

TANGNEY ELECTORATE: Sitting Liberal candidate Hon. Ben Morton MP

Appreciation of, and support for local bushland and groups:

I share your concern about our local environment, and I think that the foreshore and river environments are one of Tangney's' greatest assets. I also care about the status of our threatened species, the vulnerability of our local bird population and the protection of bird habitats in Tangney. I think we all take a lot of pleasure from the local birdlife, including the presence of Carnaby Cockatoos (despite their screeching calls!), around Tangney.

That is why I have partnered with a number of local environmental groups to get some funding for projects that will see real, tangible improvements to the Swan and Canning Rivers.

This includes:

- \$250,000 to build the Nurdi Park Living Stream in Riverton, which filters storm water collected around the area and improves the water quality for water
- Funding marine debris mapping and clean-up action days at Point Walter Beach and Shelley Beach Park with Tangaroa Blue.
- Shelley foreshore stormwater pipe transformation project. Cutting off stormwater pipes directing straight into the Canning River and cleaning toxic fertilisers and oil through natural filtration swales. (Partnering with the Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association)
- Improving the biodiversity of Bannister Creek in Lynwood, by funding weed management and planting of local provenance seedlings with the Bannister Creek Catchment Group.
- Funding for Wirambi Landcare to remove weeds, replant with locally native species, and educate the community about bat species presence and water quality through three community event days.
- Funding for osprey nesting poles with the Friends of Attadale Foreshore.

More than that, I'm very excited to partner with Liberal Candidate for Swan, Kristy McSweeney, in the Prime Minister's announcement that a re-elected Morrison Government will provide \$22 million for restoration works and recreational projects along the key Perth waterways. This would see \$10 million injected into developing a Canning waterways restoration plan, to be delivered in collaboration between the cities of Gosnells, Canning and Armadale along with Landcare Group.

Nature Laws - Stronger national laws protecting nature:

The EPBC Act is one of the many great legacies of the Howard Government and is this country's central piece of environmental legislation.

The Morrison Government is committed to continuing this strong focus on environmental protection. However, it is time to ensure the Act is serving its intent to both protect our environment and grow our economy as we move through the COVID-19 crisis.

We need to make sure we have strong environment laws that actually protect the environment. If they are not effective but add costs and burden onto business, then by definition that is green-tape.

Professor Graeme Samuel released an interim report into his review of the EPBC Act in June 2020 and the final report was released to the public on 28 January 2021 ([Samuels review](#))

[final report](#)) . The Government is committed to working through the full detail of the recommendations with stakeholders.

Professor Samuels found that “the EPBC Act results in duplication with state and territory environment laws and that the Commonwealth process for assessing and approving developments is slow, complex to navigate and costly for business. Slow and cumbersome regulation results in significant additional costs for business, with little appreciable benefit for the environment.”

The report calls for a “sensible and staged pathway for the change and reform process” that ensures the Act delivers better outcomes for the environment will allowing a sensible approach to meeting Australia’s future development needs.

Professor Samuel has held over 100 meetings over twelve months in addition to round table discussions and other stakeholder sessions, and listened to voices across the country including scientists, business, environment groups, state and territory governments, and Indigenous Australians.

The Morrison Government is committed to implementing streamlined environmental assessment processes to reduce regulatory burden, promote economic activity and deliver better environmental outcomes. As a first step to improving our environmental laws and implementing the National Cabinet decision, which was agreed by all states and territories to move to a single touch model for environmental approvals, the government has introduced the *Streamlining Environmental Approvals Bill* and the *Standards and Assurance Bill* to Parliament.

While the Labor Party and the Greens do not support these strategic reforms, the Morrison Government has continued to work with the states and territories and other stakeholders to deliver the single touch model for environmental approvals, which will support stronger economic growth and environmental protections.

As already flagged, **the Commonwealth is committed to national standards, to a single touch approval process, rigorous assurance monitoring for bilateral agreements, the modernisation of indigenous cultural heritage protection and the exploration of market-based solutions for habitat restoration.**

Cutting Green Tape is not about removing protection for the environment - it is about getting rid of unnecessary delays - delays that currently cost environmental groups, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars.

In February this year Minister Ley and I announced the Government is investing more than \$47 million to slash green tape by expanding the ground-breaking Digital Environmental Assessment Program and remove duplication across Commonwealth and state and territory regulatory systems. This expands on the current pilot in Western Australia. More information is in our [Media Release](#).

We are getting congestion out of the system and we will continue to do so as the economy recovers. But we will also continue to ensure that our environment is protected and that proponents comply with environmental legislation.

Will you support a ban on clearing their habitat? Editor’s note: No response.

Will you commit to ending clearing and the net loss of vegetation cover (deforestation) in WA and in Australia? Editor’s note: No response.

Threatened species

Since 2014, the Australian Government has mobilised over \$650 million for projects supporting outcomes for threatened species and threatened ecological communities. The Threatened Species Strategy 2021-2031 is the Australian Government's way forward for prioritising action and investment, setting the direction for efforts to recover our threatened plants, animals and ecological communities over the next ten years. The first Action Plan supports 20 priority threatened birds such as Red-tailed Black-cockatoo (south-eastern), Malleefowl and Red Goshawk. Recovery actions for many of the priority species will also benefit other threatened species that share their habitat.

The Government's work to modernise conservation planning will ensure that the most appropriate planning tool is used to guide the conservation and recovery of threatened species. Conservation advices are an effective plan for many threatened species; they are responsive and more readily updated to reflect new information and emergency situations, they provide regulators with timely, targeted information that delivers tangible actions for species recovery and they guide on-ground recovery actions and investment by the Australian Government. Recovery plans will continue to be an important conservation tool to guide recovery efforts for threatened species where a particularly complex and coordinated planning response is required. The Committee's approach to conservation planning can be found in their ['Ongoing modernisation of conservation planning under the EPBC Act'](#).

The Morrison Government will invest \$128.5 million over 4 years from 2022-23 to deliver improved environmental outcomes, and support economic recovery and job creation through more efficient assessment processes.

These Budget measures include \$62.3 million to establish a regional planning scheme to deliver up to 10 regional plans in priority development regions. These will protect areas of environmental significance, streamline development and manage cumulative impacts. To support environmental decision making \$4.9 million will be invested to review and update protected species and ecological communities data.

Action on Climate Change

Australia is playing our part in responding to the critical global challenge of climate change. Our Government is acting to deliver net zero emissions by 2050, in a responsible way that will ensure we create more Australian jobs.

Our Plan is built upon five principles:

- Technology, not taxes.
- Expand choices, not mandates.
- Drive down the costs of new technologies.
- Keep energy prices down with affordable and reliable power.
- Be accountable for progress.

Australia has a strong record of beating our emissions targets. Since 2005, Australia's emissions have fallen by 20% – more than the USA, Canada and New Zealand.

We are on track to reduce emissions by up to 35% by 2030 – beating our commitments.

You can find out more about our plan at [Australia's climate change strategies | Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources](#)