

# Pesticide Action Australia

## Strategic Plan 2025-2027

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Pesticide Action Australia is a for-purpose, not-for-profit charity dedicated to reducing Australia's use of pesticides for the protection of our health and environment.



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## Acknowledgement of Country

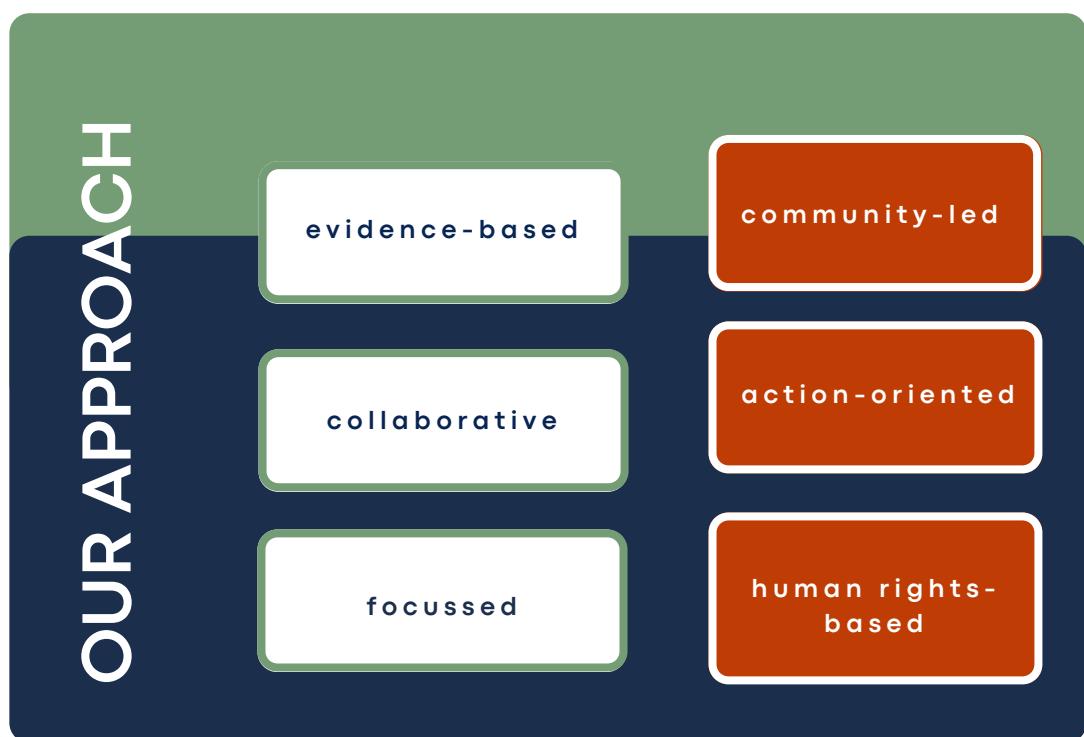
Pesticide Action Australia acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original custodians of the land, and respects the rights that they hold as traditional custodians. We also recognise the dispossession of the land and its ongoing effects on First Nations Peoples today.

# Who we are

Pesticide Action Australia (PAA) is a registered charity established to support Australia's transition towards nature-friendly, sustainable, and healthy alternatives to pesticides.

We connect advocates and experts engaged in pesticide reduction, from individuals, communities, farmers, scientists, health experts, industry stakeholders and academics, and work to amplify their voices and scale collaborative action.

We are committed to supporting meaningful change in both policy and practice.





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# A message from our Board

We are pleased to present our 2025-2027 Strategic Plan for Pesticide Action Australia.

This charity has formed to support the many Australians who are raising their voices about the harm being caused by pesticides in their communities. Our Board of Directors brings experience from a range of disciplines, and is committed to supporting community-driven change, being evidence-based, taking collaborative action and pursuing regulatory reform.

Pesticides are causing significant and widespread harm to our country and the planet. They are associated with many serious health conditions, from Parkinson's Disease, cancer in children and adults, infertility, birth defects, autoimmune diseases, autism spectrum disorder and more. Pesticides are contaminating our drinking water, contributing to the destruction and extinction of our unique biodiversity, damaging our soils, and polluting our reef systems and wetlands. Many pesticides also contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) or 'forever chemicals', which pose significant inter-generational risks.

Pesticide dependency, enabled by an Australian regulatory system that has prioritised industry interests ahead of our health and environment, is having devastating and irreversible consequences.

We are inspired by Australians who are taking action and driving change. Around the country, we see growing recognition that the time is now to transition to healthier, climate-friendly, and nature-positive alternatives.

**Board of Directors at Pesticide Action Australia**

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# Why Australia needs action

**Australia uses pesticides that are banned internationally due to the harm they cause to human health and the environment.**

Here, in Australia, we use pesticides extensively in agriculture, which exposes farmers, consumers, rural communities, and the surrounding environment to significant risks. Pesticides are also applied routinely in public urban spaces, including parks, schools, hospitals and sports grounds, as well as in areas of environmental significance such as wetlands, beach foreshores and natural reserves. **Our exposure to pesticides is not limited by location or profession.** Residues are found in the food we eat, the water we drink, the rivers we walk by and the air we breathe.

Our crops, as well as the harmful invasive species we try to protect them from, are continually developing resistance to pesticides. This leads to increasing quantities, potencies and combinations of pesticides being applied to them. **Resistance to pesticides perpetuates the cycle of pollution and dependency**, which increases the difficulty and costs of transitioning to sustainable alternatives.

The impacts of pesticides on our health and environment are well documented. Pesticide use contributes to biodiversity loss, soil degradation, water contamination, pollinator decline, climate change acceleration and serious human health conditions.

In Australia, our Government's Strategy for Nature 2024–2030 cites pesticides as a source of pollution driving ecosystem change and recognises that Australia has one of the highest extinction rates in the world. It is important, then, that Australia has set ambitious 2030 zero new extinctions and pollution reduction targets as part of its Strategy for Nature and commitments under the Global Biodiversity Framework.

**However, what we need more than commitments and targets, is action.**

Our commitments, however positive, are meaningless without coordinated, driven and measured progress. At Pesticide Action Australia, we are committed to working with all stakeholders to pursue collaborative, strategic action in order to meet these targets and, more importantly, meaningfully protect our health and environment.

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# Impact

Overview of our 2025-27 goals:

1

## Connect change-makers

Connect affected communities, supporters and experts across a range of disciplines in order to strengthen and coordinate reduction efforts.

2

## Support & scale community action

Support community change-makers who are taking action to reduce pesticide use by providing them with tailored advice and resources.

3

## Communicate evidence for prevention

With a focus on preventing harm, work to inform at-risk communities of the evidence and alternatives, in order to facilitate informed choice and action.

4

## Advocate for systemic reform

Advocate for regulatory reform which prioritises the precautionary principle and adopts a hazard-based approach.

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# Mobilising resources for impact

Central to our capacity to drive change in this space is sustainable funding. Pesticide Action Australia is Australia's first for-purpose, not-for-profit charity dedicated to pesticide reduction. We are committed to establishing a viable, transparent, ongoing entity delivering long-term benefits for Australia. We believe this is a shared goal held by philanthropic donors and partners.

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## Global networks

Pesticide Action Australia is a member of the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN). IPEN is a global network forging a healthier world where people and the environment are no longer harmed by the production, use, and disposal of toxic chemicals.

We also collaborate with many international organisations and experts, to whom we are very grateful for their support.

We acknowledge the generations of campaigners and advocates who have preceded Pesticide Action Australia and whose efforts and progress we build upon.