



AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS!

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We have observed and/or experienced extreme weather events, flooding and earthquakes. Greenhouse emissions are gases that trap heat in the earth's atmosphere and are responsible for a warming climate, particularly in Australia. These changes have threatened the life of several species such as flying foxes and microbats. These animals have a narrow range of optimum temperature and are therefore sensitive to the impacts of climate change, particularly heat stress.

What is sustainability?

The Australian Wildlife Society believes that as individuals we need to avoid depletion of the earth's natural resources, such as water, vegetation, wildlife and energy, to ensure that we maintain healthy ecosystem functioning.

Threats to Australia's natural resources

Sadly, a variety of factors have led to the exploitation of natural resources, most of which already exist in limited amounts.

Environmental pollution

Environmental pollution is caused by companies that produce and use chemicals and plastics in their manufacturing processes. The

chemicals leak into soil and water systems and alter and destroy the composition of natural resources and its inhabitants, such as marine life. We are experiencing a plastic pollution epidemic at present. Each Australian generates 27 kg of plastic waste each year, of which approximately 2–5 percent ends up in our oceans. Plastic is designed to last forever, is often single-use and harms wildlife and natural ecosystems.

Urban development

The creation of new industries and infrastructure in Australia requires a great deal of natural resources such as land, energy and water. In most cases, urban development encroaches on the natural environment and destroys vegetation and wildlife.

Climate change

Climate change is a reality! We cannot continue to exploit natural resources and expect that our impact won't alter the functioning of natural ecosystems.

Agricultural practices

Agriculture is currently the fourth largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia, responsible for 13 percent of Australia's emissions (Australian Government 2017). Agricultural activities have increased due to increasing demand for food and export industries, with almost 83 percent of Queensland being used for agricultural production.

Agricultural activities are increasingly leading to the degradation of natural resources, as land is often cleared for agricultural practices to take place.

Water Quality

Australia is the driest inhabited continent on the earth and one of the world's largest consumers of water – we use more than 1 million litres of water per capita per year. Around 75 percent

SWAP:



30-min shower



4-min shower

Let's be conscious of our water usage and aim for water security and sustainability.

MAKE USE OF ALTERNATIVES & SWAP:



Plastic rings



Peel & seal lids

Opt for an eco-friendly alternative to plastic rings and proactively choose 'lift & peel seals'. This is our buying power!

SWAP:



Daily meat intake



Meat-free Monday's

Attempt meatless Mondays, if you're a big meat eater. Your body will feel better for it and so will the environment.

of this water is used for irrigation, and urban and industrial use accounts for around 20 percent. Droughts have highlighted the important part water plays in our way of life. Water is a precious resource and despite Australia's best efforts to "stop the drop" there are still many easy ways we can help to save water.

Increasing population and modern lifestyle

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2019), Australia's population grew by 1.6 percent during the year ending 31 March 2019. Human

population growth is expected to continue on an upward trajectory. As the number of people increases, so does the demand for natural resources. Not only that, but our lifestyle of high consumption in a globalised economy requires vast resources and produces greenhouse gas emissions. This level of consumption places immense pressure on Australia's natural resources. Due to the advanced way of life, more resources are needed to meet human demand. We consume a considerable amount of energy using vehicles, electronics in the home, and during recreational activity. This increased

consumption has led to high demand for fossil fuels and energy production, which will ultimately result in the depletion of these natural resources.

Natural resources continue to be destroyed at an alarming rate, and now it is time to act!

Conservation of Australia's natural resources

In 1909, the Wild Life Preservation Society of Australia (now known as Australian Wildlife Society) saw the need for environmental protection and preservation of natural resources, especially the protection of Australia's unique wildlife (flora and fauna). Today, the conservation of Australia's environment and natural resources is regulated by federal and state laws and local bylaws. There are protected areas in all states and territories that have been created to protect and preserve Australia's unique ecosystems that include national parks and other reserves, as well as 64 wetlands, which are registered under the Ramsar Convention, and 16 World Heritage Sites. However, due to the ever-increasing threats as outlined above, what we are currently doing is not enough, and we need to act now before it is too late.

By making small but significant changes in our lifestyle and buying choices, we CAN create real impacts and safeguard Australia's future.

- If everyone in Australia requested 100 percent renewable electricity on their power bill, we would force our electricity providers to invest in renewables, with or without a change in government policy. This action is probably the single most powerful thing you can do to bring down Australia's carbon emissions.
- We can reduce reliance on our cars by cycling, walking, using public transport, car-pooling and planning to minimise car trips will make an enormous difference to our petrol emissions. We can also look into choosing hybrid or electric cars, provided the electricity used to charge it is renewable. When flying by aeroplane, pay for the carbon offset if possible. Alternatively, we could fly less or use an alternate mode of transportation entirely.
- We can reduce our reliance on animals in agriculture by cutting back our consumption of meat, dairy and plant and/or animal fibres.

This will significantly reduce our emissions of methane. If you chose not to adopt a whole food plant-based lifestyle, try having a meat-free Monday if you are a big consumer of meat. Buy organic food, clothing and cosmetics to support agriculture that has fewer emissions than conventional agriculture.

- As individuals, we can express our dissatisfaction with the continued mining of fossil fuels, either by writing to our MPs and ministers. At the same time, we can express our support for and investment in industries powered by renewable energy.
- We can produce less waste and live within our means. Only purchase items that we need and grow products at home where possible.
Overall, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
- We can choose sustainably sourced wood and plant fibres for furniture, building materials and household items, or buy second-hand, and we can choose organic food products when buying produce. This is our buying power!
- We can reduce our water usage by watering during permitted hours, taking shorter showers, washing clothes when we have a full load and fixing any dripping taps.
- We can implement environmentally friendly alternatives to plastic such as using glass jars, paper straws, bamboo cutlery, eco-friendly and reusable coffee cups and shampoo bars as opposed to plastic shampoo bottles.
- The opportunities are endless, and we need to take the next step and act! Let's safeguard Australia's future and take action together starting TODAY!

The Australian Wildlife Society has already implemented the action of becoming a 'paperless society'. We are committed to reducing our waste.

Shortly, the Australian Wildlife Society intends to:

1. Continue going ZERO WASTE! Our partner, Zero Co, has officially gone live with their crowdfunding campaign! They've got an audacious mission to eliminate single-use plastic packaging from every Aussie kitchen, laundry and bathroom and



We need to reduce the negative impact of plastic on wildlife and the environment for a sustainable future.

we are on board. The best news is that they are giving us \$5 from every \$129 Starter Box if you buy one using our referral link below. Together, we can win the war on waste! <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/zeroco/zero-co-win-the-war-on-waste-at-your-place?ref=3a8zj6>

2. Educate the community and the younger generation on the importance of wildlife conservation. We are offering complimentary

membership to school students in the hope that students will explore and develop a deeper understanding of environmental issues, engage in problem-solving, gain skills to make informed decisions and take action to improve the environment.

Q1. What is one sustainable action you will implement today?

Q2. What are two sustainable actions you intend to implement in the near future?



AWS and ZERO CO. Partnership Starter Box. Let's go zero waste together.