



A Voice for Wildlife

www.awpc.org.au

We seek to change attitudes towards our beautiful wildlife, especially where they are needlessly killed, poisoned and persecuted.



Volume 28, September 2018

Australian Wildlife Protection Council
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Registered Charity A0012224D
ABN 85240279616

Annual General Meeting

The Briars Info Center
450 Nepean Hwy, Mount Martha
Sunday Sept 30th 2018, 11am-1pm
All Welcome!
RSVP
eve.awpc@gmail.com



President's Report

Dear Members, Supporters and Friends,

It is that time of year where it is time for us to undertake our annual general meeting. Notifications have been sent to our members and the details will be advertised on our website and Facebook page. It's always a pleasure to get to know our members and supporters and I hope that you can join us at our upcoming AGM.

As is with wildlife in this great country of ours there is a lot happening especially with spring in the air with the recent National Threatened Species Day, World Habitat Day and Wildlife Awareness Day. In the following months there are numerous opportunities to advocate for our precious wildlife.

In the meantime I invite you to grab a coffee or tea, hop into a comfy chair and enjoy our next newsletter.

Kind regards, Craig Thomson

Thank you for your kind donations and caring about wildlife!

Your donations are vital to keep the AWPC going and continuing the important work we do for wildlife.

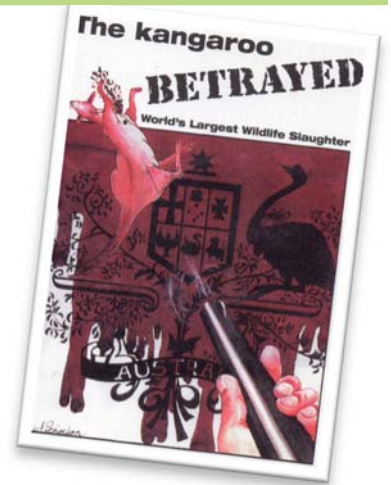
Donations can be made online at <https://awpc.org.au/donate/> or deposit to Australian Wildlife Protection Council **BSB: 063535 AN: 10090791**



Drought

At the Australian Wildlife Protection Council we wish sincere heart felt wishes to those affected by the latest drought in this country and hope you are able to make your way in the future without too much hardship.

It must be made perfectly clear though that we are absolutely horrified and appalled by the New South Wales Government that essentially blames wildlife for this drought by enabling individuals to obtain permission/permits over the phone or by email to cull kangaroos. It demonstrates a poor understanding of ecological principles and very poor governance.



Let's make no mistake, drought is caused by climate change, land degradation and salinity and these issues will not be solved by shooting kangaroos but rather strong leadership and policy on climate change, energy and land clearing; of which most recent federal and state governments have extremely poor records.

In particular both Queensland and NSW have the poorest records for allowing land degradation with claims that native vegetation clearing has increased 800% in just 3 years <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/aug/04/clearing-of-native-vegetation-in-nsw-jumps-800-in-three-years> and more than 1 million hectares between financial years of 2012/13 and 2015/16 <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/apr/24/queensland-poised-to-pass-tougher-land-clearing-laws-as-early-as-next-week>.

It is encouraging to see the QLD Labor government has made tougher clearing laws this year in March, despite some farmer's concerns. We as a collective understand that vegetation clearing causes not only habitat loss and fragmentation, but also erosion, salinity and loss of carbon sequestration; which impacts our climate.

We also need to educate that the loss of wildlife is also a contributing factor. The movement of wildlife through our landscapes, such as kangaroos, is beneficial for many reasons including reducing fuel loads and maintaining soil health. Kangaroos, for example, graze grass sustainably (not too short) and fertilise the soil. It is important that agricultural practices are compatible with the land.

Landowners need to understand that wildlife contribute both ecologically and economically to the land and instead of supporting poor land management practices and governance that persecutes wildlife, they need to practice good land management living alongside wildlife.

With National Endangered Species Day on the 7th of September it is a sobering reminder that demonising wildlife as 'pests' leads to species extinction.

We support the actions that Mark Pearson from the Australian Justice Party is undertaking; please follow the link to see his video <https://markpearson.org.au>

Craig Thomson

President AWPC

The Nature Nook Project

The AWPC is undertaking a local project, in conjunction with the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, to bring our human and wild communities together in a more connected way. We'd like to educate children (and adults) about how humans and wildlife mutually benefit and how we can interact with a 'hands-off' approach.

We can do this by creating a natural meeting space at The Briar's Wildlife Reserve, 450 Nepean Hwy, Mount Martha. This space, called 'The Nature Nook', will include natural features to sit on, mini habitats for wildlife including, nest boxes, dreys, a rope bridge and signage. It will also include modern technology with the use of wildlife cameras.

With an emphasis on using our senses- sight, smell and sound, The Nature Nook is a place to sit, be still and contemplate the wild members of our community.

We intend on opening and presenting the space, and recordings of wildlife, with a fun and interactive presentation on **Saturday November 3rd, 2018.**

The Nature Nook's Concept:

We all interact with our community friends; we go to school, visit the playground, attend markets and local parks. But do we notice that we share our community with other 'wild' friends as well? By creating a meeting-place for wildlife and people, and presenting ways to interact using a hands-off approach, we are opening our hearts and minds to how we co-exist with wildlife and how we mutually benefit.

The AWPC and other wildlife groups are aware of an increasing disconnect that humans have with the natural world. Our lives are very busy and centered around entertainment and hands-on activities. We see the benefits of quiet interaction with nature, to learn about our wildlife using other senses, other than touch, to listen, smell and observe wildlife in their natural environment. Whilst we can improve their habitat for their welfare we can also appreciate them for all the wonderful benefits they provide us.

We need you!

We would love to include people who are interested in mindfulness and positive psychology that might like to help present content to the children.

We would love for you to be involved, if you are interested in volunteering even a few hours or have any questions please contact Eve on 0425 842 618 or eve.awpc@gmail.com.

A big thanks to David Sullivan at www.netting.com.au in Qld for donating an awesome rope bridge for The Nature Nook, the possums are going to love it!



Eastern Rosella Pic: D. Allen



Southern Brown Tree Frog Pic: D. Allen



Echidna Pic: D. Allen



Swamp Wallaby Pic: E. Kelly



Update: Botulism Outbreak Civic Reserve Mornington by Eve Kelly

We are happy to announce that due to pressure from the public, wildlife groups and the AWPC that the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has installed four water-pump fountains in the lakes to oxygenate. Hopefully these will prevent further botulism outbreaks at the lakes. Along with improved signage the AWPC hopes that we will see a healthy environment for these beautiful water birds.

There have been many babies hatched out since the outbreak so we hope their numbers continue to improve.

Update: Mornington Peninsula Freeway Clearing

The Australian Wildlife Protection Council has been busy trying to put a halt to clearing on the median strip of the Mornington Peninsula Freeway. This vegetation is home to wildlife including possums, nesting birds, echidna and reptiles. We were outraged that VicRoads used a 'forestry machine' to clear everything in its path last year and that the works commenced in spring when birds are nesting.

Since last year the AWPC has met with VicRoads and the TAC many times, including a site visit, to consult with their executives and contractors. Whilst we were unable to have the clearing ceased we made many recommendations about the way in which the clearing is to be done and how the wildlife is managed. VRs stopped the use of the forestry machine and made some changes to the amount of vegetation that was to be cleared. More vegetation has been retained than was previously planned. This means that wildlife that has lost their habitat is hopefully able to relocate into the remaining vegetation left alone on the freeway.

There are still areas that have lost all of the vegetation and we are waiting on reports from the zoologist contractors to find out what happened to all the wildlife living in it. We recommended that wildlife be trapped and relocated onto the side vegetation instead of being flushed out. To date no wildlife has come into care at wildlife shelters.

With the changed plans and a detailed wildlife plan, there has still been 2 koalas, kangaroos, possums and 2 echidna killed on the roads since the clearing has recommenced. Unfortunately all of our previous predictions came true, we have made it clear to VRs that any habitat loss will have dire consequences for wildlife. We have spoken strongly to VRs about these deaths and the fact that the safety barriers prevent wildlife from exiting the freeway and cause unnecessary injury and death of wildlife and increased road hazards.

We continue to receive regular updates on the clearing, which is underway again, and are on call for any wildlife that is displaced, injured or orphaned. We are also urging VRs to have the area surveyed to observe how the displaced wildlife is faring. VRs have since refused our request.

Mornington Peninsula Freeway Clearing Cont...

We are confident that VRs will have learned much about wildlife throughout this process, but still have a long way to go. Hopefully they will consider wildlife in their future projects. Thanks to everyone involved including Klarissa Garnaut, Brenda Marmion, Russell Joseph (Liberal for Nepean), Paul Saunders (Mornington Peninsula Greens) and Roslyn Browning.

“a great credit to Craig and Eve for bringing all this to fruition and making the process accountable. Hopefully the outcome over the next few weeks is commensurate to their efforts!” **Russell Joseph - Liberal for Nepean**

“Much thanks to Craig and Eve from Australian Wildlife Protection Council for briefing the Greens on this project and attending the VicRoads viewing. VicRoads have responded to the earlier mess and placed a number of measures in place to limit fauna being killed in this new phase” **Mornington Peninsula Greens**



AWPC meet with VicRoads

Want to have your say? Submissions, Events and News

Below are a list of dates of activities and closing dates for comments, in which the public can express concerns or acknowledgement about our environment laws in which we encourage you to do so.

30th September comments close for **WA biodiversity law changes**, which you can see here:

<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/biodiversity-conservation-act?showall=&start=1>

The following link from Conservation Council of Western Australia has some useful information to give you ideas on what to write

<https://ccwa.good.do/protectnativeanimals/contact/>

Sunday 30th Sept **AWPC's Annual General Meeting**

The Briars Info Center, 450 Nepean Hwy, Mount Martha 11am-1pm.
All Welcome!



Squirrel glider photo by D. Whelan

Threatened and extinct species were once common species. Therefore, we must strive to protect ALL of our native species, including 'common' species, by preserving their habitat, climate and protection.

During the whole month is of September is the opportunity to **Save the Koala**

<https://www.savethekoala.com/how-to-help/save-koala-month>

Or **learn about biodiversity**

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/biodiversity-month>

October 22nd-28th **Bird week**

<http://birdlife.org.au/get-involved/whats-on/bird-week>

Sat 3rd Nov, 2018- **‘The Nature Nook Project’**

10am-3pm, The Briars Nature Reserve, 450 Nepean Hwy, Mount Martha

Be still, listen, smell and contemplate wildlife.

November 11th-18th **National Pollinators Week**

<https://beesbusiness.com.au/pollweekmain.html>

Tasmanian DPIPWE have a new app to report road-kill to help save the Tasmanian Devil

<https://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/wildlife-management/save-the-tasmanian-devil-program/about-the-program/roadkill-project/roadkill-tas-app>

The AWPC wishes to give a huge hug and many thanks to the lovely Jess Rose for donating her time and excellent graphic design skills for our recent donation drive. You are a legend!

Thanks to all who donated and renewed their memberships!

We would also like to thank the following for their contributions of wildlife photos: Daniel Allen, David Whelan, John Harris, Morgan Dudderidge, Mel Swan, Suzie Webster and Prue Bamford.

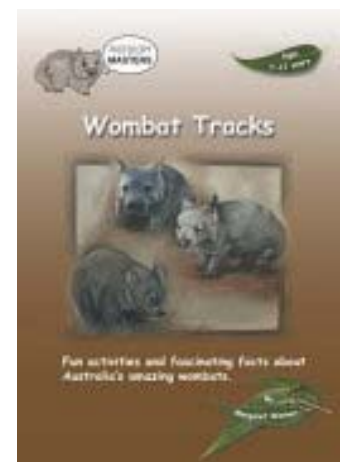
Thank you all!!!

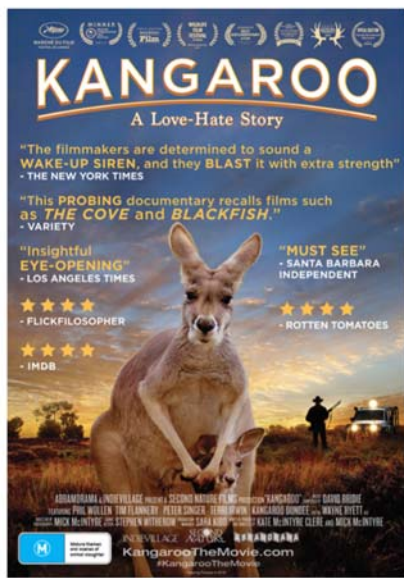
Let the AWPC know of any upcoming events or submissions we can advertise.

Please support one of our wonderful members Margaret Warner by promoting and purchasing her fabulous self-published books. Her latest book **‘Wombat Tracks’** is an excellent gift or resource for children.

“Wombat Tracks encourages students to learn about Australia's three species of wombats, how and where they live, how they care for their young and the threats they face. The book is practical and informative with a balanced combination of information and fun activity pages”

Contact: www.onearthpublishing.com.au





If you haven't seen the film 'Kangaroo, A Love-Hate Story' it's not too late! There are still screenings around Australia including Gosford 27th Sept, Yackandandah Oct 27th, Albury Nov 3rd and at Sydney's Cruelty Free Festival Nov 11th. Check their website for more screening venues and details.

<http://kangaroothemovie.com/>

You can purchase the movie online or better still 'host your own screening' to help spread the word about the plight of kangaroos Australia wide.

<http://kangaroothemovie.com/host-a-screening>

Urgent Action Needed for Kangaroos!

Landlocked

Not only are kangaroos being slaughtered in regional areas for the skin and meat trade but urban kangaroos, in areas that are being developed for housing, are landlocked and suffering.

Local, state and federal governments continue to sit on their hands and deny the suffering of these animals whilst they continue to release land for development. They fail to plan for the ethical treatment of these 'protected' wildlife and leave it up to volunteer wildlife rescuers to clean up the carnage.

There are ongoing battles to have translocation projects approved by local government for Eastern Grey Kangaroos in Epping, Mernda, Doreen, to name just a few problem areas in Victoria, and for Agile Wallabies in Trinity Beach, Qld.

With state authorities preferring for these animals to die one by one on the roads, or through planned culls, we can't understand why they won't consider translocation plans that have been submitted to government by experienced wildlife professionals and volunteers.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheAgileProject/>

<https://www.change.org/p/cairns-council-save-agile-wallabies-by-giving-them-some-land-back>

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/north/fears-agitated-doreen-roos-will-cause-road-accident-if-not-moved>

Please write to the Victorian Environment Minister (lily.d'ambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au) and express your outrage that our kangaroos are not being planned for or treated humanely in developed areas in Victoria.

The AWPC will continue to pressure government for better outcomes for kangaroos!



NSW Announces Open Slaughter of Kangaroos by Eve Kelly



The NSW government declared the whole state as 100% drought affected and on the very same day relaxed culling legislation for protected wildlife. The new cull permit conditions open the way for an 'open season' without counts of animals killed and other 'red tape' conditions. These changes will undoubtedly lead to animal welfare and cruelty problems.

Minister Niall Blair (NSW Minister for Industry and Primary Industries) doesn't try to hide the fact that his ideas and decisions are based on the economics of using our wildlife to make a profit. His decisions are not based on the natural ecology of the land, ethics or good data. The drought has just made it much easier for him to get his way.

He said "*We're getting rid of the red tape, we want to make it easier for landholders to get that quota of roos, make it easier to access the tag through a change process, getting more shooters on properties and also increasing the commercial take*" and admitted "*At the moment New South Wales only uses 13 per cent of its quota for kangaroos and that's just not enough — particularly in the times of drought*" and "*We've got to up that and we're doing that through our agencies but also working land (sic) landholders and the commercial sector.*"

Who would have thought that wildlife activists and the kangaroo meat and skin sector would be on the same side for once! The Kangaroo Industry Association Australia's Ray Borda expressed his concern for the welfare of kangaroos with the relaxed conditions. "*I was very surprised mainly because of the fact there was no consultation with the industry nor animal welfare groups and in my opinion it's not the right move,*" he said. He agreed that the lack of tagging dead kangaroos would lead to animal welfare issues.

Not only do our kangaroos have to survive horrific conditions with a lack of food and water they are now fleeing from farmer's bullets. Many farmers consider kangaroos as a 'pest' as they compete with their stock for feed but the data and research on this is much disputed. Not only do kangaroos naturally hold off reproducing in times of drought they are native to this land, unlike livestock, and therefore much more suited to Australian conditions.

It is clear that the government is very lacking in good information about the ecology of kangaroos.

Minister Blair says their numbers are now out of control. "*We have kangaroos in plague proportions across NSW now,*" he said. But he fails to mention that as native animals moving toward food and water sources the kangaroos are on the move for survival and *not* reproducing out of control.

Blair is just plain wrong as echoed by wildlife expert Prof. Steve Garlick "*Kangaroos are not in plague proportions. They might be in some specific areas, and that's because we are in a drought, there's no doubt about that,*" he said. "But no one seems to be interested in any of the wildlife in this drought situation."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-06-15/kangaroo-cull-red-tape-relaxed-in-nsw-drought-affected->

Please write to your local MPs, local councilors, NSW MPs, and federal government. Contact your local paper and write letters to the editor to express your outrage. Now is the time to have a voice!

We received this heart felt message from Ro Godwin, Vice President of 'Australia's Kangaroos' this week:

'Here in NSW we are witnessing the open slaughter of Kangaroos, the slaughter is unbearable & extremely distressing yet is being completely ignored by politicians except Lee Rhiannon who is now retired, main stream media have only briefly covered it but given the seriousness of the slaughter it's being kept quiet. Here is an update from NSW:

<https://www.goondiwindiargus.com.au/story/5583578/kangaroo-lives-matter-too-dont-kill-skippy/>

http://amp.abc.net.au/article/10126216?_twitter_impression=true

https://amp.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/rough-end-of-the-stick-drought-toll-on-wildlife-starts-to-mount-20180831-p50120.html?_twitter_impression=true

<http://districtbulletin.com.au/war-on-wildlife-ramps-up-in-nsw/>

https://amp.9news.com.au/article/450db9bd-1b15-424a-855a-2f26dc28eee5?_twitter_impression=true

Also this continues & is ignored <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=oS22gTYIFrY>

I'm an Indigenous Woman & Kangaroo are Totem to many of we Indigenous people, they also are the Dreaming of Country, as Kangaroos bound across Country they re-energise Song Lines & Dreaming Tracks & for the first time in millions of years these Song Lines & Dreaming Tracks are now silent across NSW as a direct result of the slaughter.

As Vice President of 'Australia's Kangaroos' I'd also really appreciate it if you could share this Petition far & wide as we need as many signatures as possible if we are going to stop this slaughter https://www.change.org/p/gladys-berjiklian-sack-niall-blair-for-continuously-and-deliberately-misleading-the-public?recruiter=16621850&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=share_for_starters_page

Thanks for your time

Aunty Ro Mudyin Godwin'

Wildlife Needs Protection!

The AWPC receives many reports of wildlife being mistreated and we offer advice and urge members of the public to make reports to the appropriate authorities and write letters of complaint to government.

This year we received information about possums being illegally and cruelly poisoned in St Kilda, see the letter on page 10. We urged the person concerned to report this to the Department of Land, Environment, Water and Planning (DELWP), which she did, but like many of us she was very unsatisfied with their lack of action.

The AWPC has reported many cases of breaches to the Wildlife Act 1975 to DELWP, the only government department who can enforce this law, and we believe that they are doing very little to investigate and prosecute these cases.

What is the point in having laws that say they protect wildlife if they are never enforced? Recently a DELWP wildlife officer admitted that DELWP are not there to 'protect' wildlife, rather they are there to 'regulate' them- as they do with other government assets.

The AWPC will continue to hold the government to account for their lack of action.

I am concerned about the lack of responsibility taken by the Department Environment Land Water & Planning in regards to Australian Wildlife. It is one thing to have a website focusing on what we expect of them but it appears to be all words and no action. Possums are being poisoned intentionally in our suburb because they have been forced into eating the only sparse vegetation they can find. This is the case of all suburbs after gentrification. Reporting illegal activity to DELWP is met with a polite political dead-end reply.

If naïve suburban residents remain uneducated and in the dark about the effects of baiting wildlife, then the matter will only get worse. We have a Department set up by the Victorian Government to oversee this but they appear to strictly rely on the masses to read their well worded but useless website when it comes to the illegal killing of suburban possums. It reads as a smack on the wrist passive transcript and it is time that city dwellers whether born in Australia or have moved here from overseas understand what they are doing by using bait & the consequences.

The death of possums by bait is painful, prolonged and distressing. Animals stagger around, thirsting, frightened, disoriented and convulsing, sometimes for days until they succumb to central nervous system collapse, coronary or respiratory failure or are attacked by predators they cannot fend off due to paralysis. The baby possums (marsupial joeys) suffer horrendous death from starvation, exposure, or poison in their mother's milk. Poisoned marsupials then wander semi-conscious and disoriented before they die, and remain lethal until they have decomposed entirely, so family pets are at risk. Many pets die in agony every year through also picking up the baits or through secondary poisoning.

I have been witnessing this since St Kilda became gentrified and reporting such crime is met with ineffectual action.

Name Withheld

We wish to thank all our members old and new, your continued support is very much appreciated!

If you haven't renewed your membership this year you can do so online or fill in the membership form below and mail it to us. **AWPC, 502 Waterfall Gully Rd, Rosebud, 3939.**

Payments can be made by credit card online, or bank deposit or mail us a money order or cheque. We have retained our very cheap membership fee to make it accessible to everyone.

Membership of the Australian Wildlife Protection Council is \$20.00 (AUS) per year, or \$10 concession/student/pensioner.

This includes:

Newsletters '*A Voice for Wildlife*' and updates.

Voting rights at our Annual General Meeting, to be held Sept 30th 2018, all are welcome. You will be updated on our activities, and welcome to join in with ideas and actions.

But most importantly your membership support enables us to continue the important work that we do and retain our organisation's tax-deductible status.

Please sign up and/or renew today!

Before making any direct deposits or sending a postal payment, PLEASE FILL OUT the FORM below.

[Join Online Membership Form](#) here

[Pay Online](#) here

Cheques: should be made payable to '*AWPC Public Fund*'

Please send to: **Australian Wildlife Protection Council Inc.**

502 Waterfall Gully Road, Rosebud, Vic 3939

Direct Deposits:

Deposits can be made through your online banking account or at any Commonwealth Bank branch:

Account Name: **Australian Wildlife Protection Council Inc.**

BSB #: **063535**

Account #: **10090791**

Please include your name as reference when making direct deposits. Once we receive your payment we will send you a receipt.

We Need Your Help!



The Australian Wildlife Protection Council (AWPC) is dedicated to the preservation of Australian native animals and their protection from cruelty and/or exploitation.

You can help us by either becoming a member of the AWPC and/or making a tax deductible donation. Please complete the form below and either mail or email to:

AWPC, 502 Waterfall Gully Rd, Vic 3939 Ph: 0425 842 618 Email: awpc.office@gmail.com

Name: _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____ Country: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the AWPC receive quarterly newsletters/updates and other information about issues and events.

- Please renew my membership
Yes, I would like to become a member of the AWPC
\$20 - 1 Year (adult) \$10 - 1 Year (concession)

If you would like to become more involved (e.g. wildlife rescue) please list your area(s) of interest:

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

The Australian Wildlife Protection Council is a non-profit, non-government organisation that relies entirely on the generosity of its members and donations to continue its work.

I would like to make a tax deductible donation to the AWPC public fund of

- \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 Other amount: _____

PAYMENT

Memberships and donations can be made online, please find the forms and payment at www.awpc.org.au

- I enclose Cheque / Money Order (made payable to AWPC Public Fund)
Direct deposit* to the AWPC bank account number

*Direct Deposits:

A direct deposit can be made through your online bank account or at any Commonwealth Bank location using the AWPC bank account #:

BSB #: 063535 Account #: 10090791

Please include your name as reference when making direct deposits.

Postage is one of our greatest expenditures. Sending us a book of stamps is an excellent way of making an inexpensive donation go a long way.

- Please tick here if you do NOT want to receive future communications from AWPC. We respect your privacy and do not share or disclose your personal details

The Australian Wildlife Protection Council Public Fund is a gift fund listed on the register of Environmental Organizations Section 78(1)(A) of the Income Assessment Act 1936. All Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible. Receipts will be sent for all donations as required by law. ABN 85 240 279 616 GST EXEMPT The Australian Wildlife Protection Council is a registered charity - No. A0012224D.