



Labor's Urban Rivers Plan.

FACTSHEET

Labor 

At a Glance

Labor will allocate \$200 million to help fix up Australia's urban and peri-urban waterways and catchments in partnership with local governments and community groups.

The Urban Rivers and Catchments Program will help to improve water quality, reduce localised flooding and restore precious habitat for the many Australian plants and animals in urban areas. It will also create valuable recreational areas for local communities, helping to make these public spaces healthy and pollution-free so they can be enjoyed by kids and families.

Urban Rivers and Catchments

Our local parks and reserves don't just provide precious habitat, they are also a place for people to get together for picnics and children's birthday parties, where we teach our kids to ride a bike and where we walk the dog.

Fixing up our waterways and the catchment areas around them, will give people access to a better quality of living and will help protect threatened plants and animals.

Nearly half of all nationally listed threatened animals and one quarter of threatened plants are in urban areas. Repairing and restoring our waterways and catchments helps to protect these species, and, create great recreational areas for local communities.

An Australia Conservation Foundation study found the presence of 46 percent of nationally-listed threatened animals, and 25 percent of nationally listed plants, in cities and towns.

Unfortunately, our rivers and catchments are under pressure, particularly from increased runoff as backyards shrink and urban areas spread, and from plastic pollution which gets washed into stormwater drains and into rivers.

There are hundreds of community groups across the country taking action to clean up their local waterways for everyone to enjoy. Labor's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program will help fund that work to make an even bigger impact, including by:

- Creating wetlands to slow water flow and filter stormwater before it reaches our rivers
- Citizen science and education projects for pre-schoolers and school age children
- Removing cement walls and returning them to natural riverbanks
- Re-vegetation and tree planting

Funding for community projects

Community groups and local governments will be able to make a submission for their project to be included in the program.

The dedication and commitment of the local community will be a critical part of the success of the Urban Rivers and Catchments program.

Projects that demonstrate strong community support, a clear community benefit through improved local green spaces and local job creation, and substantial environmental improvements will have a greater chance of success.