

## **Ryde-Gladesville climate CHANGE Action Group**

### **Welcome!**

...to our first newsletter. You're receiving it because you've signed up as a supporter (Well Done!) or someone thinks you might like to (Great Idea!)

This newsletter is short and sweet as we're only just getting started and it's to provide some pre-election information for your consideration (if you're voting on Saturday – and if not, well it gives you some idea of where our NSW political leadership is at).

But first a quick run down on what **Ryde-Gladesville climate CHANGE Action Group** is on about:

### **Who we are:**

A politically unaffiliated group of concerned residents who wish to see immediate and decisive action on the most important issue of our time.

### **Our Aims:**

- ☞ To make government leaders aware of the strong desire in the community for immediate decisive action by government to ensure a sufficient reduction in greenhouse emissions to stabilise climate changes;
- ☞ To inform members of the community about actions they can take to reduce greenhouse emissions.

### **Our Position:**

- ☞ Put a price on greenhouse pollution
- ☞ Introduce a renewable energy target of 25% by 2020
- ☞ Ratify the Kyoto protocol
- ☞ Ensure Australia ends it's dependence on coal
- ☞ Cut our greenhouse emissions by at least 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 (when measured against 1990 levels).

(from [climatemovement.org](http://climatemovement.org) – an initiative of state based conservation councils)

In achieving these measures we call on the state and federal governments to fund the development of geothermal, tidal, wind and solar power and not to pursue nuclear energy on the basis that it is too hazardous and represents too great a security risk.

We will work to engage the local community about ways we can all reduce our contribution to greenhouse emissions.

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### **MP Positions**

In order to inform supporters before the state election about where our current local members stand in relation to our position, we met with both state local members this month and put the following questions to them.

Below is a summary of their responses. Additional information was provided by both local members which for space reasons has not been able to be included here. Web addresses were provided by both members, if you want more detail.

	<b>Member for Ryde</b> <b>John Watkins</b>	<b>Member for Lane Cove</b> <b>Anthony Roberts</b> <sup>1</sup>
<b>1. Do you agree with putting a price on greenhouse pollution ?</b>	The Premier announced the establishment of a NSW-designed National Emissions Trading Scheme by 2010. The scheme will allow trade in permits to encourage industry to reduce greenhouse gases.	The NSW Liberal/Nationals Coalition would close the cost differential between base load coal and renewables using the NSW Government Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme (NGAS). We will change the rules of the NGAS so that it will apply only to genuinely new projects with preference given to renewable energy projects in NSW.
<b>2. Do you agree with introducing a renewable energy target of 25% by 2020 ?</b>	The Government's renewable energy target is 15% by 2020. But, we have committed to passing legislation to back up the mandatory targets for emissions, which will also allow for the constant review and re-evaluation of the targets and potential increases.	We will legislate for a renewable energy target of 10 % of electricity bought by NSW retailers by 2010 and 15 % by 2020 .... Our goal is to achieve 20 per cent renewable energy by 2025.
<b>3. Do you agree with ratifying the Kyoto Protocol ?</b>	Yes	<i>The targets set by the Kyoto protocol for developing countries are of concern.</i>
<b>4. Do you agree with ensuring Australia ends its dependence on coal ?</b>	Any move in this direction needs to be progressed in a careful and considered manner. It's just not something that can or will happen overnight, and a responsible government not only has to weigh up the	The renewable energy initiatives the NSW Coalition has announced, in conjunction with demand management measures, make it less likely that NSW will need to build a new coal-fired power station. The NSW

<sup>1</sup> Responses to the questions put to Anthony Roberts, comprise information provide on the Liberal Party position subsequent to the meeting. For questions where no information was provided, the position which Mr Roberts indicated he personally held or was committed to working towards are provided (in italics)

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	environmental factors involved, but also the fact that there are a number of communities in NSW who depend on the coal industry for their livelihood.	Liberal/Nationals Coalition has committed to allocate \$10million to assess potential reservoirs for geo-sequestration from coal-fired power stations and initiatives to retrofit existing coal-fired power stations
<b>5. Do you agree with cutting our greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 (when measured against 1990 levels)?</b>	Our aim is to reduce emissions in NSW to year 2000 levels by 2025 and by 60% by 2050.	<i>Agree with cutting emissions. Need more information before could commit to a specified target.</i>
<b>6. Which of these positions are you prepared to take forward as our local member in any party debates on this issue?</b>	My job as your local member is to take forward the views of any constituent who takes the time to raise them with me..	<i>Happy to take forward the views of all constituents.</i>
<b>7. Would you be prepared to take forward the development of a comprehensive greenhouse emissions plan for the state that based on bringing about at least half the level of emissions reductions needed for NSW ?</b>	The Premier has already released a number of policies for the election on climate change and the environment – they can be found at <a href="http://www.morrisiemma.com.au">www.morrisiemma.com.au</a> .	A NSW Liberal/Nationals Coalition Government will support the development of Australia's first solar base-load generator. We will allocate \$40 million in a Capital Grants Program to kick-start the construction of a solar plant and set up a Solar NSW Taskforce in the first three months of Government. For more information ...visit <a href="http://www.peterdebnam.com.au">www.peterdebnam.com.au</a> .

....look forward to our next newsletter which will provide information about climate change and some things you can be doing!!!