

# Higgins Climate Scorecard – Candidates’ Scores

23 April 2022

**Note:** Scores are based on consideration of the detailed policies published by the candidates or their parties. Verbatim extracts from the relevant policies (and links to the original documents and webpages) can be found in the appendix. Candidates are in alphabetical order.

## 1. Recognises the climate emergency

- **Good:** Clear statement recognising the climate emergency and the need for emergency action; support for a climate emergency declaration
- **Fair:** Recognition of the seriousness of the threat of climate change, but limited emphasis on the need for emergency/urgent action
- **Poor:** No recognition of the climate emergency or the need for urgent action; active opposition to a climate emergency declaration

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Policy overview</b>	<b>Score</b>
Katie Allen Liberal	No acknowledgement of the emergency or the need for urgent action.	Poor
Michelle Ananda-Rajah Labor	Strong statement of principle on the emergency (in the <i>ALP National Platform</i> ) and support for Greens motion in the House for an emergency declaration in December 2020.	Good
Matthew Ford Liberal Democrat	No recognition of the climate emergency ('climate alarmist ideology').	Poor
Andrew Johnson Reason	Clear recognition of the climate emergency and demand for an emergency declaration.	Good
Suzie Menoudakis Australian Federation	Policies make no reference to climate change.	Poor
Sonya Semmens Greens	Clear recognition of the climate emergency and support for an emergency declaration in Federal Parliament, including introduction of a Climate Emergency Bill in 2020.	Good
Ingram M Spencer UAP	No explicit policy on climate change or acknowledgement of the climate emergency.	Poor
Alicia Walker Animal Justice	Clear recognition of the climate emergency and supports an emergency declaration.	Good

## 2. Ambitious 2030 emissions reduction target

- **Good:** minimum 60% reduction on 2005 levels
- **Fair:** 40% - 59% reduction on 2005 levels
- **Poor:** Less than 40% reduction on 2005 levels

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Policy overview</b>	<b>Score</b>
Katie Allen Liberal	26%-28% emissions reduction compared to 2005 levels by 2030; project actual reduction of 35%.	Poor
Michelle Ananda-Rajah Labor	43% emissions reduction compared to 2005 levels by 2030.	Fair
Matthew Ford Liberal Democrat	Opposes emissions targets.	Poor
Andrew Johnson Reason	Supports 'aiming for zero carbon by 2030'.	Good
Suzie Menoudakis Australian Federation	No reference to emissions targets.	Poor
Sonya Semmens Greens	A 2030 target is not explicitly stated in the election platform documents, but policy principles include a net zero or net negative target of 2035, which implies an ambitious 2030 target; this is reflected in the COP26-related campaign in 2021 for a legislated emissions reduction target of 75% by 2030.	Good
Ingram M Spencer UAP	No reference to climate change and no emissions targets specified.	Poor
Alicia Walker Animal Justice	No explicit 2030 target, but committed to net zero by 2035, implying an ambitious 2030 target.	Good

### 3. Rapid move to 100% renewable energy

- Scoring is confined to policies related to the national electricity grid
- **Good:** At least 95% renewable generation for national electricity grid by 2030 with clear policies to achieve the target
- **Fair:** 80% - 94% renewable generation for national electricity grid by 2030 with clear policies to achieve the target
- **Poor:** Less than 80% renewable generation by 2030

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Policy overview</b>	<b>Score</b>
Katie Allen Liberal	<p>No 2030 renewables target. Very unambitious projection of 85% renewable electricity generation by 2050, with some coal and ‘a significant proportion’ of gas generation.</p> <p>Limited policies to drive the transition, with the primary focus on supporting technology development and cost reduction; the Technology Investment Roadmap is ‘expected to guide’ \$20 billion of government investment in low emissions technologies to 2030, including ‘ultra low-cost solar’ and batteries.</p> <p>Technology deployment is to be led by the private sector. Government investments to support renewables deployment include Snowy 2.0 (\$1.38 billion) and electricity grid development.</p> <p>Investment in new dispatchable generation, including underwriting a new 660 MW open cycle gas turbine in NSW; this is clearly at odds with the transition to renewables.</p> <p>Current priority is delivering a post-2025 energy market design, with reforms to ‘meet long-term consumer interests’.</p>	Poor
Michelle Ananda-Rajah Labor	<p>Relatively modest projected renewables capacity of 82% by 2030 (compared with 68% for business-as-usual). Clearly articulated but limited policies to achieve this transition, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment in electricity grid so it can handle more renewables (\$20 billion)</li> <li>• Co-invest in solar banks for renters and low-income households (\$100 million)</li> <li>• Invest in community batteries (\$200 million)</li> <li>• Reduce public service emissions</li> </ul> <p>Support for the ‘critical role’ of gas in achieving net zero emissions is at odds with a rapid transition to renewables.</p>	Fair
Matthew Ford Liberal Democrat	<p>No policies to drive the transition to renewables beyond reliance on the free market; no renewables (or emissions) target. Supports development of nuclear power in part to reduce emissions, but with no reference to its economic feasibility (or other significant issues).</p>	Poor
Andrew Johnson Reason	<p>High level policies only; support for transition from coal to ‘decentralised green energy production’, ‘fast electrification’, investment in renewables and incentives to reduce industrial emissions; but no renewables target and the timing for ‘large-scale industrial transformation’ is 2030s and 2040s.</p>	Fair

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Policy overview</b>	<b>Score</b>
Suzie Menoudakis Australian Federation	No reference to the transition to renewables.	Poor
Sonya Semmens Greens	<p>Ambitious policy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid government-supported shift to 100% renewable energy</li> <li>• 700% renewable energy target, including export of renewable energy</li> <li>• Ban construction of new coal, oil and gas infrastructure</li> <li>• Public investment to phase out every coal fired power plant by 2030</li> <li>• Public investment in renewable generation, storage and transforming the power grid, including a \$20 billion Grid Transformation Fund</li> <li>• Financial support for households and small business to get off gas and move to electricity</li> <li>• Financial support for households to install batteries to maximise use of renewables</li> <li>• Creation of a publicly owned non-profit power retailer</li> <li>• Regulatory intervention and a strong effective price on carbon</li> <li>• Removal of fossil fuel subsidies</li> </ul> <p>Target date for 100% renewable electricity is not specified; however, the transition is to be 'as soon as possible' and a 2030 target is implied ('government led clean energy revolution over the next decade').</p>	Good
Ingram M Spencer UAP	No reference to the transition to renewables.	Poor
Alicia Walker Animal Justice	High level policies only; supports prohibition of fossil fuel expansion and 'rapid transition to carbon free energy infrastructure', but this is defined as 15-20 years; supports a carbon tax, with proceeds used for clean energy, sustainable agriculture and education.	Fair

#### 4. Substantial incentives for electric vehicles

- **Good:** Strong consumer incentives (including reduced government charges to lower EV purchase prices), strengthened vehicle emissions standards, policies to promote charging infrastructure development and a target of 2035 or better for all new vehicles to be zero emissions
- **Fair:** Consumer incentives and policies to promote charging infrastructure development
- **Poor:** Limited policies to support/promote EV uptake

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Policy overview</b>	<b>Score</b>
Katie Allen Liberal	<p>Primary focus on charging infrastructure, with no policy to reduce EV purchase prices, no strengthened vehicle emissions standards and no target for EV new car sales; estimate only 30% of new light vehicle sales will be EV or hybrid by 2030. Policies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An expanded \$250 million Future Fuels Fund to leverage private investment in public charging infrastructure, heavy and light commercial vehicle fleets and household smart charging</li> <li>• A new Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) method to encourage private investment in charging infrastructure</li> <li>• Market reforms to ensure EV-readiness of the grid</li> <li>• Ensuring easy to understand information is available for consumers.</li> </ul>	Poor
Michelle Ananda-Rajah Labor	<p>No target for EV new car sales, no new emissions standards and relatively modest consumer incentives (\$250 million over 3 years):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove import tariffs (reduce cost of \$50,000 EV by \$2,000)</li> <li>• Exempt EVs from fringe benefit tax, saving employers up to \$9,000 on a \$50,000 model.</li> </ul> <p>Support for more charging infrastructure by working with the states on federally funded projects, reviewing the construction code and through City Deals.</p>	Fair
Matthew Ford Liberal Democrat	No reference to EVs or transport emissions.	Poor
Andrew Johnson Reason	Supports no new petrol car sales from 2030, subsidies for production and sale of EVs, ensuring the grid is EV-ready and hydrocarbon fuel standards; no explicit reference to emissions standards, but this omission is made up for by the ambitious target date for the end of petrol vehicle sales.	Good
Suzie Menoudakis Australian Federation	No reference to EVs or transport emissions.	Poor
Sonya Semmens Greens	<p>Strong set of policies including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the cost of electric vehicles by up to \$15,000 and provide cheap finance for the balance</li> <li>• Build \$2 billion publicly owned charging network</li> <li>• End the sale of petrol or diesel car sales from 2030</li> <li>• Legislate tough vehicle pollution standards to drive down emissions.</li> <li>• Electrify the Commonwealth fleet by 2025</li> </ul>	Good

<b><i>Candidate</i></b>	<b><i>Policy overview</i></b>	<b><i>Score</i></b>
Ingram M Spencer UAP	No reference to EVs or transport emissions.	Poor
Alicia Walker Animal Justice	Supports rapid transition to EVs and other clean vehicle technology (e.g. hydrogen); proposes incentives for consumers and producers and better emissions standards; but no policy on charging infrastructure or an explicit date for new vehicle sales to be zero emissions.	Fair

## 5. No new fossil fuel mining (thermal coal, gas or oil)

- **Good:** Clear statement that no new fossil fuel mines will be allowed (with the possible exception of metallurgical coal); preferably a plan for phase out of fossil fuel exports
- **Fair:** Clear statement that no new coal mines will be allowed (with the possible exception of metallurgical coal); preferably no new fracking and a phase out plan for fossil fuel exports
- **Poor:** Not opposed to new fossil fuel mines (may include government support for opening new gas fields)

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Policy overview</b>	<b>Score</b>
Katie Allen Liberal	Strong support for fossil fuel mining and policy for a 'gas-fired recovery'; significant public funding for new gas field development (via the National Gas Infrastructure Plan), including more than \$220 million for the Beetaloo Strategic Basin Plan.	Poor
Michelle Ananda-Rajah Labor	Support for fossil fuel mining in general and no statement opposing new mines. States gas has an important role to play in achieving net zero and explicitly supports new gas projects.	Poor
Matthew Ford Liberal Democrat	No reference to fossil fuel mining in policy documents.	Poor
Andrew Johnson Reason	Support divestment from all fossil fuel exploration, mining and exports, but has no policy to prohibit (or phase out) new fossil fuel mines.	Poor
Suzie Menoudakis Australian Federation	No reference to fossil fuel mining here or elsewhere on the website.	Poor
Sonya Semmens Greens	Clear statement of opposition to new coal, gas and oil development and planned phase out of coal exports by 2030 and other fossil fuels by 2040 (excluding metallurgical coal).	Good
Ingram M Spencer UAP	No policy to phase out of fossil fuel mining.	Poor
Alicia Walker Animal Justice	Ban new coal mines and natural gas wells and phase out current mines and operations; also ban fracking and prohibit oil drilling in the Great Australian Bight.	Good

## 6. Strong independent integrity commission

- **Good:** An independent commission with strong powers to investigate any potentially corrupt conduct affecting public decision-making by any persons including politicians, public servants and 3<sup>rd</sup> parties, and with the ability to:
  - initiate public hearings
  - make public reports
  - act on the basis of information from any source
  - investigate historical corruption
- **Fair:** An independent commission with strong powers to investigate any potentially corrupt conduct affecting public decision-making by (at least) politicians and public servants and at least 2 of the 4 other powers specified in the ‘good’ category
- **Poor:** An independent commission with limits on the scope of conduct covered and/or lesser powers than in the ‘fair’ category

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Policy overview</b>	<b>Score</b>
Katie Allen Liberal	<p>A weak proposal for an integrity commission; key deficiencies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope confined to serious criminal conduct</li> <li>• Unable to make findings of corruption at large in the public sector (including politicians); only the courts able to make corruption finding</li> <li>• Cannot act on referrals from the public regarding the public sector (including politicians)</li> <li>• Would not have the power to hold public hearings regarding corruption in the public sector (including politicians).</li> </ul> <p>Refer to the independent analysis of options by the <a href="#">Centre for Public Integrity</a> and their detailed <a href="#">analysis of the Government’s proposal</a>.</p>	Poor
Michelle Ananda-Rajah Labor	<p>Propose a strong independent commission covering public servants, politicians and their staff; features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to initiate inquiries into serious and systemic corruption</li> <li>• Ability to act in response to whistleblowers and public complaints</li> <li>• Commissioner with single fixed term and security of tenure</li> <li>• Overseen by bipartisan Parliamentary Committee</li> <li>• Power to investigate historical corruption</li> <li>• Power to hold public hearings</li> <li>• Power to make findings of fact (including corrupt conduct), but not make determinations of criminal liability; potential criminal conduct to be referred to police or DPP</li> <li>• Findings subject to judicial review.</li> </ul> <p>Labor supported both the Greens’ Bill and the Helen Haines’ Bill in Parliament, both of which would create a strong independent commission (refer to the independent analysis by the <a href="#">Centre for Public Integrity</a>).</p>	Good
Matthew Ford Liberal Democrat	No reference to a Federal integrity commission.	Poor

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Policy overview</b>	<b>Score</b>
Andrew Johnson Reason	Support for a fully funded and powerful Federal ICAC, with power to conduct public hearings and launch investigations against current and previous governments, public servants and MPs.	Good
Suzie Menoudakis Australian Federation	No reference Federal integrity commission.	Poor
Sonya Semmens Greens	<p>Propose a strong independent commission covering public servants and politicians; features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive powers to investigate potential corruption</li> <li>• Same powers covering politicians and public servants</li> <li>• Ability to act on public tip offs</li> <li>• Ability to investigate historical behaviour (10 years)</li> <li>• Power to hold public hearings</li> <li>• Strong protection for whistleblowers and journalists.</li> </ul> <p>The Greens' own Bill and the Bill introduced by Helen Haines (and supported by the Greens) would both create a strong independent commission (refer to the independent analysis by the <a href="#">Centre for Public Integrity</a>).</p>	Good
Ingram M Spencer UAP	No reference to a Federal integrity commission.	Poor
Alicia Walker Animal Justice	Very high level statement of support only for a Federal integrity commission, with no attempt to specify scope or powers.	Poor

## 7. Political donation law reform

- **Good:** Major strengthening of current laws including:
  - caps on donation amounts
  - caps on parties', candidates' and 3<sup>rd</sup> parties' expenditure
  - increased public funding of parties' campaigns
  - continuous disclosure of donations and reduced disclosure threshold
- **Fair:** Some strengthening of current laws, including at least 2 of the 4 areas in the 'good' category
- **Poor:** Marginal (or no) tightening of current arrangements (less than in the 'fair category')

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Policy overview</b>	<b>Score</b>
Katie Allen Liberal	No reference to political donations law reform.	Poor
Michelle Ananda-Rajah Labor	Limited reform specified in policy documents, including public funding for elections and limiting Federal campaign expenditure; no reference to caps on donations or improved disclosure requirements. However, Labor has introduced Bills in the Senate for real time disclosure of donations and a lowered disclosure level.	Fair
Matthew Ford Liberal Democrat	No reference to political donations law reform	Poor
Andrew Johnson Reason	Supports election spending caps, donation limits, public funding for electoral activity and real-time disclosure of donations.	Good
Suzie Menoudakis Australian Federation	No reference to donations law reform.	Poor
Sonya Semmens Greens	Extensive reforms including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ban on donations from mining, development, tobacco, alcohol, gambling, banking, defence and pharmaceutical industries</li> <li>• cap of \$1,000 on other donations</li> <li>• timely disclosure of donations</li> <li>• public funding of election campaigns and party administration</li> <li>• caps on election expenditure (parties, candidates and 3<sup>rd</sup> parties)</li> </ul>	Good
Ingram M Spencer UAP	No reference to political donations law reform.	Poor
Alicia Walker Animal Justice	Strong statement of principle and policy including caps on donations and expenditure and real-time disclosure; no mention of increased public funding for campaigns, but this is implied.	Good