

Nature & Climate



JUNE 2020 – Court case launched to save Lake Malbena

In our continuing work to protect Lake Malbena we launched a Supreme Court challenge to assess the underlying process that would allow private development in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. **Update:** the Supreme Court recently found in our favour!



Halls Island in Lake Malbena | Grant Dixon.



Loggerhead turtles at Ningaloo | Jenita Enevoldsen.

AUGUST 2020 – A big win! Ningaloo, Gutharraguda/Shark Bay safe once more

Our supporters delivered a huge win for the protection of World Heritage-listed Ningaloo and Gutharraguda/Shark Bay. Nearly 7,000 community members signed our submission opposing oil and gas expansion near these important marine icons, forcing the government to withdraw the proposed exploration sites.

[Read the full story](#)

SEPTEMBER 2020 – Queensland's Land Restoration Fund rolls out

After a concerted campaign effort, in 2017 the Queensland Government committed to implementing a \$500m Land Restoration Fund. Funding of pilot projects commenced in 2019 and the first major funding round of over \$90m was released in 2020. This funding round is a crucial step for protecting and restoring biodiversity and the management of the state's carbon emissions. To date, around \$97 million has been injected into 28 projects from the outback to the rainforest, koala habitat, and Great Barrier Reef catchments.



DECEMBER 2020 – Wollemi campaign garners incredible support

Over 15,000 people signed our petition to stop proposed coal mines from happening right on the doorstep of Wollemi National Park and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. And then over 10,000 supporters added their name to our expert submission! The people are clear: new coal mines are madness in the 21st century, let alone anywhere near World Heritage.

APRIL 2021 – We launched '7 ways to protect WA's most valuable natural asset'

The WA team launched a report: 7 ways to protect WA's most valuable natural asset. It formed part of our ongoing campaign to safeguard the state's unique bushland and forests. **Update:** In September 2021 the WA Government declared an end to native forest logging from 2024.

[Watch Campaign Manager Patrick Gardner discuss the report's significance.](#)



JUNE 2021 – Government announces decommissioning levy

We've been raising the alarm on the risks from old offshore fossil fuel infrastructure that urgently needs decommissioning. It's a costly issue the industry was trying to ignore or offload onto the taxpayer. That pressure has worked! We've helped secure a \$1 billion levy on offshore fossil fuel production to pay for existing clean-up bills and legislation to make companies liable into the future. It's a big outcome for our ocean wilderness.

[Read campaigner Tim Beshara's thoughts on what this means for the industry](#)

A southern right whale and her calf swimming at the head of the Great Australian Bight.



Image: Brad Leue Photography.

System change



Australians want real safeguards for nature

In November 2020, Campaigner Suzanne Milthorpe gave evidence to a Senate Inquiry on Australia's failed nature laws, the EPBC Act. In January 2021 the long-awaited Samuel Review into the state of our national nature laws was released. Over 30,000 people made submissions into this review calling for reformed national nature laws. Our expert report outlining the failures of the Regional Forest Agreements helped inform Samuel's recommendation that these decades-long logging deals should be subject to rigorous national standards. Our supporters' hard work in getting submissions into the review ensured many of their concerns were reflected in the final recommendations. And our community leaders' tireless efforts helped ensure that the Morrison Government's devolution agenda to weaken national nature laws is still yet to pass Parliament.

[Watch Suzanne's update on the New Nature Laws campaign](#)

Movement For Life met with the Member for Higgins (Vic), Katie Allen MP. Dr. Allen listened as they outlined their concerns about our ineffective national nature laws.



JANUARY 2021 – K'gari/ Fraser Island fires submission

We continue to keep an eye on K'gari/ Fraser Island, with a recent review of the response to last summer's devastating fires there echoing our calls for nature to be a bigger part of how governments and communities prepare and respond to these events.

FEBRUARY 2021 – After The Fires report

Together with allies, we called for a halt on logging in eastern Victoria's High Conservation Value forests affected by the Black Summer bushfires. This past year, logging re-commenced in green, unburnt forests—refuge for wildlife that survived. We continue to campaign for an end to native forest logging in Victoria to be brought forward from 2030.



Image: Nick Clemann

State elections in Tasmania, Queensland and WA

This past year saw three state polls. In Queensland we backed in strengthened state deforestation laws and expansion of funding for managing land for carbon and biodiversity. In Tasmania we continued to advocate against the privatisation of World Heritage. This forced the two major parties onto the record, and independents supporting the integrity of World Heritage sites. In WA, our community organising teams made it clear to all candidates the importance of protecting high conservation value forests—through the power of story and meetings with MPs.



JUNE 2021 – Nearly 10,000 people oppose the mindless release of fossil fuel exploration acreage

Almost 10,000 people added their names to our submission to the government opposing the release of new fossil fuel acreage, which takes place without public consultation. People are demanding a complete overhaul of this mindless annual handover of more and more of our marine environments to the fossil fuel industry. Because of our early work on this issue, other groups and political parties are also calling for change.

[Watch Campaign Manager Jess Lerch discuss this important work](#)

With the release of exploration acreage off the Twelve Apostles, this illustration formed part of an effective social media campaign.

Community



Emerald Link

Projects took shape across the Emerald Link proposal for East Gippsland, including the development of the Sea To Summit Forest Trail. The Victorian Government committed \$1.5 million to plan and establish the Sea to Summit with scoping for trails underway.

[Read more about how we're delivering this conservation economy project](#)

The Fight for the Pilliga continues

We've been working closely with the Gamilaraay people to protect the Pilliga Forest. Thanks to unwavering commitment from our supporters, the disastrous prospect of coal seam gas in the Pilliga forest remains on the national agenda. Together with the Gamilaraay and For Wild Places we launched the Pilliga Ultra to raise awareness and funds to fight Santos's Narrabri Gas Project. The ultra-run will now take place next March due to COVID, as we continue to stand up for this biodiversity hotspot.

AUGUST 2020 – SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy

The Queensland Government announced a suite of major improvements to the South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy. Well over half of the submissions on the draft Strategy came from Wilderness Society supporters. Faced with the overwhelming power of those collective voices, the government took many of our recommendations on board, including a target to increase vital habitat.



Image: Lily Weinberg.

OCTOBER 2020 – Protecting Home Tree in the Florentine Valley

The community came together to walk deep into the ancient forests of the Florentine Valley, encountering lutruwita's/Tasmania's famous giant trees. Sadly, these trees sit in a logging coupe that was due to be cleared the following summer. After taking people to visit this beautiful forest, and petitioning the Tasmanian Government to protect Home Tree—a 400-year-old stringy bark—logging in the coupe was later suspended.

[Read about this life-saving, magical walk](#)

Members of the public admire Home Tree.



Image: Bill Doyle.

MARCH 2021 – A journey with the Mirning

South Australia Director Peter Owen joined Mirning Elder and Whale Songman, Bunna Lawrie, on an incredible journey to the Mirning's sacred caves on the Nullarbor Plain. We featured Pete's story in Issue #009 of Wilderness Journal.

[Read the full story](#)

Uncle Bunna Lawrie and Peter Owen approach Murrawiginie Cave.

APRIL 2021 – Kooparoona-Niara/Great Western Tiers national park

We called for the establishment of the Kooparoona-Niara/Great Western Tiers national park proposal in lutruwita/Tasmania. If established it would be the state's first First Nations-managed national park that would also involve the national park land being returned to the ownership of the palawa-pakana people.

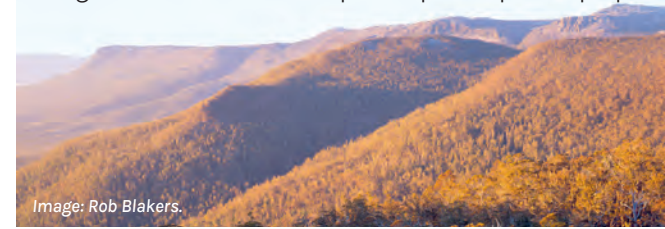


Image: Rob Blakers.

[Read More features.wilderness.org.au/AR-2020-21](#)

