

Climate Resilience

WACOSS welcomes investment for building climate resilience. State budget investments in the Forest Management Plans and Plan for our Parks initiatives offer a meaningful effort towards improving land management. The majority of climate funding has been allocated towards climate adaptation, with a clear gap in mitigation funding.

Initiative	Environmental Approvals Reform – Cross Governmental Triage Team (BP2, V2, P673)
Investment	\$4.4 million over four Years
Description	<p>The State Government has committed funding towards an overhaul of Western Australia’s environmental approval systems.</p> <p>The Department is increasing the number of reform officers to the Approvals Reform Team’s capacity to accelerate delivery. The Department is also setting up a Cross-Government Triage Team which will work with other agencies to accelerate approvals timeframes and processes.</p>
Implications	<p>This should be about improving the process of assessment, not shortcutting processes for ‘approvals’. We would like to see it improve environmental approval processes for sustainability efforts in Western Australia. WACOSS acknowledges the role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should play in approval processes, due to a strong connection to land and country. First Nations people should be consulted prior to any environmental based development.</p>

Initiative	Perth and Peel Urban Greening Strategy (BP2, V2, P718)
Investment	\$2.9 million over 2024-25
Description	<p>The strategy will ensure initiatives are coordinated and complement any existing greening programs, such as Waterwise Perth and the Urban Greening Grants programs.</p> <p>Development of the strategy is led by the Western Australian Planning Commission and will explore various elements aimed at enhancing tree canopy and creating more green spaces across the Perth and Peel regions.</p>
Implications	<p>The planting of trees and greening for metropolitan areas can drastically reduce surface temperature and reduce heat related illness within the community. There has been through community consultation, and it is anticipated this process will improve planning on urban greenery.</p>

Initiative	Cockburn Sound State Environmental Policy (BP2, V2, P673)
Investment	\$3 million over three years
Description	This funding will go towards updating the State Environmental Policy for the protection of the Cockburn Sound environmental values and associated cultural and social values. This update will leverage the Government's investment into a comprehensive program of scientific studies undertaken through the Western Australian Marine Science Institution's Westport Marine Science Program, which provides a contemporary understanding of the Cockburn Sound environment.
Implications	This funding will improve the catchment area that has historical environmental degradation, due to over-industrialisation.

Initiative	Climate Science Initiative (BP2, V2, P673 & BP3, P149)
Investment	\$850,000 over three years
Description	The Government has approved an additional \$850,000 over 2024-25 and 2025-26 for Stage 3 of the Climate Science Initiative. Aims to develop a mid-range climate change projection scenario and to extend funding for data storage and research partnerships utilised to produce climate change projections for Western Australia.
Implications	Aims to develop a mid-range climate change projection scenario and to extend funding for data storage and research partnerships utilised to produce climate change projections for Western Australia. This project is originally funded by the Climate Action Fund and only has minimal funding for the foreseeable future.

Initiative	Native Vegetation Policy Implementation (BP2, V2, P673)
Investment	\$3 million over three years
Description	To continue the implementation of the Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia, additional funding of \$3.1 million has been allocated over 2024-25 to 2026-27 to extend staff resourcing of seven FTEs.
Implications	With the right state-wide and regional policy settings, the State Government can better enable all sectors to contribute to a net gain in native vegetation and landscape-scale conservation and restoration. Regional planning for native vegetation will clarify native vegetation objectives and priorities, and ensuring individual decisions count towards

	strategic goals such as connectivity and resilience.
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Initiative	Understanding How Climate Change Impacts on Western Australians Water Resources (BP2, V2, P673)
Investment	\$6.1 million over four years
Description	This funding is going towards communicating climate science and guidance for the water sector and making climate projection data accessible. This will also include investments in hydroclimate research and developing new communication tools.
Implications	This funding may improve understanding around climate science and water impacts. However, the vague nature of the funding does not clarify where this will be directed and the intents of this funding beyond general understanding.

Initiative	Plan for our Parks (BP2, V2, P697)
Investment	\$73 million
Description	Building on prior investment in the Plan for Our Parks program, this funding will provide 56 new roles and the creation of five million hectares of new conservation estates. It will also support the implementation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements.
Implications	This funding is valuable for ensuring that parks are sustainable and culturally appropriate. It aids in building WA towards a greener future.