



CLIMBERS ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Environment Policy

August 2023

## Introduction

This Environment Policy is a statement of CAWA's commitment to help reduce the impact of climbing activities on the environment.

As climbers we often practise our sport on relatively untouched summits and cliffs. We have the potential to adversely affect those environments that are so valuable to our experience. We need to be aware of, and to protect, the special features of the environment we use.

CAWA acknowledges responsibility to take reasonable measures to safeguard the environment for both present and future generations. CAWA will improve its own environmental performance and provide assistance and advice to climbers on environmental issues relating to their activities.

## Scope

This policy applies to CAWA and its members, guests, volunteers, staff, and anyone else involved in CAWA activities, events or functions, or who represents CAWA in any capacity.

## Administration and Operations

CAWA's administration and operations can have a significant impact on the environment through the resources it uses, such as paper, power, fuel and emissions.

CAWA will implement measures to ensure its administration and operations have as small an impact on the environment as reasonably possible.

## Transport & Travel

Climbers often rely on their cars to travel to and from crags. However, the use of internal combustion engine cars is having an adverse effect on the environment, being a major contributor to CO2 emissions. CAWA will encourage its members to:

- Reduce the need for travel, for example by promoting the use of closer crags
- Car share where possible
- Use public transport where possible

## Energy use

CAWA recognises that climate change will increasingly lead to environmental changes that threaten to significantly affect its members' recreational interests. CAWA will help climbers to understand how their activities contribute to climate change and provide practical advice and support to help them reduce their impact.

## Enhance & Protect the Environment

Protected flora and fauna species are often found on crags and the surrounding environment. CAWA supports the protection of these species and will seek to work with government agencies to ensure that any proposed restrictions are designed to have the least possible impact on climbing activities. CAWA will promote adherence by its members to such access restrictions. On particularly sensitive sites, CAWA will support research and monitoring to ensure conservation programmes are effective. CAWA will promote good practice to climbers in relation to the protection of protected flora and fauna species.

## Reducing the Impact of Climbers - Leave No Trace Principles

CAWA aims to minimise the impact of climbers on the environment. CAWA will promote this message to its members and work with relevant landowners and government agencies to ensure the quality of the environment is not degraded through climbing activities, advocating the Leave No Trace Principles.

## Implementation

The CAWA Committee is responsible for implementing this Environment Policy and will provide leadership through its programmes and the way it conducts its affairs. CAWA will ensure that climbers understand, and are enabled to take responsibility for their environmental impact through the provision of information and publications.