



An overview of Places You Love - www.placesyoulove.org

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The Places You Love (PYL) is an alliance composed of 40 groups totalling more than a million and a half members and supporters. The Alliance's aim is to promote nature protection laws on a national scale, and also to unite the nature-loving Australian community to take direct action to protect the environment and improve the actual situation in regard to this matter.

The organisations that are part of the Places You Love are a movement of people who take a stand for the environment through political and social power. The Alliance remarks on the strong connection between Australians and nature; and how Australia's natural sites represent their national identity. Australia has natural places that are unique and which are part of every Australian's life. The key aspect of their struggle is the enactment of a new generation of environmental laws. Places You Love has been fighting for decades advocating for environmental preservation, also by demanding that governments and companies preserve Australia's nature.

Now, like never before, protection of nature is paramount due to the threat posed in the current political climate, and the exploitation of the natural resources in recent years has reached its peak. Places You Love's mission is to inspire Australians to protect nature. Places You Love members include WWF-Australia, The Wilderness Society, Australian Conservation Foundation, Birdlife Australia, Humane Society International and many conservation councils and local groups around the country.

The Alliance highlights the fact that a healthy natural environment is paramount for a healthy society, as well as a shared vision of Australia starting from the local communities, government and businesses. This vision is based on collective action and a joint approach to solving problems, and also on the identification and implementation of activities to pool its member organisations' strengths - because in **union there is strength**.

According to Places You Love, a new national environmental framework must be built on five key principles:

- National leadership;
- A central role for communities in decision making;
- Trusted and independent institutions
- Delivering strong environmental outcomes; and
- Ensuring resilience in the face of climate change.

Places You Love conducted a survey of Australia's nature, and discovered several important things. For example, the great majority of Australia's rivers have been modified by man through the construction of dams and irrigations systems. Also, their survey highlights the ongoing impacts of development on fresh water resources, and how the projected impact of climate change will cause a further decline of these resources.

Another, significant finding is the projected increase of emissions worldwide by 2050.

According to Places You Love, 'Two degrees of climate warming will likely mean the loss of most coral cover on the Great Barrier Reef, 80 per cent of freshwater wetlands from Kakadu National Park, and Queensland's tropical forests'.

Moreover, in Australia there has been an increase of air-pollution-related illness, with health costs amounting to some \$11.1 to \$24.3 billion a year.

Nature is under threat in Australia, as is exemplified by the constant increase of rubbish, energy consumption (with only a small percentage coming from renewable sources) and chemicals for agricultural application. Also, half of Australia's wetlands have been drained, filled or destroyed.

All these findings should sensitise each and every Australian to do what is possible to limit, and possibly stop, this ongoing and multiform exploitation of nature.

Places You Love also works closely with The Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law (APEEL) - <http://apeel.org.au/>, which is working toward a more environmental-centred legislation.

HOPE, as part of the Places You Love alliance, invites its members to take part in Places You Love campaigns and events. Places You Love's website <http://www.placesyoulove.org/> provides a list of all the organisations that comprise its alliance, which can be useful to understand the broad range of associations and groups involved in its project.
