo

Adjunct Research Fellow, Charles Darwin University

Nature enthusiast

“Speaking for that which has no power to speak - nature itself.” – Melissa Zani

Denis Walls

Conservation practitioner and Ornithological guide, BirdLife North Queensland

“Protection of the environment (and adequate funding to go with it) is the basis on which both society and the economy exist” – Denis Walls

Lisa Barrand

Outdoor Leadership Educator

“Budgets are not just about money, they are about leadership. A message to the people in government, to those with the power to put leadership into practice ... Show courage and properly invest the money needed to protect, repair and conserve nature. Future generations will be inspired by your leadership if you do.” – Lisa Barrand

Tim Thwaites

science writer and editor

Janne Torkkola

Biologist, Griffith University

Luke Woodford

Ecologist, Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research

Natacha Evans

Creature of the earth, community member, aunty, daughter, landcarer, Mermaid Ponds and Permaculture

Julia Delgado

Conservation Ecology Centre

Luke Bonifacio

Ecologist and PhD Candidate, Monash University

Andrew Hunter

Manager Policy and Species Recovery, BirdLife Australia

Tim Hughes

Director, South Endeavour Trust

Monica Haynes

President, Holloways Beach Coast Care; and Communications Manager, Australian Land Conservation Alliance, Australian Land Conservation Alliance

Tandi Spencer-Smith

Sector Development Lead/Conservation professional

Martin Mansfield

Australian Conservation Foundation Greater Western Sydney Community Group

Dr Sylvia Zukowski

Senior aquatic ecologist, Nature Glenelg Trust

“Our rivers and waterways are our lifeline - species are declining and we need urgent action to prevent further extinctions and enable future sustainable fauna and flora populations” – Sylvia Zukowski

Dr Kenny Wolfe

Ecologist and Programs Manager, Invertebrates Australia

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Dr Kit Prendergast

Native bee ecologist and conservation scientist, Bees & Biodiversity / Greening Australia / University of Southern QLD

“As a native bee scientist working at the frontline of native invertebrate conservation, it is abysmal that such a tiny fraction of the budget is going into our environment (with nil into native pollinators). No new extinctions? Not achievable with this budget (except for ensuring we have no idea that species are going extinct because there is no funding to monitor them)” – Kit Prendergast

Dr Jonny Stark

Senior Marine Ecologist

“As an Antarctic scientist I have seen first hand the extreme changes that are occurring in the environment due to climate change. Ice is melting, habitats are changing, species are declining. We must act now” – Jonny Stark

Dr Beck Pearse

Fenner School of Environment & Society / School of Sociology, Australian National University.

“The biodiversity funding regime in Australia is beginning to resemble the landscapes it is meant to repair: diminished, fragmented, and starved of long-term investment.” – Beck Pearse

Dr Tracy Schultz

University of Queensland

Dr Liz Hicks

Melbourne Law School

Dr Penny van Oosterzee

Restoration ecologist and author, James Cook University

Dr Jacinta Humphrey

The University of Melbourne

“As an ecologist who studies and values nature, I am devastated at the lack of investment in biodiversity conservation in this country. Australia should be embarrassed by how much we spend on nature. We can do better, and we have to do better, to secure our children's future” – Jacinta Humphrey

Dr Viviana Gonzalez

The University of Queensland

“As a conservation scientist, I am deeply concerned about the impact the current federal budget will have on nature protection in Australia. Every Australian depends on healthy ecosystems and natural resources, whether they realise it or not. Continued underinvestment in conservation threatens our environment, economy, and future prosperity. You have a genuine opportunity to shape a budget that recognises environmental protection as an essential national investment, not an optional expense.” – Viviana Gonzalez

Dr William Mitchell

La Trobe University

“As an ecologist and father, I am deeply disappointed by the lack of foresight evident in this federal budget. The lack of funding committed to conservation and research clearly increases ongoing risks to biodiversity and the natural heritage of this country. By continuing to degrade ecosystems we are accruing a debt that will be left to our children to pay.” – William Mitchell

Dr Theresa

Adelaide University

“As an invertebrate conservation expert, I am concerned that investment remains chronically low. Declines across the board estimates are nowhere near what's needed to meet Australia's own extinction-prevention commitments. For threatened insects and invertebrate biodiversity, there is still no dedicated, structural investment in taxonomy, monitoring, recovery planning or data infrastructure. Resourcing still reflects a vertebrate-biased status quo that grossly overlooks invertebrate extinction.” – Kenny Wolfe

Kerrie Addison

HR Advisor, Environment and nature supporter, Conservation Ecology Centre

Toni Stevens

Manager, Communication & Engagement, Conservation Ecology Centre

Eleanor Hetharia

Environmental policy advisor

“By failing to adequately invest in environmental conservation, this budget risks shifting today's ecological costs onto future generations, deepening intergenerational inequity and leaving a diminished natural legacy that cannot easily be restored.” – Eleanor Hetharia

Mark Bachmann

Applied Restoration Ecologist and Managing Director / Founder of Nature Glenelg Trust, Nature Glenelg Trust

“In this, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, all sectors of society - including government, which plays a key leadership role - simply must be doing more to reverse biodiversity loss, by restoring ecosystems and recovering threatened species in Australia. We have the science and the practical tools to tackle this challenge, but seem to be pulling back when the exact opposite is required. Now is the time to upscale our efforts and impact.” – Mark Bachmann

Dr Laura Tan

BirdLife Australia

Dr Matthew Cameron

Director & Principal Ecologist Blue Conservation Services

“As a practitioner working at the front line of ecosystem restoration and natural capital assessment, I see daily that Australia's biodiversity decline is not an abstract future risk, it is already affecting communities, industries and landscapes. Cutting real investment in nature now is economically short-sighted and unfair to future generations. If we are serious about repair, biodiversity funding must match the scale of the problem.” – Matthew Cameron

Deanna Henderson

Invertebrate specialist, Minibeast Wildlife

“As an invertebrate specialist, I have seen an enormous decline in biodiversity in the last two decades, and for life to continue on earth, we must dedicate more funding to these programs” – Deanna Henderson

Dr Alicia Sutton

Marine Scientist

Ray Draper

Environmental Consultant, Central Highlands Environmental Consultancy

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Dr Katja Hogendoorn

Adelaide University

“As a conservation practitioner, I feel that our consecutive governments on both sides are systematically failing the natural environment by prioritizing economic growth, delaying climate action, chronically underfunding nature conservation and continuously approving projects that are either highly polluting or causing irreparable damage to threatened species and ecosystems. Earth is finite and, for the generations to come, we need to start living within our means now!” – Katja Hogendoorn

Dr Daniel Hoops

Adelaide University

Dr Morgan Ellis

Research Fellow in Marine Biosecurity and Ecology, Deakin University

Dr Jessie Wells

Research Fellow in Ecosystem Services, The University of Melbourne

Dr Alice Bleby

Lecturer, researching and teaching environmental law, Monash University

Dr Elena Kupriyanova

Senior Research Scientist, The Australian Museum, Sydney

Dr Tobias A. Ross

Associate Research Fellow, Deakin University

Dr Jacquomo Monk

Senior Lecturer in Sustainable Marine Management, Deakin Centre for Marine Science, Deakin University

“Australia’s marine ecosystems are globally significant, supporting unique endemic species, vibrant sponge gardens and coral reefs, diverse seagrass beds and iconic kelp forests. Sustained investment in monitoring, management and restoration is essential for future generations and Australia’s long-term environmental and economic resilience. As a marine ecologist working on long-term monitoring across these ecosystems, I see firsthand the consequences of declining investment in nature care’ – Jacquomo Monk

Dr Melissa Hatty

Research Fellow and Health Psychologist, BehaviourWorks Australia, Monash Business School, Monash University

Dr Jake M. Martin

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Deakin University

Dr Cayne Layton

Adjunct Researcher, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies & Centre for Marine Socioecology, University of Tasmania

Dr Beatrice L. Harrison Day

Western Sydney University

“Early career scientists are already facing acute competition for positions. The lack of funding for nature and research will force ever-more passionate, highly qualified young scientists out of their fields.” – Beatrice L. Harrison Day

Dr Jasmin Packer

Editor-in-Chief for Ecological Society of Australia (Ecological Management & Restoration journal); Fellow of Royal Society of South Australia; Vice-President of Fungimap Inc.; Senior Lecturer, Adelaide University

“Always remember, No nature no humans.” – Ray Draper

Dr Angela Clarke (PhD)

Rivers Advocate and Educator, Maribyrnong River and Waterways Association

“As a community-led organisation advocating for the care and protection of Maribyrnong waterways we are deeply concerned that our life-giving rivers are not being prioritised in this budget. We need to ensure we have a healthy environment and secure water for our children and grandchildren” – Angela Clarke

Rhys Cairncross

PhD candidate, The University of Sydney

“I am deeply concerned about our country. We depend on healthy biological systems for water, agriculture and quality of life. Our government has completely ignored this fact, painting a bleak future. As a young Australian, I don’t want to have kids in a world that is so uncertain now, let alone what it may be in the next 10 years.” – Rhys Cairncross

Dr Freyja Watters

Conservation scientist

Elle Robertson

PhD candidate in ecology, James Cook University

Olivija Spanovskis

Miss World Australia 2026

“As a young person, it is both frustrating and concerning to see globally significant ecosystems like the Great Southern Reef continue to face growing pressures, with impacts already being felt across our communities, environment, and tourism industry. Nature is fundamental to our lives and underpins much of what makes Australia unique, yet it is not receiving the protection it deserves. Future generations will inherit the consequences of the decisions being made today.” – Olivija Spanovskis

Juan Sánchez

Marine Biologist and PhD Student at Adelaide University

Val Thiessen

Moonee Valley Sustainability

Bradley J Traynor

Wildlife Ecologist, University of New England

“As an older, retired wildlife ecologist and educator, I feel very strongly about adequate funding for the environmental issues that face our country, and the world. Inadequate funding, as has been allocated historically, means that only the highest prioritised effort receives the meagre available funding. A more concerted effort, with adequate funding, is essential to preserve what we have.” – Bradley J Traynor

Dr Aysha Fleming

Principal research scientist

“As a scientist in this space and a mother I am concerned for the future.” – Aysha Fleming

Rachel Unicomb

Invertebrates Australia

“The environment and conservation always seems to come last in Australia - last in terms of importance, last in terms of resourcing and last in terms of support. When in fact, the ecosystems all around us play an essential role in our wellbeing and survival, and for a well-functioning planet. It was time we started treating

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Dr Samantha Sherman

Senior Lecturer in Fisheries Science, Deakin University

"Additional funding NOW is necessary to avoid higher costs of reactive spending later on environmental-related crises." – Samantha Sherman

Dr Ehsan Sharifi

Environmental Scientist, Adelaide University

"We can no longer afford to go backwards on biodiversity funding!" – Ehsan Sharifi

Dr Catherine Price

Senior Lecturer in Ecology and Conservation, University of Sydney

"The future is now when it comes to investing in our environment. We won't get a second chance to conserve our unique flora and fauna." - Catherine Price

Dr Michelle Guzik

Senior Lecturer Environmental Biology, Adelaide University

Dr Lyanne Brouwer

Senior Lecturer in Ecology, James Cook University

Dr Narissa Bax

Marine biodiversity scientist, Centre for marine socioecology, Institute for marine and Antarctic studies, University of Tasmania

"The United Nations Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (also known as the BBNJ Agreement), which entered into force in January 2026, passed on 31 March 2026, in the Australian parliament. With formal ratification of the treaty comes the responsibility to consider deep sea biodiversity." – Narissa Bax

Dr Edward Tsyrlin

Conservation and stream management practitioner, The University of Melbourne

"Australia is recognised as a land inhabited by unique plants and animals. In addition to all other reasons, protecting biological diversity is an important part of protecting our natural heritage, our national identity and our reputation." – Edward Tsyrlin

Dr Maggie Haines

Conservation geneticist, Monash University

Dr Julian Schrader

Macquarie University

Dr Jessica Meade

Western Sydney University

Dr Fiona Backhouse

Western Sydney University

Dr Shelly Butcher

Wildlife veterinarian and PhD candidate, The University of Queensland

Dr Joshua Coates

Invertebrate Ecologist, Australian National University

Dr James Richardson

Ecologist, University of Queensland

Dr Ettore Camerlenghi

Associate Research Fellow in Ecology, Deakin University

nature conservation as the serious and vital issue that it is!" – Rachel Unicomb

Geoffrey Syme

Retired CSIRO researcher

"Needs focus and strengthening" – Geoffrey Syme

Dr Michael Priest

President, Fungimap Inc.

Joan Phillips PSM

Protected areas specialist

Terry Brumby

Environmentalist

Dr Dmitry Mikhin

Defence researcher

Peter Martin

Ecologist, Kangaroo Island Conservation Landowners Association

"The steady decline in the proportion of the budget dedicated to conservation is extremely short sighted. We know the condition of our environment is in decline, by the government's own reports. In 2022 Australia signed on to maintain and/or restore 30% of our landscape to ecosystem protection. This requires an immense, long-overdue and long-term effort. A declining budget is no way to begin." – Peter Martin

Dr Francisco Gelves-Gomez

Environmental Geographer

Bernard Stonor

Wildlife ecologist and photographer, Kangaroo Island Research Station

"Governments do not seem to value the natural world when they and we are an integral part of it and without it we do not exist." – Bernard Stonor

Ha Hoang

Conservationist and ecologist

"As a conservation practitioner, I have observed numerous critical projects deteriorate due to insufficient government funding, resulting in the irreversible loss of many unique and irreplaceable ecosystems. It is imperative that we increase funding for this vital aspect of intergenerational wealth to ensure that future generations have access to a better environment." – Ha Hoang

Ange Pestell

Fire ecologist

"True intergenerational equity means addressing the twin crises of climate change AND biodiversity loss so that our descendants have what we have taken for granted" – Ange Pestell

Joanne Lynch

Environmental projects manager, Plant Conservation Australia

Dr Renée Hartley

Ecologist

Katy Schrederis

Proud supporter of wildlife conservation in the Otway's, Wildlife Wonders and Conservation Ecology Center

Lachie Macfarlan

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Dr Christopher Johnson

Senior Ecologist

"I grew up watching nature decline, and now I work to help turn that around. I've seen what years of underinvestment actually costs for people's jobs and quality of life, not just wildlife. Our environment supports so much of what we eat, where we holiday, and how we live. When government treats this as an afterthought, as they consistently do, it adds to the debt future generations have to pay." – Christopher Johnson

Dr Susan Hoebee

Senior Lecturer in Botany and Conservation Genetics, La Trobe University

Dr Matt West

Wildlife Conservation Practitioner, Wild Research Pty Ltd

"Strong federal investment is essential to protect and recover Australia's threatened wildlife. Many species are finally showing signs of improvement after years of effort, and this is not the time to drop the ball. Increased funding is needed to maintain momentum, support smart and innovative on-ground actions, and ensure recovery programs succeed rather than stall—so we can secure a healthier environment for future generations." – Matt West

Dr Natasha LeBas

Research Fellow, University of Western Australia

Dr Aimee Silla

Conservation Biologist, University of Wollongong

Very disappointed with the government's lack of commitment to the preservation of Australian biodiversity – Aimee Silla

Dr Sara Ryding

Postdoctoral research fellow in evolutionary ecology, Deakin University

Dr Calum Cunningham

Research Fellow in ecology and pyrogeography, University of Tasmania

Susan Kachaniwsky

Postgraduate researcher, La Trobe University

Nicholas Sakich

Zoologist, Monash University

Ty Russell

Registered Professional Biologist, University of Western Australia

"Slashing the budget for nature and conservation programs now is admitting defeat in the battle against climate change, which is simply not an option for anyone who wants to continue living on this planet." – Ty Russell

David Smith

Australian National University

Riley Ferguson

La Trobe University

Cassandra van der Velden

Ecologist, Monash University

"The Australian Government continues to be irresponsible when it comes to the environment and puts the burden on young people. Future generations and countless species will suffer because nature is not prioritised." – Cassandra van der Velden

Student

Anna McCallum

Key Biodiversity Area Project Coordinator, BirdLife Australia

Charlotte Patterson

PhD Candidate, Quantitative ecologist, Queensland University of Technology

Jaana Dielenberg

Science Communication Director, Biodiversity Council

Lis Ashby

Policy and Innovation Lead, Biodiversity Council

Fiona Stone

Master of Researcher candidate, ecology of rainforests in Queensland.

"Nature investment needs to be prioritised. This is more important for the economic and health wellbeing of Australia moving forward. Australia's unique natural resources are world renowned and we need to lead the way for how to live as part of them, not apart from nature." – Fiona Stone

Eloise Carr

Conservation and integrity policy advisor with over 20 years of experience across public, private and non-profit sectors.

Ryan Borrett

PhD student, Murdoch University

"Other parts of this budget show the government's interest in long-term investment for substantial societal change, yet when it comes to our environment, it has ignored this. Extremely disappointing, ignorant, and dangerous." – Ryan Borrett

Renee Melkert

MSc Renee Melkert, Marine Governance teacher and scholar, Centre for Marine Socio-Ecology and Institute for Marine and Antarctic Research, The University of Tasmania

Caitlin Dagg

PhD Candidate in Ecosystem Restoration, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University

Xenia Muenger

Ecologist/PhD candidate & avid naturalist

Natasha Cadenhead

PhD candidate, Nature Risk in Finance, The University of Queensland

Bethany Kiss

PhD Candidate, University of Melbourne

Harris Heng

PhD student in environmental science

Annette Cavanagh

Ecologist, PhD student and Intrepid Landcarer, La Trobe University

Rae Read

PhD Student studying conservation ecology, Monash University

Zachary Arnold

PhD Candidate, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University

Peter Wright

PhD candidate, Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU

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Benjamin Lucas

University of Queensland

Natalya Maitz

PhD Candidate, The University of Queensland

Kate Tuohey

Marine biologist, Deakin University

Alvise Dabalà

PhD candidate, The University of Queensland

Paul Elton

Doctoral Researcher, The Australian National University

“Australia spends billions each year subsidising activities that harm nature, while underfunding the conservation work needed to meet our Global Biodiversity Framework commitments by an order of magnitude. This budget does nothing to close that gap — and every year of delay makes the eventual cost larger and the ecological losses harder to reverse.” – Paul Elton

Carly Moir

Conservation practitioner and PhD candidate, The University of Western Australia / Curtin University

“As a conservation practitioner in both government and NGOs I have seen and experienced the struggle of managing our country's unique flora and fauna with shrinking budgets. Tiny, overworked and underfunded teams, barely scratching the surface of the work that must be done to secure Australia's biodiversity for future generations. It is Australia's responsibility to respect and look after Country and it is time to invest in it's future.” – Carly Moir

Junn Kitt Foon

PhD Student in Invertebrate Ecology and Conservation, Western Sydney University; Australian Museum Research Institute; Invertebrates Australia

Kathryn McDonnell

PhD Student, Research Associate, Adelaide University

“If we don't look after the air, the land, and the waters, they can't look after us.” – Kathryn McDonnell

Chaminda Bandara

Plant Ecology PhD candidate, Western Sydney University

Nate Camatta

PhD Candidate, Adelaide University

“As a researcher into environmental law and policy, I recognise that robust, sustained Government funding is necessary to support ecosystem restoration and resilience--critical responses to persistent degradation. Budget cuts for nature now mean that our capacity to safeguard Australia's unique and important natural values into the future is diminished. I urge the Federal Government to reconsider these cuts in light of nature's true value.” – Nate Camatta

Tessa Derkley

PhD Candidate in Wild Animal Welfare and Conservation

“As a young conservation social scientist, my work with global experts and engagement with wildlife law and policy has shown me that Australia's environmental decisions are too often misaligned with scientific evidence and public concern. Recent decisions affecting dingoes, forests, and native birds reflect a deeper failure to value nature. We need a federal budget that treats biodiversity protection as urgent, essential, and non-negotiable.” – Tessa Derkley

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