

# WORKBOOK: HOW TO SPEAK WITH YOUR MP ABOUT THE CLIMATE

*Meeting with your MPs is one of the most powerful ways you can take climate action. Our elected representatives need to hear about why climate change matters to you and what action you want them to make in parliament.*

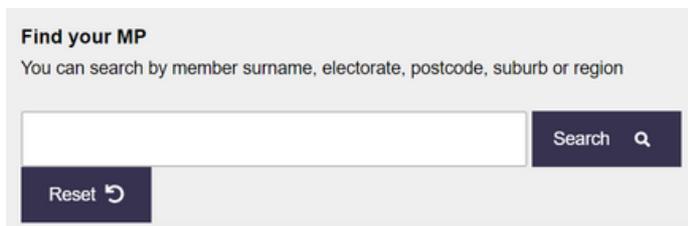
## Goals

- Begin building a relationship with your MP
- Raise your concerns about climate change
- Ask your MP about their views on climate change and what actions they are going to take
- Tell your MP about an action or stance you want them to take

## Step 1. Get to know your MP!

### Basic information

Look up your state MP (MLA) via the [WA Parliament website here](#). You can use this website to find all relevant information about your MP.



The screenshot shows a search interface titled "Find your MP". Below the title is the instruction "You can search by member surname, electorate, postcode, suburb or region". There is a search input field, a "Search" button with a magnifying glass icon, and a "Reset" button with a circular arrow icon.

Name of your MP, including titles: \_\_\_\_\_

Are they a Minister? \_\_\_\_\_

Do they hold any parliamentary positions? \_\_\_\_\_

Electorate office phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Electorate email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Electorate office address: \_\_\_\_\_

**TIP:** Make sure you know how to pronounce your MP's name!



*To build rapport and an ongoing relationship with your MP, it is important to find common ground and understand their values. This will also help you find a way to connect with them over the issue of climate change.*

## **Further information about your MP**

On the WA Parliament website, you can find information about:

- Your MP's position in their party
- How long they have been in Parliament
- Whether they are part of any parliamentary committees

You can also find other relevant information that you might be able to connect with, such as previous occupations and other interests.

**Note any relevant information here:**

## **Learn about your MP's values**

Read or watch your MP's inaugural speech (available on their profile via the WA Parliament website) and take note of what values they express/issues they care about:

## Step 2. Find people to meet your MP with

*It's important to meet your MP with at least one other person, ideally in a group of 3-4 like-minded people. This way you can support each other in the meeting and take on different roles.*

### Meeting group

Who will you go with? Names and contact details	
Any accessibility requirements in the group	
Proposed date, time and location for group planning meeting	
Date, time and location of where to meet before MP meeting	

### Assign group roles

*Make sure each of the roles is covered by people in your group! (some people might have more than one role).*

1. **Lead:** someone to lead the conversation (introductions, opening discussion and closing the meeting)
2. **Note-taker:** take notes on the meeting, especially any commitments that are made by the MP or group
3. **Time-keeper:** ensure the group stays on time
4. **Meeting request:** send the email request and follow up with the office via phone to secure a meeting
5. **Photographer:** take a photo with the MP after the meeting
6. **Meeting follow up:** thank the MP and follow up on any commitments made



## Step 3. Know your issue!

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*Make sure you have a good understanding of climate change and WA's gas industry, but don't feel like you have to be an expert! The initial meeting is all about raising your concerns about climate change and starting to build a relationship with your MP.*

**Read through CCWA's one-pager on climate action in WA (on page 5)**, which you can use as the basis for discussing the issue of climate change and WA's gas industry with your MP. You can also print off a copy to leave with your MP after your meeting.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to [contact the team at CCWA!](#)

## Step 4. Request a meeting

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Request a meeting with your MP by sending an email to their electorate office. **See the letter template on page 6 which you can use to write your meeting request.**

**A meeting request usually includes:**

1. Addressing the MP by their formal title
2. Appreciation
3. Meeting request
4. About yourself/your group
5. Requested discussion topics
6. Sign off

**Following up on your meeting request:**

- Ring your MP's local office within 2-3 working days and confirm it has reached the MP's diary manager.
- Ring every week or two until you get a yes or no answer (if YES, advise the number of people attending the meeting; if NO, employ a new strategy).

**TIP:** *Make a note of each time you have contacted the electorate office, as you can mention this to the diary manager. Always remain polite and respectful - having a good relationship with the MP's electorate staff, including their diary manager, is key to securing meetings!*



## Taking action on climate change in WA

WA is experiencing the devastating impacts of climate change. In 2022, we sweltered through record-breaking heatwaves and battled catastrophic fires, and the South West continues to see decreased rainfall. We have watched our neighbours in the eastern states live through the biggest fire in Australian recorded history and now through repeated mass flooding.

The cost of inaction on climate change is having a destructive impact on our communities, businesses and environment. But we have an opportunity in WA to get ahead of the game.

We know that climate change is happening, how to stop fuelling it and what we can do to prepare. We can be a world leader in a fast and just transition to renewable energy - which will protect our communities, environment and bring major economic benefits.<sup>1</sup>

Climate action is also the fastest-growing political issue in Australia. In the run-up to the 2022 federal election, more Australians mentioned climate change as their number one issue than any other topic.<sup>2</sup>



### The problem

- The biggest single proportion (24%) of WA's emissions comes from the LNG industry.<sup>3</sup> Whether this gas is burned here or overseas, the problem is sourced from WA and adds to the global issue of climate change.
- Science tells us that no new fossil fuel projects should be approved<sup>4</sup> and that fossil fuel usage needs to peak by 2025.<sup>5</sup>
- The recently approved Scarborough gas project will pump out gas until 2055, and the North West Shelf is proposed to continue processing gas until 2070.
- Since Labor lifted its moratorium on fracking across parts of WA, fossil fuel companies are seeking to open up the Kimberley and the Mid West for fracking.

*WA's existing and proposed gas projects mean we will fall short of our commitment to cut emissions*



### The Solution

- Transition WA to 100% clean, affordable and renewable energy by 2030
- Create over 200,000 jobs in WA through this renewable energy transition<sup>1</sup>
- Commit to approving no new fossil fuel projects
- Plan for the decommissioning of existing fossil fuel projects and a just transition for their workers - similar to the planned shutdown of the Muja coal-fired power station in Collie
- Invest taxpayers' money into solutions that help reach net-zero emissions

### References

1. Clean State, (2022) "From Laggard to Leader: WA's Renewables Opportunity"
2. ABC Vote Compass, 2022
3. Clean Energy Regulator, 2020-21 Safeguard facility data
4. International Energy Agency, "Net Zero by 2050"
5. IPCC, "Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change - Summary for Policymakers", p.21

## Meeting request letter template

Use the sample letter below as a guide for drafting your own meeting request to your Member of Parliament (MP). [You can also find a copy on Google Drive here.](#)

**Email the meeting request to your MP as an attachment.**

**Subject line of email:** Meeting Request

[Date]

**RE:** Meeting Request

Dear [MP/Minister] [last name],

Thank you for the important work that you do in WA Parliament.

I am a constituent in [your state electorate] and I am deeply concerned about impact of climate change on WA because [insert your personal reason here].

**I am seeking an in-person meeting with you to discuss the issue of climate change and gas expansion in our state.**

I'm [describe yourself and mention of any roles (e.g. professional associations) or experiences that show your standing on the issue of climate change, or your position in the community generally]

I would be grateful to share some information with you about the impacts of climate change on our community and why we need to take climate action seriously in WA. I would like to hear your views on transitioning away from fossil fuels, and to understand what you [and the WA Labor government - if they are a Labor MP] are doing to address WA's rising emissions.

[Would you be available to meet on DATE or DATE at THIS LOCATION?]

I plan to attend along with some other constituents in your electorate.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

[Suburb]

[Email]

[Phone number]



## Step 5. Prepare for the meeting

Plan for success by familiarising yourself with key tips to having a great meeting, as well as working on creating a meeting agenda with your group.

### Meeting agenda template

#### Section 1 – Introductions (5 mins)

- Thank the MP for their time today, state your appreciation and briefly talk about your plan for the meeting
- Introduce yourselves (1 minute each)
- Each person should introduce who they are, what suburb they live in and why they have come today – make a personal connection if possible
- **Timekeeper:** ask how long you have for the meeting

#### Section 2 – Impacts of climate change and WA’s gas industry (10 mins)

\*\*Check out the one-pager on p.5 of the workbook\*\*

#### Section 3 – The MP’s perspective/time for questions (10 mins)

- Ask the MP what their position is on climate change and WA’s gas industry
- Ask what they and their party are doing to ensure a speedy transition away from fossil fuels
- Ask any follow up/clarifying questions (e.g. *why* are they supportive of the gas industry?)

#### Section 4 – Photo time and wrapping up (5 mins)

- Leave the one-page summary document you have brought (see p.5)
- Thank the MP for their time and tell them you’ll be in touch to follow up and you would like to organise another meeting soon
- Get a photo, and email it to us at [conswa@ccwa.org.au](mailto:conswa@ccwa.org.au)
- If your MP doesn’t want to get a picture with you, get a photo without them outside, next to their office sign



## Meeting agenda template

### Section 5 - Debrief

- Discuss what worked, what didn't and how you could improve the meeting next time (make a note to keep in mind for your next visit)
- Go over your notes of the meeting, paying attention to any commitments that were made by the MP, or any commitment you may have made to provide further information
- Work out who will be responsible for follow-up actions

### Section 6 – Follow up

**Send a follow up email to the MP** – thank them, outline your understanding of what was said in the meeting (including any actions they committed to take) and indicate that you look forward to hearing from them. Include any information you promised to send to the politician.

### Tips for having a successful first meeting with your MP

- **Remember that this first meeting is all about starting to build a relationship with your MP, not convincing them to agree with you on the issue**
- Make a good first impression by dressing smart
- **Listen carefully** - it's important to understand your MP's views so you can find common ground and make the issue of climate change relevant to how they see the world (i.e. more emphasis on community, economy or the environment)
- Remain polite and respectful, even if you disagree on the issue
- Don't forget to thank your MP for meeting with you, ask for the business cards of any advisers present, ask for a photo and send a thank you email!

***If you have any questions or would like support, don't hesitate to contact CCWA staff!***

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