

Visit your MP guide



So you've decided to take the time to meet your local representative to let them know how much you care about WA's Outback. That's great!

Here's some tips and 7 easy steps to follow when it comes to meeting your local Member of Parliament (MP).

We're here to help you make your visit a success. So remember, you can contact Emma anytime for advice by emailing emma.tan@outbackwa.org.au

Step 1. Find your MP

Make sure you contact your representative in WA State Government, not your federal representative – decisions about WA's Outback are made by the state government. You can use the find your local member tool on the Parliament of WA website

<http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/webcms/webcms.nsf/index>

If you have any trouble finding your local representative's details, please contact us and we can help.

Step 2. Find people to join you in meeting your MP

While not essential, it can be more effective if you have a small local delegation, say three or four people, visiting your MP.

Step 3. Contact your MP's office

Put your meeting request in writing via email or a letter as soon as possible.

Step 4. Follow up phone-call

Give your MP's office a call to check they've received your request and to set a time for the meeting. You will probably speak to your MP's electorate officer. When the appointment with your MP is secured, make sure you get written confirmation from their office, most likely in the form of a reply email.

Step 5. Prepare for your meeting

Spend some time preparing your talking points about:

- Your story – let them know if you have a personal connection to the Outback or why the Outback is important to you.
- What you want to ask your MP to commit to doing for WA's Outback;
- Any materials you want to leave with your MP after the meeting (please contact us for resources you can take to your meeting and leave with your MP); and
- Do you want arrange local media coverage? We can help you with this.

Step 6. At the meeting

1. Arrive on time and take your meeting confirmation with you. Ask your MP how much time is available.
2. Introduce yourself and say thank you for making time to see me/us. As supporters of the *Our Outback, Our Story* campaign we are here because we care about WA's Outback and want to see it in good shape for future generations.
3. Let them know they can get more information at www.outbackwa.org.au
4. Explain why the Outback is important to WA and needs to be looked after well - for people's livelihoods, our heritage, for nature.
5. Ask your MP to support a sustainable future for the Outback where nature and people thrive. Here's some ways they can show that support:
 - a. Sign up as a supporter at www.outbackwa.org.au
 - b. Give a speech or ask a questions regarding the future of WA's Outback in Parliament
 - c. Inform your electorate of your support – through local media or at public events.

6. Offer your sincere thanks

It is okay if you don't know the answer to everything they ask you. If possible, indicate that you will provide further information following the meeting.

See if you can take a photo with your MP or one as a group outside their office which we can share with others – with your permission we can post it on Facebook or include it on our website.

Step 7. After the meeting

- Write to thank your local MP for making the time to meet with you. Reiterate why the meeting was important to you and follow up with them on any outstanding actions.
- If you were promised additional information from your MP, then mention in your thank you letter that you are expecting to receive this.
- Let us know how the meeting went and what your MP said.

Additional Tips

Be persistent, polite and positive. Let your MP know that they have the ability to keep WA's Outback great as part of their legacy.

While it's important to be positive, don't sugar coat your views. Explain simply and directly your own experience and why taking care of Outback WA matters.

Make it clear that issues relating to WA's Outback affect the way you consider voting. Politely explain to your MP that you expect her/him to represent your views. Remember you live in their electorate, so you're an important person and they are there to represent *you*.

Please contact us anytime for advice or assistance along the way by contacting Emma at emma.tan@outbackwa.org.au