

**Recover,  
rebuild,  
renew:**

Let's make  
things right  
for people  
and our  
country 



**AUSTRALIAN  
CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION**



# Our vision

Today, we call on all Australian governments and businesses to make wise decisions so we can recover, rebuild and renew.

Ready or not, the twenties are here. This year alone, we have experienced unprecedented climate disruption with months of devastating bushfires that wiped out towns, forests and wildlife. Next a global health pandemic stopped the world in its tracks. Now an escalating economic crisis.

We have seen leaders respond rapidly and set smart policies to save lives. We have also witnessed the grave consequences of delayed and uncoordinated action.

We have learned how interdependent we are, and how quickly a crisis can change everything. We have also seen how, despite frequent warnings, the world's economies are dramatically unprepared for turbo-charged extreme weather events and pandemics.

**As we emerge from this pandemic, we must heed these lessons and think carefully about how we recover and what we rebuild and renew.**

Do we want to lock ourselves into more brutal crises by propping up the dinosaur industries that continue to endanger our planet's life support systems? Or do we want to build back better, together, and set a better course for everyone and every living thing?

We are at a critical juncture where we can get the future right – or wrong.



# Get this **right** we can:

# Get this **wrong** and we:

- ✓ **Create tens of thousands jobs that are good for nature and our climate**, such as installing solar panels on schools and public buildings, expanding public transport networks and electric vehicle infrastructure, manufacturing wind turbines, weatherproofing homes, restoring landscapes and reef catchments and caring for wildlife
- ✓ **Renew our energy system** to reduce emissions and cut household energy bills, powered by massive renewable projects and a grid that's reliable and fit for the 21st century
- ✓ **Turbocharge jobs-rich industries for the future** and make Australia a renewable exports superpower
- ✓ **Restore and protect the natural environment on which we depend** by investing in nature conservation and wildlife recovery projects and strengthening our national environment laws
- ✓ **Upgrade transport networks** so they are people and climate-friendly, including bike paths, electric vehicle charging stations, public transport networks and high-powered rail
- ✓ **Make our nation fairer** by ensuring all Australians can enjoy economic security with access to affordable renewable energy, public transport and energy-efficient homes
- ✓ **Make all of us more resilient to future disasters** by preparing for and helping communities and our natural world cope with bushfires and drier conditions, and recover from extreme events.
- ✗ **Fail to address the mounting planetary health crisis**, with looming consequences for all of humanity – including climate breakdown, the rapid loss of biodiversity, water scarcity and catastrophic collapse of ecosystems like coral reefs
- ✗ **Lock Australia into burning more coal, gas and oil for decades**, while the rest of the world is going renewable
- ✗ **Bail out unsustainable and polluting industries** and continue to prop up fossil fuel corporations with subsidies and tax breaks
- ✗ **Weaken or scrap our environment protection laws** and regulations to allow logging in bushfire-affected forests, and allow corporations to damage our climate and pollute the air we breathe and the water we drink
- ✗ **Fail to address soaring inequality** or repair the ongoing oppression of vulnerable and First Nations communities
- ✗ **Burden families with expensive electricity bills** and increasingly unreliable supply from burning coal and gas
- ✗ **Ignore the consequences** of passing on a degraded, damaged and dangerous world to today's children, and future generations.





Friends of Edward St community gardening day.  
Photo: Annette Ruzicka/MAPgroup.

For decades we've pitted economic growth against protecting nature and preventing pollution. But, if, as we emerge from this pandemic, we continue to destroy nature and pollute our climate, we will lock in harm to ourselves.

**The decisions we make today will shape this country for generations.**

As we move forwards, we must tackle the root causes of these human and planetary crises, repair the profound consequences and make our communities more resilient. It's time to invest in life.

**It's time for swift action from leaders in government, business, and our communities. This action must be guided by a clear, strong, long-term plan.**

**Every policy and funding decision today should lead us to the future we need.**

We call on our elected representatives to ensure Australia's pathway to recover, rebuild and renew is based on three key principles:

- **It is climate and nature positive**, setting a clear pathway for Australia to move to net zero climate pollution and regenerate the natural environments we depend on.
- **It makes us healthier and more resilient**, increasing the capacity of people across Australia, of wildlife and nature, of essential services and built and natural infrastructure to respond and recover from future extreme events like bushfires and pandemics.
- **It makes Australia fairer**, strengthening citizens' participation and trust in democracy, increasing equality, reliable jobs and protecting communities most vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather.

**We must act decisively, innovatively, and together, to get the future right.**

So let's get on with it.





# We call on governments **to make things right and set a better course for our future:**

## **STEP 1: RECOVER**

Now to October 2020

(federal and state budgets)

### **Create immediate-term jobs that are good for nature and our climate**

1. Create jobs upgrading all publicly-owned buildings and operations so they are energy efficient and renewable
2. Create jobs weatherproofing houses across Australia
3. Create jobs through a residential and business battery storage program
4. Create jobs in landscape management and restoration in urban, suburban and regional areas
5. Create jobs building electric vehicle infrastructure across the country
6. Create jobs making resilient buildings in regional and remote communities.

## **STEP 2: REBUILD**

October 2020 to May 2021

(federal and state budgets)

### **a. Focus on regenerating the health and resilience of communities, forests, rivers, parks, and wetlands**

7. Establish a National Environmental Fund to support wildlife and ecosystem recovery and long-term nature protection
8. Create conservation tax incentives to benefit people and wildlife
9. Create strong environment protection laws to support responsible economic activity
10. Invest in the resilience of communities and landscapes so they can withstand and recover from climate disruption and extreme events.

### **b. Set the frameworks for long-lasting climate positive job creation**

11. Use national climate policy to drive the development of a pollution free economy
12. Amend the fringe benefit tax provisions to boost electric vehicles and sustainable transport
13. Support businesses to invest in solar and storage by extending the instant asset write-off program.

## **STEP 3: RENEW**

June 2021 to May 2022

### **Take action to make Australia a renewable energy superpower**

14. Increase funds for investments in sustainable industries by reallocating fossil fuel subsidies
15. Fast-track Australia's electricity transmission infrastructure so all Australians have access to low cost, reliable clean energy
16. Fund and support shovel-ready energy storage projects, including large-scale batteries and pumped hydro
17. Fund research and development, and develop a legislative framework to support large scale wind energy generation
18. Expand electric, public and active transport (cycling and walking) investment and manufacturing
19. Develop a coordinated plan to get Australia exporting renewable energy to the world
20. Fund and maintain the mandate of clean energy programs to power Australian industry with clean energy.



# How climate and nature positive actions create jobs

Prioritising climate and nature positive policies, investments and projects will create jobs and responsible economic activity. Clean energy investments were a crucial component in global recovery from the 2008 financial crisis. In the United States, for example, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 led to a number of social and economic benefits including **supporting roughly 900,000 clean energy jobs in the United States** from 2009 to 2015.

Dr Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA), **advised** on 19 April 2020:

*From an economic standpoint, the extra spending on clean energy following the 2008 crisis contributed positively to the broader recovery, especially through efficiency programs, which bolstered the badly hit construction sector. Government money also helped spur the development of key low-carbon technologies, unlocking the spectacular growth in wind and solar PV that we have witnessed over the past decade.*

In Australia, assessments by the **National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR)** for the Australian Council of Trade Unions and the Australian Conservation Foundation found that one million new jobs could be created by 2040 with a combination of climate- and nature-positive government and private policies and investments. The same assessment found almost half a million jobs could be created by 2030 by investing in clean energy, pricing pollution, household efficiency, industry modernisation, protecting landscapes, electric and low emissions vehicles, expansion of public transport and services and incentives for battery storage.

**The Clean Energy Council** has shown that with the right choices made by governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 28,000 existing jobs can be saved and 50,000 new jobs created by the construction and operation of large scale solar projects. While the **Grattan Institute** has urged governments to use Australia’s plentiful wind and solar resources to make energy-intensive ‘green’ commodities and create tens of thousands of jobs.

**A new study** by researchers including the Nobel prize winner Joseph Stiglitz and leading climate economist Nicholas Stern showed that, in one example, every US\$1 million (\$1.56 million) spent on new green energy projects created 7.49 jobs,

compared with 2.65 jobs for spending on fossil fuels projects.

But there’s an important lesson to apply to the decisions being made about Australia’s recovery right now.

From an emissions point of view the recovery from the 2008 financial crisis was energy and carbon intensive. Although carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions declined by 400 million tonnes in 2009, globally they rebounded by 1.7 billion tonnes in 2010, the sharpest upswing in history. Nature is declining globally at rates **unprecedented in human history**.

We can’t afford to let this happen again. Rising pollution and the destruction of natural habitat continues to threaten human health and the natural systems we depend on for life. Without a healthy environment, we cannot have healthy, resilient communities or a strong economy. We can have all of these by protecting nature, or none of them if we destroy it.

## New jobs on offer in key sectors (000s)

	2030		2040	
	Medium	Strong	Medium	Strong
<b>Agriculture</b>	0.4	3.4	-0.4	6.6
<b>Mining</b>	2.5	2.5	3.9	3.9
<b>Manufacturing</b>	1.7	23.5	-0.7	61.7
<b>Health</b>	32.6	55.8	48.2	117.5
<b>Construction</b>	79.8	112.1	73.8	190

*Employment change under medium and strong action scenarios at 2030 and 2040 (compared to business as usual)*

## Let's recover better

In the immediate term, from now to October 2020 (federal and state budgets)

## We call on governments to commit to:





Installing solar panels.  
Photo: James Thomas Photo (Claude Raschella).

# Create immediate-term jobs that are good for nature and our climate

We call on governments to create tens of thousands of climate and nature positive jobs – like jobs installing solar panels on schools and public buildings, manufacturing wind turbines, weatherproofing homes, restoring landscapes and reef catchments and caring for wildlife.

Not only will this create jobs for displaced workers and help communities recover from economic hardship, it will ensure the Australian workforce has the skills our renewable future needs. Prioritising climate- and nature-positive job creation will also put Australia on a clear pathway to move to net zero climate pollution and regenerate the ecosystems we depend on.

## Here's how

### 1. Upgrade all publicly-owned buildings and operations so they are energy efficient and renewable

We call on all levels of government to create jobs upgrading all publicly-owned buildings and operations – such as hospitals, evacuation centres, fire stations, schools, public and social housing, and libraries – so they are renewable, energy efficient and weatherproof. This will create jobs in the construction sector, boost productivity and support both large and small scale renewable energy projects, while cutting electricity costs and reducing climate emissions. Job creation opportunities include:

- Installing solar PV and batteries on all public schools and public and social housing, with a priority to essential service buildings such as hospitals, evacuation centres and fire stations
- Improving energy efficiency of existing homes for those on low incomes by partnering with local councils to provide access to energy efficiency audits and upgrades
- Matching state and territory governments dollar for dollar to undertake an assessment of housing stock and invest in energy efficiency upgrades or replacement of poor housing, Aboriginal and Community housing

- Rolling out reverse auctions with Contracts for Difference or Power Purchase Agreements to contract for remaining government energy needs and support new large-scale renewable energy projects.

### 2. Weatherproofing houses across Australia

We call on the federal government to create jobs in home retrofit programs, upgrading houses across Australia for thermal comfort, efficiency and response (through sealing, insulation, glazing, shading, aircon upgrades, smart meters, solar, batteries, EV charger provisioning or installation). These programs should prioritise low income households.

### 3. Deliver a residential and business battery storage program

We call on the federal government to create immediate-term local jobs and assist people facing financial difficulty by establishing a federal grant program for households and businesses to purchase solar batteries. As well as creating local jobs, this will incentivise local battery manufacturing and assembly.



#### **4. Create jobs in landscape management and restoration in urban, suburban and regional areas**

We call on a coordinated state and federal investment in conservation and land management to create meaningful jobs and support long term environment outcomes. A \$2.4 billion investment will create an estimated 24,000 jobs in the sector in the first year of operation. Programs across urban, suburban and regional areas should include:

- Supporting conservation and land management organisations to directly employ staff to implement key restoration and land management activities
- Providing funding for Indigenous rangers to jobs directly to vulnerable communities using a proven model
- Supporting coastal and marine tourism operators to undertake key monitoring and management activities.
- Supporting the heavily impacted university and research sector to supercharge scientific monitoring efforts.

This will deliver a strategic response to both the devastating impacts of the catastrophic 2019-20 bushfires and support economic recovery. It is critical investments contribute to meaningful and long-term environmental outcomes, including:

- Undertaking high priority habitat restoration and management activities in bushfire affected regions as well as in metropolitan, suburban, peri-urban and regional areas
- Protecting sites of national and international importance, such as world Heritage Areas, internationally protected wetlands and culturally significant places
- Delivering improved scientific information

#### **5. Build electric vehicle infrastructure across the country**

We call on the federal government to create jobs and economic activity by filling gaps in Australia's EV charging infrastructure. This includes upgrading parking area wiring, provisioning electric vehicle (EV) charging in new constructions and planned upgrades, and developing more urban and long-distance charging networks.

#### **6. Create resilient buildings for regional and remote communities**

Regional, remote Aboriginal and bushfire-prone communities need a higher level of climate resilience and energy independence to be prepared for future bushfires or other extreme weather events. We call on the federal government to:

- Provide grant funding and concessional loans to support climate resilience in regional and remote communities, including the immediate installation of energy infrastructure and technologies that will increase community energy resilience.
- Provide climate-affected, remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities with zero emissions heating and cooling including social housing, public schools, TAFES, hospitals, and jails as well as homes. These communities should be moved to mini-energy grids.





Tree planting.  
Photo: Annette Ruzicka/MAPgroup.



# Restore the health and resilience of communities, forests, rivers, parks and wetlands

We call on our state and federal governments to build back better by significantly boosting nature conservation and wildlife recovery efforts nationally, and strengthening our national environment laws.

We know our health depends on healthy ecosystems, thriving biodiversity and clean air and water. We also know that failing to restore and protect the ecosystems we depend on will only lead to more crises. Our government can provide direction and certainty to create positive economic activities that restore degraded land, replenish forests so they draw down carbon, green our cities so they are cooler and healthier, and bring threatened wildlife like koalas back from the brink of extinction.

## Here's how

### 7. Establish a National Environmental fund to support long-term nature protection, and wildlife and ecosystem recovery

The federal government should establish a \$4.5 billion National Environmental fund, independently administered, to support the long-term protection and recovery of wildlife and ecosystems across Australia. This fund would support the delivery of outcomes at multiple scales, including:

- Deliver landscape scale ecosystem investments in natural infrastructure, including improving water catchments, coastal buffer zones and investing in urban canopy programs to improve health and biodiversity outcomes
- Assist with bushfire recovery activities - including revegetation and built asset reconstruction across Australia's national reserve system
- Provide incentive payments to land managers, including Indigenous communities and farmers, to deliver conservation outcomes on their properties
- Support the direct implementation of recovery and threat abatement plans

The fund would also be used to leverage private investments in conservation, including through supporting markets that reward sustainable, ethical and responsible production.

### 8. Create conservation tax incentives to benefit people and wildlife

With more than 80 per cent of Australia's land mass outside of the protected area estate, programs that encourage property owners to protect biodiversity on their own land will provide long term benefits for the public, the environment and the economy. Reforms to the tax system that can achieve these measures include:

- Broadening the definition of "landcare operation" in the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth) to include ecological management and restoration
- Enabling conservation investments to be a tax-deductible input against any income of a property owner
- Exempting conservation land acquisitions from the GST and stamp duty and creating land tax concessions for conservation lands.
- Clarifying and distinguishing between the private and public benefit of revenue produced on private lands with conservation value (split receipting) to enable:
  - Better use of ecosystem service markets or payments
  - Ecological gifting, where the decline in value of a property as a result of conservation covenant is able to be claimed as a tax deduction.

## 9. Create strong environment protection laws to support responsible economic prosperity

We call on the federal government to introduce a new generation of strong national laws and institutions to protect our rivers, reefs, forests and wildlife, increase biodiversity and regulate pollution. This will ensure every policy and funding decision now and in years to come sets Australia on the right path towards a future where we don't just survive, but thrive. A new nature protection framework will guarantee environmental decisions are transparent and hold decision makers and corporations to account when they fail to meet their obligations.

This new legal framework must:

- Ensure federal government leadership on the protection of the environment, including through the development of national level environmental goals, plans and standards
- Deliver simpler regulatory processes that deliver certainty and transparency
- Expand national regulatory oversight to key environmental matters, such as climate change, air pollution, key biodiversity areas and nationally important wetlands, whilst maintaining existing provisions, including the ban on a dangerous nuclear energy industry
- Ensure the protection of critical habitats for biodiversity and the mandatory implementation of recovery and threat abatement plans
- Create an independent national Environmental Protection Authority to conduct transparent environmental assessments and inquiries as well as undertake monitoring, compliance and enforcement actions
- Guarantee communities the right to have a say in environmental decisions and to hold regulators to account
- Establish an independent commission to set environmental standards, develop national environmental plans and monitor the health of our natural environment.

## 10. Establish a community resilience fund

We call on governments to assess the appropriateness of infrastructure to provide vulnerable people with refuges from heat and pollution (such as smoke from bushfires) in local council buildings such as libraries. Additional community infrastructure will be needed to protect communities caught in extreme natural disasters such as bushfires, floods and cyclones. To make this happen, we call on the federal government to:

- Commit funding to mapping and assessing the cost on community services and infrastructure of increased pressure from a warming climate
- Establish a fund to help health and community organisations and local councils manage increased demand for their infrastructure and services
- Support local councils to take proactive actions to understand risks, prepare for and reduce the impacts of future extreme events and hazards due to climate change.





Albany, WA.  
Photo: Viad Kutevov.

# Set the frameworks for long lasting climate-positive job creation

We call on the federal government to rebuild our economy by setting up the frameworks for long-lasting job creation that is climate positive. This includes developing a national climate policy, supporting businesses to invest in clean energy initiatives, and reallocating public funding and incentives from fossil fuels to nature- and climate-positive industries.

If we get this right, our governments can kickstart the way forward to developing a pollution-free and prosperous economy, consistent with Australia's Paris commitment. This will help stimulate our economy and create new investment.

## Here's how

### 11. Use national climate policy to drive the development of a pollution-free economy

The advice of scientists across the world is that developed countries like Australia must achieve net zero climate pollution before 2050 to avoid truly catastrophic climate impacts that come with exceeding 1.5 degrees of global warming. All states and territories in Australia have committed to this long-term target and have efforts underway to achieve it. The federal government must lead the way with national policy settings that put our country on the critical path to net zero climate pollution, while providing policy certainty to business and industry.

Greater policy certainty will enable business and industry to confidently invest in a zero carbon future while helping to rebuild our economy. Federal efforts must continue to add to Australia's climate policy suite, but in the near term, the federal government can put existing policy to work, making it play a much stronger role in reducing emissions and providing investment certainty.

- Use the Safeguard Mechanism to achieve credible emissions reductions in important sectors of Australia's economy by requiring emissions limits to be prescriptive and ambitious for all the facilities it covers. Rather than aiming to maintain business as usual and allowing emissions limits to be reset upwards for covered facilities, 'baselines' should be ratcheted down in a predictable way, and aligned with strong emissions reduction goals.

- Facilities that pollute in excess of their Safeguard Mechanism baselines should be required to buy Australian Carbon Credit Units every year that this occurs.
- If used to drive down emissions predictably from Australia's biggest polluters, the Safeguard Mechanism will provide investment certainty, drive innovation, and have the added benefit of stimulating Australia's carbon offset market through the Government's Climate Solutions fund.

### 12. Amend the fringe benefit tax provisions to boost electric vehicles and sustainable transport

Currently there is concessional tax treatment for employer-provided cars without any conditions related to energy efficient cars or overall environmental impact. There is also no concessional treatment for public transport or cycling. We call on the federal government to introduce these new conditions and concessions.



### **13. Support businesses to invest in solar and storage by extending the instant asset write-off program**

As an early economic stimulus measure, the federal government recently increased the instant asset write-off threshold from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and expanded access to include business with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million. The offering is currently available until 30 June 2020.

We call on the federal government to maintain the increased threshold and terms of access to 30 June 2021 to provide additional benefits to businesses unable to purchase new assets during the pandemic, and that need additional help rebuilding. In particular this program provides an opportunity for businesses to invest in solar PV and battery storage.

### **14. Increase funds for investments in sustainable industries by reallocating fossil fuel subsidies**

Creating a safe and healthy future requires the federal government to dramatically increase its investments in initiatives that enable industries to reduce pollution and regenerate nature. This should be funded by reforming the Fuel Tax Credit Scheme (FTCS), and removing tax concessions, concessional loans, direct investments and other fossil fuel subsidies.

Restructuring the FTCS to cap the claimable value of the Fuel Tax Credits at \$20,000 per year is one reform that could save an estimated \$18.7 billion over the next four years. The cap could be phased in over several years, starting with an \$80,000 cap and stepping down by \$20,000 a year until a final cap of \$20,000 is reached. An alternative option to reform the FTCS involves eliminating the availability of fuel tax credits for companies engaged in the extraction or production of fossil fuels. Both measures prevent small claim users, such as the agricultural and tourism claimants, from being adversely affected.

A further option involves incentivising businesses to purchase environmentally-friendly buildings and technologies or to invest in upgrading existing assets to a higher standard by introducing accelerated depreciation or other deductions for these assets through the tax system. This should be implemented alongside reducing the special treatment in the tax system for coal, oil and gas mining and their use of fossil fuels as well as winding back accelerated depreciation for fossil fuel-consuming equipment across a range of industries.





Fitzroy River, WA.  
Photo: Kerry Trapnell.



# Take action to make Australia a renewable energy superpower

We call on the federal government to help renew our economy by making Australia a renewable energy superpower – creating new industries, investment and secure jobs with a future. This includes renewing our energy system to make our electricity grid and transmission infrastructure reliable, resilient and fit for the 21st century, and upgrading existing industries to make them energy efficient and renewable.

This will create community-sustaining jobs with a future, encouraging local manufacture of components and employing local tradespeople. It will embed low-cost clean electricity into every household and business, and enable Australia to export clean energy to the world. It will also ensure we have enough wind and solar in the system to drive a rapid reduction in carbon pollution. Our governments must also rebuild by bringing existing Australian industries out of the polluting dark ages, so they are renewable, efficient and fit for purpose.

## Here's how

### **15. Fast-track Australia's electricity transmission infrastructure so all Australians have access to low-cost, reliable clean energy**

Electricity transmission is not keeping up with the growth of renewable energy. Significant bottlenecks caused by slow regulatory approval processes and funding barriers are preventing large-scale renewable energy investment and stopping newly built projects from gaining full access to the electricity grid. We call on the federal government to:

- Increase funding to the Grid Reliability Fund and re-dedicate the fund to its core purpose, which includes supporting transmission infrastructure. Or, create a new National Clean Energy Transmission Fund dedicated to this purpose
- Accelerate approvals by setting time limits for each stage of the regulatory approval process for new transmission infrastructure

- Additionally, increasing federal contributions to the Marinus Link project could unlock new renewable energy generation and storage in Tasmania, lower prices and increase reliability in the National Electricity Market.

### **16. Fund and support shovel-ready energy storage projects, including large-scale batteries and pumped hydro**

Energy storage technologies complement renewable energy and are a critical part of Australia's transition to a clean, reliable energy grid. Batteries and pumped hydro help regulate the energy supply by storing wind and solar energy when generation is high, then quickly dispatching it when needed.

We call on governments to provide grant funding and support to fast-track shovel-ready pumped hydro projects and large-scale battery storage projects in conjunction with states and territories. These projects can also help drive local industries with local content requirements.

## **17. Fund research and development, and develop a legislative framework to support large-scale wind energy generation**

We call on the federal government to fund research and development along with developing a new legislative framework for an offshore wind energy industry in Australia. Experience in Denmark and in Victoria, where Australia's first offshore wind farm is being developed, shows that there is strong potential for offshore wind energy to be developed in Australia.

## **18. Expand electric, public and active transport investment and manufacturing**

Increased availability and use of public and active transport can greatly reduce traffic congestion in urban areas, improve public health, reduce toxic and greenhouse emissions, and improve local amenity. Electrifying transport removes dangerous pollution from the transport sector, which is one of Australia's fastest growing sectors for greenhouse pollution. Electric vehicles also provide battery storage that can help with our electricity grid as Australia transitions to renewable energy. We call on the federal government to:

- Fast-track and expand public and active transport infrastructure, including electrification of public transportation systems
- Commit to transition diesel bus fleets to electric, starting with school buses. Use locally made electric buses wherever possible to support this budding manufacturing industry
- Assist state and local governments to fund development of shovel ready bike lanes and cycle ways to facilitate a shift to clean, healthy transport
- Strengthen government (EV) fleet targets, provide federal support for public and business EV purchase, and support Australian-made EV and battery manufacturing.

## **19. Develop a coordinated plan to get Australia exporting renewable energy to the world**

Australia is one of the best-placed countries in the world to develop a renewable energy export industry and to use renewable hydrogen to reduce emissions across our economy. Hydrogen can be developed with dirty fuels which have a large carbon footprint or with clean renewable energy.

We call on our government to make a coordinated plan, focused on renewable hydrogen and driving down the cost of electrolysis to help commercialise the renewable hydrogen industry.

## **20. Fund and maintain the mandate of clean energy programs to power Australian industry with clean energy**

Industry is the largest user of energy in Australia and around two-thirds of this energy is used to produce heat for industrial and other processes. There are enormous gains that can be made by industry from greater energy efficiency, and use of low pollution technologies, processes and products. We call on governments to:

- Re-establish and re-fund the Clean Technology Investment Program focused on pursuing much higher levels of energy efficiency, renewable energy and innovative clean technologies. One area of focus should be to assist industry and commercial operations with substitution of high temperature heat pumps for gas
- Provide funding and certainty to the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and reinstate ARENA's grant programs to stimulate further development, demonstration and commercial readiness of new renewable energy technologies
- Maintain the integrity of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation's (CEFC's) original investment mandate. Do not compromise their clean energy investment remit or their legislated prohibition on financing carbon capture and storage (CCS) or nuclear power.





Helmeted honeyeater.  
Photo: Aaron Stevenson.

# We love **our beautiful planet**

**Australian Conservation Foundation**

Level 1, 60 Leicester Street  
Carlton VIC 3053  
ABN 22 007 498 482

**Telephone** 1800 223 669

**Website** [acf.org.au](http://acf.org.au)

**Email** [acf@acf.org.au](mailto:acf@acf.org.au)

**Twitter** @AusConservation

Published May 2020

ACF reports are available online at  
[acf.org.au/reports](http://acf.org.au/reports)

Authorised by Kelly O'Shanassy, ACE, 1/60 Leicester St, Carlton, Vic, 3053



**AUSTRALIAN  
CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION**