

# Action on Climate Change

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## \$750 million Climate Action Fund announced

The 2021-22 Budget contains a significant investment in initiatives to address climate change, reflecting the Premier's comments in his Budget speech that climate change is the biggest global threat over the next century and beyond.

The Government has committed to a \$750 million Climate Action Fund which includes:

- \$206 million for renewable energy initiatives, including standalone power stations, clean energy in schools, wind turbine manufacturing, refurbishment of Denham Power Station and \$1 million for research into the viability of a local green steel industry;
- a \$118 million fund to invest in future climate-related initiatives to respond to climate change and create climate-resilient communities;
- \$50 million to drive new renewable hydrogen initiatives;
- \$11 million for Carbon Innovation Grants;
- An additional \$18.5 million to fight coastal erosion - taking total funding to \$33.5 million over the next five years; and
- \$350 million to expand the State's softwood plantation estate (see separate item in this newsletter).

Other climate change initiatives announced include:

- \$21 million to construct an electric vehicle fast charging network to facilitate travel north from Perth to Kununurra, along the South West coast to Esperance, and east to Kalgoorlie; and
- \$15 million for the establishment of a new Agriculture Climate Resilience Fund to help Western Australian farmers respond to the challenges of climate change.

WALGA welcomes these initiatives but considers that further investment is needed to manage coastal erosion and inundation hotspots. The total funding available over the next five years - \$33.5 million – is well below the State Government's own estimate of \$110 million that will be required over the next five years to manage WA's 55 identified coastal erosion hotspots.

It is also disappointing that the Government did not see fit to make a broader investment in enhancing tree canopy in across Perth and Peel and regional urban centres. While the Government is to be congratulated for its \$4 million election urban forest commitments in the City of Bayswater and the Swan Canning Riverpark more needs to be done to support Local Governments to expand and accelerate their tree planting efforts to increase communities' resilience to climate change as well as increase amenity, air quality and biodiversity.

The need for further funding in both of these areas is identified in [WALGA's Priorities for Government](#). WALGA will continue to advocate to the State Government to address these issues.