

How to write to your MP

This guide will give you the tips and tricks you need to write an effective letter to your MP. It will also let you know how to structure a letter to your MP, telling them you support our campaign for New Laws for Australia's environment.

On the following page is a template you can use for inspiration and to guide you. You don't have to follow it exactly—in fact, it's better if you personalise it and make it your own!—but it's a good place to start.

Why write to your Federal MP about New Laws?

1. It's the job of your local MP to represent you and the views of people in your electorate. But, if we don't tell them what we care about, they won't act on these things or make changes. It's important that they know what your reasons for caring about the environment are, so they can represent them in Parliament.
2. If we want new, national environment laws, we need Federal MPs to champion this and introduce new legislation—so we need to let them know that everyday Australians care about this.

Tips and tricks

- Be polite and open in your tone, and never use aggressive or threatening language—you are trying to build an ongoing relationship with your MP.
- Let them know **why** you care. The more personal the statement, the better.
- Express appreciation about something positive they've done.
- Use assumptive language based on what you know about your Federal MP, e.g. "as a parent/Victorian/lawyer/doctor (whatever applies to them), I'm sure you care about xyz."
- Ask to hear back from them about what they will do to address your concerns.

[Day Month Year]

[Your name]
[Your street address]
[Suburb, State, Postcode]

[Name of your Federal MP]

[Title of MP]

[Electorate Address]

[Check www.aph.gov.au for the name, electorate address and correct title of your MP.]

Dear [Mr/Ms/Mrs/Minister] _____, [No need for Sir or Madam.]

Subject: The need for new national environmental laws

My name is _____, I've lived in _____ [your suburb] for the past _____ years and I'm a constituent in your electorate of _____.

[Tell them a bit about you—like what you do for work, how you're connected to your local community or if you're part of any local group/s that care about the environment.]

I'm writing to you today because I care deeply about _____.

[Insert the reason you care about the environment: it can be a local issue, a national one (like the Great Barrier Reef), or a more general love for nature and getting out and about in it—like bush walking or spending time at the beach. Tell a personal story of why you care about this issue.]

I'm particularly concerned that Australia's current environmental laws don't protect the beautiful nature I love. _____.

*[Tell your story of how the laws are broken and why you want them fixed. If you need inspiration or examples of this, check out our [Case Studies](#).] **Our current system of environment laws is failing us at the state and federal level.***

We know from government reports like the State of the Environment 2016 that all of Australia's nature is in decline. That's why I am writing to let you know that I want the Federal Government, to take a greater role in making sure we support the environment that supports us.

We need a new, national approach to ensure our environment has a future and I think the Federal Government should lead us in a national vision for how we improve our environment. We need a system where _____.

[Insert an element of the New Laws system that resonates most with you. Some examples are:

- ...there is an authority, like a national EPA, to act as an independent umpire and make decisions over projects on their merits, enforce the law, and audit all the players to make sure that no one is breaking the rules.
- ...community members are central in decisions about our environment—from being involved in national-level planning to having a greater say in projects that affect us.
- ...we have strong and nationally consistent environmental laws that turn around the decline in Australia's nature.]

This change to our environmental laws is important to me because _____
 _____ . [Outline what you are concerned about if the system is not fixed.]

I would like to draw your attention to the work of The Wilderness Society as part of the Places You Love Alliance—a group of over 40 environmental organisations calling for an overhaul of our nation's environment laws and institutions.

Together, we believe in a bold new vision for how we support our environment. The Wilderness Society is supporting the development of a blueprint for the next generation of Australian environmental laws through the work of the Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law (APEEL).

Like so many others in our community, I care deeply about this issue and will be active in promoting this system of new environmental laws, with the aim of ensuring a healthy, functioning and resilient environment for generations to come.

[If you're writing to a Labor MP, consider referring to the report from the Labor Environment Action Network (LEAN), [Environment Laws for the 21st Century](#). LEAN is an advocacy group, inside the Labor Party, pushing for better environmental policies.]

As a member of federal parliament, you have a unique opportunity to promote the protection of our environment through the creation of new laws that will transparently, consistently and comprehensively protect the environment, now and into the future.

As my local member, I'm asking you to take action on this vital campaign.

Will you champion this environmental reform by advocating for these new environmental laws within your political party?

I look forward to hearing your response by _____ *[insert date two weeks from when you send the letter].* **I can be contacted at _____** . *[Insert your email address or phone number.]*

Yours sincerely,
 [Your name]