



# 2024 Biodiversity Concerns Survey

September 2024





# Overview

- 1 Headline findings
- 2 Demographic analysis
- 3 Political alignment and preferences

# 2022 and 2023 Surveys



### 2022 Survey:

 The Biodiversity Council undertook a benchmark study to better gauge current understanding and concern for biodiversity issues among Australians with a representative sample of 4,048 adults

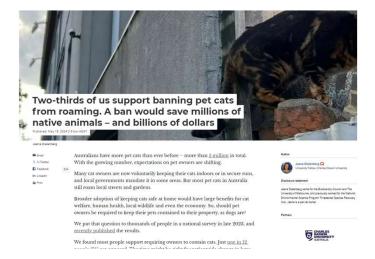
## 2023 Survey:

 3421 Australians completed the survey in November and December 2023. The survey took around 10 minutes to complete on average. The sample was benchmarked against Australian census data for age, gender, and location

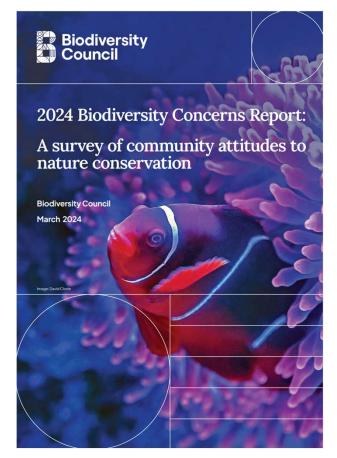


# Headlines

- 97% of Australians want more 'action' for nature
- 95% want a better budget for nature
- 73% want stronger national environmental laws
- 66% support banning free roaming cats







Google: 'Biodiversity Council concerns report'



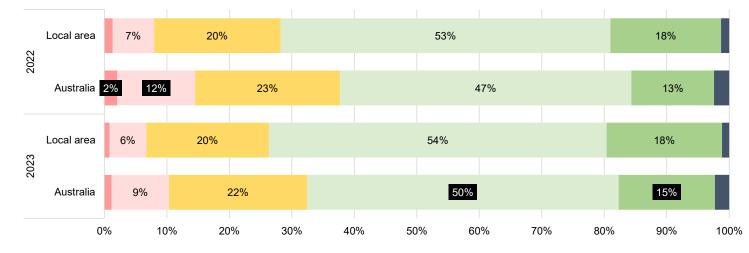
#### ENVIRONMENT STATE

Very poor Poor Neither poor nor good Good Very good Don't know

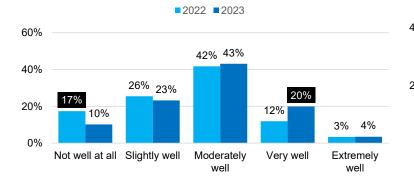
### Key insights:

People think:

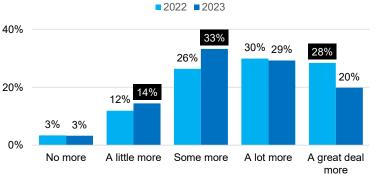
- the environment nationally is doing better than last year
- Not as much action is needed



#### HOW WELL HAS THE ENVIRONMENT BEEN LOOKED AFTER?



**ACTION NEEDED** 





#### Key insights: It is important for me to know nature in Australia is looked after 13% 50% 35% Implicit connection I enjoy spending time in nature 3% 12% 54% 31% is the biggest driver 4% Nature is important for my personal recreation and relaxation 17% 51% 27% Drop in connection metrics (fewer I like to get outdoors whenever I get the chance 5% 17% 52% 25% 'strongly agree') Being in nature helps me deal with everyday stress 5% 19% 50% 25% Ifeelpart of nature 8% 28% 46% 17% 0% 40% 80% 20% 60% 100% Strongly disagree Somewhat disagree Somewhat agree Strongly agree Neither

## How Australians connect with nature

Fig 1. This graph shows how much survey participants agreed with statements about being connected to nature. The results show that the majority of people value and feel connected to nature (blue groups). The proportion of people who do not value or feel connected to nature (red groups) were very small for all statements.



#### Increasing waste and pollution 6% 19% 37% 34% Loss of natural places 9% 21% 33% 35% Decline / extinction of insects and pollinators 9% 20% 33% 33% Impact of non-native plants and animals 8% 23% 31% 3% 33% Extinction of native plants and animals 10% 23% 32% 31% Impacts of climate change 18% 36% 7% 9% 29% Land clearing 4% 9% 3% 25% 34% 25% Overuse of native species 3% 33% 10% 24% 27% 49 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

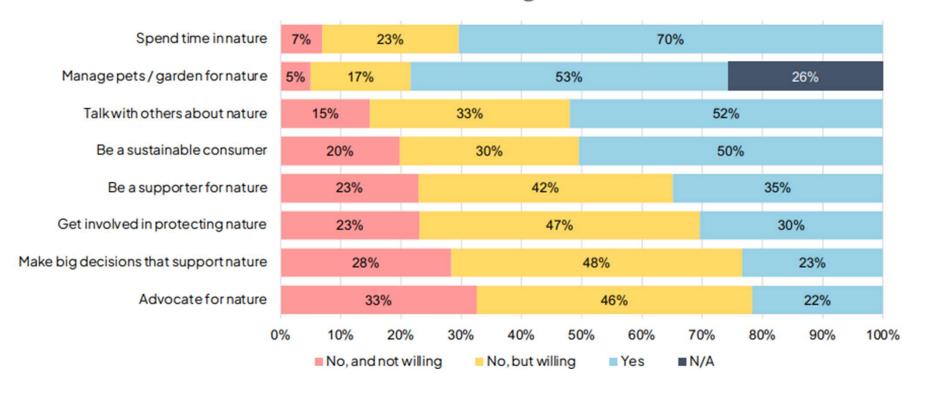
# Concern about biodiversity issues

Not at all concerned Slightly concerned Moderately concerned Very concerned Extremely concerned No opinion

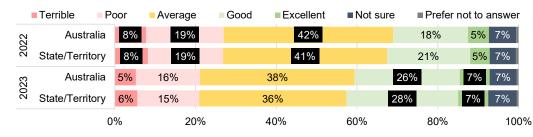
Fig 2. This graph shows how concerned participants were about a range of biodiversity issues. A majority of people were very concerned or extremely concerned (blue groups) about all issues presented.



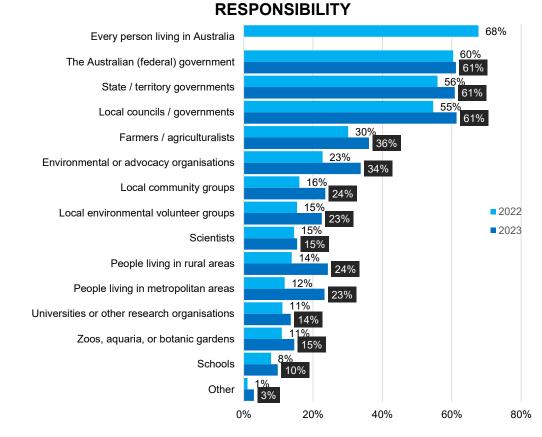
# How are Australians acting for nature?



#### **GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE**







#### Key insights:

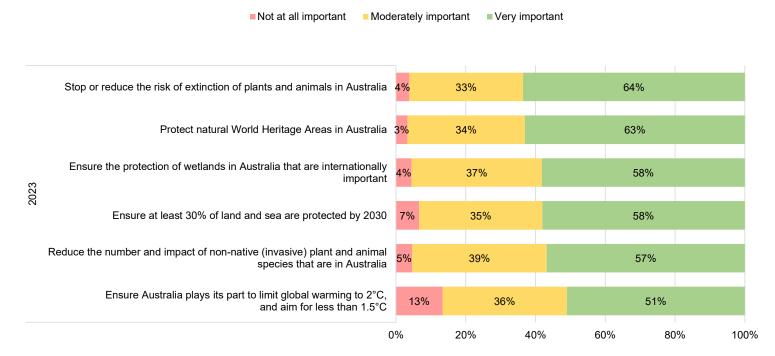
Government performance rated higher in 2023. Decrease in 'average or worse' ratings.

Perceived responsibility increased across almost all scores, (however survey design shifted to eliminate 'Every person' response).



# **UPHOLDING AUSTRALIA'S OBLIGATIONS**

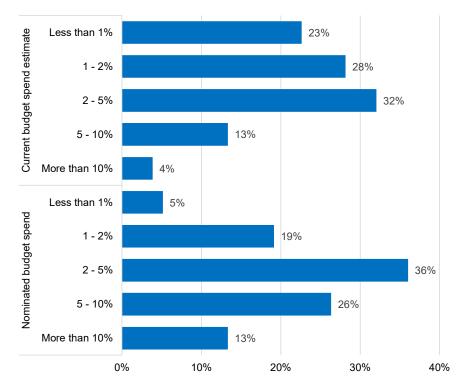
The importance of Australia upholding its international obligations was recognized by the vast majority of respondents. Over 9 in 10 believed the obligations were 'moderately' or 'very' important.



#### OBLIGATIONS

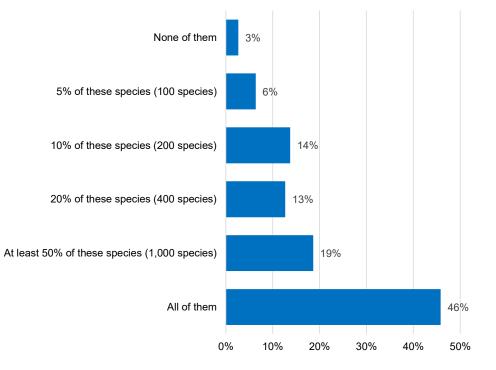


# **GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR NATURE PROTECTION**



#### BUDGET FOR NATURE PROTECTION

#### **SPECIES PROTECTION & RECOVERY**





#### POLICY SUPPORT

Support

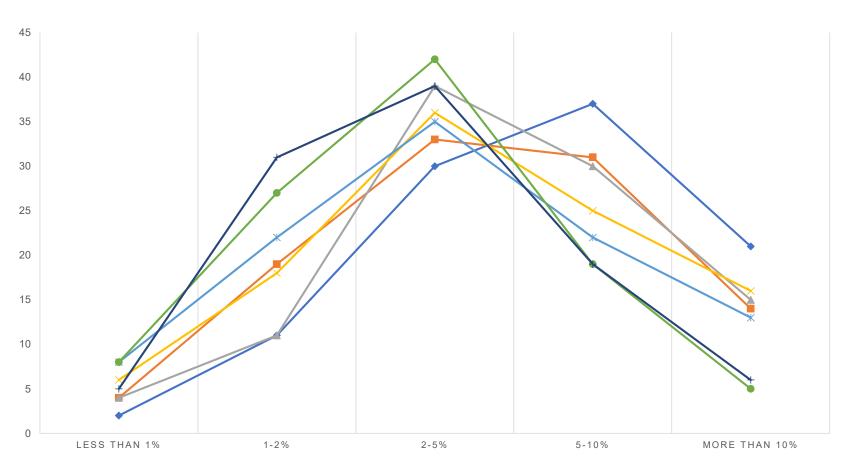
Oppose Neither support nor oppose

Protect native wildlife that are culturally significant (e.g. platypus)	3% <mark>1</mark>	<mark>6%</mark>		81%		
Strengthen environmental laws to protect nature	4%	23%		73%		
Ensure government decision-makers have a duty of care for protecting future generations from environmental harm	5%	24%		71%		
Protect native species' habitat from developments such as mines and urban expansion	5%	26%		69%		
Enforce better planning and design of development projects to reduce the use of environmental offsets	5%	28%		67%		
Require cat owners to keep their cat contained to their property	8%	26%		66%		
Require businesses to report their impacts on nature	7%	29%		64%		
Establish new financial systems that allow businesses to invest in supporting nature	5%	31%		63%		
Make it mandatory for the Federal government to assess the climate emissions impacts of developments	8%	28%		63%		
Establish an independent federal Environment Protection Authority	7%	33%		60%		
Humanely kill non-native (invasive) species that threaten wildlife and natural places	8%	32%		60%		
Ban native forest logging throughout Australia	10%	35%		559	6	
C	)%	20%	40%	60%	80%	1009



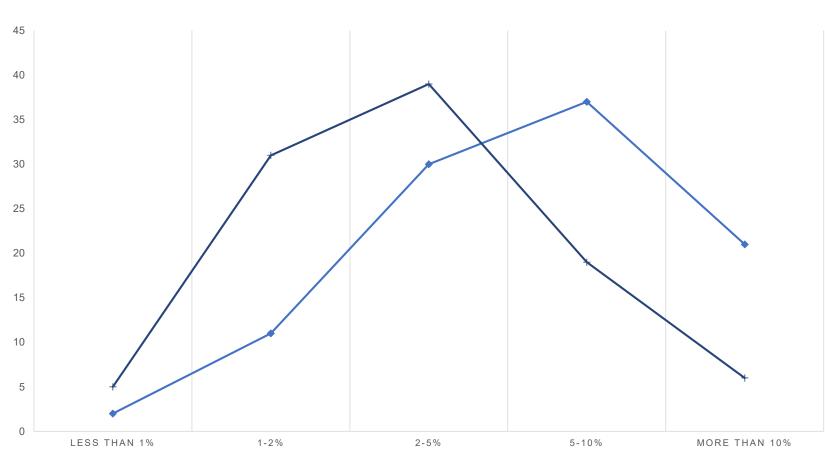
### **DEMOGRAPHICS SPENDING ON NATURE**

**→** 18-24 **→** 25-34 **→** 35-44 **→** 45-54 **→** 55-64 **→** 65-74 **→** 75+

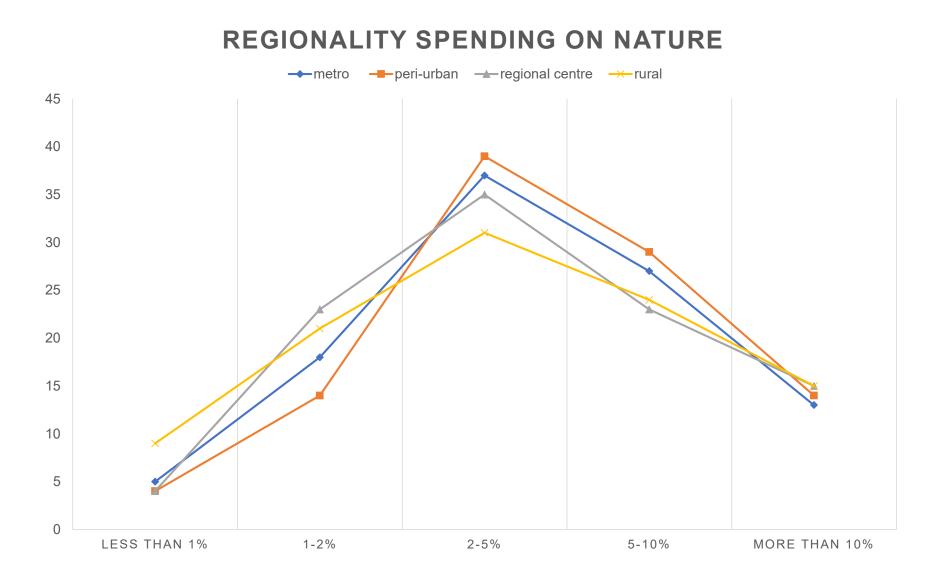


### DEMOGRAPHICS SPENDING ON NATURE

#### **→**18-24 **→**75+

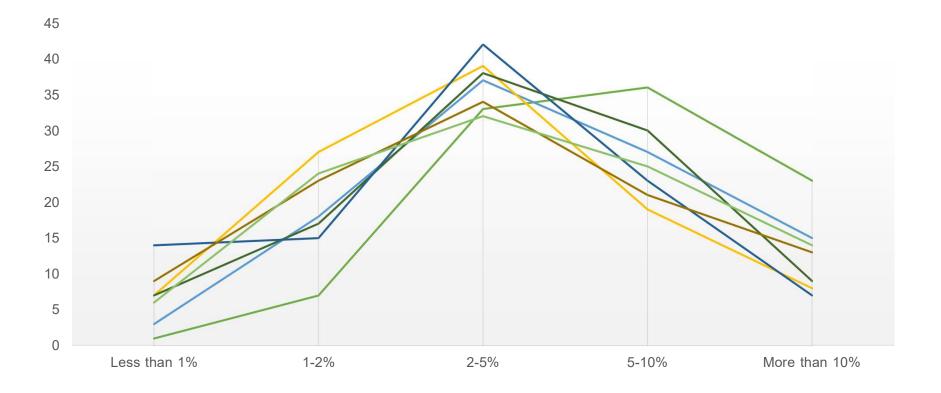






# POLITICAL ALIGNMENT SPENDING ON NATURE

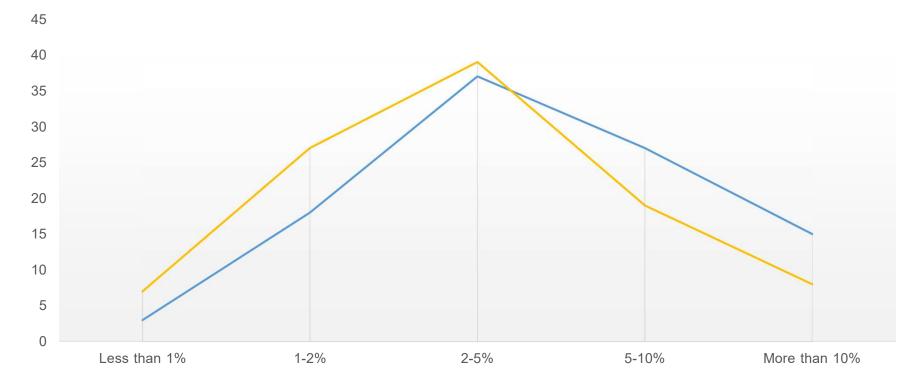






# POLITICAL ALIGNMENT SPENDING ON NATURE

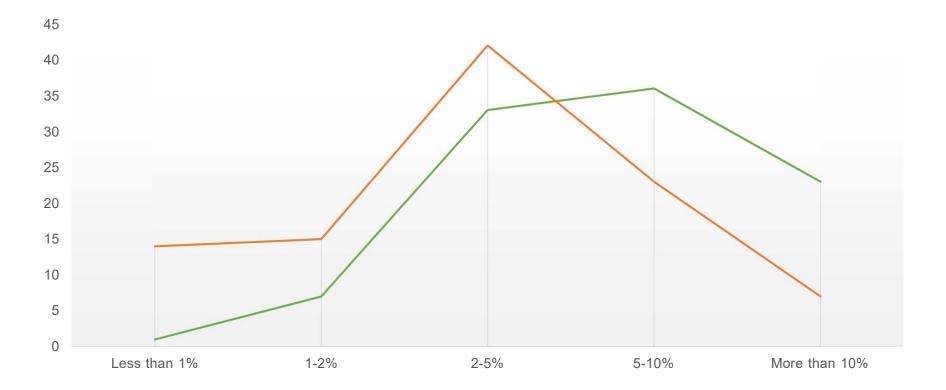




—Labor —Liberal

# POLITICAL ALIGNMENT: SPENDING ON NATURE





—Greens —One nation

			Ag	e				Area			
Policy support	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Metro	Peri- urban	Reg. centre	Rural / remote
Strengthen laws to protect nature	<mark>71%</mark>	<mark>67%</mark>	<mark>68%</mark>	75%	<mark>79%</mark>	79%	75%	<mark>73%</mark>	<mark>78%</mark>	<mark>73%</mark>	66%
Establish independent federal EPA	57%	57%	60%	63%	61%	63%	60%	61%	58%	62%	49%
Mandatory emissions assessment of developments	65%	62%	64%	65%	62%	63%	61%	65%	65%	59%	56%
Duty of care for protecting future generations	65%	63%	66%	<mark>76%</mark>	77%	79%	77%	72%	72%	69%	69%
Protect culturally significant wildlife	<mark>72%</mark>	<mark>73%</mark>	<mark>69%</mark>	<mark>83%</mark>	<mark>88%</mark>	<mark>94%</mark>	<mark>94%</mark>	<mark>80%</mark>	<mark>83%</mark>	<mark>82%</mark>	<mark>83%</mark>
Ban native forest logging	53%	58%	57%	59%	53%	51%	47%	57%	57%	49%	51%
Humanely kill non-native (invasive) species	45%	47%	54%	60%	68%	79%	75%	59%	57%	64%	62%
Require cat owners keep their cat contained	47%	53%	56%	67%	76%	<mark>86%</mark>	<mark>87%</mark>	64%	69%	69%	<mark>70%</mark>
Protect habitat from developments	65%	66%	67%	73%	74%	72%	67%	70%	69%	67%	67%
Better planning/design of development projects	63%	63%	63%	66%	71%	74%	73%	67%	70%	67%	58%
Require businesses report impacts on nature	56%	62%	64%	66%	68%	68%	63%	65%	64%	63%	58%
Allow businesses to invest in supporting nature	63%	59%	59%	67%	65%	66%	67%	63%	60%	65%	54%



		Alignment								Swing-voter	
Policy support	Australian Greens	ALP	Liberal Party of Australia	National Party of Australia	United Australia Party	One Nation	Independent	No alignment	No	Yes	
strengthen laws to protect nature	<mark>81%</mark>	<mark>82%</mark>	67%	54%	52%	<mark>64%</mark>	80%	<mark>73%</mark>	<mark>73%</mark>	<mark>72%</mark>	
Establish independent federal EPA	74%	69%	52%	53%	49%	44%	64%	53%	62%	57%	
Mandatory emissions assessment of developments	77%	76%	51%	51%	<mark>56%</mark>	39%	71%	60%	64%	61%	
Duty of care for protecting future generations	79%	79%	68%	51%	53%	60%	<mark>84%</mark>	70%	72%	70%	
Protect culturally significant wildlife	<mark>83%</mark>	<mark>84%</mark>	<mark>81%</mark>	<mark>69%</mark>	<mark>61%</mark>	<mark>79%</mark>	<mark>95%</mark>	<mark>81%</mark>	<mark>82%</mark>	<mark>78%</mark>	
an native forest logging	72%	60%	43%	40%	49%	56%	71%	52%	55%	54%	
umanely kill non-native (invasive) species	53%	61%	67%	53%	55%	63%	59%	59%	60%	59%	
equire cat owners keep their cat contained	64%	70%	71%	<mark>57%</mark>	40%	<mark>64%</mark>	73%	67%	67%	63%	
rotect habitat from developments	81%	78%	60%	51%	54%	60%	82%	69%	70%	68%	
	79%	73%	61%	51%	49%	54%	70%	66%	68%	66%	
etter planning/design of development projects											
tequire businesses report impacts on nature	74%	71%	59%	51%	51%	51%	71%	61%	64%	64%	
llow businesses to invest in supporting nature	75%	68%	59%	47%	53%	52%	68%	60%	64%	62%	



# **Regions:**

#### WA

#### POLICY SUPPORT

#### Oppose

Protect native wildlife that are culturally significant. Strengthen environmental laws to protect nature Ensure government decision-makers have a duty. Protect native species' habitat from developments. Enforce better planning and design of development. Require cat owners to keep their cat contained to. Require businesses to report their impacts on nature Establish new financial systems that allow. Make it mandatory for the Federal government to. Establish an independent federal Environment. Humanely kill non-native (invasive) species that. Ban native forest logging throughout Australia

• (	Oppose				
culturally significant. 4	<mark>% 21%</mark>	)	7	5%	
aws to protect nature	30	%		68%	
-makers have a duty	6% <mark>2</mark>	9%		66%	
t from developments.3	3 <mark>% 3</mark> 1	1%		66%	
sign of development	5% <mark>3</mark>	30%		65%	
heir cat contained to	10%	28%		62%	
eir impacts on nature	5% <mark>3</mark>	31%		63%	
al systems that allow	6% <mark></mark>	34%		61%	
deral government to	5% <mark></mark> 3	32%		63%	
federal Environment	7%	38%		54%	
vasive) species that	9%	29%		63%	
throughout Australia	7%	40%		53%	
09	% 2	20%	40% 60	% 80	% 100

# Vic

#### **POLICY SUPPORT**

#### Oppose

Protect native wildlife that are culturally significant. 3 Strengthen environmental laws to protect nature Ensure government decision-makers have a duty of . . . Protect native species' habitat from developments . . . Enforce better planning and design of development . . . Require cat owners to keep their cat contained to . . . Require businesses to report their impacts on nature Establish new financial systems that allow . . . Make it mandatory for the Federal government to . . . Establish an independent federal Environment . . . Humanely kill non-native (invasive) species that . . .

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# **Reflections:**

- Australians intrinsically connect to nature...
- But... people think nature is doing ok
- Advocacy is an important, but high bar ask with strong potential
- There is latent political demand for more government spending on nature
- Different messaging on ramps for different audiences

### Thank you

Lead Authors: Kim Borg<sup>1</sup>, Melissa Hatty<sup>1</sup>, and Liam Smith<sup>1,5</sup>

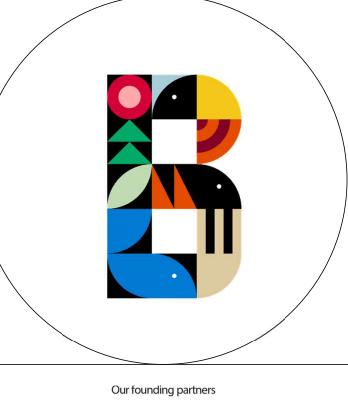
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# Google:

"Biodiversity Council Concerns report" for full report

Image: Nicolas Rakotopare





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