

This is The Climate Election

What do independent candidates and minor parties stand for?

Ruby O'Rourke

Independent • Macnamara • 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	My policy is to ensure Australia is powered by 100% renewable energy by 2030 See: https://www.rubyorourke.com.au/climate_change
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	Comprehensive transition and retraining programs for workers and communities affected by the phase-out of fossil fuels is a crucial part of transitioning to 100% renewable energy. Workers' rights are human rights. They won't be left behind.
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	

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	

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	
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	

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	
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	
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	
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	There should be no new coal or gas extraction in Australia. We need to halt fossil fuel extraction immediately to prevent irreversible climate damage and limit warming to 1.5° C, in line with expert recommendations. See: https://www.rubyourourke.com.au/climate_change

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>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>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>23. Ensure open standing, merits review and third-party enforcement rights under national environmental laws</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>I support open standing, merits review and third-party enforcement rights under national environmental laws.</p> <p>Australians should also have overarching rights to hold the government legally accountable for failing them.</p> <p>Climate change is a key example of how the government has failed Australians, particularly young people and children.</p> <p>If elected, I will introduce a Young People's Rights bill which will hold all legislation to account to protect the rights and welfare of young people. It will also give children and young people the legal right to hold the government culpable in court for failure to act in accordance with their rights.</p> <p>See: https://www.rubyorourke.com.au/childrens_rights</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	Support	
25. Ensure the protection of ten million hectares of high value ecosystems by 2021	Support	
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	
29. Improve tax incentives for conservation and ecological restoration on private land	Support	
30. Improve mine rehabilitation rules and funding to make sure they lead to full mine rehabilitation	Support	
31. Ensure the tax system rewards the protection and regeneration of the environment and penalises its destruction	Support	
32. Introduce a well-resourced system of annual national and regional environmental accounts and measures of prosperity	Support	
33. Expand the mandate of the Productivity Commission to explicitly consider environmental matters	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	
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	Support	
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	Support	
40. Adequately resource the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder to build and deliver its critically important portfolio of environment water	Support	
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	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	
47. Introduce effective political donations reform	Support	
48. Create and resource a federal anti-corruption Regulator	Support	I support political donations reform and a federal anti-corruption regulator. I will also introduce government transparency reform measures to give people real-time access to important information that affects them including political donations, tender processes, development applications, environmental impact statements and government contracts. See: https://www.rubyorourke.com.au/government_transparency
49. Ensure MPs and Senators do not move into lobbying roles within a reasonable time of leaving office	Support	

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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