

# A gift in your will **to the planet**

for life,  
for conservation,  
**for future generations** 



**AUSTRALIAN  
CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION**



**The decisions we make  
today will shape our future.**

The world we hand to the next generation will be the result of decisions we make now.

**It's time to invest in life.**



## A better, more **beautiful world**

In the forests of Gippsland, Victoria, a baby koala emerges from its mother's pouch for the first time. At seven months of age the joey explores its new surroundings cautiously, clinging to its mother for support as it learns to climb.

The Galilee Basin coal is still deep underground, despite Adani's attempts to dig it up with one of the biggest coal mines on the planet. We continue to prevent this irreversible damage, and protect the Great Barrier Reef, our groundwater system and the land rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

A greater glider forages freely on eucalyptus leaves and flower buds. The white fur of its undertail quivers in the dark night, steering its graceful moves through the peaks of the Meadowbank canopy in Queensland.

These are glimpses of the impact of ACF's work as we continue to stand up and speak out for the land, rivers, oceans and wildlife we love.



When you leave a gift in your will to ACF, **you leave an imprint of your values** in the world for all time, and a living legacy **for future generations** 🌱



## A powerful movement pushing for bold solutions

We are a powerful movement of over 700,000 people working together to protect our precious planet. Together we have achieved many things in our 55 year history.

We helped stop oil drilling in the Great Barrier Reef, mineral extraction in Antarctica, uranium mining in Kakadu and the mighty Franklin River from being dammed.

**Some achievements are realised quickly, some take decades of hard work, while others are the work of an entire lifetime.**

With our evidence-based advocacy, committed supporters and fearless campaigning, we will continue to push for bold solutions to the big problems we face.

We want to live in a country where nature and people thrive, and where our natural resources are valued as vital for life, not merely for what can be extracted from them.



We will cut climate pollution and power our country with clean energy. We will strengthen our environment laws to safeguard the places and wildlife we love.

We will stand with Indigenous people who continue to uphold their connection to land, waters and community.

We are working towards a brighter future where forests, rivers, people, oceans and wildlife thrive.



ACF is proudly **independent and non-partisan**, funded entirely by people **just like you.**

“Our generation has had the best of a lot of things. Growing up with this sort of bushland gave us a real connection to nature from a young age. We loved walking along the river and swimming down at Pound Bend.

This sort of surrounding is very special for future generations. We've been extraordinarily lucky to have it and now, we feel it is under threat. Climate change is happening very rapidly and we've come to realise that it's everyone's responsibility to help.

**We should all be doing whatever we can to protect the environment, for generations to come.**

Leaving a gift in our wills to ACF is very important. We as individuals can do so much, but together with ACF, we can do so much more.

**We know ACF has a long history of working towards saving places like this and looking after the environment. To be able to provide something for the next generation is very important to us.”**

**Doreen & Graham Burge**





## Our **big goals**

Right now, a pollution and extinction crisis threatens our living world. Climate damage and habitat destruction are our biggest challenges.

To solve this we need big, systemic change. That's why we're focusing on four big goals.

Together we're working to solve the **climate crisis**, stand up for **nature**, redesign our **economy** and fix our **democracy** 🌱

*This page: Adani protester. Photo: Julian Meehan.*

*Right page: Friends of Edward St Gardening day. Photo: Annette Ruzicka/MAPgroup.*



### **Solve the climate crisis**

The number one cause of climate damage in Australia is burning coal. That's why we're focused on moving the money that's financing coal and gas into climate solutions, and campaigning to ensure as we emerge from climate emergencies, every policy and funding decision is good for nature, people and our planet.

### **Stand up for nature**

We're part of a rich, interconnected tapestry of life. But our environment laws are failing to protect our forests, rivers, oceans and climate, catapulting us into an extinction crisis. That's why we're standing up for our living world and demanding change.

### **Redesign our economy**

A major driver of the pollution and extinction crisis – and a major barrier to solving it – is the structure and rules of our economy. That's why we're campaigning to build back better from crises such as Covid-19 to make our economy greener, fairer and more resilient.

### **Fix our democracy**

In a healthy democracy, dollars don't determine public policy – people do. That's why we're campaigning for political donations reform to get big money out of politics, get citizens more involved and make our government work for people again.



“I can't describe how lucky I feel every day to live here beside nature. I can't imagine not having some sort of natural area in my backyard.

It's great for the soul but there's also obviously science to it – **we need fresh air, we need animals, and everything else that goes along with having access to nature.**

In the last seven years, I've seen the giant kelp on the Tasman Peninsula totally disappear, which is devastating and a huge impact in such a short time.

After the last federal election, I was disappointed that climate change did not factor in the results as I had expected. I decided that it was time for me to do more.

It's important for the next generation to have access to nature, to recharge, to breathe, to relax, to get away.

**The reason I left a gift in my will to ACF is to support leaving this amazing nature for future generations."**

**Jenny Grundy**

# How to leave a gift in your will to ACF

You can specify any amount or percentage of your estate that you feel comfortable gifting to ACF after providing for your family and loved ones. A gift in your will doesn't impact your wealth during your lifetime and only takes effect when administering your estate.

**Every gift of any size will make a difference to the impact of our work. Here are some ways you can leave a gift:**

## Percentage or nominated portion

You can divide your estate among a number of people and/or organisations. Your gift to ACF can be a percentage or proportion of the whole of your estate, or of what is left over (the residue) after individual gifts have been made.

## Residual gift

A residual gift allows you to provide for your family and friends first before leaving the remainder of your estate to ACF. The value of a residual gift is determined after loved ones have been provided for and all expenses and claims have been paid. As your estate increases in value, so does your gift to ACF. Inflation will not diminish the value of a residual gift.

## Cash sum

You can leave a specific cash sum. Note though, that in the time between making your will and when the sum is received by ACF, the value of the gift can be diminished by inflation, or not have grown as the value of the estate has increased.

## Trust

Establishing a trust in your will allows a spouse or other nominated person to use your property and to receive income derived from your estate during their lifetime, after which time the property can pass to ACF.

## Specific gift or asset

You can leave a specific asset such as property or shares to ACF. Gifts of shares and other property do not attract GST for ACF or the estate. ACF can also be the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or superannuation fund.

## Suggested wording

When you leave a gift to ACF, a clause may be inserted in your will using the following words:

"I give the rest and residue of my estate... OR

"I give [insert description of specific gift]... OR

"I give [insert percentage] %...

...of my estate free from all debts (secured and unsecured) and all duties and taxes (whether federal or state) payable in respect of my estate to the Australian Conservation Foundation Incorporated (ABN 22 007 498 482) ("ACF") for its general purposes, and I declare that the receipt of an authorised officer of the said ACF shall be a full and sufficient discharge of this bequest."

If you feel undecided about leaving a gift to ACF in your will because you are unsure how much money will be available in the future, a residual gift or nominated percentage can overcome this hurdle. There is no need to nominate a specific value for your gift.

We recommend that you seek independent professional legal advice when finalising the wording in your will. We also suggest talking through your intentions with your family and loved ones.

If you already have a will and would like to include a gift to ACF, you can do so by making a simple addition known as a codicil.

“From the age of around five, my family holidayed on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria. School holidays were spent exploring the beach, the sea, the foreshore, and taking in wonderful views from the bush hinterland.

**I started supporting ACF in the early 1970s as it was the pre-eminent national environmental organisation and one that was concerned with the care and management of the environment in its broadest sense.**

As a town/land use planner, this broad, integrated view of nature and our relationship to it made sense to me.

I believe climate change is without any doubt our most critical environmental issue.

I decided to leave a gift in my will to ACF because **I believe it's good to leave even a small contribution to the ongoing work and functioning of this very important organisation."**

**Hedley Thomson**



# Frequently asked questions

## Why do I need a will?

Having a will can give you peace of mind knowing that your final wishes will be understood and respected after you are gone. If you do not have a valid will at the time of your death, state laws will determine how your estate is administered and distributed.

We recognise that writing a will involves making some very important decisions. We recommend discussing these decisions with your family, loved ones and an independent legal adviser.

## Why should I include a gift in my will to ACF?

Including a gift in your will is a way of paying tribute to the people and causes that you cared for deeply during your lifetime. These gifts imprint forever the values and beliefs you leave behind.

Leaving a gift in your will to ACF, however large or small, is a profound way to ensure that we can continue to honour your connection to the environmental movement and lead the way in conservation advocacy for generations to come.

## Do I need to tell ACF that I have included a gift in my will?

Although there is no obligation, by notifying us of your intentions, you provide ACF with an opportunity to thank you for your gift and make more accurate plans for the future. Confidentiality of your advice will be respected at all times.

## What is the difference between cash sum and residual gifts?

A specific sum gift is a set dollar amount which, due to inflation, will decrease in value over time.

A residual gift, typically represented as a percentage, will retain its value over time. The value of a residual gift will be calculated when your estate is finalised.

## Can I amend my existing will?

You can amend your existing will to include a gift to ACF by preparing an additional page that has been signed and witnessed. This is known as a codicil. It is important that you seek legal advice when preparing your codicil to ensure it is legally binding and does not contradict anything already in your will. For substantial amendments, your solicitor may recommend that you make a new will.

## Will there be any issues if my will excludes family members?

If your will excludes or potentially compromises a family member, this could have a major impact on how your estate is distributed and the extent to which your wishes are carried out.

Disputed estates and family testator claims have been increasing in recent years. We always recommend that you seek independent legal advice to address any potential issues that may arise.

## Do I need a lot of money to leave a gift to ACF in my will?

You do not need to be wealthy to leave a gift in your will. Every gift of any size will make a lasting difference to ACF for future generations. For many of us, leaving a gift in our will is an opportunity to contribute more significantly to organisations that matter deeply to us without affecting our day-to-day finances.



“My go-to place in nature is the local beach for a swim or a walk along the rocks to see the little animals in the rock pools and to look out over the water. I’ve been lucky enough to see some very beautiful, untouched environments and I would like future generations, including my daughter and other family members, to have the opportunities I’ve had.

**There’s a lot of work that needs to be done now, more than ever, with pressure on the environment, more people and more pollution.**

My family’s happy that I’ve set everything out very clearly in my will. They know what I’ve asked for. And when the time comes, they know exactly what to do and how to do it.

People don’t need to be that wealthy to donate to causes when they pass away. It doesn’t have to be a huge amount, but every little bit helps because there’s so much work that needs to be done out there.

**I trust ACF to use the money I’ve put aside in my will wherever it’s needed in the future.”**

**Helen Fischer**



## Let us know

**Please use the form enclosed to let us know if you have taken the legal steps to include ACF in your will.**

By sharing your intentions, you give ACF the opportunity to thank you for your gift and make more accurate plans for the future. Confidentiality of your advice will be respected at all times.

If you have any questions please contact:  
Phone 1800 223 669  
Email [bequests@acf.org.au](mailto:bequests@acf.org.au)

A gift in your will costs nothing now, but it will **power bold change for future generations and protect the places, wildlife and people we love** 🌿

# We love our beautiful planet

## **Australian Conservation Foundation**

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**Disclaimer:** The contents of this brochure should not be construed as legal advice and we recommend you contact a legal adviser for your estate planning needs.

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The Australian Conservation Foundation is an incorporated association eligible to receive tax deductible donations.

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