

This is The Climate Election

What do independent candidates and minor parties stand for?

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Independent • Kooyong • House of Representatives

Survey responses: **Phasing out burning coal**

Key test	Response	Comments
1. Provide a plan to rapidly phase out Australia's coal-fired power stations, starting with the dirtiest, most inefficient and polluting stations	Support	I support a plan to rapidly phase out the ordinary operation of all coal fired stations as baseload generators. The order and pace of closure needs to consider the capability of the network to meet electricity demand, the additional generation, storage and transmission that needs to be put in place. It might be the case that the closure and replacement of the two Victorian mega brown coal stations will need to be coordinated with the closure of other black coal power stations. I would recommend a schedule for closure as determined by the Climate Change Authority targeting less than 2 degrees warming. I would also put an age limit on the life of power stations.
2. Properly resourced plans and a comprehensive transition package for communities impacted by coal and gas closure – managed by a statutory authority, with regional hubs, and support for jobs in new, sustainable industries	Support	It is a vital part of gaining community acceptance for this transition that communities see that the transition will not result in significant losses of to their communities and that relevant support and transition assistance is provided

3. Putting Australia on a path to achieve zero net climate pollution well before 2050 and set targets for 2025 and 2030 to get us there	Support	Five yearly targets should be established, along with yearly reviews and guidance. We need to avoid policies that simply back end emissions reduction initiatives.
4. Commit to policies which will be: a. Effective at reducing climate pollution to meet pollution reduction targets, AND b. Easily scaled up to meet increasing targets	Support	Fully support
5. Ensure the largest source of climate pollution, the electricity sector, leads the way in cutting pollution.	Support	Support as the electricity sector is cheapest means of achieving emissions reduction. This can be tackled through the transition to renewable energy, encouraging energy efficiency across all industry sectors and the introduction of other low emissions technologies. We need to encourage the use of electricity as the dominant energy source and stop the use of gas where possible.
6. Not rely on international offsets to achieve Australia's climate pollution reduction	Partial support	I believe that Australia has an obligation to pursue its own pollution reduction initiatives, but I would like to support a small portion (e.g. up to 10%) of international carbon credits to facilitate the creation of international projects and efficient global carbon markets.
7. Provide climate finance to support the international community to cut pollution and adapt to a warming world – a minimum \$3.2 billion annually, in addition to existing aid obligations; and share Australian skills, expertise and resources	Support	I support international financing, but the Green Climate Fund is facing a governance crisis that is stifling efficient disbursement of funds to international clean energy projects. How Australia's financial contribution is provided needs to be considered to ensure its effectiveness is maximised.

Survey responses: **Ramping up renewable energy**

Key test	Response	Comment
8. Set predictable, supportive, fair policies that remove barriers to clean energy and ensure clean energy powers 100% of Australia's electricity by 2030, and 100% of Australia's overall energy needs well before 2050	Support	Support. I believe 100% might be a challenge by 2030 but you will need to be targeting that or else you will not achieve the required national emission reduction numbers to restrict global warming to less than 2 degrees.

<p>9. Make sure all Australians everywhere benefit from the transition to clean energy – including low-income households, renters, and remote Aboriginal communities</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support. At the CEFC, I encouraged initiatives for investment into energy efficiency and rooftop solar in Social and Affordable Housing projects, including in indigenous communities</p>
<p>10. Guarantee that both ARENA and CEFC are retained until 2030 with a continued focus on supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency, and restore the \$1 billion cut from ARENA's budget</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>In my view CEFC should be expanded to allow the finance of projects in regional countries and also finance land-based carbon sequestration projects. The additional \$1 billion for ARENA, however, won't be enough unless some grants are also allowed to create returns. It will need about \$250m a year</p>
<p>11. Drive the establishment of a clean energy export industry to assist the clean energy transition in our region and grow a new clean export opportunity</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Consider a 'Clean Gas Target' like we have a RET target in order to encourage the uptake of 'green gas' in the forms of bio fuels, hydrogen and ammonia. The government should intermediate to encourage long term green ammonia contracts to provide credit support for early stage projects</p>
<p>12. Reform the National Electricity Market (NEM) with climate pollution reduction as a priority objective</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The regulators are slow, and some are captured in the past. They fail to use appropriate risk adjusted returns for investment, nor assume appropriate emission targets. They must stop using misguided government policies that are not consistent with science</p>
<p>13. Stop fossil fuel subsidies, including the diesel fuel tax credit, and end tax breaks that incentivise environmental damage</p>	<p>Partial support</p>	<p>The diesel tax rebate was introduced for vehicles operating on privately built roads and is industry agnostic. I am not convinced about this one</p>
<p>14. Set vehicle emissions standards, to be fully phased in by 2025, that are at least as stringent as the US standards and align over time with the stronger EU standards while accelerating electric vehicle uptake</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>15. Phase out uranium mining and export</p>	<p>Partial support</p>	<p>I don't support the early closure of existing nuclear facilities if the impact is higher carbon emissions. I do support their closure once clean alternatives are available at a similar cost.</p>
<p>16. Advance a new approach for the responsible and transparent management of Australia's radioactive waste</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The waste we already have has to be appropriately managed</p>

17. Stop new uranium sales and nuclear agreements	Partial support	To the extent that doing so is consistent with the higher priority issue of reducing emissions
18. Advance the signing, ratification and implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons	Support	-

Survey responses: **Stopping Adani's coal mine**

Key test	Response	Comments
19. Stop the Adani mine and keep all Galilee Basin coal in the ground on the basis that it poses an undue threat to the Great Barrier Reef, water, and endangered species	Support	I would stop it on the basis that it no longer has a social licence and that we have additional information on the environmental impact of coal burning. Opening the basin is incompatible with known climate science.

Survey responses: **Protecting nature**

Key test	Response	Comments
20. Introduce new laws which expand the oversight of the federal government to climate change, land clearing, critical habitats, water resources, air pollution and protected areas in the next term of government	Support	Support
21. Establish and adequately resource an independent national environment protection authority that operates at arm's-length from government in the next term of government	Support	Support
22. Establish and adequately resource a national commission to develop enforceable national plans and standards and regional threat abatement plans	Support	Support

23. Ensure open standing, merits review and third-party enforcement rights under national environmental laws	Partial support	I would like a little more detail on how wide this could be. Projects will need a degree of certainty that they can proceed and continue to operate within clear rules and guidelines, whilst knowing what jurisdiction they are to comply with and who can sue them.
24. Establish a fund with a minimum annual investment of \$1 billion to protect and restore habitats, implement recovery actions, tackle invasive species and help our communities and wildlife adapt to climate change	Support	Support
25. Ensure the protection of ten million hectares of high value ecosystems by 2021	Support	Support
26. Ensure the ecological restoration of one million hectares of high value ecosystems by 2021	Support	support
27. Remove exemptions for native forest logging from national environment law and implement a national forest policy reform process	Support	Support
28. Restore the 2012 Commonwealth marine parks zoning supported by well-resourced enforcement, monitoring and community Engagement	Support	Support
29. Improve tax incentives for conservation and ecological restoration on private land	Support	Support
30. Improve mine rehabilitation rules and funding to make sure they lead to full mine rehabilitation	Partial support	I would like a little more detail on how wide this could be. Projects will need a degree of certainty that they can proceed and continue to operate within clear rules and guidelines, whilst knowing what jurisdiction they are to comply with and who can sue them.
31. Ensure the tax system rewards the protection and regeneration of the environment and penalises its destruction	Support	Support

32. Introduce a well-resourced system of annual national and regional environmental accounts and measures of prosperity	Support	Support
33. Expand the mandate of the Productivity Commission to explicitly consider environmental matters	Support	support
34. Introduce transparent and independent analysis of the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of major projects through bodies such as Infrastructure Australia	Support	Support
35. Set Australia on a trajectory to halve our ecological footprint by 2030	Support	Support
36. Restore funding of EDOs and conservation councils to 2010 levels	Partial support	I need to look at this and I don't have a view. Sounds ok but if all other policies are working right there should be less need for litigation
37. Deliver the commitments made under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan on time and in full, including the delivery of outcomes equivalent to 3,200 gigalitres in environmental water	Support	Support. Also we need to value the ecological services the flow of water provides. Water use at the top of the system is more expensive to the environment than water used at the end of the system. Consideration should be given to this
38. Return responsibility for water to the environment portfolio and ensure an independent water compliance and enforcement unit is established in an EPA	Support	Support
39. Enable the full recovery of water in the Murray-Darling Basin through voluntary purchase on the open market	Support	This would need to be carefully designed. I think this could be more complicated and this could be open to market manipulation. You need to be careful when playing in real markets.
40. Adequately resource the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder to build and deliver its critically important portfolio of environment water	Support	support

41. Address constraints and barriers throughout the Basin to improve environmental outcomes and ensure water reaches natural floodplains	Support	Support
42. Revitalise national water reform in Australia and set out a roadmap for the recognition of Indigenous water rights?	Support	Support
43. Establish a clear roadmap to deliver a Traditional Owner driven, consent based World Heritage nomination process for Cape York Peninsula	Support	–
44. Commit to supporting the employment of 5,000 Indigenous rangers by 2025	Partial support	–
45. Commit to supporting the employment of 5,000 Indigenous rangers by 2025	Support	–
46. Guarantee the rights of charities to pursue their mission through non-partisan political advocacy	Support	Support
47. Introduce effective political donations reform	Support	support
48. Create and resource a federal anti-corruption Regulator	Support	Support
49. Ensure MPs and Senators do not move into lobbying roles within a reasonable time of leaving office	Support	This is complex. and may require a 'gardening leave' type arrangement before starting such roles. It is more an issue with long-standing politicians that already leave with significant pension entitlements. I would certainly support such a policy in relation to former ministers.

About this survey

Methodology

This document is the candidate's unedited responses to ACF'S 2019 *Climate Election independent and minor party survey*.

In the survey, the candidate responded to 49 key policy tests, grouped under four broad headings: ramping up renewables, phasing out coal, stopping Adani and protecting nature. Together, these are the priority policy commitments we believe are required to get Australia on the right path, addressing climate change and protecting the people, places and wildlife we love.

Respondents could give five possible responses for each test:

- Support
- Partial support
- No policy
- Oppose
- Comments

We sent this survey to selected minor parties and independents, with a deadline for response by close of business on 25 April 2019. It was beyond our resources to send this survey to the every minor party and independent candidate in every electorate and in both houses. We therefore excluded parties or candidates who:

- Focused on a single unrelated issue, and therefore were not likely to have policies relating to climate, energy or nature;
- Candidates or parties who we assessed to have an extremely low chance of winning a seat (acknowledging this is a subjective judgement).

Many of the independents and minor parties who received the survey did not respond.

See the survey responses from all of the candidates who responded at www.acf.org.au/scorecard_independent. The responses are the full statements from the candidates, without analysis by ACF.

In addition to this independent candidate survey, we have rigorously analysed the major parties' policies against the key tests in our 2018 National Agenda – see www.acf.org.au/scorecard.

About the Australian Conservation Foundation

We are Australia's national environment organisation – 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.

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