

# HOW WE CAN DEFEND THE WILD

Habitat destruction and greenhouse gas emissions caused by fossil fuel production and animal agriculture, marine destruction caused by global warming, plastic pollution and the fishing and aquaculture industries all harm biodiversity and precious wildlife.

Here's how we can help Defend the Wild:

## INDIGENOUS LAND RIGHTS

Climate justice, the protection of wildlife and Indigenous land rights can only be achieved together. A treaty must be established between government and First Nations people, with genuine and meaningful land rights returned to their rightful owners. Further, Traditional Indigenous permaculture practices are vital in redesigning our current, unsustainable food system.

## COMPASSIONATE CONSERVATION

Compassionate conservation aims to promote and establish new pathways in conservation that enable positive coexistence between humans and nature. It recognises the inherent value of every wild animal, whether they are a native species or not, facilitating open dialogue with the objective of shaping kinder conservation practices for all free living animals.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

In the future, most Australian energy will come from wind and solar PV, the most affordable tech. Any remaining supply gaps would be filled by on-demand renewables and storage, like concentrating solar thermal with storage, pumped hydro, batteries (grid and domestic), sustainable bioenergy and more. A renewable energy system will be pivotal in raising standards of living for the middle class.

## REDUCTION IN GLOBAL PLASTIC USE

Trying to eradicate our waste is deeply important for the planet. Some reusable alternatives to invest in while working for systemic change include reusable shopping and produce bags, long-lasting food and drink packaging, personal care and kitchen products. Bio-based replacements to fossil-fuel derived plastics will help us transition from towards more sustainable alternatives, like hemp and mycelium.

# AN OFTEN IGNORED SOLUTION

## A JUST TRANSITION TO PLANT-BASED AGRICULTURE

The animal industrial complex is one of the leading contributors to deforestation, habitat destruction, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity loss and species endangerment in the country.

A transition away from animal-based agriculture is undoubtedly a complex endeavour, and farmers should not be burdened with the responsibility of revolutionising our current food system without appropriate support and financial assistance from governing institutions.

The establishment of government assistance programs to support farmers transitioning from animal-based farming to sustainable alternatives is critically needed to protect this land and the wildlife that belong to it. Such a transition should be designed and led by First Nations people.

## DOING OUR PART

By choosing more sustainable and ethical foods and fashion materials, we can help to protect wildlife:

### ANIMAL-FREE PROTEIN

Cultured meat is real meat grown directly from stem cells, eliminating the need to slaughter animals and reducing the need for farmland and subsequent emissions and land clearing. These are still developing.

Plant-based meat made from soy, pea protein and other plant proteins are currently available. Meanwhile, traditional alternatives are generally created with mostly whole food ingredients like vegetables, legumes and whole grains.

### ANIMAL-FREE FASHION

Choosing total ethics, sustainable alternatives to leather, wool, cashmere, down and other animal materials benefits the planet. Opt for bio-based and recycled leather alternatives, sustainably sourced cotton, hemp, and Tencel over leather and wool.

Too, the planet and wildlife greatly benefit from us buying less, buying better, and buying pre-loved. Before buying new clothing, ask if you really need it, and if you'll love it for years to come.

**LEARN MORE AND TAKE ACTION: [DEFENDTHEWILD.ORG](https://defendthewild.org)**

