



The Labor Environment Action Network (LEAN) is a group of Labor members and supporters that works to influence environmental policy making within the Australian Labor Party.

LEAN is deeply committed to Federal environment law reform. It believes the current legal framework fails to deliver environmental outcomes and has no obligation to do so while also delivering business uncertainty with long delays and lack of clarity that do not deliver commensurate environmental outcomes.

LEAN's policy position on Federal environment law is as follows:

Australia needs new frameworks to deliver truly national protection and management of our natural resources to protect Australia's environment from escalating threats including climate change. This is essential to ensure our people's health and well-being. The principles to underpin that are:

- *Rewrite a new Federal Environment Act that enshrines Federal leadership in proactively and systematically dealing with the environmental challenges of the 21st century such as climate change.*
- *Establish National Environment Plans that set binding standards and approaches to prevent extinctions, preserve biodiversity, end deforestation, deliver re-forestation, eliminate invasive species, reduce plastic pollution and ensure critical foundations for human health and production including air, water and soil quality are improved.*
- *Ensure the knowledge and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are central in environment protection laws, programs and policies.*
- *Create strong, well resourced, science based, independent institutions to administer the law: a federal Environment Protection Authority to provide transparent and timely development approvals within a clear decision-making framework and enforcement and a National Environment Commission to provide federal leadership on environmental policy and create legally binding national plans and standards to proactively protect the environment including conducting independent inquiries on key environmental and resource issues.*
- *Implement clear management, governance and decision-making structures and responsibilities that are transparent, efficient and streamlined, relating not only to development applications but also priorities for proactive protection.*
- *Improve regulation and streamline environmental assessment processes.*
- *Restore democracy, respect and protection of rights for civil society involvement in environmental matters.*
- *Manage Australia's environment fairly and efficiently as a foundation for ecologically sustainable jobs and protect biodiversity and support resilience in the natural environment.*

Our full policy position is available in the report co-written by LEAN and Labor's official think-tank, the Chifley Research Centre: **Protecting the Future: Federal Leadership for Australia's Environment**. It is available [here on the LEAN website](#).

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