



A Climate Act for WA is essential, and any climate legislation would be a step in the right direction. Below is an overview of key principles for good climate legislation in WA.

1. Objects and guiding principles

- a. The primary object of the Act should reflect the goal of the Paris Agreement - the need to limit the increase in global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- b. Further objects should include facilitating a “just transition” to a zero-emissions economy (including transitioning the energy sector away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy).

2. Strong, enforceable emissions targets with timeframes

- a. Emissions targets should be set by reference to a carbon budget reflecting WA’s fair share of the remaining budget for limiting warming to 1.5°C. Experts recommend that to save assets like Ningaloo Reef, the target needs to be at least a 74 per cent reduction in emissions below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2035.
- b. Consistent with the principle of non-regression, there should be a clear mechanism for targets to be made more ambitious, and prevent targets from being weakened.

3. Rights and duties

- a. The Minister for Climate Action should be given a clear and enforceable duty to ensure or take reasonable steps to meet legislated targets.
- b. To support this, the Act should require that government decision-makers (including the EPA and decision-makers under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)*) consider climate and must act consistently with legislated objects, budgets and targets in the Act.
- c. Ultimately, the Act should give Western Australians a justiciable right to a safe climate and a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

4. Expert advisory

- a. WA needs a independent expert body to advise the Government and the Parliament on the implementation of the Act, which should include scientific experts and representation of First Nations Peoples and knowledge-holders.
- b. This statutory body should also be given functions to coordinate transition planning and implementation, including consulting on and establishing a plan for a rapid and just transition for affected communities and workers, in the context of an environmental justice framework.

5. Monitoring, reporting and verification

- a. Budgets, emissions reduction plans and other instruments under the Act should be notified in the Gazette, presented to both Houses of Parliament, and made publicly available online.
- b. Advice and reporting from the expert statutory body should also be publicly available.
- c. The Act should provide for regular State of the Climate reporting.

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