

The Elephant Pledge

We recognise that elephants and rhinoceros are species of global significance. All three species of elephant and four of five species of rhino are at risk of extinction. Tens of thousands of elephants and rhinos die each year because of poaching and trafficking which is driven, in part, by domestic trade in ivory and rhino horn.

While a strict ban is in place for international trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn, a number of countries, including Australia, still allow domestic trade. Domestic markets stimulate and legitimise demand for ivory and rhino horn, encouraging the illegal killing to continue and pushing the species closer to extinction.

Just as we ask the global community to help us protect unique Australian wildlife, we recognise that Australians have a role in protecting elephants and rhinos by closing down our domestic ivory and rhino horn trade. We know that 75% of Australians support us in this.

Through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Australia has committed to closing loopholes that allow domestic trade to act as a pathway for illegal ivory and rhino horn to enter legitimate markets.

A 2018 Federal parliamentary inquiry recommended the “Commonwealth, states and territories, through the Council of Australian Governments, develop and implement a national domestic trade ban on elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn”.

In 2019, all Australian jurisdictions committed to identifying appropriate mechanisms to eliminate domestic trade in ivory and rhino horn. My government pledges to make this commitment a reality.



By taking The Elephant Pledge I commit that my government will:

1. Give the Australian Government the power to enact national legislation that ensures a consistent and comprehensive ban on domestic trade in ivory and rhino horn across the country.
2. Develop legislation in our jurisdiction to support this ban, where necessary.
3. Work to deliver a comprehensive national domestic trade ban in ivory and rhino horn by next year's World Elephant Day – 12 August 2025.

