

NCC Meeting with your MP guide

WHY MEET WITH YOUR REPRESENTATIVE?

Meeting your representative about an issue you care about is one of the most powerful things you can do. Our Representatives (called Members of Parliament) respond to the issues they hear about from the community so the more of us who talk about the importance of acting on climate change and protecting nature, the more seriously your Representative will take the issue. Your meeting is one vital step in the campaign to get better action from our government.

WHO IS YOUR LOCAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (MP)?

To find which electorate you are in, enter your address at [this website](#).

Then find your Representative (Member of Parliament) using the name of your electorate on the NSW Parliament website or by doing a quick Google search.

PUT YOURSELF IN THEIR SHOES

Our Representatives deal with a large range of issues and represent about 50,000 people. It is likely that your meeting with them won't be the first time someone has met with them to talk about climate change and nature protection. However, it's also important not to assume too much knowledge about the topic.

You don't have to be an expert on the issue, your role is to show your Representative that you care about the issue and to be clear on what you want them to do. If they ask questions that you don't know the answer to, just let them know that you will find out and get back to them.

It is very rare for all members of a political party to share the same view. Just because you may not agree with the policies of a party, that doesn't mean you won't find common ground with your Representative. There are real champions for climate action and nature protection in each party - our job is to show them what the community wants and to convince them to do more.

4 STEPS TO HAVING A BENEFICIAL MEETING WITH YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

Make an appointment

- Email your Representative to request a meeting, include your full address so your Representative can confirm that they represent you.
- Follow up with a phone call if you haven't heard from them after one week.
- You may like one or two other people to attend the meeting with you.

Prepare for your meeting

- The most important thing to think about is what you want your MP to do after your meeting. You can then work backwards from the resulting action to decide what points you would like to discuss at the meeting. Some options for actions could be: Raise your concerns with the Minister for Energy and ask for a written response; Have a renewable energy expert brief all the representatives in the party.
- If you are going to the meeting with other people, meet with them beforehand to agree on a plan for the meeting - who will take notes, who will lead the meeting, what key points each participant will make, and what material you will leave with your Representative.
- The easiest way to set the agenda for your meeting is to think about the key points you would like to make - 3 or 4 is ideal.

Have your meeting

- Arrive on time - if you are meeting in Parliament, arrive 15 minutes early to get through security, then look for a sign to the 'Legislative Assembly' where the receptionist will be. Ask any staff to help if you can't find your way - they're always friendly.
- Be respectful – being polite will earn the respect of your MP. Being grumpy may just make them defensive and not help your cause.
- Tell your story – personalising the issues will help get your message across. Try and present your information as clearly and succinctly as possible.
- It is okay if you don't know the answer to everything that is asked. Let your Representative know that you will provide the information after the meeting.
- Don't forget to ask for a commitment. Remember why you are there and try not to get sidetracked.

- Remember to leave any materials with your MP.
- Be concise - you won't have a large amount of time with your Representative so focusing on fewer points will help make sure you leave an impression.

Follow up your Representative

- Write to thank your MP for making the time to meet with you and reiterate why the meeting was important to you.
- Remind them what they committed to doing after the meeting and let them know you're looking forward to their response.
- Follow up any outstanding action. If you agreed to provide additional information, make sure you provide that within a reasonable time frame. If you were promised additional information, then follow this up too.

We would love to know how your meeting went, let us know by emailing us! You can also request to become an NCC Member Group, joining a community of organised people who are passionate about ensuring a healthy nature and stable climate. [Click here for more information and to find out about other benefits.](#)

Get in touch at ncc@nature.org.au or by calling (02) 9516 1488