

Bridgetown is Western Australia's spiritual home of blues and roots, so it is no surprise that resident singer-songwriter Tracey Barnett has that music in her soul. Fusing traditional blues and country elements with modern rock rhythms, Barnett's music has taken her across Australia, earning her a WAM Award, chart success, and airtime on Triple J, ABC and community radio. Ready to hit the road in September, Barnett is kicking off spring with a brand new album, a swag of regional shows and a sizzling new track serendipitously named *Freedom*.

First making her presence felt in 2010, Barnett debuted with *The First Of Many* – a promising EP that introduced her authentic, heartfelt style. By 2013 her work was becoming more eclectic, and she captured a darker shade of her songwriting on the *Blooming* EP. Then, in 2017, Barnett reached the artistic milestone of a full-length album with the triumphant *Heart, Soul, Feeling*. Displaying more grit – lyrically and sonically – the album proved that Barnett's songwriting was maturing and had reached a place unrestrained by convention.

Its follow-up (Barnett's forthcoming second album *Eyes Forward*) has already spawned three successful singles – *Gotta Get Out*, *Eyes Forward* and *Darkness In The Light* – each nominated for a WAM Song Of The Year Award. Produced by James Newhouse, the album shows off Barnett's ever-evolving songwriting, singing and guitar playing... not to mention the staggering arsenal she wields as a player (guitar, lap steel, resonator, banjo, harmonica, Hammond organ and percussion, thank you very much).

Out now, *Eyes Forward*'s fourth single – *Freedom* – is what Barnett half-jokingly refers to as a 'therapy song'... something that she created to exorcise a demon within herself. She explains, “I wrote *Freedom* as a message to a part of myself I was trying to let go of. I needed to find a sense of freedom and stop being held back.” This honesty and catharsis is only part of what gives the song its power... with its stomping rhythms and soaring vocals, *Freedom* is a barn-burning slice of the blues, itching to be unleashed on a live audience.

And it will be given its chance to shine during the *Eyes Forward Album Launch Tour*, where Barnett will visit nearly a dozen WA towns throughout September and October. A multi-instrumentalist with powerful stage presence, Barnett is best witnessed in concert. Throughout her career she has made the conscious decision to remain solo, and as a result has created a closeness between her and her audience. This connection, along with her sheer instinct for songwriting, is what makes Tracey Barnett one of the most exciting modern blues artists in Australia.