



MEDIA RELEASE - Thursday, 22 April 2021

Actions we can implement on Earth Day to make the world a better place.

Climate change is occurring at an alarming rate and has many broad-reaching impacts on human health, the economy, and the stability of the natural environment. Increased emissions of greenhouse gases that trap heat and block it from escaping the atmosphere drive significant global disruption to climate systems as we know them. More frequent and intense bushfires, droughts, storms, heatwaves, rising sea levels, and warming oceans wreak havoc on people's livelihoods and communities and are directly threatening native wildlife and the habitats in which they live.

For example, research has shown that temperature extremes (42.0°C) impact Australia's flying-foxes and the ecosystem services they provide. Another example is the mountain pygmy-possum, where warmer temperatures fragment and thin the winter snow cover, reducing the insulation capacity and exposing the pygmy-possums to colder temperatures, making it harder for them to survive the winter.

The **President of the Australian Wildlife Society, Doctor Julie Old**, said "In honour of Earth Day today, we are asking you to join us in our mission to protect Australia's wildlife and natural habitats. We must work together to implement sustainable change, and we must do it promptly. By making small but significant changes in our lifestyle, buying choices, voting preferences and actions, we **CAN** create real change."

Here are some of the actions you can implement this Earth Day:

1. Use less plastic,
2. Eat a plant-based dinner,
3. Plant a tree,
4. [Contact the Prime Minister](#) to congratulate him on allocating \$539.2 million to clean energy projects to help mitigate climate change,
5. Learn about the wildlife in your backyard,
6. Think about your commute options, car-pool, use public transport, cycle etc.,
7. [Become a member](#) of the Australian Wildlife Society to protect native Australian wildlife,
8. Keep domestic pets indoors to ensure the safety of our precious wildlife,
9. Sign our [#SnipRingsforWildlife ePetition](#) to advocate against native wildlife becoming entangled in ring-shaped items, and
10. For more ideas, visit our [website](#) or check out our [sustainable living](#) video.

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