

# This is The Climate Election

What do independent candidates and minor parties stand for?

## Rob Oakeshott

Independent • Cowper • 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	<b>Partial support</b>	Transition takes time which is why I don't want to get everyone's hopes too high. Transition for individuals and their families, communities with coal histories, and then transition to more efficient and cost-effective sources are important.
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	<b>Support</b>	That was the point I was making in answer to question 1!!
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	<b>Support</b>	

<p>4. Commit to policies which will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Effective at reducing climate pollution to meet pollution reduction targets, AND</li> <li>b. Easily scaled up to meet increasing targets</li> </ul>	<p><b>Support</b></p>	
<p>5. Ensure the largest source of climate pollution, the electricity sector, leads the way in cutting pollution.</p>	<p><b>Partial support</b></p>	<p>I think it is a multi-pronged approach, with the energy sector being one part of the answer</p>
<p>6. Not rely on international offsets to achieve Australia's climate pollution reduction</p>	<p><b>Partial support</b></p>	<p>Australia shouldn't take the easy path and bail out on ambition, but at the same time we should be partnering with neighbours and leave open the option of working together on some large scale strategies</p>
<p>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</p>	<p><b>Partial support</b></p>	

## Survey responses: **Ramping up renewable energy**

Key test	Response	Comment
<p>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</p>	<p><b>Support</b></p>	
<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><b>Support</b></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	<b>Partial support</b>	Sentiment is right. I support it. Just don't want to give "false hope" as it requires a majority of MP's to get a "guarantee". I can't give that alone.
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	<b>Support</b>	
12. Reform the National Electricity Market (NEM) with climate pollution reduction as a priority objective	<b>n/a</b>	Error in survey - candidate was not provided this question
13. Stop fossil fuel subsidies, including the diesel fuel tax credit, and end tax breaks that incentivise environmental damage	<b>Oppose</b>	Bring on EV's rather than go for the diesel fuel tax credit as the starting point. This tax credit is helping a lot of small scale farmers keep farming. I get the sentiment, but do it by transition to better options would be my preferred response.
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	<b>Partial Support</b>	Agree with the sentiment and only hesitation is having greater details on the actual standards in US and UK.
15. Phase out uranium mining and export	<b>No policy</b>	This is a transition issue, and this is about demand-side transition. I want to know greater detail as to who we are selling to and why. medical research technology for example?
16. Advance a new approach for the responsible and transparent management of Australia's radioactive waste	<b>No policy</b>	I would like to see what is meant by a "new approach" in further detail please
17. Stop new uranium sales and nuclear agreements	<b>No policy</b>	as per 15 and 17 answers.
18. Advance the signing, ratification and implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons	<b>Support</b>	Strongly support this, and to add the monitoring/policing of such weapons is an important role Australia can significantly contribute to.

## 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	<b>Partial support</b>	I do not think the Adani mine will progress due to lack of social license, no economic case, and what appears to be a 'breach of process' via some reports of how the environmental standards have or haven't been followed. This will be reviewed. I understand and support the sentiment, and think TRANSITION for communities within the Gallilee basin is so important. Where are the jobs?!

## 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	<b>Partial support</b>	Need to see legislation
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	<b>Partial support</b>	Need to see legislation and structure
22. Establish and adequately resource a national commission to develop enforceable national plans and standards and regional threat abatement plans	<b>Partial support</b>	Need more details
23. Ensure open standing, merits review and third-party enforcement rights under national environmental laws	<b>No policy</b>	Need more details

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	<b>Support</b>	I actually think this is a huge opportunity for our landscape. Threatened species, but also invasive species are areas that bring all sections of the community together. It is potentially an area where the idea of a Jobs Guarantee could be focussed, and co-ordinated through local Council authorities. This could be a very exciting opportunity for Australian action on the ground.
25. Ensure the protection of ten million hectares of high value ecosystems by 2021	<b>Partial support</b>	Need more details of where and why and how.
26. Ensure the ecological restoration of one million hectares of high value ecosystems by 2021	<b>Partial support</b>	as above
27. Remove exemptions for native forest logging from national environment law and implement a national forest policy reform process	<b>No policy</b>	I would want to know the detailed implications of such a decision on the forestry sector, and the supply of both hardwood and softwood timbers, as well as in NSW, the implications for the wood supply agreements and what is, or isn't, possible and compensatable
28. Restore the 2012 Commonwealth marine parks zoning supported by well-resourced enforcement, monitoring and community Engagement	<b>No policy</b>	Seek further details before committing, even though I understand the sentiment.
29. Improve tax incentives for conservation and ecological restoration on private land	<b>Support</b>	Yep. A winner!
30. Improve mine rehabilitation rules and funding to make sure they lead to full mine rehabilitation	<b>Support</b>	
31. Ensure the tax system rewards the protection and regeneration of the environment and penalises its destruction	<b>Support</b>	
32. Introduce a well-resourced system of annual national and regional environmental accounts and measures of prosperity	<b>No policy</b>	Interested in examples and also the details of proposals
33. Expand the mandate of the Productivity Commission to explicitly consider environmental matters	<b>Partial support</b>	More details required on implications

34. Introduce transparent and independent analysis of the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of major projects through bodies such as Infrastructure Australia	<b>Support</b>	
35. Set Australia on a trajectory to halve our ecological footprint by 2030	<b>Support</b>	
36. Restore funding of EDOs and conservation councils to 2010 levels	<b>Partial support</b>	Why not higher?
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	<b>Partial support</b>	I have supported a full inquiry into the plan, and would be instructed by the recommendations of such a process.
38. Return responsibility for water to the environment portfolio and ensure an independent water compliance and enforcement unit is established in an EPA	<b>Partial support</b>	Just want to understand the implications, even though I understand and am sympathetic to the sentiment.
39. Enable the full recovery of water in the Murray-Darling Basin through voluntary purchase on the open market	<b>Partial support</b>	
40. Adequately resource the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder to build and deliver its critically important portfolio of environment water	<b>Support</b>	
41. Address constraints and barriers throughout the Basin to improve environmental outcomes and ensure water reaches natural floodplains	<b>Partial support</b>	this should be common to all river systems including north coast rivers
42. Revitalise national water reform in Australia and set out a roadmap for the recognition of Indigenous water rights?	<b>Support</b>	

43. Establish a clear roadmap to deliver a Traditional Owner driven, consent based World Heritage nomination process for Cape York Peninsula	<b>Partial support</b>	More details required
44. Commit to supporting the employment of 5,000 Indigenous rangers by 2025	<b>Support</b>	More details required
45. Commit to supporting the employment of 5,000 Indigenous rangers by 2025	<b>Support</b>	
46. Guarantee the rights of charities to pursue their mission through non-partisan political advocacy	<b>Partial support</b>	More details required
47. Introduce effective political donations reform	<b>Support</b>	
48. Create and resource a federal anti-corruption Regulator	<b>Support</b>	
49. Ensure MPs and Senators do not move into lobbying roles within a reasonable time of leaving office	<b>Partial support</b>	agree, just more definition required.

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## 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](http://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](http://www.acf.org.au/scorecard).

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## 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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