



SAVE THE PLANET

How to Vote for a Safe Climate 2018 Batman By-Election

In this document:

- Voting for a safe climate p 1
- Voting recommendation p 2-3
- Why Vote 1 Adrian Whitehead p 3
- Visual party analysis p 4
- Our detailed party assessments p 5
 - Animal Justice Party p 5
 - The Greens p 5
 - Labor p 6
 - Sustainable Australia p 7
 - Australian People's Party p 7
 - Voters Rights party p 7
 - Australian Liberty Alliance p 8
 - Australian Conservatives p 8
 - Rise Up Australia Party p 8
- How do stop the global warming emergency? p 9

Introduction to voting for a safe climate

This Batman by-election, if you are a Batman elector you have the option of voting for a “*safe climate*” candidate, a candidate whose only focus is to ensure a Government-led response to fully reverse global warming as fast as possible and to cool the planet in order to maximise protection of human and non human life, that is, Save the Planet’s candidate Adrian Whitehead.

Vote for Adrian and show your support for a safe climate by putting a number 1 in the box next to his name on the ballot paper, and number the remaining boxes 2-10 using our voting guide.

We have also provided a critique of each candidate’s party policies to help you decide in what order you vote for these parties or you can simply follow our voting recommendations below.

We have also included a 1 page summary of the actions needed to stop the global warming emergency and return to safe climate to help you if you wish to assess the different candidates’ policies yourself (See Page 9).

Save the Planet encourages people to vote for parties and independent candidates with the strongest policy on reversing global warming and recreating a safer climate.

Voting recommendation

Our recommend voting order is below. Save the Planet has ranked the candidates according to the strength of their global warming policy. To cast a valid vote number all boxes 1-10.

1. Adrian Whitehead - Save the Planet Party (unregistered)

Full climate emergency policy with focus on maximum protection of human and other life. See www.voteplanet.net/policies.html for Save the Planets policies on reversing global warming.

2. Miranda Joyce Smith - Animal Justice Party

Net Negative emissions. Acknowledges the climate emergency and calls for the reversal of global warming. Policy lacks detail and has an inconsistency around fossil gas.

3. Alex Bhathal - The Greens

Net Zero emissions by 2040. Talks about a climate emergency but policy not strong enough to avoid a climate disaster affecting millions.

4. Ged Kearney - Australian Labor Party

Net Zero emissions by 2050. Continues to support coal and fossil gas to varying degrees. Policy not strong enough to avoid a climate disaster affecting millions.

5. Mark Mcdonald - Sustainable Australia

Weak climate target. Policy has an emphasis on population and sees a role for fossil gas and potentially nuclear.

6. Tegan Burns - Australian People's Party

Believe in reducing emissions via renewable energy but no other detail.

7. Teresa Van lieshout - Voters Rights party (unregistered)

The Voters Rights Party has not dealt with the issue of global warming as one of their policies on their website. Pro fossil oil for transport use.

8. Debbie Robinson - Australian Liberty Alliance

Climate skeptics stating 'We are neither "believers" nor "deniers" when it comes to climate change'. Support more dams, nuclear power (thorium based) and fossil gas.

9. Kevin Christopher Bailey - Australian Conservatives

While seemingly acknowledging global warming, they would withdraw Australia from the Paris agreement. Support coal, fossil gas, more dams and nuclear while being anti renewables.

10. Yvonne Gentle - Rise Up Australia Party

Global warming deniers. To quote their website 'RUAP's views on Global Warning [sic] have long been known. **It doesn't exist!**'¹.² Supports coal and fossil gas and are anti renewables.

¹ Note: it is Rise Up Australia Party's spelling mistake in the fifth word

² <http://riseupaustrialiaparty.com/our-policies/climate-change/>

Our preferences listed in the order candidates appear on the ballot paper including relevant party name (where applicable).

Our Preference	Candidate name	<u>Registered</u> party name
10	GENTLE, Yvonne	Rise Up Australia Party
4	KEARNEY, Ged	Australian Labor Party
3	BHATHAL, Alex	The Greens
9	BAILEY, Kevin Christopher	Australian Conservatives
6	BURNS, Tegan	Australian People's Party
8	ROBINSON, Debbie	Australian Liberty Alliance
7	VAN LIESHOUT, Teresa	Independent
1	WHITEHEAD, Adrian	
5	MCDONALD, Mark	Sustainable Australia
2	SMITH, Miranda Joyce	Animal Justice Party

To cast a valid vote number all boxes 1-10

Why Vote 1 Adrian Whitehead - Save the Planet

Save the Planet has outlined a number of policies it believes are needed to give us the best chance of avoiding catastrophic climate change and saving this planet. Our policies are designed to achieve these four goals:

- Eliminating net emissions of greenhouse gases
- Returning to a safe climate (pre-industrial temperature and ocean heat and acidity)
- Preparing for climate change (that is not avoided)
- Creating a sustainable future

To do this we are focusing on two key short term goals

1. Drive the creation of Emergency Plans for Safe Climate Restoration.
2. Implement an emergency speed transition (10 years or less) to a safe climate economy.

Our policies are designed to drive our emissions to net negative and begin the process of rapid cooling of the planet. They are to be rolled out at emergency speed over ten years. This would require significant restructuring of a variety of industries, the closure of some and the creation of others. Communities and workers would be supported to manage this transition and opportunities will be created for firms to repurpose as part of structural adjustment planning.

We must also transition our economy away from dependence on constant material and population growth, human exploitation and high levels of debt, while continuing knowledge growth, and service and technological improvements. If we do this we have a chance of making a truly sustainable future.

You can find our full policies on our website. See both our Policy page <http://www.voteplanet.net/policies.html> and our National Policy Platform <http://www.voteplanet.net/national-election-platform.html>

Visual Party Analysis

Party or Candidate	Global Warming Response	Notes
Adrian Whitehead (Save the Planet)	Safe Climate	Full suite of policies for maximum protection of human and other life.
Animal Justice Party	Climate Emergency	Policy needs detail. Gas use inconsistent with bigger goal
Parties below this line do not have targets which are designed to avoid a climate catastrophe, millions will die even if their targets are reached.		
The Greens	Slow net zero target	Will fail to protect Great Barrier Reef and low lying coastal areas.
Australian Labor Party	Very slow net zero target	Will fail to protect Great Barrier Reef and low lying coastal areas. Supports fossil gas and fracking.
Sustainable Australia	Weak emissions target	Emissions reduction target inconsistent with stated temperature target. Supports fossil gas.
Australian People's Party	No targets, accepts reality of global warming	Supports renewables
Voters Rights Party	No policy	Supports oil for transport
Australian Liberty Alliance	Global Warming Skeptics	Support more dams, nuclear power (thorium-based) and gas
Australian Conservatives	Anti Environment	Support coal, fossil gas, more dams and nuclear and are anti renewables
Rise Up Australia Party	Global Warming Deniers	Support coal and fossil gas and are anti renewables

Authorised and printed digitally by Adrian Whitehead 54 Hope Street Brunswick VIC

Detailed party assessments

Please note candidate assessments were made using material available between 5-10 March 2018. All referenced links were alive at the time of assessment. The number next to the party name indicates our order of preferences for voting. Make sure you number Adrian Whitehead with a 1 and number all remaining boxes 2-10 in order of your preference.

2. Animal Justice Party - Climate Emergency but lacking detail

This party acknowledges we are in a climate emergency, and acknowledges that it is critical to reverse global warming. From their climate policy: “ We must slow, stop and reverse the negative changes to the climate before ‘tipping points’ kick in to accelerate and take the process beyond our control.”³

Their policy currently lacks detail, and includes an inconsistency in their comments on fossil gas where their plan for transition is too slow, however their core focus on reducing emissions from the agricultural sector will be critical in reversing global warming and creating a rapid global cooling.

Emissions from the agriculture sector, and animal agriculture in particular, are generally ignored by major political parties and major environment groups despite the critical role they play in global warming. It is important that there is a political party raising this issue.

3. The Greens - Too slow to net zero

The Greens talk about responding to global catastrophic warming’ but their policies fall well short of the moral and ethical response needed to avoid this catastrophe while maximising protection of human and other life.

The major climate goal of the Greens federal organisation can be found in their full 2016 platform⁴, which is a net zero target by 2040.

In their core policies document on global warming⁵, there is also a reference to ‘Net zero or net negative Australian greenhouse gas emissions within a generation’, noting that is generally accepted that ‘a generation’ usually means 25 years.

These policy goals have remained unchanged since Save The Planet first ran candidates, despite increasingly clear and more abundant evidence that the impacts of global warming are accelerating beyond previous predictions.

Their goal of net zero in a generation puts them seven years ahead of Labor’s interpretation of the Paris agreement.

The main detail in their response to global warming is similar to other larger parties with three of the four key initiatives listed on their global warming page all focused on energy (90% renewable energy by 2030, community own clean energy, and supporting batteries) with the other key issue

³ <https://animaljusticeparty.org/policieslist/environment/climate-change/>

⁴ <https://greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/Aust%20Greens%20Policy%20Platform%202016.pdf>

⁵ <https://greens.org.au/policies/climate-change-energy>

focused on saving the Great Barrier Reef, and also reflected in the climate policy which goes by the name of 'Climate Change And Energy'.^{6,7}

Like other major parties the Greens claim they wish to save the Great Barrier Reef but do not acknowledge that we would need a global cooling within a few years to save it and that the Greens' policies can't achieve this in time.⁸

Other Greens 'initiatives' include:

- a ban on fracking
- an export levy on thermal coal
- an end to fossil fuel subsidies
- no new fossil fuel infrastructure
- ban on expanding and new coal mines
- zero carbon buildings by 2040
- nationwide retrofit of Australia's public and community housing stock including solar
- fully protect native forests
- support for cycling, public transport, rail, high speed rail and electric vehicles

Alex Bhathal spoke strongly at this year's Batman candidate forum promising to work to defend native forests and tackle animal agriculture in the context of global warming.

4. Labor - Too slow to net zero and supports gas and fracking

Labor has committed to the Paris 'well below 2 degrees' target and a goal of net zero emissions economy by 2050, however Save the Planet believes their policies are inadequate to limit global warming to their goal or even save the Great Barrier Reef as they claim to want to do.^{9,10}

Labor seems to understand to some degree the impacts on people and infrastructure from global warming but seems resigned to these events coming to pass rather than trying to prevent them to the maximum extent. From their policy: 'New infrastructure will need to be built to withstand extreme weather events and additional and strengthened infrastructure will be needed to deal with sea level rises, particularly in built up areas'.

Labor's other climate related policies include:

- 50% renewables by 2030, purchase of greenpower by Commonwealth, and supporting community energy hubs
- an Emissions Trading Scheme for the electricity sector
- vehicle emission standards
- support of 'carbon farming'
- aim to double energy productivity
- a vague idea about community energy hubs.

But they also

- support coal seam gas extraction¹¹
- support the continued use of fossil gas.¹²

⁶ <https://greens.org.au/global-warming>

⁷ <https://greens.org.au/policies/climate-change-energy>

⁸ <https://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate1674>

⁹ http://www.laborsclimatechangeactionplan.org.au/?_ga=2.8814389.1072163828.1519839269-1909535877.1519839269

¹⁰ <https://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate1674>

¹¹ https://cdn.australianlabor.com.au/documents/ALP_National_Platform.pdf pages 66-67 point 63.

¹² https://cdn.australianlabor.com.au/documents/ALP_National_Platform.pdf

5. Sustainable Australia - Weak goals, weak policies

Sustainable Australian is an evolution of the former Sustainable Population Party, which was renamed on January the 18th 2016.¹³

Since then the party has sought to appeal to a broader base by adopting policy platform focus around the goal of a 'economically, environmentally and socially sustainable Australia'.¹⁴

However their policies around environmental sustainability are amateurish at best and include a range of questionable policies.

Their climate policy claims to support limiting warming to 1.5 degrees but has almost no possibility of achieving this with their strongest stated target being an 80% reduction on 2000 level of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, which is below the current generally accepted response to the Paris targets of net zero by 2050.

The remainder of their climate policy focuses on energy and population, with even their energy policy being weak with a stated goal of achieving 'a zero-net emissions Australian energy supply'.

Other environmental sustainability policies of concern include

- A moratorium on all fracking and CSG rather than a complete and permanent ban.
- They do not unequivocally support a 100% renewable energy solution calling for 'up to 100 per cent by 2050' and 'progress towards using a predominantly renewable energy supply'.
- Continuation of fossil gas as a key part of the energy mix, calling for 'domestic energy reservation policies ... including natural gas'.
- Leaving the door open for nuclear power in Australia as a nuclear power free Australia is only an aspiration.

Population was identified by Paul Hawken and his Drawdown team as the single most important issue in reducing future emissions (action #6 and #7). Population is generally ignored by major political parties and major environment groups despite the critical role they play in global warming, so it is important that there is a political party focusing on these issues.

6. Australian People's Party - Seeks to reduce emissions by supporting renewables

This party accepts the reality of climate change and sees value in reducing our emissions through supporting renewable energy and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. They oppose fracking but other than that there is no policy detail.¹⁵

7. Teresa Van Lieshout, Voter Rights Party - No Policy

The Voters Rights Party has not dealt with the issue of global warming as one of their policies on their website. On a video Teresa interestingly seeks to both cap the price of; and at the same time increase the supply of oil for transport.

¹³ http://www.aec.gov.au/Parties_and_Representatives/Party_Registration/Deregistered_parties/sustainable.htm

¹⁴ <http://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/>

¹⁵ <http://www.australianpeoplesparty.org.au/blog/sustainable-australia/>

8. Australian Liberty Alliance - Climate Skeptics favouring gas

This a party of climate skeptics stating 'We are neither "believers" nor "deniers" when it comes to climate change'.¹⁶

They call for clean energy and propose exploring a thorium- based nuclear power system,¹⁷ while also increasing the 'use of hydro-electrical power for base load power supply, driven by generators in new dams'.¹⁸

They will cut funding to some renewables while supporting fossil gas as a primary fuel. They have some other policies which are environmentally positive.

9. Australian Conservatives - Anti Environment, supports coal

This party is an anti environmental, while seemingly acknowledging global warming they supporting coal, gas and nuclear while being anti renewables. They support creating more hydro dams.¹⁹

They will seek to legislate to lock in the use of fossil fuels: 'will provide legislative certainty for the ongoing use of fossil fuels'.

They would withdraw Paris Climate Accord and claim Australia has no meaningful part to play in reducing global emissions: 'Even if our emissions were reduced to zero, it would make no perceptible difference to the climate'.

10. Rise Up Australia Party - Climate Deniers: supports coal

This party is a climate denier party. To quote from their current climate policy:

'RUAP's views on Global Warning [sic]²⁰ have long been known. **It doesn't exist!** So called "scientists" have finally realised that they are unable to convince us that it does, as it is difficult to justify that the planet is getting hotter and hotter, when it is also getting colder and colder.'²¹

They are angry about rising energy prices and believe 'that the Government is "shafting" us by exporting excessive amounts of our oil causing a substantial shortage of natural gas' but also put some of the blame on renewables. They have plans to continue coal use.

The only good thing is they don't mention nuclear power.

¹⁶ <https://www.australianlibertyalliance.org.au/values-and-policies/natural-resources-and-environment.html>

¹⁷ <https://www.australianlibertyalliance.org.au/values-and-policies/natural-resources-and-environment.html>

¹⁸ <https://www.australianlibertyalliance.org.au/values-and-policies/agriculture-fisheries-and-forestry.html>

¹⁹ https://www.conservatives.org.au/our_policies

²⁰ note it is Rise Up Australia Party's spelling mistake in the fifth word

²¹ <http://riseupaustrialiparty.com/our-policies/climate-change/>

How do stop the global warming emergency and recreate a safe climate?

The steps we need to do this are:

1. Our leaders need to **be honest** with the public about both the threat and need for an emergency response to the global warming crisis, and to say that we have the solutions.
 - Remember the water crisis in Victoria? A month of so of government advertising had almost everybody in Victoria saving water, fully behind the government response, and policing their neighbours.

2. **Initiate an emergency speed response to eliminate emissions to as close to zero as possible while drawing down past emissions.** This is would involve:
 - Transition to zero emissions at emergency speed:
 - use **zero emissions energy** for transport, home and industry needs.
 - transform **almost all of our transport to electrical** (electric cars, super fast rail, light and heavy rail) or human power (walking and cycling).
 - **Increase efficiency and emissions standards in all sectors** (eg. housing, industry, white goods, fridges lighting, building materials etc). This would include the quick and progressive replacement of the worst the performing assets with high efficiency options reducing both emissions and cost of building new zero emission energy infrastructure while reducing ongoing costs for users.
 - **Change our high emissions behaviours** such as wasting energy, excess consumption, jet travel, and eating high emission foods such as beef, lamb, dairy and rice.
 - **Draw down past emissions**, which includes rebuilding soil carbon and blue carbon (carbon stored in shallow coastal areas), protecting and replanting woodlands and forests, and turning waste biomass into stable biochar and develop other drawdown techniques that can be applied on a large-scale that don't rely on photosynthesis.

3. **Create an emergency speed global cooling** to maximise the protection of human and non-human life and human assets exposed to flood, fire, drought and coastal inundation assets.* Options to create a short term global cooling effect should be assessed by world leading scientists and engineers to judge which of a large number of strategies and technologies will cool the globe and produce the most positive environmental and social outcomes for the least risk.

**Current greenhouse gas levels and temperatures are already enough to drown all low lying Islands and coasts and destroy 90+% of the world's coral, amongst many other negative impacts. To protect these places and the people that depend upon them, and to adopt an approach that will maximise protection of human and other life we need to create a global cooling immediately.*