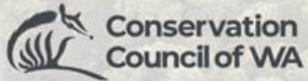
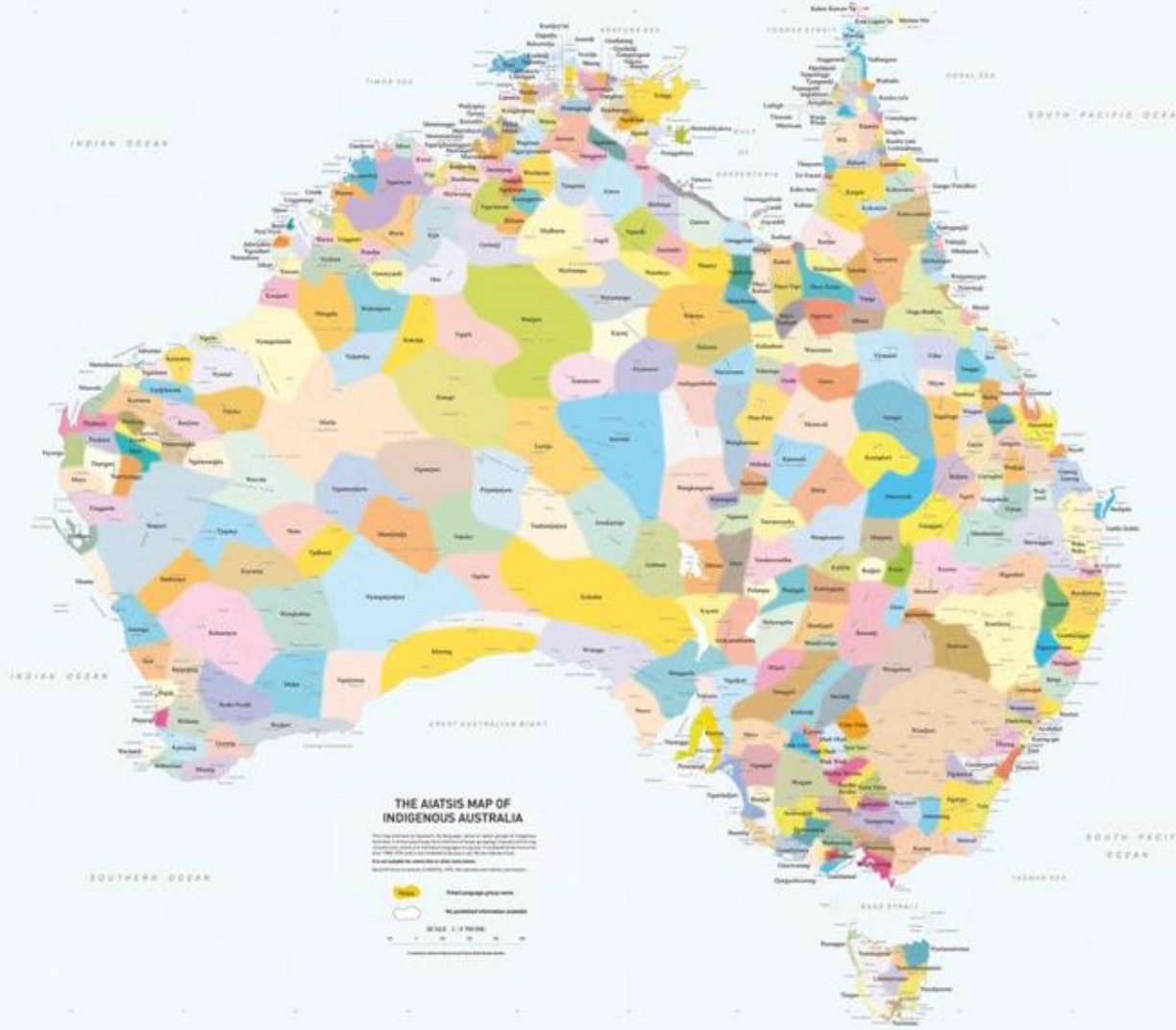


# MP Workshop: Defend WA's Nature

*Empowering you to advocate for strong nature laws*







# Tonight's agenda

- 6:02 Intro & ice breaker!
- 6:10 Campaign context
- 6:20 Why MP meetings; shared asks & parliament
- 6:40 explainer
- 6:55 How to meet your MP + 'Who is your MP?' activity
- 7:05 **BREAK**
- 7:25 Interactive roleplay
- 7:30 Group photo
- 7:55 Audience MP meeting roleplays
- Next steps & Wrap up

# Housekeeping

- Please switch mobile phones off or to silent
- Bathrooms
- Fire exits
- Refreshments available
- Please let us know if you don't want your photo taken or used

# Training objectives

## **By the end of this training you should:**

1. Understand the value of MP meetings in general, for this campaign and others.
2. Feel prepared to send an email to your MP straight away requesting a meeting
3. Feel confident about how to conduct yourself during your MP meeting
4. Understand how to talk about nature laws and the key asks with your MP
5. Connect with someone in the room that you can attend a meeting with

# Energiser

Turn to the person next to you and introduce yourself:

1. Name/pronouns
2. Your local patch of bush/nature
3. How much experience you have with meeting MPs (if any!) and what are your expectations

# Campaign Context





# The problem

- Nature is in serious trouble
- Climate and biodiversity crises
- Ecosystem decline - forest collapse  
due to long drought / declining rainfall
- Wildlife at risk of extinction



# WA EPA Overhaul

- Under pressure from vested interests, WA government cutting 'green tape' and fast-tracking approvals
- Threats to EPA independence, transparency & community consultation rights
- Changes to EP Act that will water down environmental protections



# WA Climate Change Bill

- WA is holding back the country in meeting emissions reductions targets
  - It is the only state without a 2030 target
  - Emissions are rising in WA
- Ongoing expansion of WA's gas industry for export/profit
- Climate Bill set to be introduced to WA Parliament soon



# Federal nature law reform

- Under pressure from powerful corporate players (and the WA govt), federal Nature Positive law reform not on track to protect the places we love
- New federal EPA insufficient to protect WA's nature, halt biodiversity loss and extinctions without strong nature laws



# Why MP Meetings



# Why are they important?

- 70% of parliamentarians said face-to-face meetings with constituents are the primary method used for finding out what their constituents think!
- One active constituent represents many more who care
- Human connections are important
- Don't forget your power as constituents - **representing you is their job, but they need to hear from you first!**



# It is a critical time to influence MPs

- Right now, the Albanese Government is reforming the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act*.
- Cook State Government working to reduce independence of EPA and weaken environmental impact assessment.
- State Government's decision on its Climate Change Bill will determine how our state responds to the climate crisis at a critical time for emissions reductions.
- **We need to influence those in power so get the word out!**



# Our Shared Asks - Federal / National

We are requesting your federal MP commits to:

- 1. Genuinely protect and restore nature.**
- 2. Ensure the community has a legal voice in standing up for nature - and the new federal EPA is independent.**
- 3. Truly value and respect the rights, knowledge, and cultures of First Nations.**





# Our Shared Asks - WA State (EPA)

We are requesting your state MP commits to:

- 1. Strengthen the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Environmental Laws.**
- 2. Guarantee the Full Independence of the EPA.**
- 3. Ensure Community Consultation and Collaboration.**
- 4. Commit to Thorough Environmental Assessment**



# Our Shared Asks - WA State (Climate Bill)

We are requesting your state MP commits to:

- 1. Legislate science-based and 1.5-degree compatible emissions reduction targets, including an ambitious 2030 target.**
- 2. Establish an independent, science-based climate advisory body.**
- 3. Refer Climate Bill to a Parliamentary Committee.**



# Parliament Explainer - Federal



# The House of Representatives

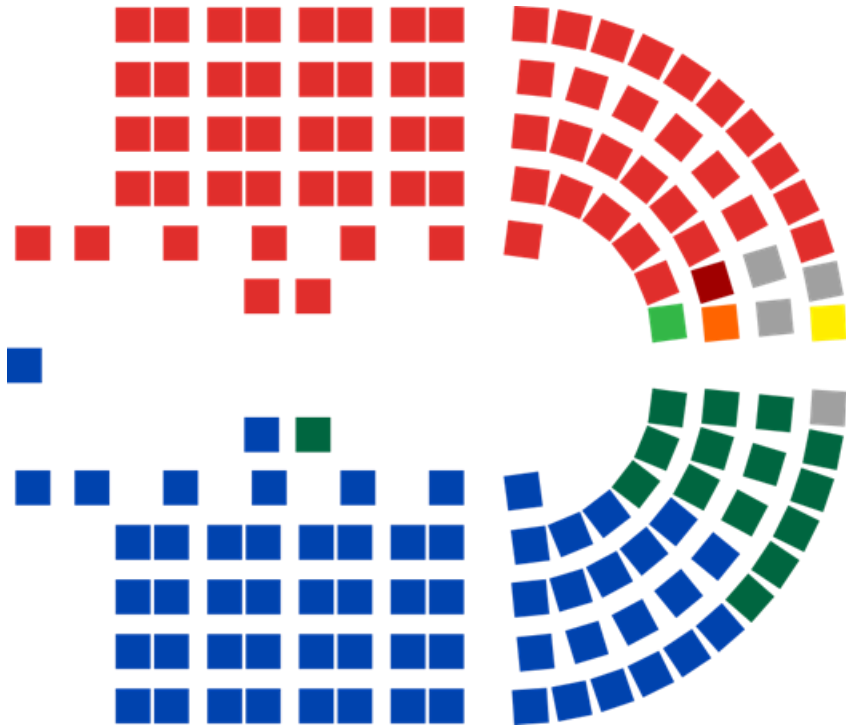
## **Description:**

- Lower house in Federal Parliament.
- 151 members, each representing an electoral division.
- To become laws, bills must be passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

## **Roles:**

1. Determine the government
2. Publicise and scrutinise government administration
3. Represent the people
4. Control Government expenditure

# The House of Representatives (the green one)



# The Senate

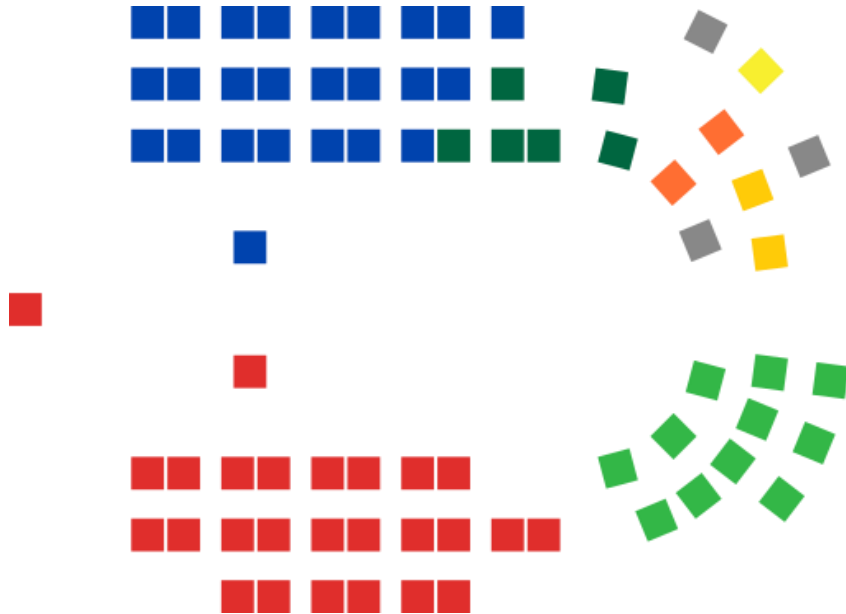
## Description:

- The Senate is the upper house in Federal Parliament.
- **76** Senators, (**12** from each state and **2** from each territory.)

## Role:

- Review legislation
- Provide a powerful check on the government of the day.

# The Senate (the pink one)



# Parliament Explainer - WA





# Legislative Assembly

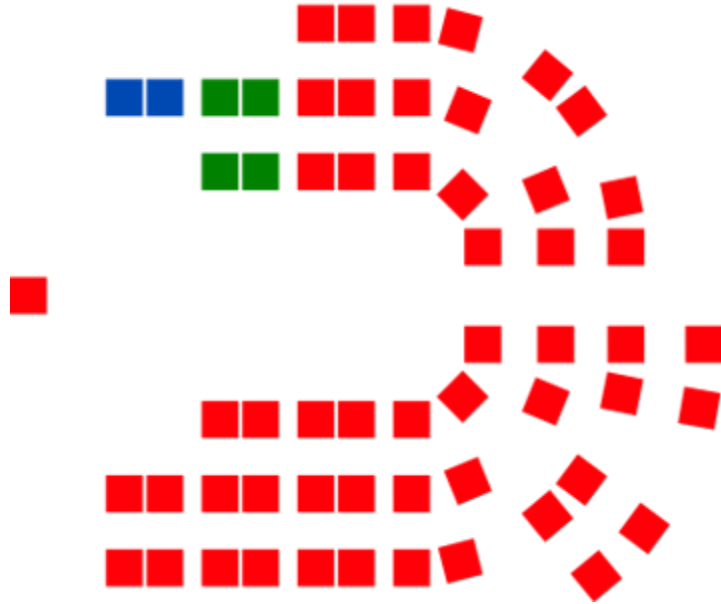
## **Description:**

- Lower house of the Parliament of Western Australia,
- 59 members elected from single member electoral districts by a system of preferential voting

## **Role:**

- The Legislative Assembly is the house where government is formed

# Legislative Assembly (MLA)



# Legislative Council

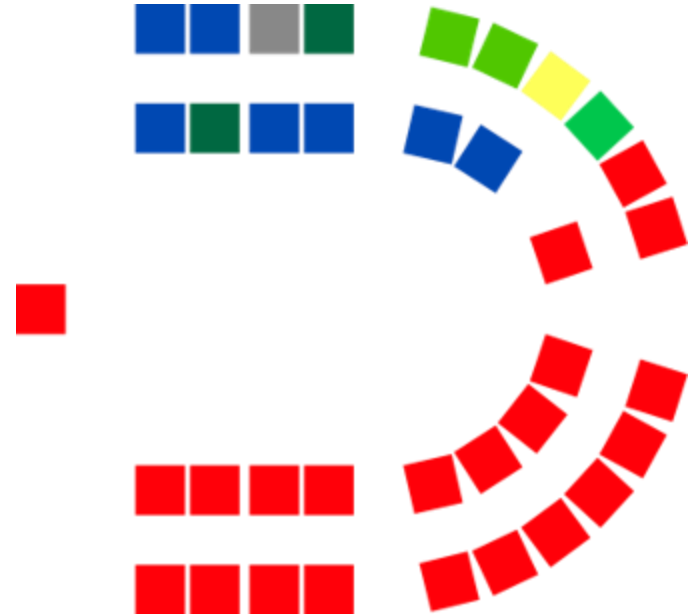
## **Description:**

- The Legislative Council is the upper house of the Parliament of Western Australia
- 36 members elected from six multi-member regions by a system of proportional representation.

## **Role:**

- Significant role as a house of review, particularly with respect to legislation

# Legislative Council (MLC)



# STORY TIME



# How to meet with your MP



# Requesting a meeting

How to ask your MP to  
meet with you!



# The process

## Send them an email!

- We've created email templates for you
- Ask for a meeting date 1-2 weeks away
- May not get a meeting until late June or July - **that's OK!**
- Make sure to check the Parliamentary Sitting dates!  
*Fridays can work well*

## Follow up with a phone call

- If you haven't heard back in a few days give them a call within 2-3 business days!
- Confirm that your request has reached the diary manager
- Ring every week or two until you get a response





# Email Template

Included in the guidebook  
you'll get!

A meeting request usually includes:

1. Addressing the MP by their formal title
2. Appreciation
3. About yourself/your group (personalise it!)
4. Requested discussion topics
5. Meeting request
6. Sign off

# Troubleshooting

## Some questions you might have:

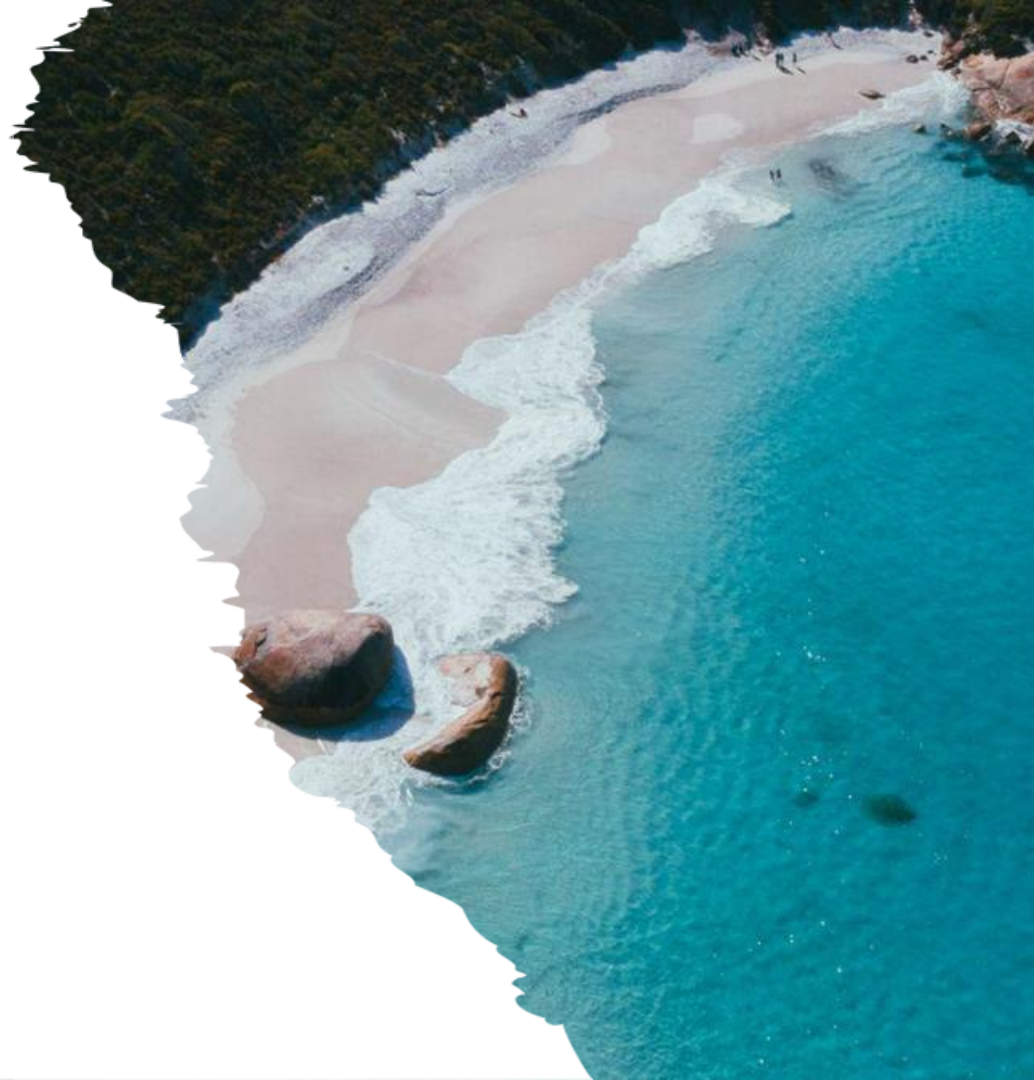
- What if my MP doesn't initially respond?
- What if my MP can't make the proposed time?
- What if my MP doesn't have time to meet?

And of course: what if I can't meet with my MP or their staff at all??

**We will support you to engage with your MP in different ways if need be!**



# Preparing for your meeting



# You got a meeting! What's next?

## 1. Find 1-2 friends/local constituents to go with

### 1. Compare notes on what you know about the MP (and their staff if possible):

- MP's position, previous occupations & other interests
- MP's values (TIP – watch their inaugural speech!)

### 3. Assign meeting roles

- Lead, timekeeper, notetaker, photographer

### 4. Familiarise yourself with the asks!

### 4. Create an agenda

- Work on assumption of having 20-30 mins



# Meeting agenda

## How to structure your meeting

1. Intros - who are you, purpose of meeting & confirm time
2. Share your story - why do you care about this?
3. Acknowledge any good things by the gov & specific MP
4. Make your campaign asks.
5. Make the specific asks of the MP.
6. Wrap, photo & follow-up



# Tips for a great meeting

- Always be polite, listen actively and reflect to show understanding. Agree on shared values.
- Start off on the right foot, use questions to connect on values
- Take notes, keep it simple
- Speak in your own words, be open
- Stay on track
- Leave a good impression
- Give them the briefer



# Debriefing

**1. Debrief with your group**

**2. Debriefing with CCWA, Wilderness Society, or Urban Bushland Council organisers**

**Ask yourselves:**

- What went well
- What could have been better
- How is your team feeling about the meeting?
- What you would do differently next time
- How you think your MP responded to the information you presented to them
- Any commitments from your MP



# Follow up with your MP!

## Send a follow up email to:

- Thank them
- Tell them something that you appreciated from them during your meeting
- Restate your main points
- Reiterate and confirm actions & commitments
- Provide answers to questions





# Who is your MP?

Let's find out together!

Guidebook provided post-workshop



# QUICK POLL!

**How much do you  
already know about  
your state electorate?**

Hands up if you know:

1. Who your state MP is?
2. What party your MP is in?
3. Would you recognise them on the street?

# ACTIVITY

## Find out more about your MPs!

Look up the following:

- Electorate name
- MP name
- MP party
- MP contact details
  - Office address
  - Office phone number
  - Email address
- How to address your MP

# Steps to find your MP

## Federal MP

Google search: ***Australian Parliament***

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members)

→ type in your name, postcode or electorate

→ Hit 'search' to find your MP

## State MLA

Google search: ***WA Parliament OR link below:***

[Member List \(parliament.wa.gov.au\)](http://parliament.wa.gov.au)

→ Go to Members

→ Go to Find Your MP

→ Search your suburb

→ Identify your MLA

	Federal	State
Name of your electorate		
Name of your MP (including titles)		
Any Ministerial positions? (E.g., health, sports, etc.)		
MP office phone number		
Electorate MP email address		
Electorate office address		

**Let's take a  
quick break**





## **Introducing the role play & participants**

Decide who will be the time-keeper, note taker and who will lead the conversation

### **Section 1 - Introductions (5 mins)**

Thank your MP, state your appreciation and talk about your plan for the meeting.  
Introduce yourselves (30 seconds each)

### **Section 2 - Concerns and discuss MP's perspectives (5 mins)**

Outline your concerns...  
Ask what their party is doing to...

### **Section 3 - Make the ask! (3mins)**

Ask your MP .....

### **Section 4 - Wrap and Close! (2mins)**

Thank MP, and organise another meeting. Get a photo!

**Section 1 - Introductions (2 mins)**

Thank your MP, state your appreciation and talk about your plan for the meeting.  
Introduce yourselves (30 seconds each)

**Section 2 - Concerns and discuss MP's perspectives (5 mins)**

Outline your concerns...  
Ask what their party is doing to...

**Section 3 - Key campaign asks! (5mins)**

Share the key asks here

**Section 4 - Make the specific ask of your MP (1 min)**

Ask your MP .....

**Section 4 - Wrap and Close! (2mins)**

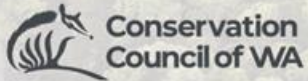
Thank MP, leave the briefers, and organise another meeting. Get a photo!



**Photo time!**

# MP Workshop: Defend WA's Nature

*Empowering you to advocate for strong nature laws*



# ACTIVITY

## **Interactive Audience MP Meeting Roleplay**

Now it's your turn to practise speaking with a mock 'MP'!

This is a safe place to practice and learn from each other!

## **Get into your electorate groups with your mock MP!**

Decide who will be the time-keeper, note taker and who will lead the conversation

### **Section 1 - Introductions (5 mins)**

Thank your MP, state your appreciation and talk about your plan for the meeting. Introduce yourselves (30 seconds each)

### **Section 2 - Concerns and discuss MP's perspectives (5 mins)**

Outline your concerns about WA's nature and the govt overhaul of the WA EPA, drawing from personal experience. Ask the MP what their position is on the protection of nature and what the Labor Party is doing to ensure WA has strong nature laws.

### **Section 3 - Key campaign asks! (5mins)**

Share your key asks here and share a copy of the briefer

### **Section 4 - Make the specific ask of your MP (3 min)**

Will you raise these issues with the Environment Minister? In caucus?

### **Section 4 - Wrap and Close! (2mins)**

Thank MP, and organise another meeting. Get a photo!

# Connect

**Take this time to find others in your electorate and exchange contacts.**

**Stay in touch with each other to support each other in meeting your MPs!**

# QUICK POLL!

## Checking in on the objectives we set at the start

Hands up if you:

1. Understand the value of MP meetings in general, as well as to this and other campaigns
2. Feel prepared to send an email to your MP straight away requesting a meeting
3. Feel confident about how to conduct yourself during your MP meeting
4. Understand how to talk about climate solutions and the key asks with your MP
5. Have connected with someone in the room that you can attend a meeting with.

# Next steps

1. ***Email your MP a meeting request!***
2. We'll send you the Guidebook
3. Follow up calls from CCWA and the Wilderness Society
4. Stay connected to your fellow advocates!
5. Fill out the feedback form that we will send in an email

In the meantime, if you have any questions email us at:

[nature@ccwa.org.au](mailto:nature@ccwa.org.au)

[nick.doyle@wilderness.org.au](mailto:nick.doyle@wilderness.org.au)



[Call on decision makers to defend WA's nature!](#)







# Thank you!

We will see you soon!