

WHAT BENNELONG CONTENDERS SAY

**Labor MP Maxine McKew**

I WAS extremely disappointed when the Liberal Party broke its promise of bipartisan support for an Emissions Trading Scheme. My constituents keep telling me how important an issue this is to them.

The science on climate change is clear. CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology attest that Australia is getting hotter, drier in the south and wetter in the north, and sea levels are rising.

While the Liberals continue their blocking tactics, the Rudd Government is getting on with the job of reducing emissions.

In the Budget we announced a \$652 million Renewable Energy Future Fund.

This means more renewable energy projects in geothermal, solar and wave energy and more help for businesses and households to reduce energy consumption.

**Liberal candidate John Alexander**

LABOR still wants to impose a great big new tax which will cost Australian families around \$1100 per household per annum – but just not yet.

What was once the greatest moral challenge of our time, according to Mr Rudd, has now been deferred until 2013.

Ultimately there is a better way to deal with climate change – and that is through the Coalition's direct action plan which takes advantage of Australia's natural advantages: soil and sun – both of

which we have in abundance. These measures are based on incentives rather than penalising Australian families, including initiatives such as: an Emissions Reduction Fund to provide direct incentives to industry and farmers to reduce CO2 emissions; rebates for either solar panels or solar hot water systems for Australian homes; and a Green Corridors Initiative that will see 20 million trees planted by 2020 to re-establish urban forests and green corridors.

**Greens candidate Lindsay Peters**

WE are facing an unprecedented environmental and social crisis due to global warming, ocean acidification, forest clearing, rapid extinction of species and oil depletion. Scientists are telling us that a radical change of direction is urgently needed.

We need an immediate price on carbon pollution to wean our society off coal dependence.

By 2020 our carbon emissions need to be 40 per cent lower, and 30 per cent of our electricity should come from renewables.

Logging of native forests should cease. A huge investment in public transport is needed to reduce our reliance on oil. We need to learn to live not off the environment, but with the environment.

**'It would have been courageous**

The clock is ticking towards a Federal Election, tipped to be sooner rather than later. **SCOTT HOWLETT** and **ALEX CAUCHI** address climate change and the environment in this week's review of the key issues facing voters in the all-important Bennelong electorate.

**ETS backflip leaves some out in the cold**

CLIMATE change groups in Epping-Beechcroft and Ryde-Gladesville have taken opposite positions on the Federal Government's decision to delay the controversial Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

Epping Beechcroft Climate Action Group founder Deborah Burt said she understood why the government had delayed the ETS.

And she encouraged members of the public to take more climate change control themselves.

But Ryde Gladesville Climate Change Action Group spokeswoman Jo Spangaro said she was disappointed the ETS had been scrapped for now.

Ms Spangaro said her group had been frustrated by a "lack of concern" from Federal Bennelong Labor MP Maxine McKew.

"Part of the reason Maxine



**Federal Election**

■ An emissions trading scheme was one of Labor's key promises before the 2007 election. Kevin Rudd has called climate change "the greatest moral challenge of our time".

There was bipartisan support for an emissions trading scheme until late last year, when the issue caused a Liberal leadership spill which saw Tony Abbott take over as Opposition Leader from Malcolm Turnbull. After the ETS Bill was passed by the House of Representatives, but rejected by the Senate three times, the Rudd Government shelved it until 2013.

McKew got elected is because she promised Labor would act on climate change and so far they've done nothing.

"We've had meetings with Maxine McKew but she seemed dismissive of the idea that climate change would transform the international landscape as we know it," Ms Spangaro said.

Ms McKew, however, said that Ms Spangaro was wrong to say that she did not accept the ramifications of climate change.

"Ms Spangaro has a particular apocalyptic view about the effects of climate change, to which I don't subscribe. Labor is acting with a record investment in renewable energy," Ms McKew said.

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