

## The Wilderness Society Ltd – Let's Fix the System Campaign

<https://wilderness.good.do/FixSystem/WAsystem/>

### Fix the system behind the deforestation crisis in WA

For the first time in just over a decade, the WA government has publicly released data on the known extent of deforestation and bushland clearing across the state.

While the data release itself is good news, the emerging picture of how much deforestation has occurred is shattering with 97% of original vegetation in some areas having been wiped out.

Worse still is that the government confirms that there isn't a system which can tell how much bushland is being cleared illegally. This needs to change.

Right now, the WA Government wants to hear your thoughts on how to fix the system behind WA's deforestation crisis.

Will you write to them today and tell them to invest in a better data and regulatory system coupled with new laws? New laws that will halt deforestation and protect our precious bushland.

Submissions are only open until 10 February, so together we have a short window of opportunity to fix the system and turn around the future of our threatened species to ensure they don't just survive, but thrive.

**Subject:** Native Vegetation submission—let's fix the system

Dear Environment Minister Stephen Dawson,

I'm deeply concerned about WA's broken system for measuring and monitoring deforestation across the state.

Native vegetation management in WA requires a paradigm shift to fix this crisis. Please make a significant investment into better data collection and monitoring systems to track the extent and quality of our native vegetation. This means having satellite data 'ground truthed' by experts—like the Queensland monitoring system does.

The system needs a better foundation with stronger laws and better regulation to halt deforestation and protect our high conservation value bushland.

And without yearly State of the Environment reports how can we expect to properly monitor the situation? We need annual published State of the Environment reports with updated data that will keep the community informed about the status of forests and bushlands and all the threatened species who call them home.

Releasing the data was a good first step, but to stop this crisis we need to fix the entire system.

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**Number of submissions received:** 425 with 67 with additional or modified text.

The below table sets out the additional comments to the campaign email text received. Names and comments are as provided.

The additional comments provided in the campaign submissions have been incorporated into the consultation summary analysis.

Name	Additional comments
Alasdair Wardle	<p><i>Things have to change</i></p> <p>I'm very concerned about WA's failed system for measuring and monitoring deforestation across the state.</p> <p>I have just been reading about the strong connection between tree clearing and declining rainfall in WA.</p> <p>Native vegetation management in WA requires a major shift to fix this situation. I want to see your Government make a significant investment into better data collection and monitoring systems to track the extent and quality of our native vegetation.</p> <p>The system needs more rigorous basis for planning and we need stronger laws and better regulation to halt deforestation and protect our high conservation value bushland.</p>
Alison Wylie	<p><i>It must be protected</i></p> <p>WA 's lack of strong protection for our vegetation and forests is changing the nature of our state.</p> <p>Increased logging of our forests, clearing of our agriculture lands has meant steadily decreased rainfall. This summer everywhere is dry, leaves continually piling up. my husband has done our fire breaks multiple times because of the continual raining down of leaves.</p> <p>Lets heed what has happened in the other states. We've already had close to drought conditions in the northern wheatbelt in recent years.</p> <p>We need all the vegetative cover we can get. and when it's dried out vegetative cover it's going to be less effective at modifying the climate.</p>
Allan Miles	<p>I joined the Wilderness Society because I care about the natural environment of Western Australia. I strongly believe that we are custodians of this beautiful state and we have a duty of care to the flora and fauna that live here. I'm deeply concerned about WA's inadequate system for measuring and monitoring land clearing across the state.</p>

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Name	Additional comments
Andrew Dunkin	<p><i>please build a better system</i></p> <p>I thank you for stepping forward to serve the community in this vital portfolio.</p> <p>Further to information received from the Wilderness Society I urge you to commit to annual published State of the Environment reports with updated data that will keep the community informed about the status of forests and bushlands and all the threatened species who call them home.</p> <p>Congratulations on the initial data release.</p>
Angeal Nilsen	I agree with the following and really hope that you take notice.
Barbara Horton	Please please simply look at better ways of monitoring this and finding solutions.
Beattie Kostera	We have lost a tragic amount in the latest bushfires, we need to do all we can to protect our flora and fauna here.
Ben McAvoy	<p>When I hear about the declining rainfall in the south west and the continuation of old growth logging (the guidelines of what is not considered old growth needs to be changed as if there are a couple of stumps in old growth its not considered old growth) it saddens me.</p> <p>It is well known that a 30km band of trees creates rainfall. I would like to see large scale buybacks of poorly productive farm land and reforestation of native forest.</p> <p>Further more I'm deeply concerned about WA's broken system for measuring and monitoring deforestation across the state.</p>
Brian Tomlinson	<p>Since the early days of settlement in WA there have been warnings about deforestation rates &amp; the governments of the day failed to listen,</p> <p>It is time for a change.</p>

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Name	Additional comments
Celia Andrews	<p><i>Data needed</i></p> <p>I'm concerned about the current lack of monitoring to measure deforestation across our state.</p> <p>Good governance requires this.</p> <p>Please use the power vested in you to implement a sound data collection to record the extent and quality of our native vegetation.</p> <p>Satellite data needs to be authenticated and supplemented by experts on the ground.</p> <p>We also need laws and regulations implemented to stop further deforestation. As global citizens, We need to protect our existing ancient forests</p> <p>Annual published State of the Environment Reports would keep us informed about the state of our forests and bushland; together with the welfare of species that are dependent on these habitats.</p>
Charmaine Basel	<p>Firstly, acknowledgement requires looking squarely at reality.</p> <p>This means an honest wake up to the extent of damage the 'broken system' has caused.</p> <p>In order to make repair rather than creating irreversible damage, please make it a priority to make significant investment into better data collection and monitoring systems to track the extent and quality of our native vegetation.</p> <p>And without yearly State of the Environment reports how can we expect to properly monitor the situation?</p> <p>The answer is we can't.</p> <p>Without monitoring, the haemorrhage continues.</p> <p>Your role is one of great responsibility.</p> <p>Recall why you took this path in life in the first place.</p> <p>Please step up to your responsibilities as elected leaders, elders and protectors of the people and the land.</p>
Chris Mills	<p>For starters, STOP cutting down the old growth Karri Forests for bloody wood chips or what ever.</p> <p>Also the rest of old growth forests. We</p> <p>Need all the help to stop this Climate change.</p> <p>You need you stop the rubbish before you have a revolution.</p>

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Name	Additional comments
Colleen Sims	<p>In addition to effective monitoring we need to severely curtail new clearing of remnant native habitats. With so little left, it should be the exception to allow new clearing and heavy penalties need to be applied to all instances of illegal clearing. After decades of 'compromise' between 'development' and protecting biodiversity that has consistently and continuously fallen on the side of development, our ecosystems are teetering on the edge of widespread collapse and can take no more. There are other, creative ways to support strong economic and social health without destroying the last vestige of ecological health. Be strong, be visionary, protect the future of humanity by protecting the last tattered remnants of a functional environment.</p>
Daphne Brosnan	<p>First, thank you for publicly releasing some data on the known extent of deforestation and bushland clearing across WA. However, the emerging picture of how much deforestation has occurred; and the government's confirmation that there isn't a system which can tell us how much bushland is being cleared illegally; is shattering. We obviously have a deforestation and bushland crisis. So, thank you, again, for inviting the public to submit ideas on how to fix the system behind WA's deforestation and bushland crisis.</p> <p>To protect our forests, our bushlands, and to ensure all our unique native species and their habitats, survive and thrive, we need to invest in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• better data collection and monitoring systems to track the extent and quality of our native vegetation. This means having satellite data 'ground truthed' by experts—like the Queensland monitoring system does.</li> <li>• a better foundation with stronger laws and better regulation to halt deforestation and protect our high conservation value bushland.</li> <li>• Yearly State of the Environment reports to properly monitor the situation and to inform the public.</li> </ul>
David Balfour	I endorse the following commentary
Dennis Stabler	let's fix the system SOONER RATHER THAN LATER!!

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Name	Additional comments
Dr Keira McKenzie	<p>I'm deeply concerned about WA's inadequate system for measuring and monitoring deforestation &amp; clearing of native vegetation across the state.</p> <p>Please make a significant investment into competent, preferably state-of-the-art data collection and monitoring systems to track the extent and quality of our native vegetation.</p> <p>Lacking at least yearly State of the Environment reports, how can the situation across the state be properly monitored? An annual published State of the Environment report should be a base requirement, complete with updated data that will keep the community informed about the status of forests and bushlands and all the threatened species who call them home.</p> <p>Releasing the data was a good first step, but to stop this crisis, the entire system needs an overhaul with terms and technology better suited to its needs.</p>
Eric Gleadell	<p>I send you this email as I am deeply concerned about WA's broken system for measuring and monitoring deforestation across the state.</p>
Garry Boase	<p>I don't want to write a long email. It must, should be obvious to anyone that we cannot afford to lose one unnecessary inch of forest and natural habitat. Please govern with respect for the future.</p>
Glenda Odgers	<p>Please be a responsible for maintaining Australia's rich biodiversity.</p>
Gwynneth Roberts	<p>I am especially concerned about the 3 endangered species of Black Cockatoos (Carnaby, forest red tail and Baudin) that rely on a ever depleted forest to survive and the ground parrot that is gravely endangered of extinction.</p> <p>These birds are running out of habitat and competing for what is left.</p> <p>The government needs to focus on maintaining and expanding our native areas. WA is a wonderful green tourism destination and could become even more so with the right vision, infrastructure and support.</p> <p>There are many ways to create revenue from land and clearing is not the way forward.</p> <p>Please create and implement an effective, consistent and accountable monitoring system for our bushland for a better way forward.</p>

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Name	Additional comments
Hamish Maclean	<p>We need to understand vegetation clearing in WA. I have seen how farmers are gradually eating away at remaining vegetation. As farmers come under more climate change pressure, native vegetation and biodiversity will come under more pressure until a carbon tax is applied to ALL emitters.</p> <p>I have seen research that states 50% of WA rainfall decline is due to clearing. So we need to increase cover for rainfall and CO2 capture. We also need to restore the balance. WA's environment is sick. Farm vegetation consists of dying remnant vegetation with no next generation.</p> <p>I live in a Geraldton. i grew up on a farm and have worked in Ag for many years. I understand farmer (and developer) mentality. Trees are the enemy. As cropping encroaches further south, farmers will seek to clear more land to make machinery movement easier.</p> <p>I was in Pemberton last week with my family and was shocked to hear and see the felling of large native trees right there across the river from a tourist swimming sight! What insanity is this?</p>
Ian Kruger	Thank you for reading my letter.
Iole Rosemary Harper	<p>The last few months have shown that it has become even more evident that time has run out and that not only should we be looking after the natural vegetation that is left but that we should be revegetating here with species specific to their areas and aiding other countries to do likewise.</p> <p>There is no Planet B!!</p>
Jane Newton	<p>We live in the hills area and I am deeply concerned about all deforestation of our native forests, but particularly the huge tracts of deforestation undertaken in our hills for bauxite mining.</p> <p>This has increased in recent years at an alarming rate and even though some regeneration work is being undertaken it in no way makes up for the loss of our forests and is often not even planting of like for like species. Many of our birds and wildlife are endangered directly due to deforestation.</p> <p>Please also remember that our decreasing rainfall is directly affected by deforestation. We need more trees, not less, or our water supplies will also be under even more pressure.</p>

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Name	Additional comments
Jennifer Hole	<p>I have been told that WA has inadequate means for measuring and monitoring forest clearing.</p> <p>Particularly now, with so many species losses, we need to have improved ways of collecting data.</p> <p>We should also have stronger laws to protect the bush from destruction, especially in high conservation value areas.</p>
Jo Hart	<p>Having just responded on the Native Vegetation issues paper I am nevertheless also making this submission. While the issues paper focuses on strategies for increasing and conserving native vegetation this cannot be done without a robust system for measuring and monitoring deforestation ie the removal of climax vegetation across the state.</p> <p>Releasing the data was a good first step, but to stop this catastrophic deforestation we need to fix the entire system.</p> <p>Significant investments into improved data collection and monitoring systems that track the extent and quality of our native vegetation are necessary. Combining satellite data with "on the ground" monitoring would provide for more informed decision making.</p> <p>The proposals in the Native Vegetation issues paper can provide for a better basis with more robust laws and improved regulation that could stop deforestation and protect our high conservation value bushland.</p> <p>Producing regular (annual) published State of the Environment reports with updated data would keep the community informed about the status of forests and bushlands and all the threatened species who call them home.</p> <p>Releasing the data was a good first step, but to stop this crisis we need to fix the entire system.</p>
John C Massam	<p>And keeping a lid on population growth would be a worthy step.</p>
Julianne Ryan	<p>I believe our culture is deeply entwined with our unique landscape. Illegal clearing of this precious resource destroys habitats for our native animals and threatens their existence. Once we lose these animals there is no going back. We need action now.</p>
Karen Ginnane	<p>I was born in Perth and grew up in the South West. Those forests are my heritage. They are culturally important to the Noongar people and to every person who has passed among those ancient cathedral-like trunks soaring to the sky, and listened to the deep bush silence. They are home to our unique wildlife and flora, and they are irreplaceable.</p>



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Name	Additional comments
	<p>They are valuable in terms of tourist dollars but in the current climate crisis they are essential for the health of this land and the safety of our people. Old growth forests are less flammable than logged and regularly burned ones and we have seen the disastrous impact of over-logging in the mega fires on the east coast this summer.</p> <p>We have to stop logging old growth forests now. We have to actively preserve them as the precious resource they are. Many countries have embraced tree planting and re wilding as a tactic to slow climate change and here we are, logging old growth. It's shameful and history will judge us harshly.</p> <p>Please consider these urgent action points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Outlaw logging of old growth forest, now, while we still have some left.</li> <li>2. Invest into better data collection and monitoring systems to track the extent and quality of our native vegetation. This means having satellite data 'ground truthed' by experts—like the Queensland monitoring system does.</li> <li>3. Stronger laws and better regulation to halt deforestation and protect our high conservation value bushland.</li> <li>4. Yearly State of the Environment reports to properly monitor the situation. We need annual published State of the Environment reports with updated data that will keep the community informed about the status of forests and bushlands and all the threatened species who call them home.</li> </ol>
Katie Barlow	<p>I am teacher at a high school and volunteer for Bushranger Cadets WA.</p> <p>I see in my travels logs of trees that are hundreds of years old felled and strapped to the back of trucks. Its heartbreaking and outdated. Why not be world leaders and have hemp farms for paper. The world is changing. Why cant WA lead the charge?</p>
KAY DIEHM	<p>Having lived and traveled in the Pilbara and much of the inland WA I find it very upsetting and disgusting that this damage to the infrastucture is still going on.</p>
Kevin Tennant	<p>Yes, this letter is standard but it sums up my thoughts on WA management of native vegetation.</p>
Leigh Murphy	<p>Maybe the best solution to compensate for deforestation and land clearing is to have a minimum tree density policy.</p> <p>This could vary over the different types of land uses.</p> <p>Council parks could do with more trees.</p> <p>Lets face it. Trees will only benefit everyone</p>

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Name	Additional comments
Lynda Cummins	I'm planning to visit WA in the next few years and as a nature lover its the natural environment I want to see, not the cities. I hope you can do something to ensure the vegetation will be saved as without trees there is no life. We all need them to survive, not just our wildlife.
Lynda Brown	<p>Measuring and monitoring deforestation is important across Australia and will impact the WA. I have seen the devastation of deforestation, with not a tree left. The land exposed and void with precious top soil, now dust being blown away. What a shame. Nothing left.</p> <p>I believe that these massive changes effect our rainfall, our seasons and harm us and the wildlife these areas support. I've heard farmers cry that they don't get the yields from their land or stock like they have in the past, yet they continue deforestation instead of using sustainable land management practices.</p> <p>Change is essential in native vegetation management in WA. Please invest to ensure support for better data collection and monitoring systems to track the extent and quality of our native vegetation. This means having satellite data 'ground truthed' by experts—like the Queensland monitoring system does.</p> <p>By having stronger laws and regulations we will protect our valued bushland, protect wildlife and ensure habitat for all native fauna and flora. Deforestation should halt and our lands managed effectively to achieve our goals.</p> <p>Yearly State of the Environment reports monitor the situation. What will happen without them? We need annual published State of the Environment reports with updated data that will keep the community informed about the status of forests, bushlands and all the threatened species who call them home. We are all asking for understanding concerning land management and evidence that we are looking after what we have and managing it for the future.</p> <p>Surely the fires have taught us that management and strong laws are the key to understanding how best to live in this beautiful land. There are so many educated and researched professionals who can demonstrate how this can be done and ensure we have the right laws.</p> <p>Data release was a good first step, but please make it count. Ensure that new laws are in place to make a difference. We are in crisis and this system must be fixed to ensure a life ahead for our threatened species and all Australians</p>
Marion Outram	I have lived as a child in the Pemberton area and spent a lot of time admiring the old growth forests. They are a National treasure. For tourism and the beauty of our state. I and many others are really stressed by our beautiful forests being used as wood chipped and clear-felled. Once clear-felled thousands of years of history ....nature is ruined. Please do the State and environment a tremendous favour by not putting short term goals/profits a priority. Be remembered as a forward thinker proud of the impact you could make by looking after the long term goals that will make a tremendous difference.....

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Name	Additional comments
Marion Treasure	<p>Please leave no stone unturned to protect and care for Our Environment in it's entirety.</p> <p>Please engage with Our Traditional Elders who have tens of millennia of wisdom of how to care for this Country, to learn and raise current awareness of how precious the balance of nature is to the future of life for all.</p>
Miguel Pez	<p>Trees are vital for a number of reasons.</p> <p>They capture carbon, helping with runaway climate change.</p> <p>Forests create the perfect environment to encourage rain; in a drying environment.</p> <p>Forests are the home and indispensable element to sustain a thriving ecosystem and support biodiversity.</p> <p>If these three reasons alone are not enough to encourage you to protect our trees and forests and arrest the ongoing slaughter of our environment; then we should ask what is your function as an environment minister.</p>
Nadia Aurisch	<p>A good start would be a review of existing systems elsewhere in Australia and the world and a gap analysis of what is missing/would be required to make it work for WA. This monitoring doesn't need to be complicated or expensive. The world needs forests and vegetation more than ever and having an appropriate system would also allow you to look at revegetation and how successful WAs efforts presumably are.</p>
Nadine Jaeger	<p>Each time I pass through and remember an area once abundant with beautiful trees, shrubs, grasses and wildlife, only to now see an arid, razed landscape almost devoid of life - I feel a deep pain and sorrow for our country, our world, her animals and her plants.</p> <p>We must end illegal clearing of land and take serious action to preserve and restore our iconic landscape, wildlife and these natural habitats. This also includes significant consideration into residential and commercial developments which incorporate existing landscapes into design (e.g. Jindree, it's a start), whilst ensuring wildlife corridors remain intact and wildlife is not harmed in the process.</p> <p>Please help end this devastation to all of our incredible and unique flora and fauna. Our fragile ecosystems need us, just as much as we need them.</p>
Nicola Dawes	<p>You cannot possibly hope to fix a problem you don't know exists, you must gather more knowledge of what bushland assets are present (or should be present) to be able to defend it.</p> <p>On the back of land mismanagement revealed by David Pollock, it paints a grim picture of land management in WA.</p> <p>Please do your job for the people of WA and make moves to fix this.</p>

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Name	Additional comments
Nola Pedersen	I realise you may not care about my submission because I live in Queensland. I followed my husband here for work. My adult children and grandchildren live here so I stay. But I was born in WA and lived there for 42 years, so I deeply care about what happens there. So here goes -
Philippa Neary	We have a responsibility to future generations not to destroy our precious natural environment - and to restore it.
Richard Ingram	Native vegetation is worth more alive than dead. Deforestation/land clearing should be strictly controlled and absolutely limited. We need tree canopy, woodlands, seaside scrub to support our fauna and shade our hot, hot state. Enough is enough - let's build a sustainable future where our precious fauna is strongly protected and monitored.
Rob Clifton	*DEEPLY concerned is an understatement! The devastation is beyond words...A complete re evaluation of the current legal concept of old growth needs to be immediately addressed.
Robert Broomhall	I'm deeply concerned about the inadequate system for measuring and monitoring deforestation across the state.
Rosamund Downing	I am horrified about the WA's broken system for measuring and monitoring deforestation across the state.
Ross Bryan	<p><i>Native Bushland/ Vegetation Clearance</i></p> <p>I recently became aware of the extent of deforestation in WA after the release of data from the WA government. Deforestation in Australia is at crisis levels and among the worst in the world which is terrible for a rich developed country but I had assumed through lack of data that WA was managing its native forests well and deforestation was occurring mainly in NSW, QLD and VIC.</p> <p>Unfortunately this isnt the case and WA native bushland is also being cleared both legally and illegally and without consequence. Biodiversity, both fauna and flora are being lost recklessly and for little gain besides short term benefits. At a time when extinction of Australia's wildlife is at crisis levels and reported on across the world surely it is time to put a proper laws a control and stop deforestation and monitoring to verify that these laws are being followed with penalties including remediation of land for those who break the law.</p> <p>Why are people allowed to break the law and illegally clear land without consequences?</p> <p>We need annual published State of the Environment reports with updated data that will keep the community informed about the status of forests and bushlands and all the threatened species who call them home.</p> <p>Mine and my wifes votes in all future elections will be based on Labors record to put in place protections for the environment which have been seriously lacking from past coalition governments. Hopefully this action will start</p>

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Name	Additional comments
	now so we can all continue to enjoy the remaining habitat that we have and possibly with some effort restored bushland into the future.
Russell Brown	Australia's, and WA's broken system for measuring and monitoring deforestation are atrocious. If you take the forests out for cattle and mono crops, the ground dries and fails to attract further moisture, other than the odd wild storm that often does more damage that good.
Sara Mayer	We take things for granted until they are gone. Respect
Sharon Woods	Firstly, I am horrified at the BORR road going through Gelorup. I have walked this area and it is just beautiful. I am heartbroken at the loss of our beautiful forrests which get chipped and sent overseas(I live in Bunbury and there is a never ending pile of chipped trees.) We can see when it is jarrah because of the colour of the chips. I have been to the Walpole tree top walk and in the distance you can see where all the trees are cut down. It has to stop. Every tree is precious and gives us oxygen. The more trees that come down the less chance we have of rainfall.Our native animal numbers are declining ever faster.
Shelley De Campe	Let's listen to the nations first people on looking after the land.
Shirley Knight	And never forget.....no trees, no rain.
Steve Dreher	Dwer is just a rubber stamping agency and needs a serious shake up. You yourself also need to wake up,as you are waving through some serious bush vandalism that can't be fixed with phony offsets.Best example is the recent clearing permit in Butler that you stamped.
Steve Rigby	A strong vegetation replanting scheme is also required.
Susan Arthur	I CAN'T IMPROVE ON THE MESSAGE BELOW ONLY TO SAY - THINGS NEED TO CHANGE
Susan Clarke	I am a Kings Park Guide and know first hand how much the general public does care about the state of our natural native vegetation and wildlife.

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Theres Dreher	<p>The DWER waves everything through from roadside clearing to the removal of paddock trees for streamlining farming.</p> <p>I've been following the DWER clearing permit website for some time and they have never refused any applications.</p> <p>This government also renewed the RFA last year.</p> <p>Old growth forests are still being logged because of some stupid stump rules. There is only about 10% of the Great Southern Forests left and yet the logging goes on.</p> <p>The Rainfall in the South West has declined over the last 20 years.</p> <p>Two native timbermills have been sold to a Queensland company so they can keep raping our native forests.</p> <p>Urban sprawl is out of control and bushland is getting rolled up like old carpet for more housing.</p> <p>Illegal clearing had no consequences or the fines are laughable.</p> <p>It's time to wake up before it is to late.</p>
Tim Vidler	<p><i>A wake up call!</i></p> <p>The recent fires across the country are forcing us all to take stock and ask ourselves "are we doing enough to safeguard our precious native bush land"!?</p>
Tom Wilson	<p>As a Halls Head WA resident for nearly 10 years (and an ALP supporter for nearly 45 years) I am deeply concerned about WA's broken system for measuring and monitoring deforestation across the state.</p> <p>I thank you in advance for your enlightened persistence in the pursuit of this important goal.</p>
Tomas Lourenco	Please implement these changes to support our wonderful creatures threatened habitat and their lives.
Travis Williams	This is something we cant afford to get wrong. My 6 year old son loves all native wildlife, and going for hikes into forested areas or staying at my parents place in the hills to see what wildlife we can find. To get this right means we secure this for our future generations. Also a big part of Australia's identity is out unique Flora and Fauna, to lose this would be equivalent to losing our identity.
Tricia O'Reilly	The system needs a better foundation with stronger laws and better regulation to halt deforestation and protect our high conservation value bushland and beautiful forests with incredible wildlife needing protection. Threatened species habitat is still being cleared despite populations of iconic species like Numbat and bilby declining.

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Name	Additional comments
	In some areas 97% of original vegetation has been wiped out. We need a system that can tell us how much bushland is being cleared illegally.
Vanessa White	<p>Western australia needs a new system for measuring and monitoring deforestation and landclearing across the state.</p> <p>For many decades many of us public concerned citizens have been telling the govt that illegal deforestation and land clearing has been going on in our forests, bushland and wetlands, but we have not seen many people charged for this, can you please give me the numbers of people, companies charged for this offence over the past 20 years and what the fines and outcomes could be but what they actual got.</p> <p>Also other things could be put in place like ensuring every person whom has a licence to destroy our biodiverse habitats must have big easily recognizable logos on their clothing, machinery and cars with signage on all roads and workplaces with their licence number, maps outlining the area to be destroyed, names of people and what they are doing in the area. This would help in the respect that if someone sees something going on they think may be illegal it would be easier to identify this because they would not have the appropriate licence, signage logos etc to identify, and if some of the people whom did have licences but are going into other areas illegally then the displayed maps etc would allow the public to identify this and report it.</p> <p>A hotline to report illegal practices in our biodiverse state should be set up like the pollution hotline .</p> <p>Bigger fines should also be put in place because at the moment people can do this clearing with such a small fine that it may seem economically viable for them to destroy habitat. Company directors, boards, CEO and forpeople should all be charged with the offence not just the workers whom are told what to do, there should also be a strike system put in place, so if you are caught more than twice they can lose their licence for life, and if they dont have a licence they should be barred from entering any state forest, like forest defenders are, although the illegal clearers should be barred for life and the defender not as they are trying to defend the destruction not destroy it..</p> <p>Another suggestion would be to get rid of the law which makes it illegal for the public to photo and film people working in national parks and state forests, as this inhibits the evidence truth about illegal practices from being exposed as people have fear of fines or evidence being excluded from court cases, govt inquires etc it's like shoot the messenger not the perpetrator of the real illegal activities.</p> <p>The system needs a better foundation with stronger laws and better regulation to halt deforestation and protect our old growth forest, high conservation value bushland, wetlands and sites of significance especially aboriginal heritage.</p>

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	And without yearly State of the Environment reports how can we expect to properly monitor the situation? We need annual published State of the Environment reports with updated data that will keep the community informed about the status of forests, bushlands, wetlands, oceans and all the threatened species who call them home.
Veronica Reid	<p>If local Shires can do aerial surveys to monitor fire break requirements, how is the State Government so lacking in not using similar or better technology to monitor ILLEGAL land clearing?</p> <p>If poorer countries Africa &amp; India can organise to support planting of millions of trees, why can't our State Government do the same? Our State climate has definitely already changed with less rainfall &amp; rising temperatures. TREES &amp; more TREES help with cooling, water retention &amp; soil erosion. We need a massive RE-planting of millions of trees.</p>



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### List of campaign submitters

Name of submitter		
Aaron Mortimer	Ben Stafford	Colleen Sims
Aaron Doyle	Ben Walsh	Colleen Marney
Aileen Lynch	Bernadette Legg	Corey Raynet
Alan Rogers	Bernard Elliott	Craig Sinclair
Alana Harratt	Bernard Fisher	Crystal Lancaster
Alasdair Wardle	Bill Castleden	Damien Mandin
Albert Ratcliffe	Bill Kavanagh	Dan Connors
Alex Heal	Bill Lawrie	Daniela Egloff
Alicja van Vlijmen	Blair Poynton	Danielle Staniskov
Alisha Tampalini	Bob Bell	Daphne Brosnan
Alison Warren	Brenda Wilkinson	David Balfour
alison Wylie	Brenna Pavey	David Elliott
Allan Hollington	Brian Tomlinson	David Keenan
Allan Macdonald	Bridget Seaton	David Stewart
Allan Miles	Bronwyn Grieves	Dawn Lyddy
Amanda Donovan	Bruce Thomson	Denelle Kennedy
Amanda Saverimutto	Caitlin Newton	Dennis Stabler
Amanda Yorke	Cal Abbott	Desmond Hill
Ambrose Lyons	Candice Caruana	Di Granger
Amy Russell	Carole Burns	Diana Dean
Amy Stewart	Carole Lush	Diane Matthews
Andrew Baltgalvis	Caroline But	Diona Jacobson
Andrew Dunkin	Carolyn Groves	Donna Salas
Andy Lees	Carolyn Auton	Dr Keira McKenzie
Angeal Nilsen	Carolyn Mehonoshen	Edward Gibson
Angela Keogh	Cassandra Nixon	Eileen Whitehead
Angela Rossen	Cate Taus	Elaine Winter
Angus Thompson	Catherine Bardon	Eliza Tarcoveanu
Ann Bartlett	Celia Andrews	Elizabeth Di Paola
Anna Brockway	Charlie Pham	Elizabeth Martin
Anna Huband	Charmaine Basel	Ellen Bailey
Anna Vanderbom	cheree anrep	Emily Davies
Anne Bayley	chris fox	Emma Deakin
Anne Janes	Chris Jones	eric gleadell
Anne Rich	Chris Jonkers	Eric Taffyn
April Page	Chris Mills	Erin Walsh
Barbara Horton	Christel Leyendecker	Etan Scott
Beattie Kostera	christine axon	Evan Litis
Bee Winfield	CL & RL Hill	Evelyn Storey
Belinda McEntee	Claire Hindley	Fiona Maley
Ben Caldwell	Claire Kaylock	Fiona Priskich
Ben McAvoy	Claire Weatherley	Frances Bell
Ben Smedley	Colene Hutchinson	Francis Aylmore

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Name of submitter		
G F	Jennifer Matutinovich	Kim Veale
Gail Smith	Jenny Hayward	Kim Wainwright
Garry Boase	Jessica McKelson	Kirsten Mackenzie
Gary Kilian	Jessica Forbes	Kit Davidson
GARY MADDISON	Jessica Saker	Kynan Maley
Geoff Ure	Jill Mayo	Larissa Hurrell
Gertrude Robinson	Jill Thompson	Laura Caddy
Gillian Rowan	Jo Hart	Leigh Murphy
Giselle Stringer	Joanna Hall	Leith Hopkins
Glenda Odgers	Joanne Mills	Len Bunn
Glenys Davies	Jocelyn S	Les. Clark
Gordon Baker	Jodie Berryman	Lesley Ford
Graham Hindle	Jodie Clifford	Lesley Darlaston
Gwynneth Roberts	John C Massam	Lesley Mosbey
Hamish Maclean	John Catling	Leslie Harrison
Heather Hamilton	John Cooper Dixon	Leslie Menz
Heather Reed	John Hill	Liliana Hollands
Heidi Rix	John Hodgson	Linda Eidsvold
Helen Shanks	Jon Hughes	Linzi Boyd
Hellen Leever	Josef Barker	Lis Hansen
Hilary Lyons	Josh Kenworthy	Lisa Russell
Ian Kruger	Joy Hunter	Lisa Stirling
Ian Rawlings	JUDITH CROWE	Liz Hope
ingrid cattley	Judith de Vis	Lori Ramos
Iole Rosemary Harper	Judy Rees	Lorrie Griffin
Isabelle Moore	Julian Behrens	Louisa-Jill Fowler
Jacqueline Elliott	Julian Seaton	Lyn Dunstan
Jalina Khan	Julianne Ryan	Lynda Cummins
James Pillsbury	Julie Williams	Lynda Willis
Jan Star	Karen Kuhl	Lynda Brown
Jane Graham	Karen Ginnane	Lynley Capon
Jane Hammond	Kate Farley	Lynne Strudwicke
Jane Newton	kathleen troy	maggie jane
Janet Grogan	Kathryn Loughton	Mal Green
Janice Fawcett	Kathryn Summerfield	Marg Pearce
Jasmine Cronin	Katie Barlow	Margaret James
Jeanette Watson	KAY DIEHM	Marisa de Longville
Jean-Paul Orsini	Kaye Miller	MARIA O'SHEA
Jen Rodrigues	Kaye Sullings	Maria Priskich
Jenita Enevoldsen	ken budd	Marianne Rentsch
Jenna Doherty	Kerry McNeill	Marion Clarke
Jennifer Allen	Kerry Shearn	Marion Outram
Jennifer Falkner	Kevin Burns	Marion Treasure
Jennifer Hole	Kevin Tennant	Mark Norman

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Name of submitter		
Mark Pybus	Nicola Sheridan	S T
Marta Gorecki	Nicole Angst	Sally Stoneman
Martin Cossey	Nigel Haynes	Sally Hunter
Mary Bracken	Nikee Tierney	Sam Wallrock
Mary Ellen	Nikki Davies	Sandra Challis
Mary-Terese Bourke	Noeleen Trueman	Sandra Hohnen
Matt Claughton	Nola Pedersen	Sar Db
Matt Mclay	Norma Woodcock	Sara Mayer
Maureen McCool	Paddy Cullen	Sara Boranga
Maureen Steele	Pam Hunter	Sarah d'Arcy
Meegan Cullen	Patricia Walsh	Sean Corrigan
Melissa Newman	Paul Longva	Sean Fitzjohn
Melissa Wood	Paul Kaplan	shanna baxter
Michael Farnell	Paula Dugmore	Shannon Walsh
Michael Graham	Penelope Carrier	Shanon Bell
Michael Marnane	Peter Criddle	Sharon Drabsch
Michael McGown	Peter Henderson	Sharon Lucas
Michael Wasiliev	Peter Moore	Sharon Woods
Michelle Connors	Peter Newman	Shelley De Campe
Michelle Priest	Phil Hoar	shirley Knight
Michelle Brooks	Philippa Neary	Shubham Agarwal
Michelle Moffat	Pip Thomson	Simon White
Michelle Ross	Rachel Fry	Sonia Ackhurst
Mick Alchin	Rae Price	Sophie Chorley
Mierk Zabiello	Randie Graham	Sophie kocev
Miguel Pez	Rebecca Purchon	Sophie Terrassin
Mike Heenan	Renee Mouritz	Stacey Anderson
Miranda kippert-hughes	Rhea Pfeifle	Stella Greer
Mitzi Drysdale	Rhys Brooks	Stéphane Davoine
Monique Barker	Richard Ingram	Stephen Bullied
Murray Johnson	Richard Maurer	Stephen Cox
Nadia Aurisch	Richard McGinty	Stephen Young
Nadine Jaeger	Rob Clifton	Stephen Yuen
Natalie Mollett	Rob Grant	Steve Dreher
Natasha Graebner-Braun	Rob Rowe	Steve Rigby
Nathalie Casal	Robert Broomhall	Sucy Varughese
Nathalie Serin	Romola Brennan	Sue Ganz
Nathan Steele	Rosalie Schultz	Sue Helfgott
Nell Thayne	Rosamund Downing	Sue Lafferty
Nga Holmes	Rosanne Munro	Sue Taylor
Nicholas Fredman	Rosemary Waycott	Suellen Redapple
Nicola Dawes	Ross Bryan	Susan Boyland

## The Wilderness Society Ltd – Let's Fix the System Campaign

Name of submitter		
Susan Arthur	Thomas Dreher	Veronica Reid
Susan Clarke	Tim Vidler	Vicki Dimond
Susan Rice	Toby Collins	Virginia Hanna
Susette Pow	Tom Evans	Vivian Rowney
Suzanne Wijsman	Tom Wilson	Vlado Priskich
Sylvia Iajs	Tomas Lourenco	Wayne Cherrington
Tamala Atkinson	Tracy Skippings	Wendy Dugmore
Tamara Levy	Travis Williams	William Marshall
Tancredi Rubinich	Tricia O'Reilly	William Taylor
Taryn Haynes	Val Bedford	Wilma Van
Terry Opie	Valerie Law	Winsome Dockter
Theres Dreher	Vanessa White	Zara Mclver
Theresa Cromb		