



## **WA FOREST ALLIANCE**

2nd December 2020

### **WA Labor's recent Climate Policy 'deeply embarrassing', says Wafa. On the world stage and in front of future generations, West Australians are hanging our heads in shame.**

"The McGowan Government's recent climate policy is hopelessly inadequate," said Wafa's campaign director, Jess Beckerling.

"This was a key opportunity for WA to get our climate mitigation and adaptation on track, and it's been squandered. WA already had a terrible reputation on climate, and this policy has only made things worse.

"We are the only State in Australia where emissions continue to rise. We needed a policy with a clear target to achieve zero emissions by 2050 at the very latest, with interim targets along the way and legally binding mechanisms for ensuring that we stay on track.

"Instead, we got a policy that reads like one long preamble, sugarcoated with friendly language that never really faces the reality that we must be rapidly phasing out fossil fuels and protecting the native forests.

"Some of the key ideas in the policy are good - such as an electric vehicle charging network and a huge battery - and it rehashes several other commitments that have already been made, but if you're going to release a climate policy you really need to talk with some substance about a robust plan for phasing out fossil fuels and protecting native forests and other carbon stores.

"It's kind of like a lung cancer prevention policy that refuses to mention cigarettes. Why wouldn't you mention cigarettes? Whose interests are you protecting?

"Wafa will continue to press for native forests to be fully protected for climate and biodiversity. The IUCN has shown that one-third of the climate mitigation we need can come from forest protection.

"Here in WA, where we have some of the most carbon dense forests on Earth, and we have a huge responsibility to draw down carbon, especially given our massive contribution of emissions every year. To do so the most obvious thing we can do is protect our forests from logging and clearing.

"Protecting native forests from logging has the potential to prevent up to 60 million tonnes of CO2 being emitted over the next 10 years. This is a massive amount of carbon - the equivalent of taking 1.2 million cars off the roads - and we can do it right now," said Ms Beckerling.

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