



A CALL TO ACTION FOR OCEAN, WETLANDS & RIVERS

2024 ACTION THEME:
CATALYZING ACTION FOR OUR OCEAN & CLIMATE

Charter for Change



seathechange.org.au



SEA THE CHANGE

The ocean is the pumping heart of our planet. It provides us with oxygen, regulates our global climate through highways of moving currents, and provides food for people and marine wildlife alike. However, our ocean is under threat from human impacts such as litter and other pollutants, which kill and injure wildlife, and pose a threat to human health.

About 80 per cent of the marine turtles that come to the Taronga Wildlife Hospital are affected by plastic waste.

CVA is committed to playing our part in improving ocean health: it's part of our history of taking action. In the last 3 years alone we have mobilised 11,000 volunteers to locate and remove over 19,000 kgs of litter. That's more than 380,000 pieces of litter with 299,300 of those life-threatening plastics taken from beaches and rivers around Australia.

In 2024, under the banner of "Sea the Change", we are working with key partners and communities to not only remove harmful plastic pollution, but to highlight and influence the behaviours and systems that allow it to become a problem in the first place.

- Over the next 5 years, we are committing to:
- Activating a community of people to remove 30 tonnes of rubbish from entering the environment.
 - Continue to contribute to CSIRO's National Plastic Pollution Baseline Survey across the country.
 - Improve biodiversity, climate resilience, blue carbon storage potential, and habitat for our hero species on 14 wetlands in 6 capital cities and 3 regional centres.
 - Working alongside and supporting 80 community "care" and First Nations groups to catalyse action for ocean, wetlands and rivers.

We will achieve these targets through our highly scalable, community-centred activation system/model, which allows us to create opportunities for anyone, anywhere, to take practical action on issues of concern. By carefully selecting supporting partners and funders with a genuine commitment to change, we will be able to amplify our reach even further, resulting in an even larger impact for our ocean, wetlands and rivers.

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) is Australia's leading conservation organisation, connecting people and nature since 1982.

Visit conservationvolunteers.com.au or download the new CVA Community Hub app.



FOR OCEAN

Since 2020, powered by the volunteer efforts of tens of thousands of Australians, our partnership with CSIRO has provided insights into the sources of waste entering our waterways.

50 of the country's largest businesses have also joined us to locate and remove marine litter from beaches, preventing it reaching or re-entering the ocean.

In 2024, with **World Ocean Day Down Under** as our major promotional event from January to March, we have over 75 community volunteering Action Projects scheduled, and significant media campaigns prepared, to make an even greater impact on the health of our ocean.



FOR RIVERS AND WETLANDS

It is estimated that 80% of the plastics in our ocean enter through our river systems with rivers and wetlands equally impacted by litter and other pollutants.

In 2024, we will continue to repair important wetlands so they can retain their function as natural water filters and havens for aquatic life in their own right. We will also target urban rivers and creeks, removing gross pollutants to prevent them from ever reaching the sea.



FOR STOPPING LITTER AT THE SOURCE

Much of the plastic pollution that impacts ocean, wetlands and rivers finds its way there from urban areas. Streets, parks, industrial zones, and shopping strips – our work with CSIRO tells us that these are all significant sources of ocean pollution. We will take our industry- and community-based awareness programs up a level in 2024, designing practical solutions to stem the tide of plastic that blows and washes downstream every day.

People who take simple actions for nature are making a contribution to some of our most important global priorities.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

Impact at scale underpins everything we do.

Our goal of engaging 1 million people to take action for nature is bold but essential. The scale of the problem demands a proportional response, and our commitment to improving the health of the environment, and of people, is something we take very seriously.

It's why we have partnered internationally with World Ocean Day, to bring World Ocean Day Down Under to Australia in 2024 and beyond. We will continue to inspire everyday Australians to help us fight plastic pollution and to protect rivers, wetlands and the ocean through volunteering events around the country.

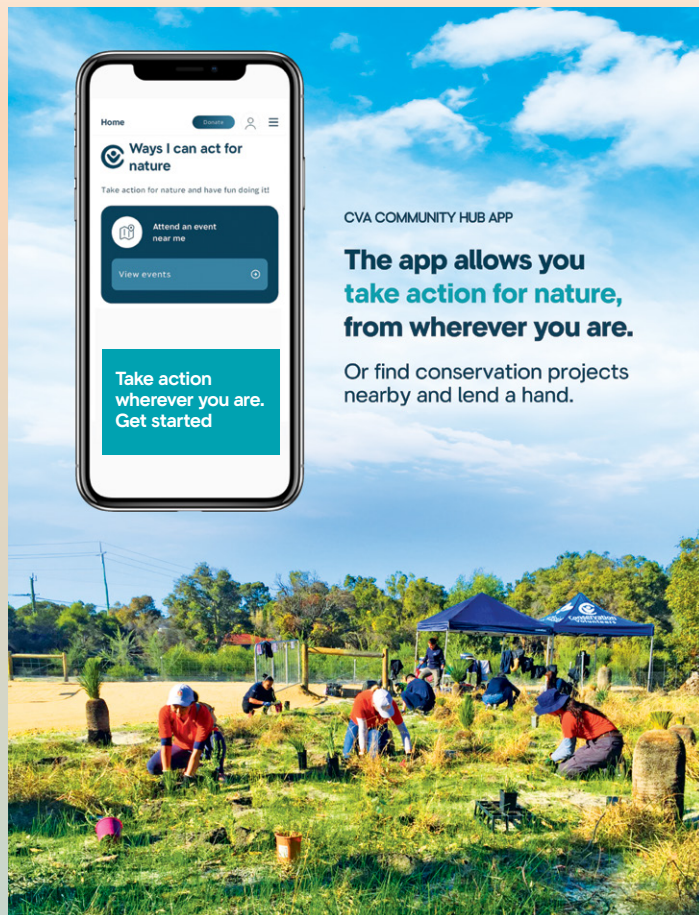
FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT NATURE, NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE

We know that it's not always possible to attend an organised Action Project in person, so we've created ways for people to help our ocean from within their own community, and in their own homes.

No matter where you are in Australia, if you have a smartphone and want to make a difference to ocean health, the CVA Community Hub (accessible via a dedicated smartphone app) is the place for Australians to go to find their own best way to act for nature.

Inside the Community Hub app, our focus on ocean, wetlands and rivers comes to life with a series of challenges designed to raise awareness of issues, and to spur people into action that has a direct connection to improving ocean health.

The **Personal Plastic Waste Challenge** is the first of these, kicking off as part of our **World Ocean Day Down Under** season of action. It's a fun and engaging way to help identify and reduce anyone's plastic footprint.



CVA COMMUNITY HUB APP

The app allows you take action for nature, from wherever you are.

Or find conservation projects nearby and lend a hand.

COMMUNITIES TAKING ACTION FOR NATURE

Your mission? Find all the plastic beasts lurking in your bin and cut down on the use of at least one. We will help you along the way with tips and guides.

Did you conquer your plastic beast? Let's find out!

SeaToSource is a CVA national citizen science project that helps tackle marine pollution at the source. Together with our volunteers and partners, we continue to head upstream, working with people and communities to identify and reduce pollution in our towns and cities. The more data we collect from our individual footprints, the better our understanding of pollution sources becomes and the greater our impact will be.



The future of Australia's ocean, wetlands and waterways is in our hands.

Help stop litter at its source.
#SeaToSource #SeaTheChange



Are you ready to Dive into the SeaToSource Plastic Waste Challenge?

Visit seathechange.org.au

SEA THE CHANGE



SCAN ME AND START
TAKING ACTION TODAY!

Impact Partnerships

Momentum is building for businesses to step up and scale up actions and commitments to contribute to the Global Goal for Nature: Zero net loss of nature from 2020, net positive by 2030, and full recovery by 2050. Partnering with CVA means investing in nature conservation and mental health and wellbeing.

More info: partnerships@cva.org.au