

This is The Climate Election

What do independent candidates and minor parties stand for?

Socialist Alliance

Minor Party • multiple electorates • House of Representatives and Senate

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	From our policy : "Begin phasing out coal mining and coal-fired power immediately. Provide replacement jobs and retraining on full pay for affected communities. Build new sustainable industries in these areas."
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	From our policy : "A plan for rapidly phasing out coal mining and export must be developed, and this must involve creating new jobs for miners in sustainable industries. No new coal mines or coal-fired power plants should be approved." "To be successful, a climate emergency plan must protect the welfare of workers and affected communities. Workers are critical to identifying and eliminating waste and pollution in the workplace, closing down old industries and opening new ones."

<p>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</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>From our policy:</p> <p>“Set immediate emissions cuts targets to reduce net emissions to zero as soon as possible, including a target to achieve 100% renewable energy within a decade. Introduce emissions reduction targets of at least 5% a year. Nuclear power is not a clean energy solution.</p> <p>Begin new international treaty negotiations aimed to get all countries to agree on a global target aiming for 90% emissions cuts on 1990 levels by 2030. Prioritise emissions cuts to rich industrial nations, and increase aid to exploited countries to help them to use clean energy for their development.”</p>
<p>4. Commit to policies which will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Effective at reducing climate pollution to meet pollution reduction targets, AND b. Easily scaled up to meet increasing targets 	<p>Support</p>	<p>In addition to the above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redirect heavy industry, including remaining steel, aluminium and traditional car manufacturing industries, to manufacture essential products and infrastructure for the transition such as renewable energy generators, public transport vehicles and infrastructure and electric cars. • Bring power industries under public ownership. Set up public bodies to coordinate local, regional and national energy networks/grids. Plan and build a mix of renewable energy and energy storage technologies to supply 100% renewable energy. Technologies to be used include wind turbines, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal and storage, pumped hydro storage and batteries. New technologies such as wave or geothermal power should be included as they become available. Support community-owned renewable power generation and grids and upgrade the national grid to facilitate the new renewable energy system.

<p>5. Ensure the largest source of climate pollution, the electricity sector, leads the way in cutting pollution.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>IN addition to the above:</p> <p>“Require advanced energy efficiency measures and solar photovoltaic panels be fitted to existing buildings with measures to subsidise owner-occupiers for excessive costs. Require landlords to progressively install the same technology in rental properties. Improve mandatory energy efficiency standards for all new buildings.”</p> <p>“No to nuclear. End uranium mining. Close Ranger (NT), Roxby Downs and Beverly (SA) and no new mines to be approved. No dumping of nuclear waste. Shut down the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor and switch to clean, safe medical technologies.</p>
<p>6. Not rely on international offsets to achieve Australia’s climate pollution reduction</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>“Carbon trading schemes in general are not a solution. These schemes are riddled with loopholes and are a dangerous distraction from genuine measures. They are designed to allow some polluters to delay emissions cuts, when we need all emissions to be cut as fast as possible.”</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>Support</p>	<p>“Australia has a moral obligation to take the lead on actions to combat climate change as it has financial and natural resources that countries with less economic and political power do not.”</p> <p>“The rich countries have created the problem, so we must contribute the most to fixing it. A new international treaty should aim for 90% emissions cuts (from 1990 levels) by 2030, with rich nations leading the way.”</p> <p>“Rich nations must help exploited nations develop without high-pollution industries and energy. Australia must also accept a fair share of the environmental refugees who are already being displaced by climate change. This assistance is just part of repaying our ecological debt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin new international treaty negotiations aimed to get all countries to agree on a global target aiming for 90% emissions cuts on 1990 levels by 2030. Prioritise emissions cuts to rich industrial nations, and increase aid to exploited countries to help them to use clean energy for their development. <p>source</p>

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	Set immediate emissions cuts targets to reduce net emissions to zero as soon as possible, including a target to achieve 100% renewable energy within a decade. Introduce emissions reduction targets of at least 5% a year. Nuclear power is not a clean energy solution. link
9. Make sure all Australians everywhere benefit from the transition to clean energy – including low-income households, renters, and remote Aboriginal communities	Support	Bring power industries under public ownership. Set up public bodies to coordinate local, regional and national energy networks/grids. Plan and build a mix of renewable energy and energy storage technologies to supply 100% renewable energy. "Support community-owned renewable power generation and grids and upgrade the national grid to facilitate the new renewable energy system" link
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	Support	Socialist Alliance opposed the de-funding of ARENA link
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	Support	As above
12. Reform the National Electricity Market (NEM) with climate pollution reduction as a priority objective	Support	
13. Stop fossil fuel subsidies, including the diesel fuel tax credit, and end tax breaks that incentivise environmental damage	Support	Tax the big polluters; end the billions in public subsidies to mining corporations, banks and energy companies." "end the billions in public subsidies to mining corporations banks and energy companies https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/tax-policy AND https://socialist-alliance.org/elections/federal/2019/election-platform/2019-federal-election AND https://socialist-alliance.org/sites/default/files/2019_federal_election_platform.pdf

<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>“Electric cars can fill the inevitable gaps in such a system to provide 100% renewable energy transport.</p> <p>“Transition to making all new private cars and other road vehicles electric other than special-use vehicles, such as long distance vehicles for remote areas. Replace petrol stations with charging stations.”</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-climate-change/climate-change AND</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/social-justice-public-transport-nationalisation/sustainable-transport</p>
<p>15. Phase out uranium mining and export</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>“As the nuclear cycle begins with uranium mining, we should end it immediately. That means closing down the operating uranium mines (Ranger in the NT, Roxby Downs in SA and Beverly in SA) and ensuring that no new mines are approved.”</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-climate-change/climate-change</p>
<p>16. Advance a new approach for the responsible and transparent management of Australia’s radioactive waste</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>“No to nuclear. End uranium mining. Close Ranger (NT), Roxby Downs and Beverly (SA) and no new mines to be approved. No dumping of nuclear waste. Shut down the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor and switch to clean, safe medical technologies.”</p> <p>“Nuclear power is not a safe, clean, sustainable or viable energy solution. The nuclear industry has huge problems not faced by renewables.</p> <p>The nuclear cycle begins with uranium mining. All the operating mines have a history of leaks, spills and accidents.”</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-climate-change/climate-change</p>
<p>17. Stop new uranium sales and nuclear agreements</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>As above</p>

<p>18. Advance the signing, ratification and implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>“International aid, not war and occupation: Bring back all military forces from Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East; no participation or support for imperialist interventions; isolate apartheid Israel; end ANZUS and US military bases in Australia; cut military spending and boost development and climate change aid to poor countries; reverse the cuts to Australia's overseas aid programs — for a massive increase in Australia's aid budget; end Australia’s interference in the affairs of countries in the Asia Pacific; independence for West Papua.</p> <p>“No Australian support for the US government's missile 'defence' program and renewed, active support for non-proliferation agreements in place.”</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/anti-war/us-bases-out-now AND</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment/environment-charter</p>
---	-----------------------	--

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

Key test	Response	Comments
<p>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</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>“Real climate action: A planned shift to 100% renewable energy within 10 years via public investment and emission reduction targets; bring the power industries under public ownership and democratic control; stop Adani and all new coal mines; stop fracking and all unconventional gas mining; tax the corporate polluters and billionaires; make the shift from coal and gas to renewables with a just transition for workers; justice for climate refugees and those displaced by climate change; ban the logging of old-growth forests; begin an urgent program of reforestation, sustainable farming and biodiversity protection; enforce the rehabilitation of mine sites by companies; and institute a national heat health strategy.</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/sites/default/files/2019_federal_election_platform.pdf</p>

Survey responses: **Protecting nature**

Key test	Response	Comments
----------	----------	----------

<p>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</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-climate-change/climate-change</p> <p>AND</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/water</p> <p>AND</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/agriculture</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>22. Establish and adequately resource a national commission to develop enforceable national plans and standards and regional threat abatement plans</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>As above. AND</p> <p>“Mandated humane treatment of animals and full protection of endangered species and habitats.”</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment/environment-charter</p>
<p>23. Ensure open standing, merits review and third-party enforcement rights under national environmental laws</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>25. Ensure the protection of ten million hectares of high value ecosystems by 2021</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>26. Ensure the ecological restoration of one million hectares of high value ecosystems by 2021</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>27. Remove exemptions for native forest logging from national environment law and implement a national forest policy reform process</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>As above</p>

28. Restore the 2012 Commonwealth marine parks zoning supported by well-resourced enforcement, monitoring and community Engagement	Support	As above
29. Improve tax incentives for conservation and ecological restoration on private land	Support	As above
30. Improve mine rehabilitation rules and funding to make sure they lead to full mine rehabilitation	Support	<p>“The Socialist Alliance demands the commencement of a comprehensive environmental restoration and employment program, fully funded by a tax on corporate bank transactions; including full training and award wages for all workers; preference to be given to displaced timber and agricultural workers, rural unemployed, Aboriginal communities and small farmers.”</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-climate-change/climate-change AND https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/water AND https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/agriculture AND https://socialist-alliance.org/elections/federal/2019/election-platform/2019-federal-election AND https://socialist-alliance.org/documents/towards-socialist-australia</p>
31. Ensure the tax system rewards the protection and regeneration of the environment and penalises its destruction	Support	<p>“Tax the big polluters;”</p> <p>“end the billions in public subsidies to mining corporations banks and energy companies”</p> <p>“We support the ‘polluter-pays’ principle. If companies cry poor they should have to open their books and let the community decide if they can afford to clean-up.</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/elections/federal/2019/election-platform/2019-federal-election</p> <p>AND</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources-anti-privatisation/coal-and-steel</p>
32. Introduce a well-resourced system of annual national and regional environmental accounts and measures of prosperity	Support	As above

33. Expand the mandate of the Productivity Commission to explicitly consider environmental matters	Support	As above
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	As above
35. Set Australia on a trajectory to halve our ecological footprint by 2030	Support	https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/water AND https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/agriculture
36. Restore funding of EDOs and conservation councils to 2010 levels	Support	https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/water AND https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/agriculture
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	https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/water AND https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/agriculture
38. Return responsibility for water to the environment portfolio and ensure an independent water compliance and enforcement unit is established in an EPA	Support	https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/water AND https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/agriculture
39. Enable the full recovery of water in the Murray-Darling Basin through voluntary purchase on the open market	Support	https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/water AND https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/agriculture

<p>40. Adequately resource the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder to build and deliver its critically important portfolio of environment water</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/water</p> <p>AND</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/agriculture</p>
<p>41. Address constraints and barriers throughout the Basin to improve environmental outcomes and ensure water reaches natural floodplains</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/water</p> <p>AND</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/agriculture</p>
<p>42. Revitalise national water reform in Australia and set out a roadmap for the recognition of Indigenous water rights?</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>“The knowledge of Indigenous communities is an essential part of making that assessment and developing sound proposals for water conservation.”</p> <p>“Any sustainable and justice-oriented agricultural practice needs to place Aboriginal self-determination, empowerment and participation at its centre.”</p> <p>“Socialist Alliance stands for full Land Rights and compensation for land taken, and recognises the existence of Indigenous self-governance and the right of Indigenous peoples to self-determination.”</p> <p>“The Socialist Alliance approach is to strengthen the economic and skills base of the land councils system and local communities, and in this way support Indigenous people in the creation of sustainable, self-managed communities.”</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-rights/charter-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander</p> <p>AND</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/water</p> <p>AND</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/environment-natural-resources/agriculture</p>
<p>43. Establish a clear roadmap to deliver a Traditional Owner driven, consent based World Heritage nomination process for Cape York Peninsula</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-rights/charter-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander</p>

<p>44. Commit to supporting the employment of 5,000 Indigenous rangers by 2025</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>“abolish all racist land laws and renegotiate Indigenous Land Rights as part of a constitutionally entrenched Treaty, binding on Federal and State governments.”</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-rights/charter-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander</p>
<p>45. Commit to supporting the employment of 5,000 Indigenous rangers by 2025</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Ensure that all programs and services in Indigenous communities employ qualified people, and provide training and development for community members;</p> <p>Establish affirmative action quotas in apprenticeships, TAFE and university entrance and all levels of government;</p> <p>Require government agency programs to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation;</p> <p>Provide funds and other needed assistance for social sector economic activity by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;</p> <p>Help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to retain and or reclaim use of traditional fisheries;</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-rights/charter-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander</p>
<p>46. Guarantee the rights of charities to pursue their mission through non-partisan political advocacy</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Socialist Alliance statement on the ‘gag bill’.</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/news/government%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%98gag-bill%E2%80%99-threatens-us-all</p>
<p>47. Introduce effective political donations reform</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>“The Socialist Alliance campaigns for a totally different system of public funding of election campaigns. The current system privileges and entrenches the incumbents and the traditional parties of government and pays for expensive (and misleading) advertising campaigns in the privately-owned mass media.</p> <p>We support a system of public funding that guarantees all contending parties and candidates an equal chance to present their platforms before elections.”</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/social-justice/electoral-reform</p>

48. Create and resource a federal anti-corruption Regulator	Support	<p>“The Socialist Alliance understands that for there to be truly democratic elections, the gross economic inequity of the class system needs to be broken and new institutions of popular representation and direct democracy need to be built to replace the corrupted institutions developed to entrench the capitalist system.”</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/social-justice/electoral-reform</p>
49. Ensure MPs and Senators do not move into lobbying roles within a reasonable time of leaving office	Support	<p>“The major parties that have long dominated parliamentary politics are increasingly seen to be in the pockets of powerful corporate interests, and the electoral laws to privilege the major parties.”</p> <p>https://socialist-alliance.org/policy/social-justice/electoral-reform</p>

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.

Authorised by Kelly O'Shanassy, Australian Conservation Foundation, 60 Leicester St Carlton.