

3 May 2019

Mr Des Boyland
Policies and Campaigns Manager
Wildlife Preservation Society Queensland

Dear Mr Boyland,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Coalition on important issues facing your members. A response to your questions is attached.

This election will have real consequences for Australia's economy and our future.

Despite global headwinds, our economy is strong. This year, for the first time in more than a decade, the Government will deliver a Budget surplus.

A stronger economy means we can deliver on our plans to:

1. Create 1.25 million more jobs over the next five years.
2. Maintain budget surpluses and pay down debt.
3. Deliver tax relief to encourage and reward hard working Australians.
4. Guarantee increased investments for schools, hospitals and roads.
5. Keep Australians safe and our borders secure.

The alternative at this election is Mr Shorten. Labor's risky agenda includes billions of dollars of higher taxes – on retirees, housing, incomes, investments, family businesses, electricity and more.

Thank you for communicating our response to your members.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Hirst
Federal Director

MORRISON GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

The Morrison Government will continue the Coalition's strong record of supporting practical and meaningful environmental action that gets results.

Australia's iconic environment is part of our national identity and we are committed to protecting and preserving it for future generations.

We believe that protecting and restoring the environment is best achieved by working in partnership with the community, landcare groups, small and large businesses, Indigenous communities, farmers and scientists.

The Coalition has been working hard to protect our threatened plants and animals. We appointed Australia's first Threatened Species Commissioner in 2014 and launched the Threatened Species Strategy in 2015. Since 2014, over \$425 million has been mobilised for over 1,300 projects to protect and recover populations of threatened species which contains a commitment to turn around population trajectories for 20 mammals, 20 birds and 30 plants by 2020.

Under the Morrison Government, Australia's emissions are currently at their lowest level on a per capita and GDP basis in 28 years. Australia contributes to just over 1 per cent of global emissions. The Morrison Government is committed to Australia continuing to play its part in reducing emissions.

The Morrison Government's 2030 target to reduce emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels is responsible and achievable. This target will see a reduction in emissions per person halve by 2030. This is one of the strongest efforts among G20 countries. This represents a balanced approach to reducing emissions and with the impacts of climate change.

The Morrison Government's Climate Solutions Package is a comprehensive, fully costed, \$3.5 billion plan, over the next decade to deliver on Australia's 2030 emissions reduction targets.

Our plan includes:

- A \$2 billion climate solutions fund to reduce greenhouse gases across the economy through the existing Emissions Reduction Fund, giving farmers, small businesses and Indigenous communities the chance to improve the environment and benefit from new revenue opportunities.
- Investments in a high-tech expansion of the Snowy Mountains Scheme and a second interconnector, Marinus Link, between Victoria and Tasmania. This will deliver more affordable, reliable power to the National Electricity Market, reducing prices for Australian families and businesses while keeping the lights on.
- Helping households and businesses to lower energy bills. By the middle of 2019, over 800,000 Australian families and small business will benefit from electricity prices falling by up to \$900 and the ban on sneaky late payment fees.

Investing in new reliable power generation

The Morrison Government is backing investment in new power generation – improving competition by underwriting new reliable energy.

As recommended by the ACCC, our Underwriting New Generation Investments program will lower prices, increase competition and boost reliability.

The Government has selected a shortlist of 12 projects – six renewable pumped hydro, five gas and one coal upgrade. Together, they represent around 4,000 megawatts of new generation (the equivalent of powering one million homes). Importantly, the projects deliver a balance of renewable, affordable and reliable power for families and businesses and ensure we meet our 2030 targets.

This program builds on the Government’s investments in Australia’s world-class, reliable hydroelectricity with Snowy 2.0 and Battery of the Nation.

Supporting businesses and community groups to reduce energy use and costs

An Energy Efficient Communities Program will provide \$50 million through more than 2,500 grants to eligible businesses and community organisations.

This support will help them save energy and reduce their power bills by installing new equipment or reviewing and improving their energy management. Eligible small businesses will be able to claim grants of up to \$20,000, high-energy using businesses up to \$25,000 and community groups up to \$12,500.

We have invested \$11.7 million in the Business Energy Advice Program, delivering practical advice to help small businesses get better energy deals and increase energy efficiency. Small businesses will also be able to access a \$30,000 instant asset write-off to purchase new energy-efficient equipment.

Environment Restoration Fund

The Morrison Government has committed \$100 million in the 2019-20 Budget to a new Environment Restoration Fund to support major environmental projects that deliver lasting conservation benefits. This is the type of investment that is only made possible through a strong economy and responsible budget management. The fund builds on our \$1 billion National Landcare Program.

Funding will be provided for a broad range of environmental restoration and protection projects, built around three key priorities:

- Cleaning up and protecting Australia’s coasts, oceans and waterways.
- Protecting threatened and migratory species and their habitats.
- Increasing recycling and reducing waste.

Cleaner and greener local communities

We understand that local communities are often best placed to implement effective environmental protection and management.

The Morrison Government has committed more than \$22 million to give communities new opportunities to protect and care for their local environment. Through the Communities Environment Program, each Federal electorate will receive up to \$150,000 in 2019-20 for community-led projects that deliver real environmental benefits.

We will also invest \$30 million in a pilot Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Fund to pay farmers for projects which boost biodiversity and carbon. This will reward farmers for biodiversity, bush, tree guards and dams they've fenced off.

Supporting sustainable development and environmental education

The Morrison Government has committed \$50 million in the 2019-20 Budget towards the establishment of new world-leading environment research and education facilities.

We will contribute \$25 million towards a National Centre for Coasts, Environment and Climate within the Quarantine station precinct at Port Nepean. This contribution supports Monash University and the University of Melbourne in establishing a facility where Australian and international researchers and students can better understand the pressures of population growth and climate change on temperate coastal ecosystems like Port Phillip Bay.

We will invest \$25 million in the development of the \$40 million Harry Butler Environmental Education Centre at Murdoch University. The ground breaking Centre will promote the positive partnership of economic development and a healthy, sustainable environment.

Conserving Antarctica

The Morrison Government is committed to ensuring Australia remains a leader in Antarctica. We are strengthening Tasmania as the premier gateway and scientific research hub for East Antarctica.

We are investing \$450 million over the next 10 years to upgrade Australia's Antarctic research station network and infrastructure – effectively tripling the investment in Antarctic infrastructure to support our science.

This will bring our investment in Antarctica to a record level of around \$2.8 billion including:

- \$1.9 billion towards a new icebreaker.
- \$45 million over 10 years for overland traverse capabilities.
- \$210 million over 10 years for additional funding for our Antarctic operations.
- \$107 million over 11 years for Antarctic research initiatives.
- \$50 million for a new research station on Macquarie Island.