



WHO SHOULD I VOTE FOR?

A SUMMARY OF WHERE THE FOUR CANDIDATES OF BOOTHBY
– AND THEIR PARTIES – STAND ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

Our Home is rapidly becoming difficult to live in and we fear for our grandchildren's futures. The science is crystal clear and shocking; but science and the sun that blesses us each day, also present our Nation with extraordinary possibilities. As followers of Christ, on May 21 we can support whatever Party presents the most positive, realistic and ambitious 'best' plans for all of Creation, of which we are a part.

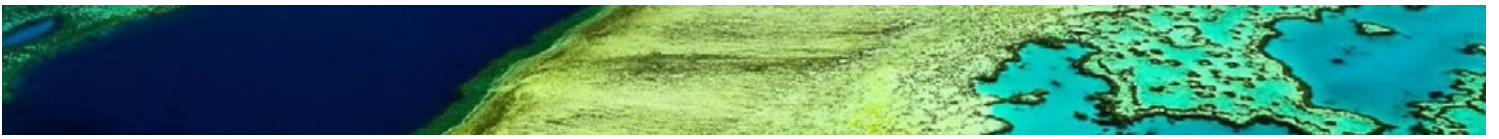
We want to see a safer future. Is that how you feel too? Your vote can make a difference.

To help inform your vote, our Environmental Action Group of the SA Synod chose a 'bellwether' federal seat of Boothby in Adelaide and asked the same questions of early Candidates about their Party's climate policies. *Please delve further to make your own assessment.*

**ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTION GROUP**

AN ACTION GROUP OF THE UNITING CHURCH
IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA





LIBERAL | Dr Rachel Swift

Despite Rachel's evident convictions and material sent to us, the Coalition has no "Climate policy" as such; their 'emission reduction' plans form part of their Resources policy. We were left with a question: are they asking us to trust them to very slowly shift our economy from its immense and government-supported, reliance on fossil fuels – while also both, expanding coal mines and, initiating some clean/green projects, with new longer term 'targets' in sight? This would seem to be very risky as fossil fuels are certainly doomed, and our economies are already being devastated by 'natural disasters' and agricultural shifts – both unquestionably fueled by the rapidly warming of our sacred home.

The Coalition's [Technology Investment Roadmap](#) and the new target of 'Net Zero emissions by 2050' (and '26-28% below 2005 levels by 2030') represents a 'softly-softly' approach to the transformation required (according to the UN). It does this by outlining emissions-reducing initiatives such as: green hydrogen and low cost solar; \$2BN for a Climate Action Support Fund e.g. for infrastructure for electric cars, and green fuels for shipping. They also want to upgrade the electricity grid and support a 'national hydrogen strategy' with considerable dollars attached. *These are welcome new developments.* It advocates 'technology not taxes' but heavily relies on our taxpayer monies to underwrite fossil fuels.

Instead of a 'market' for carbon (or a so-called 'carbon tax') which they removed, and despite a principle of 'choices not mandates', they force polluters to pay if they pollute too much; through a 'safeguards mechanism'. However, this has permitted industrial emissions to *increase*. Also of concern, the most recent Budget again allocated our taxes to those that mine, produce or use fossil fuels – an \$11BN subsidy. That's a big sum which could have shunted us into a new clean future and although not a 'tax' – it uses our taxes to prolong rather than limit planet-warming industries.

The *Roadmap* also relies on methods to reduce our emissions (such as, to trap and store dangerous gases) that we looked at last year [[EAG Fact Sheet 'Gas as a transition fuel'](#)] and found to be: expensive, so it reduces funds available to renewables; not very effective overall; and which seem designed to extend the working life of [clearly, market-doomed] polluting enterprises well in to the future.

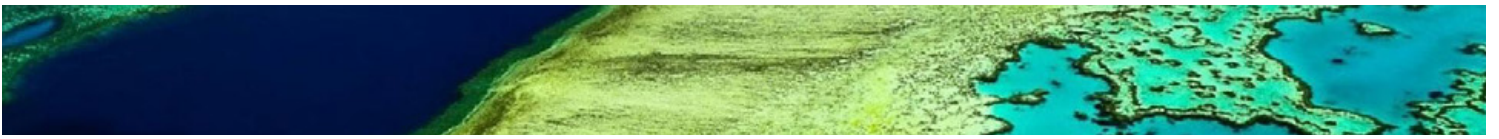
In summary, it is surprising the Coalition still lacks a cohesive climate policy which is well overdue and its drive' towards renewables seems in stark contrast to their ongoing 'propping up' of older technologies not supported by the International Energy Agency. More information here: <https://www.liberal.org.au/our-policies>

LABOR | Louise Miller-Frost

Labor's Climate Policy, Powering Australia, presents a cohesive set of policies to energetically drive a clean energy future even in the short term, but stops short of forcing closures of polluting industries. <https://www.alp.org.au/we-stand-for/policies-and-commitments/>

Our (zoom) discussions with the new Labor Candidate for Boothby Ms Louise Miller-Frost,

were quickly followed by Labor's Climate policy launch by the Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen MP. Their new (independently modelled) [Powering Australia](#) policy has a strong regional, 'renewables-growth-jobs' focus. Both persons demonstrated a sense of urgency about the issues (which we share, given [IPCC](#) reports). *Powering Australia* sets out cohesive



policies which the Business Council of Australia have publicly supported.

The policy reveals they are prepared to be held accountable during the 'next term of office' as their plans are specific and detailed and will require annual reports to Parliament. Its elements include: *Legislate* [a key point of difference to the Coalition's approach] to reduce emissions 43% by 2030; net zero by 2050; 'Rewiring the Nation' (\$20 BN upgrade to electricity grid to bring renewable energy to more, and a boost to jobs in regions (64,000 direct, many thousands more, indirect): \$3BN to green metals (steel, alumina, hydrogen, etc.); Electric Vehicle tax cut. Electrify everything possible; co-invest \$100M for 85 solar

banks – cheaper electricity for more than 25,000 households without rooftop solar, like renters and low-income households: a Community Battery policy; \$200M to support the grid and provide shared storage for up to 100,000 households; 10,000 Renewable Energy apprentices. Labor pledged to improve the Safeguards Mechanism (mandatory emissions reductions by large polluters), to restore the Climate Change Authority, and review the Carbon Credit system.

They plan to: let the 'market decide' on fossil fuels but to 'push' the market through a suite of policies to make that shift faster (while aiming for 82% renewable-energy generation in their model); and to become a world leader in this space.

THE AUSTRALIAN GREENS | Jeremy Carter

The Greens may be considered unlikely to be able to form government in their own right, their policies represent an 'untainted, [by corporate donations] scientifically backed' plan to forcefully nudge the major parties toward bolder climate action and hold them to account – with a sense of urgency we believe is justified.

The Greens' Candidate Jeremy Carter met with us by zoom. On 'climate action' they want to (quote) 'tackle the climate crisis' by 'planning for, and commencing implementation of, the phase-out of fossil fuels in the energy, transport and construction sectors, while working with the agriculture sector to reverse deforestation and sequester carbon through farming practices'.

Asked *'If your Party is not able to form Government in its own right, is it committed to working with others to address global warming as a matter of priority?'*

'Absolutely. When The Greens held the balance of power... we negotiated a price on carbon which resulted in a rare period of emissions reduction in Australia... The Greens (quote) *'don't take*

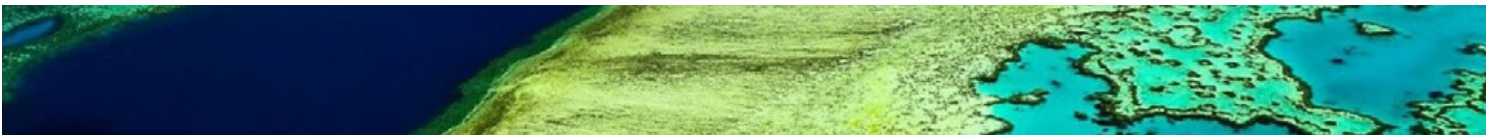
corporate donations' and want to see a '75% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and net zero carbon emissions by 2035, an immediate ban on the construction of new coal, oil and gas infrastructure...

Asked *'What is your plan to support and provide alternative opportunities for workers displaced from the fossil fuel industry?'*

'We will support workers and communities to find industries to provide meaningful, long-term work as the economy changes. We will create good long-term jobs, reskilling workers into industries which have similar skill sets, and providing grants... new employers'. The Greens plan includes: 'Legislating to make fossil fuel companies pay to clean up their mess, and reinvesting those funds in our infrastructure – from flood-proofing stormwater drains, to improving the capacity of our transport systems to handle heat waves'.

In summary, 'climate change' is in the 'DNA' of the Greens: Jeremy Carter, Engineer.

Detail here: <https://greens.org.au/platform/climate>



Independent | Jo Dyer

Jo Dyer is progressive on environmental and social policies and a strong advocate of action to combat climate change.

Jo is committed to an immediate end to approving any new fossil fuel projects. Her website reveals the following priorities: (quote) 'Australia has played politics with climate change for 15 years, failing future generations, wasting economic opportunities and entrenching our reputation on the world stage as a spoiler and a freeloader'. 'I commit to: adopt targets of 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and Net Zero by 2050; and the International Energy Agency recommendations of no new coal mines or mine extensions and no new gas field exploration and drilling; stop payment of subsidies to the fossil fuel industry

via R&D grants, tax concessions or provision of dedicated infrastructure such as in-land rail; Support the wholesale electrification of the economy fueled by renewable power generation; support the development of clean hydrogen for economic activity where direct electrification is technologically challenging or financially prohibitive; establish a Just Transition Commission to ensure an equitable transition to a decarbonised economy with a focus on development of clean energy hubs in regional Australia; and, establish an independent Climate Authority to monitor progress against our commitments.'

You can learn more here: <https://www.dyerforboothby.com/>

OVER TO YOU, THE VOTER!

Democracy is a Gift, a Treasure, a Privilege. Please use it wisely.

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Prepared by the Environmental Action Group of the Uniting Church of Australia, South Australian Synod.