

Your guide to remembering Wilderness in your will

Thank you for your interest in learning more about how to leave a gift to the Wilderness Society in your Will.

Your interest shows that you're someone with a deep connection to Australia's wild places. But the mission to protect, promote and restore these special wilderness areas will extend well beyond our own lifetime.

This brochure provides some practical information on how to make our unique wild places part of your enduring legacy.

Why make a Will?

If you are 18 years or over, you should have a valid Will. Having a Will allows you to provide for those you care about, and protect them from unnecessary conflict, expense and legal strife in the event of your death.

If you die without a Will, your Estate will be divided according to law and you will have no say in how your assets and personal belongings are distributed.

You should review your Will every few years to ensure it still reflects your wishes. This is particularly important in the event of marriage or divorce, buying a property, the birth of a child, retirement, or the death of a loved one. In Tasmania, for example, divorce and marriage will cancel your Will unless you made it with the event in mind.

As your circumstances change, so should your Will.

How to make a Will

Your Will is likely to be the most important document you will ever sign, so you should consult an expert (such as a solicitor or the Public or State Trustee) to avoid complications or errors.

As a Will is a legal document, it must be dated and two people over the age of 18 must witness your signature. Your witnesses must not be beneficiaries (people who will receive gifts in your Will) or the husband, wife, engaged partner or child of a beneficiary. The same pen must be used throughout the Will and no pages should be stapled together.

Your Will writing checklist – remember to:

- Choose a trusted Executor:** This person will be responsible for carrying out your wishes.

My ideas for Executors:

- Communicate:** Ask your Executor if he/she is willing to accept this responsibility.

- Cooperate:** Seek cooperation from family members now to avoid problems or disputes in the future. Talk to them about your wishes.

What issues might I anticipate with my family?

- List your possessions:** Decide how you would like them to be distributed.

- Tell your family how you feel about organ donation:** They may be required to make decisions about this at short notice.

My organ donation status



If you already have a valid Will and would like to add to it (by making a bequest to the Wilderness Society, for example) you can do so by adding a 'codicil'. This is a legal document which must be signed and witnessed in the same way as your Will. Your solicitor will be able to guide you in adding a codicil to your Will.

Ways to remember Wilderness in your Will	
There are a variety of ways you can make a bequest to the Wilderness Society:	
Residual Bequest:	After providing for loved ones and paying all debts, the remainder of your Estate is left to the Wilderness Society.
Percentage Bequest:	A percentage bequest states that the Wilderness Society will receive a certain predetermined percentage of your Estate.
Cash Bequest:	You may designate that a specific sum of money be given to the Wilderness Society.
Specific Bequest:	You may designate that a specific item such as personal property (eg real estate, artwork, jewellery) be given to the Wilderness Society.
Contingent Bequest:	This is a bequest made on the condition that a certain event occurs before distribution to the beneficiary. For example, you may designate the Wilderness Society as a beneficiary if your spouse passes away before you.
Life Insurance and Superannuation Policies:	The Wilderness Society can be the beneficiary of a life insurance or superannuation policy (subject to the terms of the policy).
In memory donations:	You may request that family and loved ones make a donation to the Wilderness Society Inc in lieu of flowers at your funeral or memorial.
An important note on Property Bequests:	The Wilderness Society welcomes property and land bequests, provided we are given permission to sell the land. Placing a conservation covenant on land ensures that the flora and fauna, water quality and the natural diversity of the land will be protected in perpetuity. Please ask us for advice on how to do this.

Suggested wording for your Will:

To make a bequest to the Wilderness Society Inc, please provide the following wording to your solicitor: *“I bequeath to the Wilderness Society Inc for the purpose of fostering and restoring wilderness in Australia (a specified sum), or (specified items), or (the residue of my estate) free of all duties, and the receipt of the Secretary or other authorised officer for the time being shall be a complete and sufficient discharge for the executor(s).”*

Advising us of your Bequest:

By remembering Wilderness in your Will, you'll be joining a select group of people who we refer to as our Forever Wild supporter group. Members of the group are eligible to participate in special events and activities, such as personalised forest tours or information evenings hosted by our senior campaigners. Forever Wild supporters are also kept up-to-date with exclusive reports on campaigns funded by the Forever Wild Trust.

So, if you do decide to leave a gift to the Wilderness Society in your Will, please contact bequests@wilderness.org.au or phone **1800 030 641** so that way we can stay in touch and thank you personally for your amazing gesture.

Questions for your solicitor:

A note on bequests from our National Campaigns Director

As a father, I'm very conscious that our kids are the ones who are going to have to live with the results of what we choose to do today.

As National Campaigns Director of the Wilderness Society, I've seen first hand how bequests are crucial to achieving amazing environmental outcomes. It took years to see off the threat of a dam on Tasmania's Franklin River, and decades to protect our iconic Great Barrier Reef. By providing stability and allowing long term planning, bequests help to keep the visionary campaigns moving along - even when they aren't headline news.

With urgent threats to our environment right now bequests also ensure that money will be on hand to help meet future emergencies, like a new mining option in the Kimberley or a sudden push by the logging industry to burn our native forests for power.

On behalf of the Wilderness Society - and my young children - thank you so much for considering making a crucial difference to our environment by remembering wilderness in your will.



Lyndon Schneiders
National Campaigns Director



testimonials



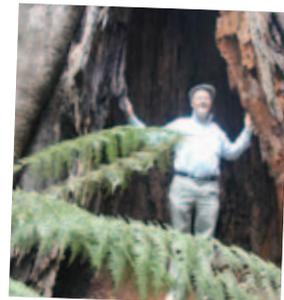
“ The reason that I joined the Wilderness Society was to become part of an organisation that is dedicated to protecting the unspoilt areas of our country, including the marine environment that

surrounds Australia and beyond. I decided to leave money in my Will so that I can continue to have a voice in stopping the exploitation of our natural resources and protect our beautiful areas and animals into the future. ”

– Angela Hawes, Member and Bequestor

“ I have supported the Wilderness Society for many years by regular donations and membership renewals. Ultimately, for me, the many and varied and wondrous ‘wild places’ throughout Australia are unique and simply must be kept forever. Such places have taken a very long time to form, especially the old growth forests in Tasmania. Once destroyed they can never be properly restored. As a consequence, I am happy to bequest to the Wilderness Society. ”

– James Richardson, Member and Bequestor



Get in touch with us about our Forever Wild Bequest Program

- I intend to leave a gift to the Wilderness Society in my Will.
- I have already made a gift to the Wilderness Society in my Will.
- Please call me, I would like to discuss making a gift to the Wilderness Society in my Will.

If you have ticked any of these boxes, please list your details below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please cut off and post back to us. Thank you.

A member of our Bequest program will then be in touch with you to discuss your information or inquiry further.

Call: 1800 030 641

The Wilderness Society Inc GPO Box 716, Hobart, Tas, 7001

www.wilderness.org.au

Forever Wild

