

To whom it may concern,

My name is Stephanus Becker, and as a Western Australian Citizen I am extremely concerned about climate change and support strong and urgent action as a matter of highest priority for all levels of government, along with 85% of my fellow West Australians.

in WA our carbon pollution is out of control and is getting worse, we have to do better. There is an opportunity to create thousands of new jobs, be a world leader on climate change action and become part of the global solution.

I worry for the world we are leaving behind for the children, I worry for our flora and fauna which are dying because of climate change, our beautiful south western forests and bushlands which are so unique are being destroyed. The impact this is having on my mental health, as well as so many other people's is devastating.

Close to home for the Premier Mark McGowan in Rockingham, we have seen the population of our Fairy Penguins on Penguin Island already drop by 50% due to climate change. Penguins now must swim as far as Margaret River to find food, which increase their rate of dying by 4 times. This is will just get worse for so many other species if we don't act now.

Here is some of my suggestions on thing that can be implemented in Western Australia:

1. Western Australia needs to declare a climate emergency. Unlike the argument raised in parliament that this is merely symbolic, it is not. Declaring a climate emergency acknowledges there is a serious problem and pushes all future planning for Western Australia to be made around climate impacts. This will force not only the government to act on it, but the private sector too.
2. Immediately reduce WA's carbon pollution and achieve zero net emissions as soon as possible. A net zero target should be concretely set by 2050, our current 'aspirational' target is not good enough. The word 'aspirational' leaves this target open to not be met. Legislate to deliver science-based interim targets and an emissions reduction pathway in line with a fair and equitable contribution to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.
3. Deliver a billion-dollar Clean State Jobs program to unlock thousands of new jobs in clean industries and support a just transition for affected workers and communities.
4. Completely repower WA with renewable energy, phase out climate damaging fossil fuels, and prevent any new or expanded coal, oil or gas developments in WA including LNG and fracking. Particularly stopping the Burrup Hub joint venture from Woodside and Chevron. This project will be responsible for 4 times more Carbon emissions than the Adani Carmichael Coal Mine. LNG is not a cleaner fuel, in fact, for every tonne of LNG combusted overseas around 2.8 tonnes of carbon pollution is released. We as a state is responsible for all scope 3 emissions, as we are the source.
5. Hold WA's biggest polluters to account. Require companies to reduce emissions and offset their climate damage by investing a portion of profits in clean industries, carbon farming and renewable energy. It is estimated that it will cost the LNG industry only 2% extra in taxes to fully offset its climate damage through a WA offsets fund.

6. Permanently protect natural carbon stores in WA's forests and other ecosystems native forest logging and clearing must stop immediately. Old growth forests are our best carbon sinks, yet WA's old growth forests definition is extremely weak. Expand the definition of these forests and protect them, along with our natural seabeds. Already damaged and cleared forests need to be restored and regenerated. The timber industry needs to be transitioned to sustainably managed plantations and farm forestry. Completely rule out native forest bioenergy. All new rare metal mines should be prevented from clearing forests, they can be done by digging deeper under the forests without destroying the forests
  
7. Support climate adaptation programs and partnerships, including with Aboriginal people and communities, farmers, local governments, businesses and other sectors. WA needs to set up an extensive climate support fund for farmers and Aboriginal people (once again this can be done by taxing the big polluters). Our farmers are one of our biggest answers, and yet our state and federal government has forgotten about them. This fund can help farmers with investing in sustainable farming practises along with aboriginal people who know the land better than any other people. This can also be used for seaweed farming to restore our seabeds, become feed for our livestock, help slow down the acidification of our ocean and also is an extremely effective carbon sink. Out of this we can also invest in new farming practises that will benefit our economy and climate in the future, practises such as deep ocean aquaculture. By farming fish in the deep ocean, any waste spreads thinly and becomes natural fertiliser for seaweed which in turns grow better and sink carbon. Deep ocean aquaculture does not create silt like traditional close offshore fish farms. Fish is valuable protein source with a very low carbon footprint unlike on-land livestock which is very damaging to the climate and environment. And as a bonus, this will help for over fishing practises.

To conclude, WA needs a climate policy with teeth, currently it's a joke. We need protect our forests at all cost, rapidly transition to renewables, stop any new coal, gas or oil projects and turn to our farmers and aboriginal people for help.

Thank you for considering this submission