

House of Representatives (Reid):

Fiona Martin (Liberal, Sitting MP)

Early in her term of office she didn't believe that local residents saw climate change as a major policy issue. Three years of listening has shown her that they do. As chair of the House Select Committee on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, last year she discussed the "growing evidence" linking mental health and climate change. But during this election campaign, climate change has barely raised a mention from her. As a member of the Liberal-National Party coalition, she votes on the floor of the House to support a government that has been singled out by the world's environmental leaders as "climate laggards". Australia's promotion of Carbon Capture Storage at COP26 was an international embarrassment. The government of Scott Morrison has pledged to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050 without any sound plan on how to get there. Subsidies for fossil fuels continue. Vocal dissent over climate policy continues within LNP ranks.

We regard the Liberal Party as **unsuitable for re-election**. If this is to be Dr Martin's sole term as a Member of Parliament, let the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention committee be her legacy.

Sally Sitou (Labor)

Labor's policy on emissions reduction calls for a carefully calculated 43% reduction by 2030. In government they would be expected to report to COP27 later this year with a stronger target than that. Their Powering Australia platform covers much of their industrial policy to achieve climate targets, encompassing among other things an electric vehicle rollout, solar power banks, "green" metal production, and a net-zero-by-2030 pledge for the Australian Public Service. It also includes the installation of 400 community batteries across Australia, one of which has been pledged for Cabarita. However, Labor has also pledged to keep coal mines open as long as the export market for coal exists – an appeasement to electorates in the Hunter Valley and central Queensland.

Sally Sitou appears to be one of the more progressive candidates within the Labor Party in terms of climate change awareness. We regard her as **suitable for election**. In a binary choice with the Liberal-National Party coalition, we regard the Labor Party as the **preferred party for government**.

Charles Jago (Greens)

For twenty years or so the Greens have been the trail-blazers in development of climate policy in Australia. Their focus has, however, been clouded by taking on board a myriad of other social justice issues of varying merit. For the 2022 election, their climate platform is centred on the complete phasing out of fossil fuels, and the achievement of net zero emissions by 2035. They have developed a plan for financial security for workers displaced from the coal industry, and state that all of their policies are fully costed.

We regard Charles Jago, as the Greens candidate for Reid for the second consecutive time, as **suitable for election**.

Sahar Khalili (Fusion Party)

The Fusion Party was created as a merger of five parties (Science, Pirate, Secular, Vote Planet and Climate Change Justice), motivated by the need to have a sufficient number of members for registration as a party for this election. Whether they can hold together ideologically into the future remains to be seen. They propose to declare a national climate emergency, achieve net zero emissions “in ten years”, and set a renewable energy target of 800%, as well as publishing a detailed Ecological Restoration platform. One significant difference from the Greens and Labor is that the Fusion Party supports the use of nuclear power as an energy source.

Sahar comes to the Fusion Party via the Science Party. She has run an energetic and high-profile campaign in Reid. Fusion’s corflute design has been a notable standout from the conventional format used by other parties. While we do wonder how the five-party merger will hold in the long term, we regard Sahar Khalili and the Fusion Party as **suitable for election**.

Natalie Baini (Independent)

Natalie Baini is a former member of the Liberal Party who had a falling out with her colleagues and decided to run as an Independent. Much of her campaign has consisted of an attack on the incumbent Liberal, Fiona Martin, with emphasis on her own residency as a local within the electorate. Policy is focused on support for small business. Ms Baini has acknowledged on several occasions the significance of climate change and the need for urgent action to fix the problem, but has issued no policies to achieve this.

Given this omission, we regard Natalie Baini’s position as **inadequate** to justify her election.

Andrew Cameron (Liberal Democrats)

According to the LDP website, Cameron is a “keen student of history and someone who has followed politics his whole life”. The LibDems have a “freedom manifesto” rather than a policy platform. It makes no reference to “climate change” but several to “climate alarmist ideology”. They have no net zero emissions plan and would abolish the Renewable Energy Target.

We regard the Liberal Democrats’ policy as **hostile** to climate action, thereby rendering Andrew Cameron unsuitable for election.

Jamal Daoud (United Australia Party)

Jamal Daoud is the UAP candidate for Reid and has been actively campaigning, especially within the Muslim community.

Nationally, the UAP’s campaign strategy centres around spending exorbitant amounts of money to criticise the government’s exorbitant debt, and to make wildly unrealistic promises on things like low interest home loans. The United Australia Party supports the use of nuclear power as an energy

source. Clive Palmer has apparently acknowledged the need to reduce carbon emissions but has not released any detail on how to do so beyond a transition to nuclear.

We regard the United Australia Party's climate policies as **inadequate**, thereby rendering Jamal Daoud unsuitable for election.

Edward Walters (Pauline Hanson's One Nation)

Edward Walters lives in central Queensland and has never visited the electorate of Reid. He has told the ABC he might "take a motorbike ride down to have a look". His nomination was apparently done randomly by One Nation HQ. One Nation's policy priorities include zero-net immigration and the abolition of Covid vaccine mandates. One Nation has no climate policies, no acknowledgement of climate change, and appears to regard climate action as part of a global conspiracy against freedom.

We regard One Nation's policies as **hostile**, and Edward Walters, wherever he is, as unsuitable for election.