

CLIMATE POLICIES OF MAJOR AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL PARTIES

May 2019



1. Introduction

This document is a summary of the major political parties' climate policies: The Liberal-National Party, the Australian Labor Party and the Australian Greens. The policies are all taken directly from each party's website without commentary.

The Climate Council has conducted a detailed assessment of the current government's climate performance in its report, '[Climate Cuts, Cover-Ups and Censorship](#)'.

The period 2013-2019 is characterised by slashing climate science funding, cutting effective climate change programs, rejecting the expert advice of national and international bodies, senior ministers publicly making misleading claims, a lack of credible climate policy, and consistently covering up poor performance.

The report describes how the Federal Government has gone to extraordinary lengths to keep the public in the dark on climate change. Deep funding cuts and job losses at the CSIRO have weakened Australia's climate science capability. As a result, Australia is unprepared to cope with the impacts of climate change.

The Climate Council rates the Liberal-National Government's climate performance over the past five-years as the defining leadership failure of the past decade.

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For more details refer to:



[Climate Cuts, Cover-Ups and Censorship](#)

2. Centrepiece climate policies of the major parties



Liberal-National Party:
Climate Solutions Package






Australian Labor Party:
Climate Change Action Plan





Australian Greens:
Renew Australia 2030



3. Summary of climate policies



The following is a summary of the climate policies of the major political parties using information sourced from their respective centrepiece policy documents (see Section 2); it is not a comparative analysis by the Climate Council. Many of these policies are proposals and have yet to be implemented or detailed fully.




Policy	LNP	ALP	Greens
 Emissions Reduction Target	26-28% by 2030 on 2005 levels.	45% on 2005 levels by 2030.	63-82% by 2030 on a trajectory to get emissions to net zero by 2040.
 Net zero emissions	Australia, as a signatory to the Paris Agreement on climate change, has committed to reach net zero emissions by 2050.	Net zero emissions by 2050.	Net zero or net negative Australian greenhouse gas emissions by no later than 2040.
 Renewable Energy	<p>Large-scale renewable energy target: At least 33,000 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of Australia's electricity comes from renewable sources by 2020.</p> <p>Committed to 23.5% renewables by 2020 but do not have a post-2020 renewable energy target.</p> <p>Small-scale renewable energy scheme provides a financial incentive for individuals and businesses to install small-scale renewable energy systems such as rooftop solar, solar water heaters and heat pumps. There is no limit on the amount of renewable energy that can be produced under the SRES. Scheme expires in 2030.</p>	<p>50% renewables by 2030. According to Labor, 50% renewables by 2030 will create more than 70,000 new jobs.</p> <p>Establish an independent \$5 billion Energy Security and Modernisation Fund to modernise Australia's ageing energy transmission infrastructure and enable more clean energy to feed into the grid.</p> <p>Double the original investment in the Clean Energy Finance Corporation by \$10 billion, supporting new generation and storage across the country.</p> <p>\$2,000 rebates for solar batteries for 100,000 households on incomes of less than \$180,000 per year, with a target of one million batteries by 2025.</p> <p>Invest \$100 million in Neighbourhood Renewables Program to help renters and social housing tenants to benefit from renewable energy.</p> <p>Bioenergy Strategy to boost development of this industry.</p>	<p>100% renewables by 2030.</p> <p>Establish a new \$500 million government authority, 'Renew Australia'.</p> <p>Rapidly deploy the next generation of energy generation and build transmission networks so that we can open up most renewable rich areas for new jobs and investment.</p> <p>Opening up renewable energy zones right around the country, backed by a \$6 billion Grid Transformation Fund.</p> <p>Pledge support for households and business to use solar and batteries and the establishment of renewable energy zones.</p> <p>Boost Australia's ability to store clean energy by 26.65 Gigawatts (GW), growing to 30 GW in 2040. An Energy Storage Target would be set to help meet the total 419 GWh of dispatchable power required by 2030. This would be further enhanced by a \$2.2 billion in construction funding managed by AEMO and the Clean Energy Regulator over five years to contract and build energy storage at grid level.</p>



Policy	LNP	ALP	Greens
 <p>Coal</p>	<p>No plans to phase out coal.</p> <p>The Liberal-National Government has unveiled its short-list of 12 new generation investment projects that could be eligible for taxpayer funds and government support, including one coal upgrade for the Vales Point coal-fired power plant.</p> <p>Issued federal environmental approvals for the Adani Carmichael coal mine. The LNP proposed a \$1 billion subsidy to Adani from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (note: this was vetoed by the Queensland Government).</p>	<p>Recognise coal plants will close but no plans to phase out coal.</p> <p>No plans to review federal approvals for Adani’s Carmichael coal mine, although Adani must “stack up environmentally and financially”. Labor do not support public money for Adani coal mine.</p> <p>Establish an independent Just Transition Authority (JTA) to plan and coordinate the structural adjustment response to inevitable future station closures.</p> <p>Require all large generators to provide at least three years notice of closure.</p>	<p>Phase out thermal coal by setting a yearly limit on coal exports from 2020 reducing each year until a full-phase out in 2030.</p> <p>Each tonne of coal will require a permit to be secured by auction for the right to export coal.</p> <p>The Australia Greens do not support Adani’s Carmichael coal mine, have called for the cancellation of environmental approvals and do not support public money for this project.</p> <p>Oppose approving new thermal coal mines.</p> <p>Phasing out the burning and export of thermal coal supported by a \$1 billion transition plan for workers.</p> <p>Establish ‘Renew Australia’, a public authority that will lead the transition. It will be charged to work with communities, energy companies and the government to transition our domestic and export energy systems, map new transition lines to open up new Renewable Energy Zones and ensure that coal dependent communities can continue to prosper.</p> <p>When existing coal mines shut down, companies will pay their fair share for the true cost of rehabilitation for the clean up, returning land to a usable state – for housing, agriculture or parkland.</p>

Policy	LNP	ALP	Greens
 <p>Gas</p>	<p>No plans to phase out gas.</p> <p>The Liberal-National Government has unveiled its short-list of 12 new generation investment projects that could be eligible for taxpayer funds and government support, including five gas plants.</p>	<p>No plans to phase out gas. Gas is considered a 'transition fuel'.</p> <p>Labor has pledged to spend up to \$1.5 billion, through a Northern Australia Development Fund, unlocking gas supply in Queensland and the Northern Territory.</p>	<p>Phase out of all gas generation by 2030.</p> <p>No new gas – an immediate ban on fracking and conventional onshore and offshore gas (and oil) fields.</p> <p>In addition to the \$200 million Clean Technology Program, the Greens aim to get Australia off gas by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Funding a \$50 million community education campaign targeted at households, encouraging them to use reverse cycle air conditioners as heaters instead of their gas heaters, which - according to the Greens - would cut pollution and save consumers up to thousands of dollars a year. › Changing the Building Code of Australia requirements to prohibit the installation of gas in new developments.
 <p>Energy Efficiency</p>	<p>Through the Climate Solutions Package the LNP will provide resources, training and tools to help commercial and residential building owners and occupiers reduce energy.</p>	<p>Increasing Energy Efficiency by implementing a comprehensive Energy Productivity and Efficiency Review and through measures like the Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Accelerator program, harmonising state energy efficiency schemes and allowing ARENA to invest in energy efficiency projects.</p>	<p>Double energy productivity by 2030.</p> <p>Establish a National Energy Efficiency Target which will place an obligation on energy retailers to drive energy efficiency improvements across household and business.</p> <p>National Energy Efficiency Target will set a target of 10% for energy efficiency Australia-wide and does not include any other gains that will be achieved through other federal incentives.</p>

Policy	LNP	ALP	Greens
 <p>Clean Energy Exports Industry</p>	<p>Develop a national hydrogen strategy.</p>	<p>Kickstart Australia's Hydrogen Economy with a \$1 billion plan to create new jobs, support new businesses and supercharge Australia's renewable energy industry.</p>	<p>Develop the Hydrogen Economy / hydrogen export infrastructure.</p> <p>A new \$1.7 billion Clean Energy Export Development Fund will be created and managed by ARENA to specifically build Australia's renewable export industry up to scale and create 'solar fuels' export hubs in strategic locations around Australia.</p> <p>Revise the mandate of the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation to facilitate support for the development of High Voltage DC transmission cables and hydrogen fuel exports into Asia.</p>
 <p>Agriculture and Land Management</p>	<p>Climate Solutions Fund aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the economy through the existing Emissions Reduction Fund, including giving farmers support to revegetate degraded land, improving water quality, reducing erosion and salinity, and drought proofing farms.</p>	<p>Reducing pollution on the land by reinvigorating the Carbon Farming Initiative to supply carbon offsets and reduce pollution on the land, and taking action to deal with broad-scale land clearing.</p> <p>The agricultural sector will be exempt from the expanded safeguard mechanism.</p> <p>Labor wants to see Australia's land sector supply more affordable offsets for pollution, to reduce the cost of abatement for business and give farmers and regional communities greater economic opportunities.</p> <p>Put in place new federal legislation to bring broad-scale land clearing under control.</p>	<p>By abolishing the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF recently rebadged as the LNP's Climate Solutions Fund) and re-establishing the Carbon Farming Initiative. Farmers and land managers will be supported to protect and grow the capacity of their land to drawdown carbon.</p>

Policy	LNP	ALP	Greens
 Transport	<p>Develop a National Electric Vehicle Strategy to ensure a planned and managed transition to new vehicle technology and infrastructure (note: strategy not expected until 2020).</p>	<p>Establish a national electric vehicle target of 50% new car sales by 2030 and introduce vehicle emissions standards to reduce pollution and make the cost of driving a car cheaper for consumers.</p>	<p>Combined with emissions standards for vehicles that lead up to a complete ban on new internal combustion vehicles by 2030.</p> <p>A 17% tax on luxury fossil fuel cars would help cover most costs for scrapping registration fees, import tariffs, GST and stamp duty on electric vehicles, reducing the cost of electric vehicles by around 20%.</p>
 Industry	<p>Liberal-National Government will work with industry and state and territory governments to improve energy efficiency standards for both commercial and residential buildings.</p>	<p>Extend the Safeguard Mechanism to bring down pollution from Australia’s biggest polluters, in line with our international obligations, while supporting jobs and competitiveness.</p> <p>Australia’s biggest industrial polluters (about 250 businesses) will be covered by Labor’s scheme.</p> <p>Emission intensive trade exposed industries (EITEs), such as steel, aluminium and cement, face additional barriers to cutting pollution while staying competitive in global markets. In recognition of this, Labor will provide tailored treatment for EITEs under the extended safeguard mechanism. This will ensure they face comparable impacts from climate change policies as their competitors do in relevant international markets.</p> <p>Labor will also establish a Strategic Industries Taskforce and \$300 million Strategic Industries Reserve Fund to support these industries in finding solutions to cut pollution and remain competitive.</p>	<p>100% renewable energy will be key to enabling industry to drive down pollution in the manufacturing, mining and other sectors as they electrify processes and substitute clean energy for fossil fuels.</p> <p>Increasing Australia’s public and private investment in research and development to 4% by 2030 will also help drive the transition.</p> <p>The establishment of a \$250 million Green Steel Innovation Fund within ARENA’s boosted budget to drive down demand for metallurgical coal.</p> <p>Investing \$100 million in ARENA to support specific research, development and commercialisation into industrial substitution and electrification programs in the chemical, cement and other manufacturing and fabrication industries.</p>

Policy	LNP	ALP	Greens
 Price on Carbon	<p>No price on carbon.</p>	<p>No carbon tax, carbon pricing mechanism or raising any revenue from climate policies.</p>	<p>Restore a price on carbon, mirroring the European price and driving innovation, clean investment and emissions reductions right across the entire economy.</p>
 Paris Climate Agreement	<p>Reduce Australia's emissions by 26-28% by 2030, from 2005 levels.</p>	<p>Labor accepts the science of climate change and endorses the Paris Agreement to keep global warming well below two degrees Celsius as well as a more qualified commitment around a 1.5 degree threshold.</p> <p>Consistent with our obligations under Paris of keeping global warming to well-below two degrees above pre-industrial levels, and informed by independent Climate Change Authority advice, Labor is committed to reducing Australia's pollution by 45% on 2005 levels by 2030, and to reach net zero pollution by 2050.</p>	<p>Australia's climate policy should be consistent with our commitment under the Paris Agreement to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognising that this is essential to reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.</p>
 Just Transition for Workers	<p>No plan.</p>	<p>Establish an independent Just Transition Authority (JTA) to plan and coordinate the structural adjustment response to inevitable future station closures. The JTA will be a statutory body that works with companies, workers, unions, local communities, state governments and other Commonwealth departments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Develop and implement transition plans for affected regions, including economic diversification. › Develop and oversee pooled redundancy schemes. › Develop and administer labour adjustment packages. <p>Require all large generators to provide at least three years notice of closure.</p>	<p>\$1 billion Clean Energy Transition Fund, Renew Australia will be tasked with supporting workers to reskill, relocate or transition to retirement, depending on what the personal circumstances require.</p>

Policy	LNP	ALP	Greens
 <p>Great Barrier Reef</p>		<p>\$30 million announced for ReefHQ, an international standard research, innovation, education facility.</p>	
 <p>Climate change-related institutions</p>		<p>Restoring and reforming the Climate Change Authority and implementing triennial Climate Change Assessments.</p> <p>Additional \$10 million to CSIRO Climate Science Centre.</p> <p>Committed to a new Environment Act and a new independent Environment Protection Agency.</p>	<p>Reinstate ARENA funding, investing \$500 million from July 2019, with a rolling \$300 million annual budget and allocate an additional \$10 billion in funding to Clean Energy Finance Corporation.</p> <p>Create an independent Environment Protection Agency to oversee environmental laws that will, for example, extend to the impacts from land clearing and national parks and reserves.</p>

4. Further reading

CLIMATE COUNCIL:



The Climate Council
Climate Cuts, Cover-ups and Censorship (2019)

Accessed at <https://climatecouncil.org.au/resources/climate-cuts-cover-ups-censorship>.

CLIMATE POLICIES OF THE MAJOR AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL PARTIES:



Liberal-National Party
Climate Solutions Package.

Accessed at <https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/bb29bc9f-8b96-4b10-84a0-46b7d36d5b8e/files/climate-solutions-package.pdf>.



Australian Labor Party
Labor's Climate Change Action Plan.

Accessed at https://www.alp.org.au/media/1692/labors_climate_change_action_plan.pdf.



Australian Greens
Greens announce climate and energy election plan.

Accessed at <https://adam-bandt.greensmps.org.au/articles/greens-announce-climate-and-energy-election-plan>.

Renew Australia 2030. Powering Past Coal to a Clean Future for All of Us.

Accessed at <https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2019-03/Greens%202019%20Policy%20Platform%20-%20Renew%20Australia.pdf>.


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