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To the Government of Western Australia,

A strong, comprehensive state Climate Change Policy is critical to guide WA to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, transition to a renewable energy future and ensure our environment, communities and economy are protected into the future.

The state government has the responsibility to deliver a comprehensive state-wide policy on climate change that includes:

1) Immediately reducing WA's carbon emissions, legislating targets and providing a roadmap to phase out fossil fuels. Leading science tells us we need to achieve zero net emissions as soon as possible to avert the catastrophic impacts of climate change. Australia is committed to meet the Paris Agreement of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees with a target of reducing our emissions 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2030, a target which many say is not strong enough. However, WA's emissions have continued to rise (23% since 2005). The government must phase out fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas within a reasonable timeframe and provide a just transition for those working in these industries. Legislating science-based targets- emissions reduction target, renewable energy target and net zero emissions target, as well as outlining a roadmap for this transition – will help us get there and must be part of our state's climate policy.

2) Transitioning our energy system to 100% renewable energy. The state government needs to work with the energy sector and consumers/prosumers to decarbonise our energy system, transition to 100% renewables by 2030 and reimagine a more distributed, democratized clean energy grid that leaves no one behind. This transition means we need a clear phase out plan and no new or expanded coal, oil or gas developments in WA including LNG and fracking, with investment diverted to large, medium and small scale renewable projects.

3) Holding WA's biggest polluters to account. WA's biggest polluting companies have been making record profits for years with little to no obligations to the West Australian community or environment. These companies must be required to reduce their emissions in line with the Paris Agreement and any government targets, and offset their climate damage by investing in clean industries, renewable energy, and carbon farming. Taxing these super-profits companies a minimal amount would enable the government to establish a Climate Change Fund to support our state's transition to a green, clean economy.

4) Support the transition to new clean jobs and industries and ensure a just transition for everyone. A low-carbon future is an exciting opportunity for our state to diversify our economy, making it more resilient and clean. It is an opportunity to innovate and unlock thousands of new jobs. Government investment can assist this transition and is critical to ensuring a just transition for affected workers and communities (such as Collie).

5) Protect and enhance our natural carbon stores - WA's forests and other ecosystems. A state-wide plan to protect, restore and build our bushland, wetlands and other natural places is a critical way to store and drawdown carbon from the atmosphere, whilst ensuring access to nature for all



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West Australians now and into the future. Restoration projects also bring economic opportunities to regional communities.

There are many other areas that the state's Climate Policy must address such as supporting our emergency services to be able to handle the increase in extreme weather events, fires and droughts; ensuring water security for all citizens; creating a circular economy to combat waste; investing in green building infrastructure and public transport; and planning and designing our communities differently- halting urban sprawl, planning for transit-oriented-development, restoring urban forests and addressing the urban heat island effect.

It is imperative that First Nations people, as the traditional custodians of this land, and those most vulnerable and on the frontlines of the climate crisis are included and consulted in decision-making processes.

I urge you to provide West Australians with a climate policy that adequately responds to the scale and speed of the climate crisis, mandating strong emissions and renewable energy targets, and a state-wide roadmap to phase out fossil-fuels. This transition offers exciting opportunities for West Australians for a cleaner, fairer and more prosperous future for all of us.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Jordon Steele-John.

Jordon Steele-John
28/11/19