

Nick Xenophon

June 2014

Nick Xenophon is an independent Senator for South Australia. Senator Xenophon has been elected to both the Australian Senate and South Australian Legislative Council on various independent tickets, including the No Pokies ticket and the Nick Xenophon Group ticket.

Senator Xenophon will join a key group of minor party and independent cross bench Senators set to hold the balance of power in the Senate from 1 July 2014. Senator Xenophon has previously held the balance of power in both the South Australian and Federal upper houses.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the 2013 Senate election is available [here](#).

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Electoral history | 1 |
| Key personnel | 2 |
| Key principles | 3 |
| Key policies..... | 3 |

Electoral history

South Australian Legislature – No Pokies

Nick Xenophon stood for the South Australian Legislative Council at the 1997 election under an Independent ‘No Pokies ticket’. At the election, he received 2.86 per cent of the state-wide vote, or a quota of 0.34. Through preferences from micro parties and Grey Power, he went on to achieve a quota of 1.08 and was the first Independent elected to the Legislative Council in 60 years.

At the 2006 South Australian election, he dramatically increased his vote, receiving 190,958 first preferences or 20.51 per cent of the total vote. This strong result enabled his re-election and also election of the second No Pokies candidate, Ann Bressington.

Following the 2006 election, the Labor government required four non-Labor upper house members to pass legislation, and the No Pokies on two seats shared the balance of power with Family First on two seats, the SA Greens and Democrats on one seat each.

On 11 October 2007, Nick Xenophon announced he would run for the Federal Senate and vacated his Legislative Council seat. Following a joint sitting of the South Australian parliament on 21 November 2007, former valuer-general John Darley, the third candidate on the No Pokies Party ticket in 2006, was appointed Nick Xenophon’s replacement.

Federal Parliament – Nick Xenophon Group

At the 2007 Federal election, Nick Xenophon received a total of 148,789 votes, representing 14.78 per cent of enrolled electors, and was elected Senator for South Australia.

At the 2013 federal election Xenophon was easily re-elected and increased his vote to 24.9 per cent, just short of two quotas.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the Senate election results at the 2013 Federal election is available [here](#).

Key personnel

Nick Xenophon

Nick Xenophon was born in South Australia and studied law at the University of Adelaide, where he was for a period a member of the Young Liberals. After university, he established and became principal of his own plaintiff law firm, Xenophon & Co.

Nick Xenophon was elected at the 1997 state election on the Independent No Pokies ticket. Following the election of the Rann Labor Government in 2002, he held the balance of power in the Legislative Council along with other minor parties including Family First and the Democrats.

After his election to Federal Parliament as Senator for South Australia in 2007, Nick Xenophon held the balance of power in the Senate with the Australian Greens and Family First from mid-2008 until July 2011.

In addition to his strong anti-pokies stand, Senator Xenophon has campaigned on water for South Australia, small business issues and politicians entitlements

South Australia – No Pokies

No Pokies is an independent South Australian Legislative Council ticket formed by Nick Xenophon that contested the 1997, 2002, and 2006 state elections. Independents elected from the ticket include:

- Nick Xenophon;
- Ann Bressington, anti-drugs campaigner, elected in 2006 as the second candidate on the No Pokies ticket; and
- John Darley, former valuer-general, third candidate on the No Pokies ticket in 2006 appointed to replace Nick Xenophon in the SA state legislature in 2007. John Darley ran again in 2014 as a candidate in the Independent Nick Xenophon Team.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on 2010 South Australian election is available [here](#).

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the 2006 South Australian election is available [here](#).

Federal – Nick Xenophon Group

The Nick Xenophon Group was founded in the lead-up to the 2013 federal election. It fielded the following Senate candidates in South Australia:

- Nick Xenophon;
- Stirling Griff, a retail industry consultant and former CEO of the Australian Retailers Association in South Australia, as the Campaign Director of NXG and the second candidate on its ticket; and
- John Darley as the third candidate on the ticket.

Key principles

The principal Aims of the Nick Xenophon Group are as follows:

- to be a fearless advocate and watchdog for South Australia;
- to stand up for those who feel they have no voice; and
- to inspire people to become leaders, not followers.

Key policies

Senator Xenophon's key policies in the Federal Parliament and through the Nick Xenophon Group are discussed below.

Gambling

- Senator Xenophon is a longstanding advocate for gambling reform, having run for South Australian Parliament in 1997 on a 'No Pokies' platform.
- In 2011 Senator Xenophon introduced legislation to:
 - Prohibit the broadcast of any form of gambling advertising during any G-rated program or sports broadcast
 - Ban micro betting (such as ball-by-ball bets), which greatly increases the potential for corruption in sport
 - Prevent the opening up of online gambling
- Senator Xenophon also introduced gambling reform in 2012 to implement the Productivity Commission's recommended \$1 maximum bet per spin and \$120 restriction on hourly losses. Both Labor and the Coalition voted against these measures.

Senator Xenophon's full online and sports betting policy is available [here](#).

Senator Xenophon's pokies policy is available [here](#).

Foreign Investment

- Senator Xenophon believes that the current foreign investment rules both are too lax and too vague to protect the national interest.
- Senator Xenophon has co-sponsored legislation to lower the threshold for scrutiny of foreign investment in agricultural land from \$248 million to \$5 million.
- Senator Xenophon's proposed legislation also sought to clarify the national interest test for FIRB decisions.

Senator Xenophon's full Foreign Investment policy is available [here](#).

Trade

- Senator Xenophon believes that the application Australian manufacturers are required to lodge in order to have Customs investigate potential 'dumping' is lengthy, expensive and onerous.
- Senator Xenophon has introduced Private Senator's Bill aimed at strengthening the application process and improving the procedures for Australian businesses. Some of the measures were adopted by the Government
- The proposed bill is available [here](#).

Senator Xenophon's full Dumping policy is available [here](#).

Auto manufacturing

- Senator Xenophon opposes cuts to the Automotive Transformation Scheme, arguing that it will hasten a collapse of the local car industry and further reduce the ability of workers to move to other industries and has vowed to work to block any attempt to slash the ATS in the Senate (media release [here](#)).

Water

Senator Xenophon has argued for a strengthen national framework through the following measures:

- the fast-tracking of Storm water harvesting;
- acknowledgement of South Australia as an early-adopter of water efficiency measures; and
- access to federal infrastructure grants for irrigators value-adding to agricultural produce more easily.

The full Nick Xenophon Group Water policy is available [here](#).

Qantas and Aviation

- In 2013, Senator Xenophon strongly criticised the decision by Qantas to t at least 1000 Australian jobs (press release available [here](#));
- Senator Xenophon also introduced legislation to require Australian airlines to provide overseas-based flight and cabin crew operating on flights within Australia the same pay and conditions as their Australian counterparts (available [here](#));
- Senator Xenophon has opposed recent proposals to amend the Qantas Sale Act. Senator Xenophon’s dissenting report to the Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport’s Inquiry into ‘Qantas’ future as a strong national carrier supporting jobs in Australia’ is available [here](#).

Climate Change

- Senator Xenophon opposes both the Coalition Government’s direct action plan and the former Labor Government’s carbon pricing and emissions trading schemes.
- Senator Xenophon advocates for the introduction of the model developed by Frontier Economics that rewards low-emission industries while punishing high-emission industries. More information on the model is available [here](#).
- Senator Xenophon supports the current renewable energy target, although has expressed concerns that its current rules are stacked against baseload renewables such as geothermal and solar-thermal. He cautions against an over reliance on wind energy because of its intermittent power generation and cost.

Senator Xenophon’s full Climate Change policy is available [here](#).

Employment and Workplace Relations

Senator Xenophon advocates for:

- ongoing reviews of the employment and workplace relations system; and
- for penalty rates to not apply during normal trading hours on weekends for small businesses with fewer than 20 full-time equivalent employees.

The full Nick Xenophon Group Workplace Relations policy is available [here](#).

Healthcare

Senator Xenophon believes that high quality, easily accessible health care is a fundamental right for all Australians. Senator Xenophon advocates for

- increased emphasis on preventative health care, including targeted funding to reduce conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and osteoporosis;
- enhancing local care and existing GP clinics, rather than funding large-scale government run super clinics;
- the expansion of telemedicine for regional communities; and
- the reinstatement of the 30 per cent private health insurance rebate.

The full Nick Xenophon Group Healthcare policy is available [here](#).

Food Labelling

- Senator Xenophon has argued for the introduction of legislation to ensure accurate and truthful labelling of country of origin, palm oil and products containing genetically modified ingredients.

Senator Xenophon's full Food Labelling policy is available [here](#).