



MEDIA RELEASE

LABOR HAS NEGLECTED THE ENVIRONMENT

According to the WA Policy Forum the Government's performance on the environment can best be described as patchy and lacklustre.

The Labor Government was elected in 2001 on the basis of a comprehensive environmental policy that addressed such key issues as logging of old growth forests, the development of a State sustainability strategy, finding answers to the water supply crisis and banning uranium mining and nuclear waste disposal in WA.

The Gallop Government performed creditably on the key issues but failed to deliver on most of its detailed environmental promises. It was re-elected in 2005 after promising to finalize its 2001 agenda and address new issues such as climate change, conservation of biodiversity and controls on coastal development.

The WA Policy Forum has consulted with a group of environmental experts about Labor's performance over the past seven years and the findings are published in a paper called Labor and the WA Environment (2001 – 2008) (see <http://www.wapf.com.au>)

WAPF Director, Julian Roche, said that the State Labor Government has kept its promises on nuclear issues and GMO crops and its performance on contaminated sites and water resources is creditable. However it has failed to deliver what it promised on sustainability, wetlands, air quality, waste management, biodiversity, greenhouse issues and funding for the environment.

Overall the WAPF assessment is that the Government has under-achieved on the environment after promising so much at the 2001 and 2005 elections. Of particular concern is the Government's poor performance on environmental issues since Alan Carpenter took over from Geoff Gallop in 2006. In that time there have been three Ministers for the Environment, none of whom has made any substantial contribution to conservation or environmental protection.

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