



# SAVE THE PLANET

## January 2020 Newsletter

*As Australia burns, it is time to Stand up for our Future*

PDF Edition

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### IT'S TIME

Save the Planet has been calling for emergency action to restore a safe climate since 2013 with a target of net negative emissions in under 10 years. The policies we wrote seven years ago are unchanged and reflect the work party founder Adrian Whitehead was doing back in 2006.

Today, despite much of the East coast of Australia burning, Save the Planet is still the only party with policies that have any chance of saving our future. See the last section of this newsletter for a quick glance at relevant party policies from a climate emergency perspective.

This incessant failure by our state and federal leaders to act on global warming in the face of overwhelming evidence is nothing short of a crime against humanity; a crime which today's leaders must one day be held to account for. But it will only happen if we halt and reverse global warming before our societies collapse. We are literally in a fight for our lives and the lives of our children.

Stand up for the Planet and take the climate emergency agenda into our local, state and federal governments. If you are interested in getting active on global warming with Save the Planet, check out the HELPING SAVE THE PLANET, and RUNNING AS A CANDIDATE, and LINDSAY WATTERS - SAVE THE PLANET CANDIDATE sections below.

## HELPING SAVE THE PLANET

Save the Planet is a volunteer-run, self-funded organisation with no major donor/financial supporter. We need your help if we are to increase our impact. Below we list the different tasks you can do:

**Candidate** - run to spread the climate emergency message (see article below)

**Campaign Manager / Campaign Support** - support a candidate in their campaign.

**Social Media Generator** - make content and distribute on Save the Planet's social media accounts

**Newsletter Writer** - help produce a regular newsletter

**Merchandise Manager** - this is a single person job but you would need some storage space to keep stickers, mugs and t-shirts etc.

**Membership Manager** - manage membership data.

## RUNNING AS A CANDIDATE

As you may be aware, Save the Planet recently joined forces with another climate party to successfully register as a political party.

If you understand the climate emergency and are of good character, you should consider running as a candidate in the Federal election (2022 or earlier). At the very least you should consider encouraging others to run and supporting them.

Please [read the FAQs](#) before making a decision about whether to run or not. If you read the FAQs and want to chat, email us with 'candidacy' in the subject line and we'll give you a call.

# LINDSAY WATTERS

## SAVE THE PLANET CANDIDATE

Although I've been an active volunteer and campaigner for Save the Planet since 2012, I only took the step to become a political candidate in my local area in 2018 for the Victorian State election, and then as a candidate in the Moorabool Shire Council by-election at the end of 2019.

I'm actually really an introvert and would have preferred 'anyone else' do it, but nobody else was 'doing it', so I had to step up. I had a limited budget, limited time to spend campaigning, and an even more limited campaign team, but even so, I ran two election campaigns that I was pretty happy with.

A radio interview, a couple of pieces in the local newspapers, and several candidate forums, and I've learned a lot about the process along the way and my skills of presenting and answering questions have improved as I've progressed – and will no doubt continue to do so. My advice for anyone thinking about running as a candidate is: there is never an ideal time, so just jump in and have a go. Speak from the heart about what you know to be true. We need to urgently fix this problem we've created and we need all the voices we can get out there.

*Save the Planet wishes to thank Lindsay for his great efforts over the years and especially his 13% of the primary vote he got running on a pure climate emergency platform - which means over 1 in 10 people voted for a climate emergency response by council.*



# CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

## CAMPAIGN STILL GROWING

The local council Climate Emergency declarations that Save the Planet candidates helped start in the City of Darebin, Victoria in Dec 2016, has grown to over 1,300 councils and countries. These declarations to date cover a population over half a billion. Included in this number is countries that have declared such as Ireland, Argentina and Bangladesh. The EU has declared but is not included in the number. Eighty-five Australian councils have passed climate emergency motions including all but two capitals. See Cedamia for more details of these declarations.

The Climate Emergency Declaration campaign along with Extinction Rebellion and the School Strikes/Fridays for Future has been paradigm shifting in how we talk about climate. The Oxford Dictionary named 'climate emergency' the word of 2019.

However, to our knowledge, none of these governments that acknowledge the climate-emergency have begun to approach the full-scale mobilisation required for a climate emergency response if we want any chance of avoiding a catastrophic climate. Save the Planet's partner organisation, CACE (Council and Community Action in the Climate Emergency), is currently focused on getting this full-scale mobilisation at local government level (you can see CACE's [work here](#)).

Save the Planet members can help the emergency mobilisation campaign by running for a local council in QLD, NSW and VIC this year and calling for emergency mobilisation by your local council and higher levels of government.

The theory of change we are working to is that if we can get one or two local governments undertaking full scale emergency mobilisation this will start a change reaction of other governments doing likewise, just as one council acknowledging the climate emergency started a global movement with a bit of help from grass root campaigners. Once adopted by local councils emergency mobilisation will ultimately spread upwards through state and federal governments.

## OVERVIEW OF THE MAJOR PARTIES' CLIMATE POLICIES



The Liberal-National Party continue to undermine international efforts on global warming, maintain support for their fossil fuel allies and undermine renewable energy wherever they can. In the wake of the fires, sitting members still publicly deny the link of global warming to the current bushfire crisis, while others call for the opening of national parks to logging or the burning of anything yet burnt.

The word "Labor" in white text on a red rectangular background.

Labor's climate target is a suicidal net zero by 2050. While having some positive policies, many are tokenistic in scale and pale into insignificance when we compare the billions being spent on road upgrades or the opening up of the northern territory to fracking, continued support of coal mining or the continued logging of native forest. ALP also accepts money from Chevron who want to drill for oil in the Great Australian Bite.



The Greens' climate policy has barely moved in a decade changing recently from 'net zero or net negative in a generation', which corresponds to 25 years to 'net zero or net negative... no later than 2040'. Sadly the Greens are willing to take 10-15 years longer than is needed to hit negative emissions. This will result in the unnecessary loss of billions of animal lives and millions of human lives, species extinctions, and devastating loss of infrastructure but most importantly by only having a policy 10 years better than Labor's, it fails to force Labor into a stronger position and leaves Labor's numbers "men", happy to sit on net zero by 2050 despite the continuing devastation.



SAVE THE PLANET

### How does Save the Planet Compare?

Save the planet has whole-of-economy plan to achieve net negative emissions as soon as possible but not later than 10 years after we commence the emergency mobilisation response.

Our policy seeks to give us the best chance of avoiding catastrophic climate change while seeking maximum protection of human and non-human life and includes redesigning our current economic and political systems to enable a sustainable future to be implemented.

A dark brown banner with a green sun-like glow in the background. The text "NATIONAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUMMIT" is written in large, bold, white and red capital letters.

**NATIONAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUMMIT**

14-15 FEBRUARY 2020 | MELBOURNE

### Feb 14-15 Melbourne

Building on the momentum of this global movement, the National Climate Emergency Summit looks to help define and align key action that supports an emergency-scale transition in the Australian context. The Summit addresses the pressing need to consolidate coordinated and cooperative approaches to form climate emergency responses – inviting communities, practitioners and businesses to challenge and assist governments to respond.

This is an opportunity to catalyse social, economic and policy breakthroughs that will shape the kind of response we want to see in Australia and around the world.

The Summit will convene expert practitioners, local governments, climate scientists, economists, industry innovators, youth activists, climate action groups, community organisations, and leading advocates to unpack what a climate emergency response could look like at local, national, and global levels.

The Summit's maximum two-day ticket price is only \$55. Find out more at <https://climateemergencysummit.org/>

## RECENT BLOGS

**Today is more than a new year; it will need to be the beginning of a new era in climate campaigning** By Philip Sutton of Research and Strategy for Transition Initiation. [Read the blogpost here.](#)

**Does your council have what it takes to save the world? Pushing the local government climate emergency campaign to the next level.** By Adrian Whitehead of Save the Planet and CACE. [Read this blogpost here.](#)

**How the climate emergency bus jumps the political abyss to full-scale mobilisation** By Bryony Edwards of Save the Planet and CACE. [Read this blogpost here.](#)

**Countering the top councillor arguments against declaring and mobilising in the climate emergency** By Bryony Edwards of Save the Planet and CACE. [Read this blogpost here.](#)

## RECENT MEMES

One of the most important but simple campaigning tasks is sharing memes and posts from Save the Planet on your various social media platforms.

This send social signals to your friends, family and colleagues that action on global warming is an important thing.



[facebook.com/voteplanet/](https://facebook.com/voteplanet/)



[twitter.com/SavePlanetParty](https://twitter.com/SavePlanetParty)



[instagram.com/savetheplanetparty/](https://instagram.com/savetheplanetparty/)

# WANTED

for crimes against humanity and the planet



- Adoption of suicidal climate targets
- Undermining of international processes to stop global warming
- Ignoring the science of global warming
- Maintenance of climate skeptics and deniers within his party
- Undermining of the Australian renewable energy industry
- Proving support and subsidies for the Australia fossil fuel industry and new fossil fuel exploration and development
- Failure to tackle emissions from animal agriculture
- Failure to stop the destruction of native vegetation by logging and land clearing
- Encouraging population growth when the world is in ecological overshoot
- Failure to take equitable action at a National level in order to prevent further global warming and unacceptable impacts such as catastrophic bush fires in 2019/20



**SAVE THE PLANET**  
[www.voteplanet.net](http://www.voteplanet.net)

Please donate to the bushfire appeal.



Every dollar you donate, is a dollar less we need to spend on fixing up the impacts of 30 years of inaction on global warming and allows use to spend more money on things that really matter, tax cuts for the rich and subsidising the fossil fuel industry.



**SAVE THE PLANET**