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Australian Greens' Policy Statements

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Sydney | Canberra | Melbourne | Brisbane | Perth | Adelaide | Washington | Wellington

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From 1 July 2011, the Australian Greens will hold the balance of power in the Senate. They also have a member in the House of Representatives, the Member for Melbourne Mr Adam Bandt MP, who together with the other five independents holds the balance of power in the House of Representatives. For Hawker Britton's paper on the new Senate, click [here](#).

Below is an abridged version of policy documents available at the Australian Greens' website, focusing on several key areas:

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Further policy statements on the following areas are available at the Greens' website:

- [Animals](#)
- [Arts and Culture](#)
- [Community Participation in Government](#)
- [Constitutional Reform and Democracy](#)
- [Drugs, Substance Abuse and Addiction](#)

- [Genetically Manipulated Organisms](#)
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Economics

Measures

The Australian Greens will

Taxation

1. reduce inequities in the current personal tax system by:
 - reducing tax breaks for high income earners;
 - removing Fringe Benefits Tax concessions which promote increased use of motor vehicles;
 - removing the concessional arrangements for Capital Gains Tax;
 - only allowing losses from an investment to be offset against income from the same investment;
 - abolishing the 30% Private Health Insurance Rebate in order to increase funding for public hospitals;
 - taxing family trusts in the same way as companies;
 - eliminating high rates of effective marginal taxation for those on welfare benefits; and
 - introduce a new top marginal tax rate of 50 per cent on incomes of \$1 million or over.

2. introduce an estate tax with full provisions to protect the family farm, the family home and small business with a threshold of \$5 million as indexed from the year 2010.
3. conduct an inquiry with a view to implementing changes to the tax system that address the negative impacts of the GST on:
 - income distribution;
 - environmental sustainability; and
 - business administration costs.
4. oppose any increase or extension to the GST.
5. implement a gradual and long term shift in the tax system from work based taxes to taxes on natural resources and pollution including:
 - a carbon tax levied on generators of mains-supplied electricity or gas
 - a national carbon trading scheme; and
 - other ecological taxes and charges at a level sufficient enough that their prices reflect the full environmental cost of their production, use or disposal.
6. introduce a system of minimum personal and corporate tax legislation to reduce the opportunities for individuals and companies to use loopholes to minimise their tax obligations.
7. conduct a full review of the superannuation system with the aim of reducing its complexity and establishing progressive rates of superannuation taxation.
8. return the company tax rate to 33% and broaden the company tax base by reducing tax concessions.
9. limit tax deductibility for salaries & salary-related expenses for any individual employee to \$1million per year.
10. end subsidies and tax concessions to environmentally harmful industries.

Economic Governance and Industry Development

11. implement triple bottom line accounting measures at all levels of government to incorporate social, environmental and financial impacts into policy development and assessment.
12. introduce broad measures of genuine national progress to supplement the current measures of GDP, including the production of a comprehensive national balance sheet that reflects this.
13. require all listed companies to report on standardised social and environmental indicators in their annual reports.
14. provide the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission with enhanced powers to prevent the formation of monopolies through 'creeping acquisitions' and to divest monopolies and oligopolies of assets if they are abusing their market power.
15. direct industry assistance towards the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.

16. require major proposals to be subject to climate change impact assessment with the aim of reducing greenhouse gases.

Investment and Overseas Relations

17. strengthen the regulatory framework for banks and financial institutions to ensure that consumers and investors are better protected.
18. ensure that natural monopolies and other essential public services are under public ownership.
19. reduce Australia's foreign debt and foreign ownership through use of trade, financial and regulatory measures to ensure more productive use of foreign capital and strengthening of Australian manufacturing, recognising the need to support economies in developing countries.
20. require the Foreign Investment Review Board to broaden its assessment of the national interest to explicitly include Australia's long run energy security.
21. revoke sections of the National Competition Policy that seek to impose market values in public, social and environmental areas of Australian life.

Global Economics

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. support mechanisms to promote sustainable international trade.
2. remove Australia from existing bilateral Free Trade Agreements, where possible.
3. enter into multilateral trade agreements, except where a bilateral trade agreement favours a developing country.
4. use multilateral international trade agreements and membership of multilateral finance organisations to promote human rights and environmental sustainability.
5. at the international level, support the implementation of a currency transaction tax (Tobin Tax) to discourage global currency speculation and to provide an independent tax base for international institutions.
6. provide incentives for developing countries to pursue economic development strategies that encourage self-reliance and prioritise the sustainable production of goods and services from local sources.
7. prohibit the trade in goods that have been produced through the exploitation of children and other vulnerable people.
8. ensure that Australian companies operating internationally comply with international human rights, labour and environmental standards.
9. seek the creation of a UN sanctioned regulatory environment to govern the operation of transnational companies, tax havens and flags of convenience.
10. use Australia's involvement in international trade fora to advance the needs of developing countries.

11. use multilateral international trade agreements and membership of multilateral finance organisations to seek the cancellation of the debts of least-developed countries and the removal of punitive loan conditionality imposed on poor countries.
12. support abolition of, unless radical reform can democratise, the IMF, World Bank and WTO.
13. resist the development of international trade regimes that seek to extend the concentration of control over intellectual property.
14. establish mechanisms to prevent the debt crisis from recurring, such as introducing the potential for penalties for surplus as well as debtor nations.

Corporate Governance

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. reform the Corporations Act 2001 to ensure that directors take account of the interests of the corporation, its shareholders and all stakeholders in the discharge of their duties.
2. establish an independent Corporate Responsibility Index, ranking the financial, social and environmental performance of businesses and corporations.
3. require publicly listed companies and government departments to audit and report annually their performance against economic, environmental and social criteria.
4. introduce accounting practices which clearly identify the financial, social and environmental consequences of, and risks associated with, business decisions.
5. require elections of boards of publicly listed companies to be conducted by an independent statutory body.
6. promote the inclusion of corporate ethics and responsibilities in all business and commerce course curricula at secondary and tertiary institutions.
7. strengthen consumer education initiatives in the areas of reduced and responsible consumption, consumer rights and responsible investment.
8. create tax incentives for socially and environmentally responsible initiatives, including participation in the United Nations Global Compact.
9. require the disclosure of documents relating to government tenders and procurement processes, once such processes are finalised.
10. strengthen and extend the powers of the Commonwealth Auditor General and the Commonwealth Ombudsman to examine the propriety of government tenders and procurement.
11. strengthen laws requiring Australian corporations operating overseas, or any corporation operating within Australia, to comply with Australian and international laws including those relating to human rights, environmental protection and labour laws.
12. introduce legislation to enable persons detrimentally affected by the operations of Australian corporations overseas to sue those corporations in Australia.

13. require all government-owned enterprises to take steps to ensure that their boards are representative of the wider population.
14. amend the Corporations Act 2001 to require:
 - enforcement agencies to be staffed at realistic levels;
 - that fines be set sufficiently high to deter corporations from committing crimes;
 - the strengthening of the liability of directors and managers;
 - the barring of repeat offender corporations from government contracts; and
 - the delisting of corporations that flagrantly and persistently violate the public interest.

Health

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. develop a National Health Care Strategy, with a focus on primary health care, which ensures national coordination and shared responsibility in health care, research and evaluation.
2. support Medicare as a universal health insurance scheme funded from progressive taxation.
3. abolish the private health insurance rebate and redirect funds to the public health system, including public hospitals.
4. increase incentives for GPs and medical specialists to bulk bill.
5. increase the number of salaried GPs in order to increase access to GP services.
6. increase the number of well funded multipurpose community health care centres and services in regional, rural, and remote areas.
7. enact measures, including legislation, to protect and extend the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
8. ensure that the membership of regulatory bodies, such as the Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee, is made up of independent scientific experts, clinically based health care advisors and consumer representatives, in order to provide independence from undue influence.
9. fund preventive health programs which include appropriate screening activities and healthy lifestyle education.
10. introduce legislation to promote healthy choices, including a ban on junk food advertising on children's television.
11. continue restrictions on pharmaceutical advertising, and restrict pharmaceutical promotions to health professionals, including undergraduates.
12. ensure funding for health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that will raise their health status to a level comparable to other Australians.
13. work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and relevant agencies to deliver accessible, culturally-appropriate and community-controlled health services.

14. support and add to current innovations that facilitate the training of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and migrant health professionals.
15. introduce and fully fund a Commonwealth Dental Health Program for low income earners and their families, which provides essential dental care and a full dental examination every two years.
16. adopt mechanisms to increase access to primary dental services through Medicare.
17. increase funding to mental health services in collaboration with states and territories, particularly to prevention models, and hospital and community-based support, assessment and suicide prevention services.
18. establish properly resourced, strategically located 24 hour community mental health services, staffed by the full range of mental health professionals.
19. expand community-based support services and agencies to enable people with chronic mental and/or physical illnesses, and their carers, to live in and participate more fully in their communities.
20. increase student places in medical, dental and nursing schools, and allied health courses, to address the shortage of health professionals with commensurate funding for staffing and facilities to ensure high quality training and mentorship programs.
21. review and implement effective measures to attract health professionals to rural and remote areas.
22. legislate to enable people with long-term chronic illnesses to continue to access Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medicines at the concession rate when moving to low paid work and ceasing the Disability Support Pension.
23. ensure all women have access to legal, free and safe pregnancy termination services, including unbiased counselling.
24. ensure access to a full range of birthing services.
25. support improved labelling, and contents and nutritional disclosure, on all food sold in Australia, including country of origin.
26. work for more comprehensive enforcement of standards for food labelling and health and nutritional benefit claims.
27. support improved preparation for emergency responses to pandemics.
28. establish an ongoing assessment of, and management plan for, the health risks posed by climate change to Australians.

Disability

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. strengthen and provide funding for disability advocacy services, community education programs, and the removal of structural barriers to equality of access to education, training and employment.

2. ensure a guaranteed decent income by increasing Disability Support Pension payments to adequately cover medical, transport, equipment and accommodation costs.
3. restore the Disability Support Pension eligibility to the pre-July 2006 criteria as a minimum.
4. remove the punitive assessment and work requirement levels and job capacity assessments introduced in the Welfare to Work Act 2005 whilst ensuring sufficient places for all people seeking training.
5. provide meaningful employment and training opportunities which take into account the specific needs of people with disability.
6. allow full tax deductibility for any aids, devices, special equipment or services which directly assist people with disability in finding and maintaining employment.
7. remove GST and import duty from specialist aids, devices, appliances and services for people with disability.
8. provide parents, partners, relatives and friends who act as carers with eligibility for registration as professional carers and adequate support, including income and respite.
9. enact national standards to protect people with disability, where required, via monitoring, investigative powers and enforcement.
10. increase funding for appropriate, including age-appropriate, accommodation and support services for people with disability, including flexible accommodation models.
11. increase funding for high quality, age-appropriate institutional care for people with very high and complex care needs.
12. provide increased respite care services and facilities, in-home and emergency support, crisis accommodation and a range of supported accommodation options.
13. adequately resource pathways that support school leavers with disability to make the transition from school into meaningful employment, educational and vocational programs or other community-based activities.
14. support access to specialised employment support services for people with disability who choose to enter the workforce.
15. improve access to training, development and personal support to staff working in disability services, and adopt workforce measures to increase the professional mix of staff.
16. improve pay and conditions and career structures for providers of services for people with disabilities.
17. strengthen national disability access standards.

Older People

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. increase the age pension.

2. improve income support, tax options, and information and respite services to carers of older people.
3. improve existing community care programs aimed at supporting older people in their own homes.
4. increase the number of places for aged care and retirement living.
5. reinstate the Commonwealth Dental Health Program to provide free public dental care for older people on low incomes.
6. increase funding to enhance the numbers, skills and salaries of community health nurses and workers in the aged care sector.
7. establish a funded scheme to undertake minor home renovations and installation of communication technologies to enable older people to remain in their own homes.
8. ensure that appropriate aged care services are provided for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Housing

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. develop a national housing plan and significantly increase funding to public and community housing.
2. provide increased financial assistance to people unable to provide for their own housing.
3. urgently fund sufficient public and community housing, to minimise waiting lists.
4. ensure public housing is accessible, affordable, secure, habitable and in locations that provide reasonable access to employment, health-care, public transport, schools and other social facilities.
5. significantly increase funding to address the housing needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
6. ensure subsidies and concessions for the provision of private rental accommodation are targeted at affordable housing for low-income households.
7. means test the first home owners grant.
8. require new buildings and retrofit of old buildings to meet high minimum standards of energy-efficiency, noise insulation and water conservation.
9. develop national planning guidelines for new housing developments that require:
 - a social mix of public and private housing with a target of 20% low cost and public housing, and housing that caters for diverse social needs;
 - design for maximum energy efficiency meeting or exceeding a national six-star rating;
 - privacy and noise controls;
 - permeable road networks allowing for bus access;
 - segregated bicycle paths and footpaths;

- landscaping, design and infrastructure for rainwater trapping and wastewater recycling; and
- at least 15% to be allocated to public open space in addition to community facilities.

10. develop national building standards that:

- take account of climatic variation across the continent;
- strengthen disability access provisions;
- set high standards for energy and water efficiency; and
- specify minimum standards for non-toxic, low environmental impact construction materials.

11. develop national urban planning standards that provide for:

- the location of high density housing and commercial buildings close to high capacity public transport; and
- the clustering of medium-density housing, community facilities and small-scale businesses around neighbourhood shopping centres and other social facilities (including health care and schooling) linked with public transport.

Media and Communications

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. repeal those parts of the Broadcasting Services Act which reduce diversity of media ownership and opinion within Australia.
2. ensure diversity of ownership and opinion by introducing a media-specific public interest test to guide Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) decisions on proposed mergers and acquisitions of media entities.
3. strengthen diversity of media ownership by giving the ACCC the power to enforce the divestment of merged media companies where those mergers fail a media-specific public interest test.
4. provide sustainable funding for community broadcasting, including the change to digital technology.
5. make funding to the SBS and the ABC comparable to current per capita funding models for public broadcasting in the United Kingdom.
6. require the online services of the ABC and the SBS to be major portal sites for the promotion of Australian content in all genres.
7. expand the services provided by the ABC, including digital on demand and additional networks.

8. ensure that appointments to the boards of public broadcasters are subject to approval by the Parliament, rather than the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
9. reinstate the staff-appointed position on the ABC Board.
10. legislate to ensure truth in political advertising.
11. introduce a ban on junk food advertising during children's television viewing hours.
12. phase out alcohol promotions from times and placements which have high exposure to young people – including banning TV advertising of alcohol between 7am and 9.30pm.
13. ensure independent and transparent review of the ACMA website blacklist.
14. subject the installation of communications infrastructure, including mobile phone towers, to existing state and territory local government planning provisions.
15. introduce a nationally consistent approach to the regulated sale of X-rated material.
16. maintain the ban on parallel importation of books.
17. ensure free-to-air coverage of important sporting events, and other events of national and cultural significance.
18. legislate to protect individuals from vexatious and malicious defamation actions to ensure a wide range of participation in public debates.
19. legislate for the protection of anonymous journalistic sources to ensure press freedom.
20. increase research funding into the opportunities for Australian content and utilisation of new digital media.
21. ensure that alternative copyright and licensing schemes are given legal protection, and that clearer guidelines for fair dealing, crown copyright and public domain are created.
22. ensure that all public governmental data is released in open, interoperable standards.
23. amend the Copyright Act to create compulsory licenses for commercial reuse of news reports, to aid research, historical understanding and political discourse.
24. make the workings of the Australian Classification Board and OFLC more transparent and subject to public review.
25. ensure that regulation of the internet is transparent, accountable and protects freedom of speech, expression and access to information.
26. ensure that funding for Screen Australia is adequate to maintain a healthy Australian film industry.
27. ensure that the National Film and Sound Archives are adequately funded to ensure Australia's cultural media history is preserved and protected.

Education

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. fund the construction of new public preschool facilities.

2. increase pre-service and professional development opportunities for early childhood educators.
3. develop improved career path, professional development and pay structure for all teachers and other educators.
4. provide additional teachers and resources for students and preschool children with special needs and those from disadvantaged communities.
5. introduce the same accountability and transparency frameworks for government funding to non-government schools as applies to public schools and extend the anti-discrimination measures that apply in public schools to private schools.
6. ensure the viability and diversity of existing public schools is not endangered by the development of new private schools.
7. include the history, culture and contemporary experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is included in the school curriculum, and in the training and professional development of all teachers.
8. support schools in the provision of high quality, rich information to parents and the community and end the public ranking of schools in league tables.
9. support expert decision- making about curriculum, testing, reporting and teaching in consultation with teachers, parents, students and the community.
10. ensure that public funding of private providers of VET and businesses that supply training opportunities does not diminish the viability of public TAFE services, expertise or facilities.
11. phase out the public funding of privately provided VET where TAFE can provide the same educational and training outcomes.
12. abolish all fees and charges for educational services at TAFE institutions.
13. address the over-casualisation of TAFE teaching by introducing a benchmark of 80 percent of teaching by permanent staff throughout public and private VET providers.
14. increase the availability of apprenticeships, especially in rural and regional Australia.
15. ensure educators have a key role in developing and reviewing training packages.
16. provide an adequate mean-tested living allowance for full time students.
17. reject the use of education funding vouchers.
18. increase funding to the tertiary sector to provide sufficient student places to meet the demand of suitably qualified applicants.
19. legislate to increase democratic participation by academics, staff, students and community representatives in the decision-making processes within universities.
20. abolish fees for educational services at public universities for Australian students and forgive HECS debts and FEE-HELP debt incurred at public universities.
21. repeal voluntary student union legislation and support the role of student unions by the universal collection of student fees for amenities and services, by an elected student body.
22. support affirmative action entrance, residential programs and ongoing assistance to improve university entrance opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.
23. increase and cost-index per-student funding of all public universities, and ensure adequate funding to all rural, regional and outer-suburban universities.
24. support the right of academics to develop and maintain a research career and increase funding to expand the research capacity of Australian universities and

- increase the proportion of research funding allocated to pure research and to research for the public good.
25. end the current arrangement for recurrent funding to non-government schools by no later than the end of 2010.
 26. implement a new model for recurrent funding to non-government schools based on the following:
 - proper consideration of the resource levels of non-government schools and their financial capacity, including fees and other parent contributions;
 - an appropriate measure for indexation of the funding of non-government schools that de-couples it from spending on public schools; and
 - non-government schools to be fully accountable to the parliament and therefore transparent to the public on their use of government funds and their financial situation, including all income and assets.
 27. ensure that non-government schools in receipt of government funding:
 - do not discriminate in hiring of staff or selection of students;
 - have an admissions and expulsions policy similar to public schools including an obligation to enroll; and
 - demonstrate social and community engagement and benefit by offering community access to facilities and/or a fee waiver for a percentage of students from disadvantaged backgrounds and/or with special needs.
 28. invest the money saved from ending public subsidies to the very wealthiest private schools into a national equity funding programme for public schools.
 29. support the maintenance of the total level of Commonwealth funding for private schools at 2003-04 levels (excluding that re-allocated under previous clauses), indexed for inflation.
 30. end government funding for schools that operate for private profit.

Childcare

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. Improve the affordability of childcare for low and middle income families by:
 - reforming the Child Care Benefit (CCB) and the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) to more accurately address the ability to pay, including substantially increasing the amount paid to low and middle income families;
 - replacing the Child Care Tax rebate with a Child Care Benefit Guarantee;
 - increasing the CCB benefit to more accurately reflect costs;

- increasing benefits in relation to under-2-year-olds to reflect the real cost of caring for them;
 - increasing funding for children with special needs;
 - increasing the funding available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from other culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; and
 - moving towards long term reform, including direct funding of child care facilities to replace the CCB.
2. expand the Job Education and Training childcare scheme to assist parents who are studying.
 3. provide incentives to workplaces which offer not-for-profit childcare in house and flexible childcare, including 'childcare credits', where workplaces assist parents to place children in childcare close to home.
 4. provide incentives for childcare centres to offer extended care to more reasonably reflect the flexible working hours of modern parents.
 5. develop with industry an hourly unit-cost of providing good quality child care services, reflecting appropriate staff ratios, decent pay for accredited staff, and the cost of providing infrastructure.
 6. establish a schedule of government-recommended fees for services.
 7. explore funding and regulatory mechanisms to increase the proportion of community based and not-for-profit child care centres.
 8. increase direct funding to not-for-profit and community-based childcare services particularly in areas of unmet demand.
 9. pursue additional funding to community-based and not-for-profit childcare centres to pay for increases in childcare worker pay.
 10. restore operational subsidies and capital funding to community-based and not-for-profit services.
 11. establish a national planning system for childcare services, including a national demand model for childcare service planning.
 12. establish nationally consistent childcare standards including carer-to-child ratios of at least 1:3 for children up to 2 years old and 1:4 for children older than 2 years old.
 13. establish nationally consistent accreditation standards articulating the quality of the programs and activities needed to promote appropriate levels of child care and child development.
 14. improve professional development opportunities and professional standards for childcare workers.
 15. increase unannounced spot checks by the appropriate Australian Government agency as part of the national accreditation system to strengthen the current validation and accreditation process.
 16. ensure penalties for non-compliance are predictable and consistent.
 17. establish comprehensive and transparent reporting requirements.

Children and Young People

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. support the right of people from the age of 16 years to vote.
2. re-establish a dedicated ministry for children and youth affairs.
3. re-establish a national youth affairs peak body with elected and representative members.
4. increase Youth Allowance to the level of a living wage to enable young people to study full time without recourse to casual work.
5. implement a national employment strategy for young people, with excellent labour market and training programs.
6. develop new, and improve existing, education and preventive health programs for children and young people.
7. adequately fund strategies to deal with youth suicide and mental health issues affecting young people.
8. ban the advertising of junk food during children's viewing hours.
9. conduct community awareness campaigns about the prevalence, prevention and reporting of abuse against children and young people.
10. support and fund high quality services for child survivors of abuse and neglect. \

Employment and Industrial Relations

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. allow workers to terminate substandard individual or collective agreements and be covered by a relevant award or collective agreement.
2. ensure effective dispute resolution processes are available to all workers, including through conciliation and arbitration.
3. require employers to enter into collective agreements with their workforce unless a majority are demonstrably opposed to collective bargaining, with the Industrial Relations Commission to have the power to arbitrate if no agreement can be reached.
4. require employers to inform new and existing employees that they are entitled to join a union, and enable the provision of information about the unions responsible for the sector and industry.
5. repeal provisions against legitimate union activity (such as sections 45D and 45E in the Trade Practices Act 1974), and protect unions and workers against common law actions.

6. legislatively protect the right to strike, as recognised in International Labour Organization conventions No. 87 and No. 98, as a fundamental right of workers to promote and defend their economic and social interests.
7. abolish the requirement for secret ballots before industrial action.
8. strengthen unions' right of entry to recruit members, inspect for and remedy breaches of occupational health and safety provisions, breaches of the Fair Work Act and relevant awards or agreements, and other activities relating to strengthening workers' organisations.
9. protect the right of trade unionists to have their dues deducted from their wages directly.
10. repeal any independent contractors legislation that strips employment rights from individuals.
11. limit the use of independent contractor arrangements to individuals who are genuinely running their own business.
12. create and enforce industrial and immigration laws that stop the exploitation of foreign workers, by ensuring they receive the same pay and entitlements as a local worker doing the same job.
13. establish minimum employment standards for trainees and apprentices.
14. ensure that relevant training and skills development is made available to all workers, including apprentices, trainees, part-time and casual employees, without loss of pay.
15. abolish the Australian Building and Construction Commission and repeal the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act.
16. abolish the Office of the Employment Advocate and the Office of Workplace Services and reinstate the functions of the Industrial Relations Commission.
17. require the Commonwealth Occupational Health and Safety Authority (Comcare) to fund additional industry liaison staff, review provisions under Comcare so that workers receive fair treatment and benefits and are not disadvantaged.
18. introduce national industrial manslaughter laws.
19. ensure all employees, including casual, fixed term and probationary workers, and employees of small business have the same rights to challenge termination of employment where it is unfair, with reinstatement to be the remedy except in exceptional circumstances.
20. repeal the current National Code of Practice for the Construction Industry.
21. increase casual loadings to a minimum of 30% and introduce the ability for casual employees to convert to permanent part time work after 3 months of continuous employment, where employment is on a continuous ongoing basis.
22. provide a national paid parental leave scheme.
23. establish a National Pay Equity Standard to help correct the gender pay gap.
24. provide industrial tribunals with full powers to make orders to give effect to gender pay equity, on a workforce, industry or workplace basis.
25. establish industry trust funds for protection of workers' entitlements.
26. require the ABS to publish more meaningful monthly measures of underemployment and unemployment, with broader definitions of unemployment.
27. amend the Trade Practices Act to introduce a National Unfair Contracts regime.
28. use a combination of government job creation and industry policy to achieve full employment and job security for all who seek employment.

29. legislate for a mandatory minimum of five weeks paid annual leave for all employees.
30. limit the tax deductibility of any executive salaries to 25 times the minimum full-time adult wage.

Environmental Principles

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. use the Commonwealth's powers to protect and enhance Australia's environment and heritage.
2. establish a national Ecological Sustainability Commission to focus on issues of ecological integrity.
3. ensure that all responsibilities under international environmental treaties to which Australia is a signatory are clearly defined in national legislation.
4. promote globally sustainable development through support for a World Environment Organisation, combining the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
5. ensure that ecological and environmental principles are included in primary and secondary school curricula.
6. provide incentives to individuals and businesses to promote sustainability, while phasing out tax breaks, subsidies and other government policies that stimulate waste, pollution and environmental degradation.
7. ensure that Australia's reserve systems are comprehensive, adequate and representative of all of our unique ecosystems.
8. adopt a continent-wide approach to protection and restoration of Australia's natural environment, its rivers, wetlands and aquifers, wild lands and marine ecosystems, including the protection of old growth and high conservation value forests and other ecosystem types such as woodland, heathland, marshland, dune systems and grasslands and their wildlife.
9. require Australian companies operating overseas to comply with Australian environmental standards.
10. phase out the use of persistent and bio-accumulative chemicals, and prevent the release of hazardous chemicals into the environment and rehabilitate affected environments where possible.
11. strengthen the system of bio-security to prevent the introduction of pest plants and animals, and diseases.
12. implement shared management agreements with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to develop meaningful employment in natural resource management.

13. develop and adequately fund fuel reduction burning strategies based on the latest research on scientific fire ecology, fire behavior information and indigenous fire management practices, in consultation with experts, custodians and land managers
14. increase funding for bushfire research to include the effective use of fire, strategies for controlling arsonists, and best environmental and fire risk minimization in building practices.

Climate Change and Energy

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. take a leading role in negotiating a multilateral emission abatement treaty which includes binding emission targets for all countries.
2. establish binding national emission targets for 2012, 2020 and 2050 supported by a detailed strategy to reduce emissions from the energy, transport, industry, waste and land management sectors.
3. drive the equitable transition to a low carbon economy through a range of market-based and regulatory mechanisms reflecting the real costs of greenhouse gas emissions.
4. address the social impacts of the transition to a low carbon economy.
5. create a new ministerial position, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, to oversee the national response to climate change and the implementation of energy efficiency programs and standards.
6. establish a low greenhouse trigger in the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC), ensuring Federal oversight of developments which are liable to have a significant impact on domestic or global greenhouse emissions.
7. establish a national system of energy efficiency targets.
8. significantly increase the stringency of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for products, buildings and infrastructure.
9. ensure that renewable electricity provides 30% of national demand by 2020 by increasing the renewable energy target (RET) and by introducing measures such as feed-in tariffs and regulations to support a range of prospective new renewable energy technologies.
10. reform RET to exclude non-renewable sources, including greenfields coal-bed methane, and new hydroelectric and native forest fuelled power stations.
11. reform the National Electricity Market to remove the bias towards centralised coal-fired generation, and encourage demand management and the development of distributed generation and renewable energy.
12. review national gas resources and their allocation to ensure that Australia has sufficient gas to produce on-demand electricity in the transition to a fully renewable economy.

13. facilitate the rollout of smart meters with real-time communications technology and information display with measures to ensure that people who are on low incomes, unemployed or aged are not unfairly penalised.
14. transfer subsidies and government support, including funding for research and development, from the fossil fuel sectors to energy efficiency and renewable energy.
15. provide incentives, including any revenue raised from the above measures, to promote public transport, and to encourage research, development, and commercialisation of energy efficiency and renewable energy.
16. ensure that energy price subsidies are not used to attract or retain energy intensive industries.
17. oppose the establishment of new coal-fired power stations, new coal mines and the expansion of existing mines, as the technology to capture and store greenhouse gas emissions remains unproven.
18. ban public funding to refurbish any existing coal fired power stations.
19. develop a plan to assist affected communities in the transition from dependence on coal mining and coal-fired power stations, given that global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will inevitably reduce the demand for coal.
20. adopt the precautionary principle in relation to carbon capture and storage (geosequestration) by opposing public funding, and ensuring that companies are financially responsible for the risks of CO2 leakage.
21. phase in stringent fuel efficiency standards.
22. remove the GST on public transport.
23. reduce vehicle dependence and improve fuel efficiency by investing in public transport, providing housing with access to public transport and discouraging urban sprawl.
24. use government procurement policies to promote efficient passenger vehicles.
25. amend the Fringe Benefits Tax to remove the incentive to increase vehicle use.
26. phase out diesel fuel subsidies by removing energy credits.
27. support research, development and commercialisation of sustainable alternative fuels.
28. support the development and expansion of robust distribution networks for transitional and sustainable alternative fuels and charging facilities for electric vehicles.
29. increase community awareness about the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, about simple and cost-effective emission mitigation options, and about the need to plan for future climate change impacts.
30. help countries in our region to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and adapt to climate change through appropriate technology transfer and other forms of assistance.

Biological Diversity

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. promote the application of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) and the precautionary principle.
2. introduce national measures to end broadscale clearing and incremental loss of native vegetation.
3. establish buffer zones in high conservation areas, and link and restore ecological fragments on public and private land.
4. fund and enforce recovery plans for threatened and endangered species and ecological communities.
5. fund and enforce threat abatement plans for nationally listed threatening processes.
6. increase funding to biosecurity services to anticipate new alien invasive species threats posed by climate change and expanded pathways resulting from globalised trade and travel.
7. increase funding for research into humane and sustainable means of controlling existing and potential threats to biodiversity from feral animals, weeds and pest species.
8. increase and enforce penalties for the killing and/or capture of nationally listed threatened and endangered species, and for deliberate habitat destruction.
9. support programs that work with private landowners to protect and restore nature conservation values on their land, including conservation covenants.

Marine and Coastal Areas

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. introduce an Oceans Act that coordinates sustainability of ocean uses through a statutory National Oceans Authority, reporting to the parliament, and enforcing ecosystem-based regional management plans and targets.
2. as part of the Oceans Act, legally define Australia's exclusive economic zone as extending only to the internationally recognised 200 mile limit from the coastline, not the undersea continental shelf.
3. introduce new laws to address the full range of threats to marine mammals, protect animals from harm, and to conserve species.
4. in cooperation with the states and territories, review all offshore constitutional settlements to ensure consistent regulation across state and Commonwealth marine boundaries, and assess the need for a single National Oceans Authority administrative area for Australia's marine territory.

5. ensure that the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas program has legislated targets of a minimum of 30% 'no take' areas per bioregion by 2012.
6. expand the Indigenous Protected Areas Program to include marine based proclamations and management and develop programs for using traditional marine law and customary tenure systems for ecologically sustainable marine management.
7. fund the next regional marine planning process with a requirement for its completion around Australia within 10 years.
8. require States to implement regional marine planning processes in State waters that complement national Regional Marine Plans.
9. introduce random mandatory vessel monitoring systems in Australian waters and increase mandatory observer coverage to at least 50% of all commercial vessels.
10. phase out the entry into Australian waters of all single skin tankers.
11. create a register of unsafe or inappropriate vessels (identified by flags, owners, charterers and survey societies) and prohibit these from entering Australian waters.
12. appropriately resource the monitoring and evaluation of the state of Australia's marine and coastal resources.
13. establish trilateral agreements and adequately resource the implementation of the National Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management.
14. work with the states & territories to reduce land-based sources of marine pollution, including pollution from diffuse urban and agricultural sources.
15. introduce national standards for the ecological health of beaches and coastal lagoons.
16. strengthen the management of introduced marine pests, and investigate the most effective means by which to prevent their introduction by international shipping.
17. support all appropriate sanctuaries and measures to protect marine mammals from hunting, except for sustainable indigenous subsistence hunting.
18. reaffirm support for a comprehensive international ban on commercial whaling, the abolition of so called 'scientific' whaling, and an international ban on the sale of whale meat and by-products.
19. restrict the use of seismic devices and other technologies that cause ecological harm, particularly to marine mammals.
20. restrict the testing of military and naval explosive devices in the oceans to minimise the impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems.
21. eliminate harmful and toxic waste dumping into Australian waters.

Natural Resources

Forests, Plantations and Wood Products

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. end the export of woodchips and whole logs from native forests.

2. end the logging of high conservation value native forests and wildlife habitats.
3. end logging in native forests except, once export woodchipping from them is banned, in limited areas where small volumes of timber can be taken from defined areas under strict conditions and for specialty purposes.
4. prohibit the use of native forests for electricity generation.
5. nominate Australia's qualifying ancient forests for listing on the National and/or World Heritage registers.
6. abolish Regional Forest Agreements and replace the Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002 to ensure that forests, plantations and the wood productions industry are treated equally with other activities under environmental law.
7. implement a national wood products industry plan that will complete the transition from native forests to existing plantations, including retraining and other assistance for workers and the development of sustainable alternative fibre industries.

Fisheries

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

8. complete the independent ecological assessment of Australia's commercial fisheries under the provisions of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.
9. expand fisheries assessments to all Australian fisheries, including recreational fisheries, and develop and implement a national framework for managing recreational and charter fishing.
10. increase the number of Australia's marine reserves, particularly where these improve the resilience of vulnerable fish populations.
11. strengthen and continue Australia's proactive stance on illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, including assisting in the development of alternative employment opportunities for impoverished communities now relying on the illegal trade.
12. in cooperation with the states and territories, develop a nationally agreed framework for the assessment and regulation of aquaculture developments based on ecosystems management principles.
13. implement a moratorium on deep-sea bottom trawling in Australian waters and require by-catch reduction in all trawl fisheries.
14. maintain adequate, biologically representative 'no-take' areas within each fishery and/or marine bioregion.
15. ban all factory-ship based fishing in Australian pelagic fisheries.

Mining and Mineral Exploration

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

16. ensure that environmental and social impact assessments are rigorously applied and implemented on all mining proposals and projects.
17. prohibit the exploration for, and mining and export of, uranium.
18. oppose the establishment of new coal mines and the expansion of existing mines
19. prohibit mineral exploration and mining as well as extraction of petroleum and gas in terrestrial and marine nature conservation reserves, including national parks, wilderness areas and other areas of outstanding nature conservation value.
20. establish a national mining insurance fund, based on mining industry contributions, to provide resources sufficient to rehabilitate the environmental impacts of existing mining operations.>
21. ensure that all new mining proposals include a fully costed and funded allocation for the restoration and rehabilitation of the impacted area(s) to world's best practice standards.

Sustainable Agriculture

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. foster cooperative partnerships between governments, agribusiness, landholders and managers, and communities, to implement sustainable agricultural systems, methods and industries, and to undertake landscape restoration.
2. revise and improve existing strategies for natural resource management at both farm and catchment levels.
3. work for community consultation and participation in policy and decision-making in agricultural landscape management, with legislation, where appropriate.
4. address climatic variability and climate change through risk management strategies that minimise the adverse impacts of weather extremes, and encourage the adaptation of agricultural processes to climate change.
5. extend incentive schemes to landholders implementing sustainable farming systems.
6. review exceptional circumstances criteria which permit the continuation of degrading practices.
7. strengthen national research and development coordination and funding for new industries that deliver environmental and community benefits.
8. structure tax incentives to encourage private sector investment in sustainable new agricultural industries.
9. regulate for sustainable use of irrigation water and groundwater, including transparent pricing to promote efficient water use.
10. ensure agricultural land zoning reflects land use capability and protects prime agricultural land.
11. support initiatives that increase local product quality and nutrition, local value-adding and local distribution, and promote Australian produce to the Australian community.

12. support further research into alternatives to, and fund the transition from, the use of non-renewable energy, and agrochemicals such as pesticides and artificial fertilisers.
13. ensure better access for primary producers to services, expertise and technologies that improve the sustainability of their enterprises.
14. support food trading and processing practices that reduce transport, packaging and waste.
15. resource international and intranational biosecurity, pest, weed and disease control measures, to protect Australia's biodiversity, its agriculture, and people.
16. fund research into social and economic factors associated with changes in land use, transport and energy costs, and climate risk.
17. provide long-term funding for successful programs of sustainable landscape use.
18. promote ecologically sustainable approaches to land use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon in soil, and offer incentives for implementation.
19. seek and support fair trade and biosecurity in international trade agreements.
20. address soil degradation and soil health as key funding priorities for natural resource management programs.
21. promote organic agriculture.

Science and Technology

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. institute a funding program for scientific research that specifically addresses community needs and national goals.
2. protect the right of academics to develop and maintain a research career.
3. increase funding to expand the research capacity of Australian universities.
4. increase the proportion of research funding allocated to pure research and research for the public good.
5. prioritise funding for research into alternative energy technologies with the aim of developing competitive energy techniques with zero carbon emissions.
6. require the role of Chief Scientist to be a full time position and any applicant to be subject to a stringent conflict of interest test.
7. increase funding to the Australian Research Council and abolish the capacity for the Minister to veto board decisions.
8. create a Sustainability Commission to develop and implement sustainable industry strategies across all industry sectors, including a review of the Environmental Industry Action Agenda program.
9. refocus the CSIRO and CRCs back to public interest research and restore sufficient public funding to the CSIRO to allow it to conduct world-class research.
10. regulate to ensure that chemicals which are manufactured in nanoparticle form are treated as new chemicals for the purpose of checking environmental and health safety.

11. require organisations producing or importing more than 0.1kg of manufactured nanoparticles in a year to disclose information on the physical and chemical properties, toxicological data and methods of manufacture and use.
12. introduce mandatory labelling of consumer and industrial products that contain free manufactured nanoparticles.
13. ensure mandatory notification to all workers who may face occupational exposure to manufactured nanoparticles.
14. fund research into nanotechnology and its environmental and health impacts.
15. involve the community in decisions about the safe development of new technologies.
16. encourage government use of open-source software and require the use of open and publicly documented file formats.
17. regulate to ensure that network neutrality is maintained on the internet.
18. investigate opportunities to limit the growing concentration of nanotechnology intellectual property rights, especially in applications where knowledge is utilised for food production, or in humanitarian purposes (eg healthcare, water treatment).

Sustainable Planning and Transport

Development

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

1. include ecological sustainability as a funding criterion for all federal development and infrastructure programmes.
2. establish a national report card for development targets and building standards to promote Australia's progress towards its ecological sustainability goals.
3. establish a Sustainability Fund to deliver funding to states and local governments to assist with implementing sustainability initiatives.
4. develop national urban planning standards that provide for the location of high density housing and commercial buildings close to high capacity public transport, and the clustering of medium-density housing, community facilities and small-scale businesses around neighbourhood shopping centres.

Transport

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

5. reform the national transport plan and its funding mix to take account of environmental, social and economic goals.

6. work to achieve public ownership of the rail network connecting capital cities, industrial cities and ports.
7. raise the rail network to a standard which enables the operation of fast freight and passenger trains, including between mainland capital cities.
8. eliminate level crossings in urban areas, and ensure the presence of signals on all crossings in rural and regional parts of the national rail network.
9. support compulsory noise and emissions standards for petrol and diesel vehicles which are at least as stringent as European Union standards.
10. adopt enforceable world's best practice fuel efficiency standards of new petrol and diesel cars by 2010.
11. support mandatory fuel efficiency labelling of new vehicles.
12. increase the tariff on imported four-wheel drive vehicles from 5% to 10% except for primary producers.
13. abolish fringe benefits tax breaks for company and leased cars.
14. invest Commonwealth research and development funding in alternative fuels and propulsion systems for public transport.