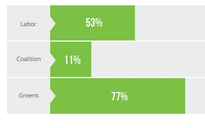
AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

OUR INDEPENDENT GUIDE TO VOTING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT THIS ELECTION

How do the parties score on:

Clean energy | **Cutting pollution** | **Protecting our reefs, forest and wildlife**



Clean energy

		Points	Coalition	Labor	Greens
Go 100% clean energy. Remove barriers and create incentives so Australian communities, cities and industries can be powered by 100 per cent clean, renewable energy by 2050 or sooner.	Ensure clean renewables power 100% of Australia's electricity by 2035, and 100% of all Australia's energy before 2050.	5	1	3	5
	Double the energy productivity of Australia's economy by 2030?	3	2	3	3
	Retain the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and Australian Renewable Energy Agency with existing or additional resources?	3	1.5	2	3
	Introduce vehicle fuel pollution standards by 2017 to bring Australia into line with EU standards?	1	0.5	0.5	1
	Stop public subsidies to polluting fossil fuel industries?	3	0	0	3
Be nuclear free. Reduce radioactive risks by stopping uranium mining and export, withdrawing from the global nuclear industry and responsibly managing Australia's radioactive waste.	Phase out uranium mining?	1	-1	-1	1
	Advance a new approach for the responsible and transparent management of Australia's radioactive waste?	3	1	2	3
	Stop new uranium sales and nuclear cooperation agreements?	1	-1	-1	1

Cutting pollution

		Points	Coalition	Labor	Greens
Cutting pollution. Set strong climate pollution targets and do Australia's fair share to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C hotter than pre-industrial temperatures.	Set pollution targets to progressively reduce our pollution and enable Australia to achieve net zero climate pollution by 2050 at the latest?	5	2	3.5	5
	Be effective, durable, scalable and able to achieve the goal of reducing Australia's climate pollution to net zero by 2050 at the latest?	5	2	4	5
	Keep and adequately fund the Climate Change Authority or similar authority, or similar independent authority that advises the government on climate change?	1	0	1	1
	Commit our fair share of funding – $550 million in 2016-17, growing to $1.6 billion by 2020 – to the Green Climate Fund?	3	1	1	2
Shift away from polluting coal. Replace dirty, out-of-date coal-fired power stations with clean energy, don't approve any new or bigger coal mines and phase out existing mines.	Provide a plan to phase out Australia's coal-fired power stations, starting with the dirtiest, most inefficient and polluting power stations?	5	0	3.5	5
	Ensure no new coal mines or coal mine extensions are approved.	5	-3	0	5
	Allocate funding for social and economic transition assistance programs to work in regions affected by the closure of coal operations, providing new opportunities for these communities?	3	0	3	3
	Introduce a federal plan to bolster mine rehabilitation securities from liable companies?	1	0	0	1
Help communities and nature thrive. Create clean, smart cities and restore our natural landscapes to cut pollution and help communities and nature cope with worsening droughts, floods and bushfires.	Leverage investment and increase the amount of carbon securely stored in Australia's land and waterways to reach the goal of net zero carbon pollution by 2050?	5	1	4	1
	Maintain funding for the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility?	1	0	0.5	0
	Introduce a national strategy and standards for sustainable and resilient cities and urban centres?	3	1	2	2
	Provide funding support for state and local government implementation of adaptation strategies?	1	0	0	0

Protecting our reefs, forest and wildlife

		Points	Coalition	Labor	Greens
Create strong laws to protect air, water and wildlife. Develop a new generation of strong national laws and institutions to protect our reefs, forests and wildlife, improve biodiversity and regulate pollution.	Provide an effective national system of nature protection laws to protect and improve the health of Australia's air, land, water and biodiversity by December 2018?	5	0	2	3
	Expand Australian government oversight of climate issues, water resources, biodiversity and pollution and within 12 months of taking office?	3	0	2.5	3
	Ensure the federal government has direct responsibility to regulate projects that impact on matters of national importance?	3	-3	3	3
	Establish and adequately resource an independent statutory authority to administer our national environmental law by December 2018?	3	0	1	2
	Ensure greater public access and transparency in Australian environmental law, including open standing provisions and merits review of decisions within 12 months of taking office?	1	-1	0.5	1
Re-connect habitats. Protect, restore and connect critical habitats, water catchments and forests to give communities, plants and animals the best chance to thrive and adapt to global warming.	Commit $1 billion annually by 2018 in a National Environment Fund?	5	2	1	2
	Rule out logging, mining and other unsustainable land and sea uses in Australia's World Heritage Areas?	1	0	1	1
	Introduce national policies and programs to protect and restore ecosystems along the Great Dividing Range, including establishing the Great Forest National Park?	3	1	1	3
	Create new tax incentives for the management and restoration of ecosystems on private land?	1	0	0	0.5
Help nature and culture thrive in the north. Protect and manage the natural and cultural heritage of the Kimberley, Kakadu and Cape York Peninsula and invest so people can have jobs that are good for families, communities and nature.	Increase funding for Indigenous Protected Areas, scaling up to $30 million per annum by 2020 as part of a National Environment Fund?	1	0	0.5	0
	Commit to supporting the employment of 5,000 Indigenous rangers by 2020?	1	0	1	1
	Provide commitments to the expansion of sustainable tourism and renewable energy initiatives across northern Australia to benefit local communities?	3	0	1.5	2
Keep the Murray flowing. Deliver the historic Murray-Darling Basin Plan for healthier rivers and wetlands, wildlife and communities and reinvigorate national water reform.	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?	3	3	3	3
	Provide a plan to reward private landholders for managing floodplains to produce environmental benefits for the river system?	1	0	0	0
	Adequately resource the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder to build and deliver its critically important portfolio of environmental water?	3	0	3	0
	Support and fund a science-driven program to eradicate invasive European carp in the Murray-Darling Basin?	1	1	1	0
	Revitalise national water reform in Australia and set out a road-map for the recognition of Indigenous water rights?	1	0	0	1
Value nature in government decision making. Integrate the value of Australia's rivers, oceans, forests and land into political decision making, policy advice and economic reporting.	Introduce a well-resourced and complete system of annual national and regional environmental accounts by 2019?	1	0	0	1
	Expand the mandate of the Productivity Commission to explicitly include environmental issues?	1	0	0	0
	Introduce transparent and independent analysis of the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of all major projects by 2017?	1	0	0	0.5

HOW DID WE CALCULATE THESE SCORES?

We measured the policies of each party against 40 tests set out in ACF's National Agenda 2016. The tests are grouped under three broad headings: clean energy, cutting pollution and protecting nature. Together, these are the policy commitments we believe are required to protect people, rivers, reefs, forests and wildlife for future generations.

We have ranked the 40 tests into three categories: critical issues (worth 5 marks), priority issues (worth 3 marks) and important issues (worth 1 mark). For each policy offering, we decide how many of the total available marks to award on the basis of how completely the policy fulfills our test. In some cases, such as where a policy unwends existing environmental protection, we award negative marks. The total score out of 100 is our assessment of the strength of the party's overall policy offering as it relates to the issues in ACF's National Agenda. We have not assessed policy which falls outside our agenda.

This election, we, the people, will make a choice that will define our future for generations.

Will we elect politicians who only listen to the big polluters who are destroying our reefs? Or will we choose a world powered by clean energy where our reefs and our children can thrive?

Together our votes are powerful.

WHO IS ACF?

The Australian Conservation Foundation is Australia's national environment organisation.

We are a quarter of a million people strong.
We are proudly independent, non-partisan and funded by donations from Australians.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

We rated the environmental policies of all major parties against 40 rigorous tests of success outlined in ACF's 2016 National Agenda.

Explore the full scorecard at **scorecard.acf.org.au**

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