

Senator David Pocock

3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2023

Hello David,

We first met in September 2020 at Vince Heffernan's farm, Moorlands, near Gunning to support a Greening Australia project. A group of volunteers from Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society (OFF) joined you and your friends from Canberra to plant 2,000 native trees and shrubs. As you know Vince hosted an additional two planting events in September 2022 (one which you and your election volunteers supported, the other event was supported by OFF members) when a total of another 2,000 plants were planted. I continue to be amazed at Vince's enthusiasm, determination and focus on mitigating the impact of climate change and improving biodiversity through his re-vegetation projects and regenerative agricultural practices over the last two decades.

The reason to write to you is to seek your support to push the federal government for much longer term commitments for critical organisations such as Landcare, Greening Australia, Intrepid Landcare to mention a few.

At a recent (December 9, 2022) awards luncheon with NSW State Premier approximately 300 volunteers from many organisations were invited. I was invited by Landcare (via the Greater Sydney Landcare Network). The Premier loudly, and rightly so, praised the enormous efforts of the volunteers for their incredible efforts in reaction to the recent massive flood events in Eastern Australia. An earlier 'reactive' measure by the Federal Government in October 2022, was a \$588 million budget plan for disaster relief services.

However, the environmental, social, mental, physical impacts of these catastrophic events could well have been mitigated IF many more funds were directed to 'preventative, science-led approaches' to restore Australia's diverse landscapes and address the crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

With significantly more, and longer term, funding and support for the organisations mentioned above, environmental, ecological and agricultural professionals could plan, implement and maintain multi-year, and perhaps decade long projects. Currently I understand many of these professionals must make annual bids for funding for their jobs and projects which takes many mandays of their time and focus away from the work they love and their efforts to save the planet. From a macro-economic viewpoint an increased level of funding is an investment in the landscape which will reap future economic dividends as extreme weather events would be less impactful and costly.

In August 2022 you urged the Federal Government to give more funding to the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions fearing critical research on how to control introduced pests could be at risk. I applaud your efforts.

I know how passionate you and your wife, Emma, are about saving our planet and its beautiful biodiversity. Therefore, I ask you to investigate current funding arrangements for the organisations mentioned above and seek bi-partisan and cross-bench support to significantly increase funding and surety of staff.

Thank you so much for taking time to read my letter. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and how to make progress.

Kind regards,  
Adrian Polhill  
0424 478 498  
Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society  
<https://www.oatleyfloraf fauna.org.au/>

Senator Jacqui Lambie  
Chair of Select Committee on Australia's Disaster Resilience

cc: Senator Tammy Tyrrell

4<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

Hello Jacqui,

The reason to write to you is to seek your support to push the federal government for much longer term commitments for critical organisations such as Landcare, Greening Australia, Intrepid Landcare to mention a few.

At a recent (December 9, 2022) awards luncheon with NSW State Premier approximately 300 volunteers from many organisations were invited. I was invited to join 4 other volunteers from Landcare. The Premier loudly, and rightly so, praised the enormous efforts of the volunteers for their incredible efforts in reaction to the recent massive flood events in Eastern Australia. An earlier 'reactive' measure by the Federal Government in October 2022, was a \$588 million budget plan for disaster relief services.

However, the environmental, social, mental, physical impacts of these catastrophic events could well have been mitigated IF many more funds were directed to 'preventative, science-led approaches' to restore Australia's diverse landscapes and address the crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

With significantly more, and longer term, funding and support for the organisations mentioned above, environmental, ecological and agricultural professionals could plan, implement and maintain multi-year, and perhaps decade long projects. Currently I understand many of these professionals must make annual bids for funding for their jobs and projects which takes many mandays of their time and focus away from the work they love and their efforts to save the planet. From a macro-economic viewpoint an increased level of funding is an investment in the landscape which will reap future economic dividends as extreme weather events would be less impactful and costly.

In August 2022 you worked very effectively with Senator David Pocock in moving amendments to the Federal Government's Emissions Reduction Bill. I applaud your amendments which require the government to produce estimates of how much of a contribution the Federal Budget measures are making to Australia's emissions reduction targets.

As Chair of Select Committee on Australia's Disaster Resilience, I ask you to investigate current funding arrangements for the organisations mentioned above and seek bi-partisan and cross-bench support to significantly increase funding and surety of staff.

For your information, I have also written to Senator Pocock whom I met at a planting event in 2020 just north of Canberra, to support a Greening Australia project. A group of volunteers from Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society (based in Sydney) joined David and his friends from Canberra to plant 2,000 native trees and shrubs. Two years later in September 2022, an additional 2,000 plants were planted on the same farm, owned and managed by Vince Heffernan who is very determined to mitigate the impact of climate change and improve biodiversity through his re-vegetation projects and regenerative agricultural practices.

Thank you so much for taking time to read my letter. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and how to make progress.

Kind regards,  
Adrian Polhill  
0424 478 498  
Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society  
<https://www.oatleyfloraf fauna.org.au/>