

# 2024 Dunkley Byelection: Climate Policy Survey

Solutions for Climate Australia, Environment Victoria, Doctors for the Environment, and Common Grace invite all candidates for the Dunkley by-election to fill out this survey on climate and energy policy.

Candidates were sent the survey and given 10 days to respond. Three did not respond to the survey after several attempts to contact them. They are Nathan Conroy (Liberal), Chrysten Abraham (Libertarian) and Darren Bergwerf (Independent).

	<b>Animal Justice Party</b> Bronwyn Currie	<b>Australian Democrats</b> Heath McKenzie	<b>Australian Labor Party</b> Jodie Belyea	<b>Liberal Party of Australia</b> Nathan Conroy	<b>The Australian Greens</b> Alex Breskin	<b>Victorian Socialists</b> Reem Yunis
<p><b>If elected, would you advocate for the Federal government to make historic investment in climate solutions?</b></p> <p>The USA's Inflation Reduction Act is making large and strategic investments to slash climate pollution, alleviate cost-of-living pressures, create jobs, and support the resilience of communities to climate impacts.</p>	Yes  I would be arguing for an emergency climate response at urgent speed and large scale. We need much great investment in climate solutions to achieve a safe climate.	Yes  The Australian Democrats have advocated for climate and environment solutions for 47 years	Yes  Labor has already invested more than \$40 billion to decarbonise Australia's economy, and will continue to invest in making Australia a renewable energy superpower.	Did not respond	Yes	Yes

<p><b>Do you support ruling out new coal and gas projects?</b></p> <p>In 2021, the International Energy Agency released an analysis showing that governments must rule out new coal, gas, and oil projects to meet the global goal of net zero emissions by 2050.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Absolutely! But we need to do this much faster than is currently being suggested. We also need to rapidly phase out fossil fuel use, extraction, and export.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>This is in line with our long term policy position on addressing the climate emergency</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Labor has a plan for 82% renewables, and has imposed new emissions limits on heavy industry including coal and gas projects. But Australia must meet its domestic needs and remain a reliable energy exporter throughout the energy transition.</p>	<p>Did not respond</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>Will you support policies that ensure Australia meets and beats its target of a 43 percent emissions cut by 2030?</b></p> <p>Australia has legislated targets to reduce emissions by 43% by 2030 and to net zero emissions by 2050. To meet international commitments, the Australian government must set an emissions reduction target for 2035.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>But current heating is already dangerous, we need to do more! Yes</p> <p>We've adopted the Climate Rescue Accord with a goal of reversing global heating to achieve a safe climate.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>We are advocating for an emissions reduction target of at least 66% by 2030, and will revise this as the science updates</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Did not respond</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p><b>Will you support a science-based national emissions reduction target for 2035 that is in line with the global goal to limit warming to 1.5°C?</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>1.5C will be dangerous for many, we need to do more and reverse warming. I will strongly argue for a goal that reverses global warming to achieve a safe climate..</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>This is in line with our long term policy position on addressing the climate emergency</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Labor will continue to set targets consistent with the global goal of keeping warming well below 2 degrees and as close as possible to 1.5 degrees. Our targets will be informed by science-based advice from the independent Climate Change Authority.</p>	<p>Did not respond</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>Do you support Australia's legislated target of net-zero emissions by 2050?</b></p>	<p>It should be more ambitious</p> <p>Net-zero emissions by 2050 isn't enough.</p> <p>We need to do more and faster. We must rapidly reach zero-emissions, remove carbon from the atmosphere, and repair earths energy balance.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>This is in line with our long term policy position on addressing the climate emergency</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Labor legislated this target in 2022, despite opposition from the Liberals.</p>	<p>Did not respond</p>	<p>It should be more ambitious</p> <p>The Greens climate targets are for a 75% reduction on 2005 levels by 2030 and for net-zero emissions by 2035. We then go further and aim to be a net-negative emissions economy with over 100 million tonnes of net drawdown every year by 2050.</p>	<p>It should be more ambitious</p> <p>The policy is not ambitious enough. Our policy is to achieve a zero-carbon economy by 2035</p>

<p><b>Will you support robust Federal funding of the health system to ensure the National Health and Climate Strategy is fully implemented?</b></p> <p>The National Health and Climate Strategy, released in December 2023, recognises that climate change is the greatest public health problem of the 21st century. Communities are already experiencing the impacts of climate change on health now, with heatwaves, fires, floods, increased infectious disease putting further strain on our already overburdened health system.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Absolutely!</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>This is in line with our long term policy position on health and the impact of climate change on public health</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Did not respond</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>
---	-------------------------------	--	------------	------------------------	------------	------------

<p><b>Will you advocate for Dunkley residents who fall victim to financial hardship due to climate impacts?</b></p> <p>Many people across the community are affected by the increased cost of living. This includes a growing number of Dunkley residents who can no longer access affordable insurance cover as a result of worsening climate impacts and housing and infrastructure that is no longer fit for purpose. Well-designed climate and energy measures can alleviate cost of living pressures while addressing climate change.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Climate change is already increasing the severity and frequency of [un]natural disasters. We must build new approaches and increase support for at risk communities while we achieve a safe climate.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>the Australian Democrats support measures to reduce power bills, including moving to real-time pricing of electricity to incentivise shifting demand to times when cheap renewables energy is abundant.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Did not respond</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>Will you support measures to lower power bills by increasing support and subsidies for rooftop solar and efficient, electric appliances for low income households, renters, and apartments?</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes. This is a vital part of rapidly reaching zero-emissions. It is also something we believe can and should be delivered relatively quickly, which is what I will push for.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>the Australian Democrats support measures to reduce power bills, including moving to real-time pricing of electricity to incentivise shifting demand to times when cheap renewables energy is abundant.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Labor is helping more Australians access cheaper, cleaner power, including investing \$1 billion for household upgrades and \$300 million for social housing upgrades.</p>	<p>Did not respond</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p><b>Do you support Australia's transition to 100 percent renewable energy?</b></p> <p>Australia must transition to renewable energy to keep a lid on power price rises and meet its legislated climate commitments. The rollout of solar, wind farms, and energy storage creates jobs and new industries.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes! We need to do this as quickly as possible and as a nation should be moving at emergency speed to achieve 100 percent renewable energy.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>This is in line with our long term policy position on addressing the climate emergency</p>		<p>Did not respond</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>Will you defend renewable energy from political attacks that undermine Australia's energy transition?</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes, this is vital. We must move past petty political battles that put our world at risk and get on with the job of achieving a safe climate.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>This is in line with our long term policy position on addressing the climate emergency, and our historical actions in parliament from the 80s to 2000s</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Labor has set a target of 82% renewables by 2030, and is developing an Energy Sector Plan to guide the ongoing decarbonisation of the energy sector to 2050.</p>	<p>Did not respond</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p><b>Will you rule out the development of any future nuclear power plants in or adjacent to Dunkley?</b></p> <p>Despite Australia’s legislated ban on nuclear power and a lack of social licence, some political parties want to see nuclear power plants built. One location previously considered for a nuclear power plant was French Island, approximately 15 km away from Dunkley. In 2005, The Age reported that “the nuclear power stations of the future will probably be on sheltered waters such as Westernport Bay, Port Phillip Bay and Corio Bay.” Living near a nuclear power plant would pose serious and continuing health, environmental and security risks.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>I and the Animal Justice Party do not believe nuclear power is a feasible solution in the Australian context.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The Australian Democrats led two Senate inquiries into action on global warming in 2000 and negotiated the ban on nuclear power as part of the EPBC legislation in 1999.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Labor will maintain the moratorium on nuclear power, which is too slow and expensive to meet Australia’s energy needs. The LNP must come clean on its own nuclear plans, including in and around Dunkley.</p>	<p>Did not respond</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>
--	---	--	---	------------------------	------------	------------