

Clean **State** Jobs Plan

26 BIG IDEAS for **200,000** Jobs





Clean State is an independent initiative advocating for action on climate change and jobs in Western Australia. We represent thousands of individuals and hundreds of businesses and other organisations who are dedicated to climate action across the state. We promote solutions that create thousands of jobs supporting businesses, families and communities and make our state a fairer, safer place to live and work.

We acknowledge that we meet, work, and live on the land of the Nyoongar people.

We pay respect to their Elders, past and present, and acknowledge the important role all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play in advancing a more sustainable Western Australia. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this country and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay respect to their Elders past and present, and to the vital role First Nations people continue to play in caring for Country across this state.



A pathway towards a zero-carbon economy for Western Australia

There has never been a more important time for WA to have a plan for jobs.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been significant and is likely to be felt across our community for years to come. To reboot our economy, and build back better, we need to have a plan. A plan that puts people and the planet at the centre.

On a global scale, we have entered the critical decade for addressing climate change, and Western Australia has a vital role to play. Western Australia can benefit significantly from the transition to a zero-carbon future.

The Clean State Jobs Plan sets out an ambitious program of action on climate change and job creation in Western Australia. Together these initiatives will create thousands of new jobs, drive down climate pollution and make WA a fairer, safer and cleaner place to live and work.

The 26 big ideas presented in this plan for 200,000 jobs were chosen because they provide multiple benefits to Western Australia. They provide a real economic benefit, they provide social outcomes, and they provide action on climate change.



Energy

Improve energy productivity and reduce energy costs for households, businesses and government agencies.

12,665 JOBS



Buildings

Build sustainable social housing to support WA's most vulnerable individuals and communities so that nobody is left behind.

63,490 JOBS



Transport

Future proof our city by delivering clean and efficient transport infrastructure.

6,325 JOBS



Conservation

Support a healthy environment by maintaining WA's unique and threatened biodiversity.

8,739 JOBS



First Nations

Do more to support and stand with WA's First Nations communities as they determine their future.

1,101 JOBS



Industry

Kick-start a boom in renewable energy powered manufacturing and minerals processing industries.

95,500 JOBS



Resilient Regions

Invest in our regions to improve the resilience of regional communities.

5,560 JOBS



Tourism

Boost our local, low-carbon tourism industry to showcase the best Western Australia has to offer.

4,385 JOBS



Circular Economy

Close the loop on our resource use through recycling and reuse programs and projects.

1,300 JOBS



The public sector and a female workforce

Support women and girls to be included in the transition to a decarbonised and caring economy.

5,150 JOBS



Western Australians want to build back better

Clean State commissioned polling to understand attitudes of West Australian voters towards COVID-recovery and economic stimulus.

The research, which canvassed nearly 1000 people from across the state found that West Australians from all voter groups overwhelmingly support recovery efforts that create a cleaner and fairer economy.

- Action on climate change, conservation, and the care economy are seen as powerful job creators that can grow the economy faster than resource industries or road building.
- Investment in renewable energy and batteries, aged care, social housing, public transport, Landcare and conservation all receive a very high level of public support for stimulus investment.
- In contrast, voters are sceptical of recovery efforts that subsidise the gas industry or reduce environmental standards. Cutting red and green tape for mining projects and investments in the oil and gas industry received the lowest levels of support.

Overwhelmingly, West Australians (85% of respondents) support stronger action on climate.

Polling research conducted by Patterson Research Group

Energy

12,665 JOBS

Idea 1 for 8,650 jobs: Repower WA with renewable energy: 90% by 2030

Idea 2 for 4,015 jobs: 'Bright Sparks' solar powered schools program

Western Australia's energy sector is one of the best places to start if we want to create thousands of jobs and drive down carbon emissions.

It makes sense for Western Australia to be utilising our incredible sun and wind resources – we have some of the best in the world. Western Australia could become powered almost entirely by renewables by 2030. In order to do this, we need leadership from the Government and a commitment to a renewable energy target.

Our local schools could become energy hubs, saving millions of dollars a year in power bills and providing power to communities at times when they need it most.

At a time where all other states and territories are embracing the clean energy transition, WA is lagging behind. We are the only state with no renewable energy target. This is our opportunity to show the rest of Australia what a renewable superpower looks like and harness the economic benefits and renewable potential of our state.

Highlights

- “Imagine if we covered every WA classroom with solar and turned them into a network of community energy hubs” – Australian Youth Climate Coalition
- Savings** A 100kw solar system will provide enough power for a school with 1000 students and **save between \$15,000–\$30,000 every year on power bills every year.**
- WA's transition to renewable energy is already underway,** including through the rapid uptake of rooftop solar systems by homes and businesses; and a 'Powerbank' program for communities to store renewable energy in big batteries.
- To achieve 90% renewables by 2030, each year, 800MW of energy capacity would need to be added,** which is, roughly equivalent of 2 windfarms the size of Merredin's Collgar wind farm, 1.5 solar farms the size of the Merredin Solar Farm, currently WA's biggest, 1 'big battery' the size of SA's Tesla giant battery and 3500 'prosumer' batteries.





Buildings

63,490 JOBS

Idea 3 59,660 jobs: Build 15,000 new, low-carbon social housing homes

Idea 4 3,830 jobs: Repower and retrofit WA's 44,000 social housing homes

Western Australia's building and construction industry is one of our largest employers, and housing construction is one of the most powerful ways to boost the economy and create jobs.

Right now, there are more than 14,000 families on WA's social housing waitlist, and another 9,000 people experiencing homelessness every night. Building social housing not only creates jobs, but it has the added social benefit of providing much needed housing for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Not only do we need more social housing, but the existing housing stock needs to be refurbished and made more energy efficient. By auditing energy usage, installing rooftop solar, and repairing existing homes, we'd not only create

thousands of jobs, save hundreds of thousands of tonnes of carbon emissions, but also dramatically improve the lives of those who live in them.

Case Study

Access Housing's Coolbellup 7-star community housing

"All of our developments are designed to provide a high level of solar and ventilation efficiency due to the limited capacity of lower socio-economic tenants to afford ongoing heating and cooling costs. In 2016 we made a decision that all future development energy ratings would increase to 7 stars to provide added benefit to occupants and incorporating at initial design stage provides minimal additional costs."

– Duane Moroney, General Manager, Property Assets, Access Housing

Highlights

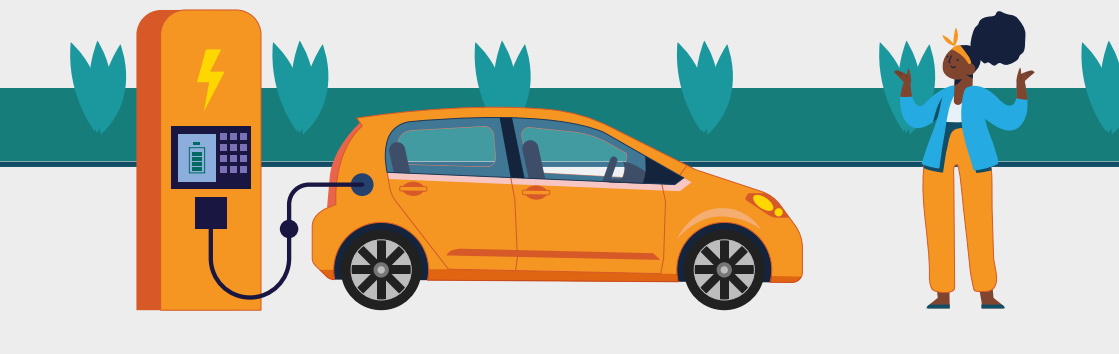
- Insulation not only dramatically improves the comfort of the home but can save as much as 40% on heating and cooling energy bills.
- **Savings** Energy-efficient, solar powered homes are not only healthier to live in, but also **reduce energy bills for occupants by \$500–\$800 per year.**



"I know what it's like in regards to not having housing, especially when it's in weather like this, and it's absolutely pouring down with rain and you're stuck doing absolutely nothing. Building social housing saves thousands of lives".

– Jonathan Shapiera, Waikiki resident





Transport

6,325 JOBS

Idea 5 5,220 jobs: Make WA the world's best place to cycle

Idea 6 350 jobs: Deliver a tram network for Perth, with WA-made trams

Idea 7 120 jobs: WA-made electric bus fleet

Idea 8 635 jobs: Powering ahead with electric vehicles

Perth is one of the most car-dependent cities on the planet. Investing in transport infrastructure that makes it easier for people to leave their car at home is essential if we want to reduce carbon emissions.

In addition to being good for the planet, low-carbon transport has real impacts on people's health and wellbeing. The Perth Metropolitan area could have a trackless tram system, one that links closely with where people live and work but provides all the benefits of light rail at a significantly lower cost and with less disruption.

Every year, the WA government is spending over \$40 million on fuel bills for our public bus system. By 2030, we could have a WA-made

and manufactured, all-electric bus fleet, powered by renewable energy. This would save money and reduce emissions drastically.

Western Australia is lagging behind the rest of the country when it comes to electric vehicle infrastructure. By rolling out state-wide charging program, we'd not only create jobs but also provide the infrastructure necessary to support the growing number of electric vehicles on our roads.

There are simple things we can do too, like dedicating the last carriage of every train to bikes and bike riders, building new cycling routes, and expanding the secure bike parking facilities at train stations. All of these initiatives would create thousands of jobs and provide a real benefit to our economy.

Highlights

- Every time a person commutes by car it costs society \$10, and every time they commute by bike it saves society \$10. – Bicycle Network Australia.
- **Trackless trams use the same carriages as trams but run on rubber tyres, instead of rails.** Like trams, they also harness raised-platform stations that give the fixed route assurance necessary to spur urban regeneration and development.
- **Carbon Savings** For the 2 million passenger vehicles averaging 14,000 km per year here in WA, conversion of the WA passenger car fleet could save 5.6 million tons of CO2 per year if 100% renewable energy was used.



Highlights

- **Carbon farming** refers to land management activities aimed at storing carbon in woody vegetation and soils or preventing the release of carbon through avoided land clearing or logging, and better management of fire, livestock, and fertiliser use.
- Mangroves protect 18 million people from coastal flooding, worth \$80 billion per year in mitigation.



Conservation

- Idea 9** 200 jobs: Partner with landholders for conservation and culture.
- Idea 10** 2,209 jobs: Urban and regional conservation stimulus across our NRM regions
- Idea 11** 270 jobs: Invest in our coastal carbon sinks: marine conservation
- Idea 12** 6,060 jobs: Unlocking our Carbon Farming potential

8,739 JOBS

Western Australia's conservation sector has the potential to become a powerful job creator for the economy. By investing in new and innovative models of caring for the land, we can create thousands of jobs, reduce carbon emissions, and work to restore our native environment.

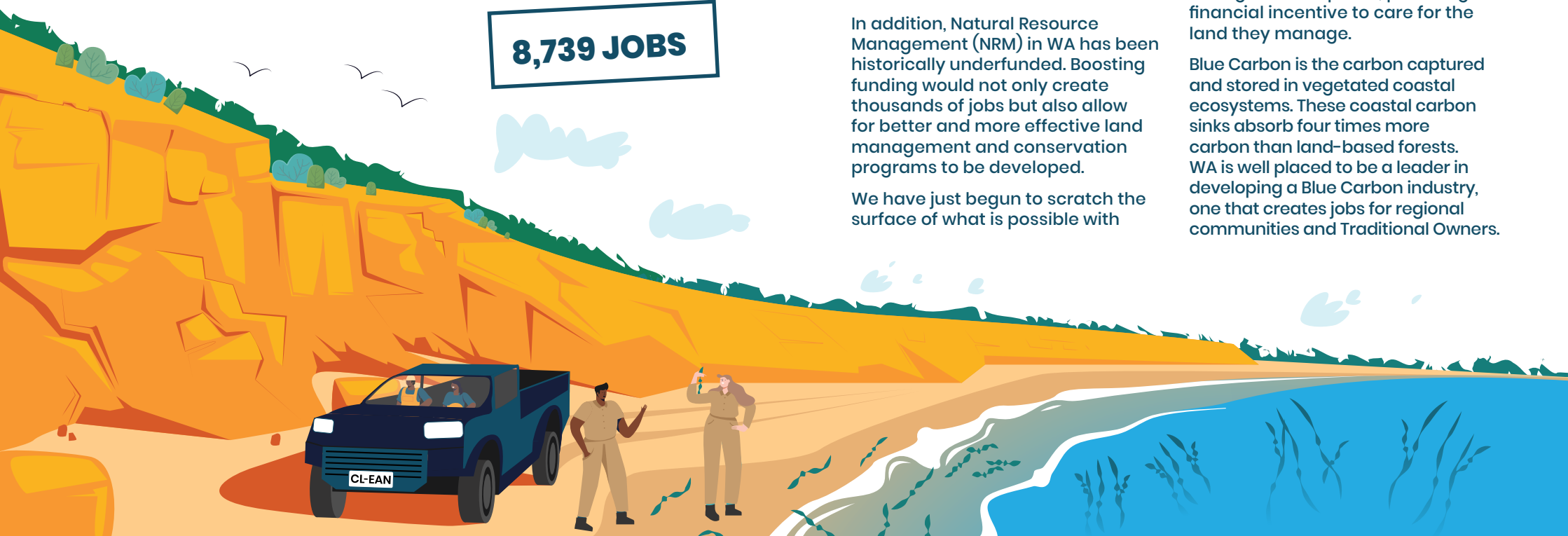
Allowing for partnerships between local communities, Traditional Owners, landholders and others for co-management and regeneration programs would have significant social, health and economic outcomes.

In addition, Natural Resource Management (NRM) in WA has been historically underfunded. Boosting funding would not only create thousands of jobs but also allow for better and more effective land management and conservation programs to be developed.

We have just begun to scratch the surface of what is possible with

carbon farming. Western Australia has the potential to grow a carbon farming sector that benefits farmers, pastoralists, regional communities, and landholders, including Traditional Owners and Aboriginal enterprises, providing a financial incentive to care for the land they manage.

Blue Carbon is the carbon captured and stored in vegetated coastal ecosystems. These coastal carbon sinks absorb four times more carbon than land-based forests. WA is well placed to be a leader in developing a Blue Carbon industry, one that creates jobs for regional communities and Traditional Owners.



Highlights

- “This Boodjar Nyungar Placenames project begins to redress the void in the identification, recording and writing of Australian Indigenous histories.” – Professor Len Collard
- In the Kimberley, Aboriginal women ranger teams have doubled in two years to 2019, with more than fifty trail-blazing women now employed across all parts of the Kimberley. However, women ranger teams face major challenges including funding shortfalls and short-term contracts

First Nations

1,101 JOBS

Idea 13 650 jobs: Closing the Gap: Urgent infrastructure & services investment

Idea 14 251 jobs: A transformative state-wide place naming project

Idea 15 200 jobs: Expand Aboriginal Rangers and support culture and enterprises

Clean State recognises the value that comes from learning from and working alongside First Nations people. We also recognise that we must do more to support and stand with Western Australia's First People as they determine their future.

Clean State also acknowledges the need for meaningful action in Closing the Gap, addressing systemic discrimination and preventing deaths in custody, and the urgency of the Black Lives Matter movement.

This section of our plan reflects consultation with First Nations leaders to provide ideas for stimulus measures that would benefit and empower WA's First Nation communities and enterprises.

Importantly, this focuses on closing the urgent gaps in infrastructure and services that exist for First Nations communities, prioritising clean water, clean energy and housing, recognising that any successful project in remote communities must be based on the approval and ownership of those communities, to integrate local context and livelihoods.

Investing in community-run First Nations media services is another important step forward, which would provide culturally and linguistically appropriate access to educational programs, traditional practices, and emergency information.

Aboriginal Ranger Programs should be expanded, to provide greater support for Traditional Owners to care for their land and country. Now is also the time for us to be investing in a transformative, state-wide place naming project, allowing for First Nations language to be reincorporated into everyday life.

There is a growing number of First Nations-led businesses and enterprises that should be supported. These businesses provide both employment opportunities and an economic benefit for local communities.

These initiatives must be linked to social reinvestment programs, diverting funding from ineffective systems and processes to community-led initiatives that provide support, training and employment opportunities.



Industry

95,500 JOBS

Idea 16 91,500 jobs: Green Metals: WA's renewable industrial revolution

Idea 17 4,000 jobs: Decarbonise LNG production and transition to renewable hydrogen

Western Australia is a globally significant resources hub with a wealth of mineral resources and some of the most advanced mining industries in the world. We also have some of the most accessible renewable energy resources, which have the potential to revolutionise the way we power mining and manufacturing.

To make this a reality, we need to decarbonise our existing mining and minerals industries, and transition away from exporting raw materials to the development of new minerals processing that will provide a more significant economic benefit to Western Australia. We could become a world leader in zero-carbon metals production, exporting green steel and aluminium, renewable hydrogen and ammonia.

The production of LNG (liquid natural gas) is Western Australia's largest source of carbon pollution. While the expansion of this highly polluting industry must be prevented, decarbonising the existing LNG facilities, and transitioning to renewable hydrogen, offers the incredible potential for job creation, most of which would benefit regional communities.

Highlights

“No other place on earth has a comparable opportunity for large-scale, firm, low cost, zero-emissions power to provide energy intensive manufacturing.”

– Professor Ross Garnaut

Every year WA exports 800mt of iron ore. Processing 20% of this here would produce 100mt of steel. This is the same size as Japan's steel industry and would almost double the revenue from iron-based exports by over 90% to \$160 billion.



Renewable Hydrogen

Case Studies

South Australia has a Hydrogen Action Plan exploring its renewable hydrogen potential and is using its abundant wind and solar resources to drive a renewable hydrogen industry.

CSIRO recently estimated green hydrogen could be cost-competitive with existing industrial feedstock such as gas in many applications. With adequate policies it is more likely green hydrogen will become the least cost option.

Bloomberg has reported hydrogen technology can be competitive with coal-based plants for steel production by 2030. Hydrogen is a renewable fuel option of high-temperature applications in the industry sector, along with biomass. Hydrogen can also replace gas as a feedstock for ammonia production.

Highlights

- The WA SuperNet plan supported by Cooperative Bulk Handling (CBH) Group and rail network operator Arc Infrastructure aims to deliver enterprise-grade affordable broadband services throughout the grain belt. It involves 4000km of new optic fibre cables dug into the easements of the rail network from Northampton to Esperance, and the construction of 40m radio towers on 100 CBH receival bins.
- WA's commercial beekeeping industry employs three times as many people than native forestry, with 1500 full time jobs across 500 registered beekeepers and provides pollination services worth \$800m-\$1.4 billion to WA's agriculture industry.

5,560 JOBS



Resilient Regions

Idea 18 200 jobs: Fund overstretched emergency services

Idea 19 320 jobs: Improve digital connectivity through the SuperNet

Idea 20 3,490 jobs: Forests for life, climate and communities

Idea 21 1,550 jobs: A bright future for Collie

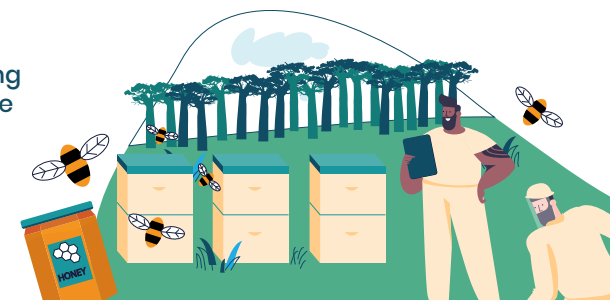
Building resilient regions is one of the best things we can do to support jobs, local communities and boost the economy.

For many people living in our regions, reliable and affordable access to the internet is a huge barrier to participation. Digital connectivity is essential for the efficient running of farming and land management enterprises. Developing the WA SuperNet – an affordable broadband service for the regions – would create hundreds of jobs and allow regional communities to access services people living in the city take for granted.

There are parts of Western Australia that are ready to transition to a low-carbon future. Collie is a great example of how communities geared towards fossil fuel extraction, can transition to sustainable industry and manufacturing. Rather than coal mines, Collie could be a renewable energy hub, manufacturing sustainable building materials, and recycling renewable energy products.

There is also powerful job creation potential in our South West forestry industry. Rather than continuing the destructive pattern of cutting down old-growth native forests, we could have a world-class timber industry that focussed on farm forestry and land care. Supporting our bee industry and nature-based tourism operators in the South West would also create thousands of jobs.

In addition to this, due to climate change, bushfires, heatwaves, floods and storms are increasing in severity and frequency, and emergency services in regional areas must be appropriately staffed, equipped and funded to support their communities when they're needed most. We also need to make sure we have a plan to prevent and respond to catastrophic events, like bushfires, given the changing nature of our environment.



Tourism

4,385 JOBS

Idea 22 3,145 jobs: Low carbon, local tourism

Idea 23 1,240 jobs: Support and expand First Nations tourism



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“Aboriginal tourism is a unique growth industry in Western Australia. As the world’s oldest living culture, Aboriginal culture offers tourism experiences unique to Australia not available anywhere else in the world. A strong, diverse and self-supporting Aboriginal business sector is key to empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and placing Aboriginal business owners, their families, and communities in the driver’s seat of their economic future.”

– Robert Taylor, CEO WA Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC)

Boosting our local, low-carbon tourism industry is one of the quickest and easiest things we can do to create jobs and boost the economy. Through stimulus measures, infrastructure and transport upgrades, as well as tourism product development, our tourism sector can position itself to continue to showcase the best Western Australia has to offer.

Supporting our growing First Nations tourism sector is also essential. These operators provide an incredible opportunity for people to learn first-hand about First Nations culture and history, as well as provide employment opportunities for First Nations peoples. Western Australia could have an iconic

Indigenous Cultural Centre, celebrating First Nations culture and meaningfully increasing the visibility of First Nations people.

Local visitor and information centres, as well as tourism operators could be made more energy efficient, and totally powered by renewable energy. Citizen-science travel opportunities can be developed and promoted which deliver meaningful experiences for guests, whilst also having a conservation impact. Infrastructure upgrades to our National Parks and Reserves, including upgrading signage, would create jobs, but also aid in the understanding of local cultural and tourist sites.

Highlights

- Collie, known for being a coal mining town, is being transformed into a world-class adventure trail town through the ‘Collie Adventure Trails’ initiative, determined to attract cyclists and bushwalkers of all levels to its bush circuits. The project is expected to create 160 jobs, 33 directly in tourism.
- Environmental charity Earthwatch has observed **a 20% participation increase in their citizen science travel offer over the past 5 year**, with guests taking part in activities ranging from climate change mitigation to ocean health and wildlife conservation.

Waste, Materials and the Circular Economy

1,300 JOBS

Idea 24 1300 jobs: Reboot Recycling and Resurrect local repair labs

Closing the loop on our resource use through recycling and reuse is an essential step towards a circular economy. Western Australia currently lacks the recycling infrastructure to process many recyclable waste products including, plastics, glass and other common materials.

Currently, Western Australia's electronic waste (e-waste) goes into landfill. Instead, we could establish a dedicated e-waste recycling facility and ensure that valuable minerals like steel, plastic, non-ferrous metals, gold and silver are not lost.

Construction and demolition waste accounts for almost half of our total waste stream but has the lowest recovery rate. Instead, we could repurpose this waste and use it as a recycled road base.

Local repair labs could also be an important part of our communities. Rather than household items being thrown away, they can be repaired or repurposed. A program of local repair labs across the state would reduce waste, create jobs, and connect people back in with their local communities.

Highlights

- “When in doubt, don't throw out!” – Perth Repair Lab
- About 1 million tonnes of materials are still sent to landfill – materials that can be used for roads, footpaths and cycle paths each year.
- WA generates about 73kg of e-waste per person, or roughly 198,000 tonnes per year. Recycling this volume of e-waste could create up to 1000 full time jobs



“We've got a big sign in our workshop that says positive vibration. People get a sense of pride and gratitude from knowing their work is contributing to helping the environment. I would love to provide local job opportunities for the Margaret River community, especially for people with a disability and young people starting out.”

– Narelle Koppers, Precious Plastic Margaret River



5,150 JOBS

An Empowered Female Workforce and the Public Sector

Idea 25 850 jobs: A supercharged, zero-carbon public sector

Idea 26 4,300 jobs: Female participation and leadership in a zero-carbon future

The Western Australian Government has a unique opportunity to show real leadership in low-carbon job creation. By committing to be a carbon-neutral government, and having an actionable plan, Western Australia could lead the way in what a public service of the future could look like.

Retrofitting government owned buildings would be an easy place to start, as would be turning to 8,000 strong government vehicle fleet into electric vehicles by 2030 – saving over \$20million a year in fuel costs and thousands of tonnes of carbon pollution.

In developing a plan for jobs, it is essential that opportunities are made available for all members

of our community. Women have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and are overrepresented in insecure forms of employment. Clean State strongly advocates that women and girls be supported and included in the jobs and prosperity boom implicit in the transition to a decarbonised economy.

In order to achieve this, we need to set real and meaningful targets, and provide funding to support women and girls to engage in fields where there is currently low-representation, as well as support female-founded low-carbon start-ups. In addition, barriers to entry, such as the lack of affordable childcare needs to be addressed.

Highlights

- At current rates of participation, the STEM field will not reach gender parity in key manager positions until the end of the century.
- Women account for 80% of WA's Health Care and Social Assistance workforce. Retrofitting these 'care industry' settings would allow what would have been operational costs (high utility bills) to be redirected toward higher wages for employees and lower costs for families.



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Clean
State

Let's make it happen

The initiatives and case studies contained in this report show how action on climate change can deliver thousands of jobs and exciting opportunities to make Western Australia cleaner, fairer, more liveable, and more prosperous.

While many of the ideas require action by the WA State Government, leadership, investment and support from business, local government, community groups and individuals is essential. This leadership is already happening and must continue to grow.

Clean State is an organisation built on people power. If you have read this report and are inspired by the ideas and want to help make them a reality, please get in touch with us.

More information on the Clean State Jobs Plan, as well as how you can make this plan a reality, can be found on our website:

CleanState.org.au/jobs-plan

Get in touch: info@cleanstate.org.au