

## How would the key Bennelong candidates address climate change ?

	<b>John Howard (Lib)</b>	<b>Maxine McKew (ALP)</b>	<b>Lindsay Peters (Greens)</b>	<b>Peter Goldfinch (Dem)</b>
<b>Key policies on climate change</b>	No response to request for meeting. despite our letter, follow up fax and four phone calls.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ratify the Kyoto protocol</li> <li>2. Rapidly establish an effective carbon trading scheme working in close collaboration with the states</li> <li>3. No nuclear power for Australia</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ratify Kyoto and negotiate post Kyoto protocol with binding targets. Establish rolling 5 year emissions budget with annual reporting.</li> <li>2. Reduce greenhouse gases by 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 (from 1990 levels).</li> <li>3. Develop a low carbon economy including federal oversight of all developments with emissions over 100,000 tonnes p a.</li> <li>4. Create economic incentives to move from high to low CO<sub>2</sub> energy sources including a carbon tax and emissions trading scheme for stationary energy, large industrial, and transport emissions.</li> <li>5. Mandate energy efficiency standards to reduce energy use. Halt growth in total energy consumption by 2009, and to achieve 10% reduction by 2012.</li> <li>6. Increase mandatory renewable energy target to 15% by 2012 and 25% by 2020 and guarantee minimum prices for renewables for a period for commercial establishment</li> <li>7. Implement a national plan for carbon sinks including old growth</li> </ol>	<p><b>Ratify Kyoto</b> and press the USA to do likewise. Take a lead role in post Kyoto negotiations.</p> <p><b>Set greenhouse reduction targets</b> informed by the latest science. Currently cuts of 30% of 1990 levels by 2020 and 60 to 90% by 2050.</p> <p><b>Green certificate trading.</b> Boost Mandatory Renewable Energy Target to 25% by 2020 and 50% by 2030.</p> <p><b>Black certificate trading.</b> Introduce a cap and trade emissions trading scheme by 2010 with all permits auctioned after 2015.</p> <p><b>White certificate trading.</b> A 20% energy efficiency target delivered through white certificate trading creating a market to retrofit energy efficiency measures.</p> <p><b>Apply 6-star minimum energy performance standards</b> for appliances and buildings by 2010 and 10-star by 2020. Ban sale of electric hot water storage systems, expand rebates for solar hot water systems.</p> <p><b>Transfer coal and gas subsidies</b> (currently ~\$10bn/yr) to research low emission technology</p>

			<p>forests, repeal Regional Forestry Agreements, and review agriculture practice.</p> <p>8. Encourage the new Australian economy by eg using revenue raised by carbon taxes to eliminate payroll tax and abolish university and TAFE fees. Re-direct huge government subsidies from the fossil fuel industry to the renewable and energy efficiency sectors.</p>	<p><b>Reform energy markets</b> to remove regulatory barriers to efficiency and renewables including depreciation and fringe benefits tax laws.</p> <p><b>Mandate generous feed-in tariffs</b> for small and medium scale distributed power generation like solar and co-generation.</p> <p><b>Impose a tax on coal exports</b> of \$5 per tonne. Use revenue (\$600m p.a.) to reduce householders' energy bills and greenhouse emissions through a <b>Million Solar Roofs program</b>.</p>
<b>Support the Climate Change Bill ?</b>	No response to request for meeting	<p>Supported except for bans on new coal fired power stations and coal mines and logging in old growth forests.</p> <p>Both items are inconsistent with ALP policy so prevent the Bill being supported. The Labor party will not close down the coal industry because is concerned about loss of jobs.</p>	The Greens policy is consistent with the Bill so would therefore have my unqualified support.	Personally supports Climate Change Protection Bill (CPB) and agrees with the legislative changes it contains. However, because the Democrats engage the democratic process in putting forward policy, the Party would need to debate in-house any bill that are asked to support. Peter felt the party would probably take a softer and more flexible stand on coal than that proposed in the CPB.
<b>Position on carbon sequestration</b>	No response to request for meeting	Carbon sequestration or "clean coal" is considered possible and will therefore be pursued.	<p>May never work and has risks attached to it.</p> <p>We should remember that sequestration can only be used in new power stations, not existing ones.</p> <p>50% of our coal is exported and in some of these countries, for example Japan, sequestration will never be possible due to seismic activity, so our coal mining will contribute to CO2 emissions elsewhere.</p>	Sceptical on whether it is achievable and questions the technology and the timeframe proponents are suggesting.

			Clean coal may be a strategy for the future but it is not a solution now.	
<b>Personal steps</b>	No response to request for meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Only runs 1 car in her household</li> <li>* Has recently moved into a new house, and is planning on getting a water tank and solar panels installed</li> <li>* Has made concerted efforts to use and operate the most energy efficient household that she can, through the use of energy efficient appliances and practices</li> <li>* Does not use air-conditioning</li> <li>* Is planting trees at her new home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Uses public transport to get to work</li> <li>* Walks the children to school</li> <li>* Cycles on local trips</li> <li>* Drives a small car</li> <li>* Pays for offset car travel through Climate Friendly</li> <li>* Purchases 100% accredited solar energy from Origin Solar</li> <li>* Uses gas powered hot water</li> <li>* No air conditioning at home</li> <li>* Has improved house insulation, insulating blinds on most windows</li> <li>* Has a water tank</li> <li>* Has reduced meat consumption</li> <li>* Buys locally and source locally produced goods wherever possible</li> <li>* Has replaced all lights with compact fluorescent globes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Has one four cylinder car in the family</li> <li>* Uses public transport where possible</li> <li>* Has installed fluorescent globes through out the house</li> <li>* Currently renting so it is difficult to do as much wanted</li> </ul>
<b>Other comments</b>	No response to request for meeting	<p>Climate change is central to this election campaign and has been from the beginning. It is clear that the movement for policy change in this area is a community led movement.</p> <p>The Federal government sees tackling climate change as a cost to industry. The ALP sees it as an opportunity, once a national trading scheme has been established.</p>	<p>Greens policy is based on the scientific evidence of what is needed, not political expediency, stopping global temperature increases at 2°C. The policy is broader than climate change as it also addresses oil and resource depletion and supporting the economy. We are economically exposed because of our dependence on mineral exports. Nuclear power is not a safe, clean timely or practical solution to reducing greenhouse emissions and that Australia should be nuclear free.</p>	<p>Australia cannot wait 15 to 20 years for 'clean coal' or nuclear power. We have a small window of opportunity to make the deep cuts needed to avoid dangerous climate change. Advocate for an aggressive push of energy efficiency and fossil fuels used strategically and sparingly as we shift to renewable energy.</p> <p>The Democrats have been calling for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and a halt to climate change since the early 1980's.</p>