

The detail: **What's the parties' track record on climate action?**

An independent summary of the major parties' performance on climate action since the 2016 federal election

How did we assess these policies?

This document broadly compares the party positions of the Liberal/National Coalition, the Australian Labor Party and The Australian Greens on key climate issues during the last term of government from the 2016 election until 1 February 2019.

This document focuses on each party's past performance. ACF will continue to analyse new policy announcements and two weeks before polling day, we will release an independent scorecard comparing each party's policy commitments.

We have assessed each party's commitment to taking responsible action on climate change across three key tests: (1) rapidly ramping up clean energy, (2) phasing out coal, (3) stopping the Adani coal mine in Queensland's Galilee Basin and (4) creating strong new environmental laws.

'Responsible action on climate change' means:

- Making commitments (targets plus policy to meet targets) that are broadly consistent with the Paris Agreement goal to keep global warming under 2 degrees and to pursue a 1.5 degree limit.
- Note: A 1.5 degree limit requires Australia to have stopped digging up and burning coal and shifted to 100% clean energy by 2030, and achieved net zero climate pollution across the economy before 2050.

For the Liberal/National Coalition, which has been in Government during this period, we analysed the Bills they have introduced to Parliament and other legislative, regulatory and executive positions they have taken.

For the ALP and the Greens, which have not been in Government, we analysed current official policy positions, including policy on party websites, official party platforms, and official announcements of policy by portfolio holders.

About the Australian Conservation Foundation

We are Australia's national environment organisation. We are half a million people across the country who speak out for the air we breathe, the water we drink and the places and wildlife we love. We are proudly independent, nonpartisan and funded by donations from the community.

Current at 1 February 2019. Authorised by Kelly O'Shanassy, Australian Conservation Foundation, 60 Leicester St Carlton.

1. What's each party's track record on clean energy?

How have the parties' compared on setting predictable, supportive, fair policies that remove barriers to clean energy and ensure clean energy powers 100% of Australia's overall energy needs well before 2050?

Party	Performance	Result
<p>Liberal/National Coalition</p>	<p>The Liberal/National Coalition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut the renewable energy target from 41000 GWh to 33000 GWh in 2020. They have stated they will not extend the current RET. • Committed to 23.5% renewable energy by 2020 and do not have a post-2020 renewable energy target. • Have criticised the Australian Labor Party for their 50% renewable energy target by 2030. (www.angustaylor.com.au/media/media-release/opinion-cut-energy-virtue-signalling-and-start-serving-customers) • Have only applied a pro rata share of low Paris climate pollution reduction target to the electricity sector (26% by 2030) which is lower than Business as Usual Scenario for 2030. • Are focused on electricity prices as a priority, and have removed emissions reduction from their energy policy. 	<p>✗ Consistently undermined clean energy</p>
<p>Australian Labor Party</p>	<p>The ALP have committed to a 50% renewable energy target by 2030, cutting climate pollution by 45% by 2030 and achieving net zero climate pollution across the economy by 2050.</p> <p>To meet this 50% target, the ALP Energy Plan (Nov 2018) committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an additional \$10 billion in capital for the Clean Energy Finance Corporation to support large-scale renewable energy generation and storage projects, household battery programs, energy efficiency projects, commercial renewables and industrial transformation. 	<p>✓ Good policies to ramp up clean energy</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an independent \$5billion Energy Security and Modernisation Fund to modernise Australia’s ageing energy transmission infrastructure and enable more clean energy to feed into the grid. • Set a new national target of 1 million household battery installations by 2025, supported rebate of \$2000 for 100,000 Australian households on incomes of less than \$180,000 per year. • Invest \$100 million in a Neighbourhood Renewables Program so renters and social housing tenants can benefit from renewable energy. • Implement a comprehensive plan to improve energy productivity in industry. www.laborclimatechangeactionplan.org.au/ 	
<p>The Australian Greens</p>	<p>In their Renew Australia Plan, the Greens committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure energy generation is at least 90% renewable by 2030 and our energy efficiency is doubled. • Establish a new \$500 million government authority – RenewAustralia – tasked with planning and driving the transition to a new clean energy system to leverage \$5 billion of construction in new energy generation over the next four years. greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2018-06/2015_11_Renew_Australia.pdf <p>To make stationary electricity in Australia powered by 100% renewable sources as soon as possible they have stated they would also support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the renewable energy target (RET) • Measures such as public investment, feed-in tariffs and regulations to support a range of renewable energy generation, storage and conservation technologies. • Have called for establishment of a Commonwealth Large Scale Energy Storage Scheme greens.org.au/policies/climate-change-and-energy 	<p>✓ Very good policies to rapidly ramp up renewables</p>

2. What's each party's track record on phasing out burning coal?

How have the parties' compared on providing a plan to rapidly phase out Australia's coal-fired power plants, starting with the dirtiest, most inefficient and polluting stations?

Party	Performance	Result
Liberal/National Coalition	<p>The Coalition has no plan to phase out coal. Instead, it is pursuing ways to keep old coal plants open longer and get new ones built.</p> <p>Under the Coalition's policy settings, Australia's climate pollution is in fact consistently increasing (See graph on page 8).</p> <p>They have expressed support for new coal generators and are actively trying to support new coal projects with public money.</p> <p>They attacked AGL when the company announced plans to close the highly polluting Liddell Coal-burning Power Station in 2022 and have pushed AGL to keep it burning coal.</p> <p>They have considered a new \$5 billion coal fund.</p>	<p>✗ Very poor on phasing out burning coal – Australia's climate pollution has gone up</p>
Australian Labor Party	<p>The ALP has acknowledged the electricity sector is Australia's largest source of pollution and must be cleaned up. Although they recognise coal plants will close, they are not accelerating closure and state that coal will have a future in Australia.</p> <p>As part of their Energy Plan, the ALP has committed to implement a long-term plan to ensure workers are supported including a Clean Energy Training Fund and establishing an independent Just Transition Authority.</p>	<p>~ Some pollution reduction commitments, but weak on rapidly phasing out coal</p>
The Australian Greens	<p>The Greens have committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new coal-fired power stations, gas mines or oil wells • No expansions to any existing coal- or gas-fired power stations or mines • The development of programs to assist fossil fuel-dependent communities to make the transition to other more sustainable sources of economic prosperity. 	<p>✓ Very good policies to phase out burning coal and cut climate pollution</p>

- An **orderly phase out** of fossil fuel mining, fossil fuel based electricity generation and consumption of fossil fuels consistent with the emissions reduction plan.
- A **just transition** to a net zero carbon economy through a range of mechanisms including a plan to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy through strong **regulatory intervention** and a strong effective **price on carbon**.

<https://greens.org.au/policies/climate-change-and-energy>

3. What's each party's track record on stopping Adani's coal mine?

How have the parties' compared on stopping the Adani mine and keeping all Galilee Basin coal in the ground on the basis it would damage our climate, the Great Barrier Reef, water and endangered wildlife?

Party	Performance	Result
Liberal/National Coalition	The Coalition issued federal environmental approvals for the Adani mine and voiced strong support for even more coal mining in the Galilee Basin.	✗ Approved and pushing for Adani's coal mine
Australian Labor Party	Although the ALP said Adani must " stack up environmentally and financially " and that they will "apply Australian environmental law", the party has not released a position on whether the mine 'stacks up', or what Labor will do if they deem that it doesn't.	~ On the fence over stopping Adani's coal mine
The Australian Greens	The Greens do not support the Adani mine and have called for the cancellation of environmental approvals . They also oppose approving new thermal coal mines , thereby preventing any other mining in the Galilee Basin.	✓ Very good on stopping Adani's coal mine

4. What's each party's track record on opposing public funding for Adani?

How have the parties' compared on ensuring no public funds are used to support Adani's mine or any other mines in the Galilee Basin?

Party	Performance	Result
Liberal/National Coalition	The Coalition proposed a \$1 billion subsidy to Adani from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility , that was vetoed by the Queensland Government. The party has not ruled out allowing Australia's export credit agency, the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation , to provide financial support to Adani.	✗ Tried to give Adani \$1billion of public money
Australian Labor Party	Do not support public money for Adani	✓ Opposed giving Adani any public money
The Australian Greens	Do not support public money for Adani	✓ Opposed giving Adani any public money

5. What's each party's track record on creating strong new environmental laws?

How have the parties' compared on strengthening Australia's environmental laws to deal with climate pollution and our extinction crisis?

Party	Performance	Result
Liberal/National Coalition	The coalition attempted to hand over federal environmental approval powers to the states and territories and restrict communities rights to challenge approval decisions , but was unable to get either of these reforms through the Senate.	✗ Refused to set new environmental laws – even tried to wind back current laws
Australian Labor Party	The ALP has committed to a new Environment Act and a new independent Environment Protection Agency through their national platform. Further detail on ALP's proposed reforms is needed to better understand the potential benefits.	~ Fairly good commitments to create new environmental laws but missing detail
The Australian Greens	The Greens have strong policies for new national environmental laws that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending deforestation and introducing new laws to protect against climate damage • Establishing an independent Environment Protection Agency • Improving community access to justice, including merits review and open standing • Protecting critical habitats and water resources 	✓ Very good policies for new environmental laws and a federal Environment Protection Agency