

A large, high-quality photograph of a humpback whale swimming underwater, viewed from the side. The whale's head is in the foreground, and its body extends towards the background. The water is a deep blue, and the whale's skin shows characteristic white mottling and a dark patch on its back. The image is partially obscured by a white wavy graphic at the bottom.

Ocean Agenda 2025

Australian Federal Election 2025: Our fragile oceans need fearless leaders

For 60 years AMCS has strived to protect Australia's coasts, oceans and marine wildlife. With the 2025 federal election on the horizon, we are calling on our political leaders to commit to urgent marine conservation priorities that will secure thriving oceans for generations to come.

Australia's oceans, among the most biodiverse on the planet, face unprecedented threats, from habitat loss and pollution to overfishing, industrialisation and the accelerating impacts of climate change.

We want the next Australian Government to take bold, decisive steps to safeguard the lifeblood of our planet.

As a strictly non-partisan organisation, AMCS has written to all political parties and key independent MPs, setting out the priorities the next Australian Government must deliver on.

These priorities are summarised below with detailed policy recommendations available on our website. For more details about these policy recommendations, please read or download the AMCS Ocean Agenda 2025: A call for bold leadership to protect our oceans, our climate, our future.

Together, we must make sure leaders will act to protect our coasts, oceans and marine life, because no matter who is in power, our oceans are for everyone.

Ocean Agenda 2025: A call for bold leadership to protect our oceans, our climate, our future

Our oceans are in trouble and the time for action is now. The Australian Marine Conservation Society is calling on all political parties to commit to bold action to protect marine life and coastal communities:

1. Stop extinctions - protect and restore marine life

- Introduce and enact strong nature laws to prevent species loss and restore marine habitats.
- Reduce plastic pollution by introducing and enforcing strong packaging laws.
- Reform fisheries to stop overfishing and protect threatened species.

2. Safeguard unique ocean ecosystems

- Strengthen protections for the Great Barrier Reef from pollution and climate threats.
- Expand and improve marine protected areas to safeguard marine biodiversity.
- Prevent industrial developments that threaten Exmouth Gulf, Ningaloo.
- Reject proposal to drill for fossil fuels around Scott Reef, Western Australia.

3. Act on climate and stop fossil fuel expansion

- Set strong climate policies aligned with limiting warming to 1.5°C.
- No approval of new fossil fuel projects, including offshore seismic blasting, drilling and carbon dumping.

4. Invest in the future - fund nature protection and restoration

- Invest 1% of the budget in the protection and recovery of Australia's wildlife and habitats.
- End subsidies and R&D funding for offshore fossil fuels
- Invest in ensuring the renewable energy transition protects ocean nature.
- Greater investment, transparency and accountability in reducing water pollution in the Great Barrier Reef.

5. Lead in global ocean conservation

- Lead international action to implement new marine protected areas in international waters, and protect the Antarctic.
- Drive international ambition for a strong Global Plastics Treaty to end plastic pollution.
- Strengthen rules on imported seafood to stop illegal and unethical fishing.
- Exclude from domestic waters and support a global moratorium on deep-sea mining
- Champion whale conservation at the International Whaling Commission.

Australia's future depends on healthy oceans. This election, we are calling for all parties to prioritise ocean conservation.