

This is The Climate Election

What do independent candidates and minor parties stand for?

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Independent • Queensland • 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	We need to spend money on building a grid to support renewable energy sources as well as looking at hydro storage for generation.
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	We need to promote and support innovative technologies which assist Australia's changing needs
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	Imperative that we follow what science is saying about climate change.

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	
5. Ensure the largest source of climate pollution, the electricity sector, leads the way in cutting pollution.	Support	
6. Not rely on international offsets to achieve Australia's climate pollution reduction	Support	
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	Our best practices need to be transferred to other countries to assist with the global challenges we all face

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	We need to assist or subsidize industry which strives to reach 100 % renewable targets
9. Make sure all Australians everywhere benefit from the transition to clean energy – including low-income households, renters, and remote Aboriginal communities	Support	
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	It is through the diligent support of the scientific community that we are better situated to make informed decisions

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	Exporting of renewables technology can help offset the loss of revenue from coal exports.
12. Reform the National Electricity Market (NEM) with climate pollution reduction as a priority objective	Partial Support	We need to ensure that people in rural areas and the trucking industry have viable and reliable transport options before we make stop the fuel credit tax. We need to support an electric vehicular industry in Australia
13. Stop fossil fuel subsidies, including the diesel fuel tax credit, and end tax breaks that incentivise environmental damage	Support	
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	Support	We need to establish and extend electrical charging bays into rural Australia and Cut taxes of electric vehicles.
15. Phase out uranium mining and export	Support	
16. Advance a new approach for the responsible and transparent management of Australia's radioactive waste	Support	
17. Stop new uranium sales and nuclear agreements	Support	
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	

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	State Governments should be involved in the planning of water resources but the federal government should have overarching control
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	
22. Establish and adequately resource a national commission to develop enforceable national plans and standards and regional threat abatement plans	Partial Support	I agree but States need to have some advisory role
23. Ensure open standing, merits review and third-party enforcement rights under national environmental laws	No Policy	
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	
25. Ensure the protection of ten million hectares of high value ecosystems by 2021	Support	Establishment of more National parks-marine and land needed, possibly including farm land buy back
26. Ensure the ecological restoration of one million hectares of high value ecosystems by 2021	Support	

27. Remove exemptions for native forest logging from national environment law and implement a national forest policy reform process	Support	
28. Restore the 2012 Commonwealth marine parks zoning supported by well-resourced enforcement, monitoring and community Engagement	Support	Special attention needs to be on the protection of Australian waters by international fishing groups also
29. Improve tax incentives for conservation and ecological restoration on private land	Partial Support	
30. Improve mine rehabilitation rules and funding to make sure they lead to full mine rehabilitation	Support	A significant bond should be held to ensure restoration.
31. Ensure the tax system rewards the protection and regeneration of the environment and penalises its destruction	Support	Penalties need to be meaningful to the enterprise involved.
32. Introduce a well-resourced system of annual national and regional environmental accounts and measures of prosperity	Partial Support	
33. Expand the mandate of the Productivity Commission to explicitly consider environmental matters	Support	Financial checks and balances are too limiting. It needs to be more encompassing.
34. Introduce transparent and independent analysis of the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of major projects through bodies such as Infrastructure Australia	Partial Support	
35. Set Australia on a trajectory to halve our ecological footprint by 2030	Support	
36. Restore funding of EDOs and conservation councils to 2010 levels	Support	

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	Partial Support	I believe this issue needs to be revisited in lieu of droughts brought on by climate change
38. Return responsibility for water to the environment portfolio and ensure an independent water compliance and enforcement unit is established in an EPA	Support	
39. Enable the full recovery of water in the Murray-Darling Basin through voluntary purchase on the open market	Partial Support	
40. Adequately resource the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder to build and deliver its critically important portfolio of environment water	No Policy	
41. Address constraints and barriers throughout the Basin to improve environmental outcomes and ensure water reaches natural floodplains	Support	
42. Revitalise national water reform in Australia and set out a roadmap for the recognition of Indigenous water rights?	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	No Policy	
45. Commit to supporting the employment of 5,000 Indigenous rangers by 2025	Partial Support	
46. Guarantee the rights of charities to pursue their mission through non-partisan political advocacy	Support	Freedom of speech is the right to be heard

47. Introduce effective political donations reform	Support	
48. Create and resource a federal anti-corruption Regulator	Support	
49. Ensure MPs and Senators do not move into lobbying roles within a reasonable time of leaving office	Support	Placements in foreign owned companies should be controlled too.

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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