

Composition of Senate in NSW

At this election voters throughout NSW are choosing six senators to represent the state for the next six years.

Four Senators are up for re-election: Deb O'Neill, Jenny McAllister (Labor); Marise Payne, Jim Molan (Liberal). Two Senators whose term expires this year chose not to stand for re-election: Concetta Ferravanti-Wells (Liberal), Kristina Keneally (Labor)

The six Senators chosen at this election will join the six NSW senators elected at 2019 half-senate election (terms expire June 30 2025):

Andrew Bragg, Hollie Hughes (Liberal); Perin Davey (National); Tim Ayres, Tony Sheldon (Labor); Mehreen Faruqi (Greens).

Each of the parties on the Senate ballot are evaluated here, chiefly on the basis of their climate, energy and environmental policies. We've listed them below, firstly those we consider suitable for election, followed by those unsuitable for election, and then those (mostly special-interest parties) for whom we offer no position.

Assessment of Climate Policies of Parties on 2022 Ballot:

SUITABLE FOR ELECTION:

Column A

Animal Justice Party

(Lead NSW candidate: Daniel Brollo)

The AJP has a broad range of policies formulated with animal welfare at the forefront. Many (eg Aquaculture, Farming, Human Diet, Energy) that overlap on climate and environmental issues. They claim to be "the only political party with a science-based climate policy". They do not set any emission reduction targets, but pledge to phase out fossil fuels and implement a carbon tax on both the fossil fuel and animal agriculture industries. They oppose the use of natural gas as a "transition" fuel. They aim to phase out sheep and cattle farming with the objective of permitting both reforestation of grazing areas, and reduction in methane emission. Unlike the Global Methane Pledge signed at COP26 by many countries (not including Australia) calling for 30% methane production by 2030, the AJP has not set any measurable targets for methane reduction.

We regard the Animal Justice Party as **suitable** for consideration as a top-six candidate.

Column B

TNL

(Lead NSW candidate: Steve Keen)

Originally named The New Liberals but forced to change their name to avoid confusion with their old namesakes, they have a thorough climate paper among their policy documents, written by three academics including lead NSW candidate Steve Keen. They support net zero emissions by 2030. All new vehicles registered in Australia in 2030 should be EVs. In government they would establish a "War Cabinet" including the opposition leader, state premiers and key industry and union leaders as well as key government ministers. They will employ displaced workers in the mining and other industries for a year at a "living wage" while they retrain.

We take no position on TNL's broader policy platforms, but with regard to climate, we consider them **suitable** as a top-six candidate for the Senate.

Column E

The Greens

(Lead NSW candidate: David Shoebridge)

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 The Greens as **suitable for election** to the Senate crossbench.

Column H

Reason Australia

(Lead NSW candidate: Jane Caro)

Amidst a solid progressive platform, Reason Australia proposes the declaration of a climate emergency by the federal government; net zero by 2030; no new petrol-driven vehicles by 2030; the establishment of an Industrial Transformation Future Fund; the implementation of all recommendations of the IPCC.

We consider Reason Australia as **suitable for election** to the Senate crossbench.

Column I

Socialist Alliance

(Lead NSW candidate: Paula Sanchez)

Much of their climate platform is similar to other parties: 100% renewables within 5-10 years, no new fossil fuel projects, no nuclear energy, guaranteed work for all displaced from the fossil fuel industries. They also call for all power generation industry to be in public ownership; guaranteed asylum for all climate refugees; and an Environmental Restoration and Employment Program funded by corporate bank transactions. Much of their platform however is nothing more than dot-point items.

Whether you regard the SA as a **suitable** Senate candidate will depend on the extent of your appetite for socialist ideology.

Column K

Australian Democrats

(Lead NSW candidate: Steve Baty)

A lot has changed since the days of Don Chipp and Janine Haines, when the Democrats had almost a monopoly on the “third party” tag. Today they are drowning in a crowded field of competitors. In their climate platform, titled “A Decade Of Climate Action”, they call for a minimum 66% emissions reduction by 2030 with net zero by 2050, a carbon price starting at \$30 per tonne, a Just Transition Authority overseeing the transition from fossil fuels, and rejection of nuclear power on economic grounds. They have also published a Sustainable Agriculture Plan.

We regard the Australian Democrats as **suitable** for consideration as a top six candidate.

Column R

Fusion Party

(Lead NSW candidate: Andrea Leong)

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.

We regard the Fusion Party as **suitable** for consideration as a top-six candidate.

Column V

Labor

(Lead NSW candidates: Deborah O’Neill, Jenny McAllister, Shireen Morris)

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.

We regard a robust crossbench of competent progressive parties in the Senate as a valuable component of Australian democracy, with Labor in a position in the top six where it can soak up any leftover preferences. Labor is **suitable** for election.

UNSUITABLE FOR ELECTION:

Column C

Australian Citizens Party

(Lead NSW candidate: Kingsley Liu)

Formerly known as the Citizens Electoral Council. Their position on Climate Change begins by saying “The Citizens Party rejects the hysteria of climate alarmism and has exposed the politicised claims of climate change to be fraud. “

We regard the Australian Citizens Party’s position on climate as **hostile** and recommend not giving them a preference on the ballot.

Column D

Sustainable Australia

(Lead NSW candidate: Georgia Lamb)

Sustainable Australia has some good policies on climate and emissions: minimum net zero by 2050, preferred net zero by 2035, 50% reduction by 2030, no new coal mines, phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, and a "globally consistent carbon pricing mechanism". All of these are aimed at keeping temperature increases to 1.5 degrees. However, at the centre of their platform is population control - a cap of 30 million on Australia's population by 2050, reduction of Australia's annual immigration intake to 70,000 which includes a max of 14-20k humanitarian; abolition of all state-based proactive population growth policies (including sponsored migration).

We consider Sustainable Australia’s position on immigration undermines any global action on climate, sustainability and international security, and regard them as **unsuitable** for election.

Column F

untitled

(Lead NSW candidate: Max Boddy)

This group is actually the Socialist Equality Party. They have little to say in detail about combating climate change, except to support the School Strike For Climate and to advocate, in the words of partner body the IYSE (International Youth and Students for Social Equality), “the complete reorganisation of society and the productive forces”.

We regard this group’s climate policies as **inadequate** and therefore not suitable for election.

Column G

Liberal Party/National Party

(Lead NSW candidates: Marise Payne (Lib), Ross Cadell (Nat), Jim Molan (Lib))

The LNP government led by Scott Morrison and Barnaby Joyce has been singled out by the world’s environmental leaders as “climate laggards”. Australia’s Carbon Capture Storage promotion 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-National Party coalition as **unsuitable for re-election**.

Column M

Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party

(Lead NSW candidate: Shane Djuric)

The SFF states that it does not have a climate change policy, but that any policy must not “unnecessarily restrict the activities of farmers, resources, transport, manufacturing or any other industry.” Their documentation indicates an acknowledgement that increased human activity might cause changes to the climate, but they appear unconvinced that solid evidence exists.

We regard the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party as **unsuitable** for consideration as a top six candidate.

Column O

Informed Medical Options Party

(Lead NSW candidate: Michael O’Neill)

Some of the dot-points on this party’s environment link will tick boxes with climate activists (ban fracking, invest in “ethical energy”, save the Great Barrier Reef), but the party is opposed to compulsory vaccinations or any COVID restrictions, demands that Australia’s withdraw from the World Health Organisation and ban the rollout of 5G until “independent studies” prove it to be safe.

We recommend **do not put** a number against Column O.

Column P

The Great Australian Party

(Lead NSW candidate: Matthew Hopkins)

Former One Nation alumni appear among the list of founders of the GAP. Opposition to Agenda 21 is frequently stated in their policy documents. They advocate withdraw from the Kyoto Agreement. They believe in “clean energy” but condemn, in their words, “piddle-power projects that masquerade as significant energy sources”. They are preferencing the Informed Medical Options Party at number 2 on the Senate ballot.

We regard The Great Australia Party’s policies as **hostile** to climate action and do not recommend giving them a vote.

Column S

Pauline Hanson’s One Nation

(Lead NSW candidate: Kate McCulloch)

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 PHON’s policies as **hostile** to climate action and therefore unsuitable for election.

Column T

Liberal Democrats

(Lead NSW candidate: John Ruddick)

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 and therefore unsuitable for election.

Column W

United Australia Party

(Lead NSW candidate: Domenic Martino)

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 of low cost 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** and therefore unsuitable for election.

NO POSITION:

Column J

Federal ICAC Now

(Lead NSW candidate: Ross Jones)

They are a one-issue party. That issue is announced in their name, and other higher profile parties include this issue in their more comprehensive platforms.

Column L

Indigenous-Australian Party of Australia

(Lead NSW candidate: Uncle Owen Whyman)

A party of, run by, and about, Indigenous people whose policies all relate to Indigenous issues. They have no policies relating to climate but do have positions on traditional land management and improved management of water resources.

Column N

Seniors United Party of Australia

(Lead NSW candidate: Dessie Kocher)

Issues relating to senior and mature-aged persons are at the centre of SUPA's policy portfolio, but they do have positions on a broad range of national issues (National Service for school age children being one; a ban on government funding of sports stadia being another). On climate change, they say "If we fail to address this problem and find ways to reverse the process commenced many decades ago the consequences for the planet and us will be quite dire", but offer no suggestions.

We regard SUPA's climate policies as **inadequate**, and their suitability for election should be evaluated on their overall policy spectrum.

Column Q

Legalise Cannabis Australia

(Lead NSW candidate: Michael Balderstone)

The name of the party is their central platform. Their individual policy areas deal with the legal use of cannabis, while their environmental policy additionally deals with the removal of plastics from the ecosystem. They do not specifically refer to climate change.

Column U

Australian Values Party

(Lead NSW candidate: Selena Clancy)

Describing themselves as being in the "centre" of the political spectrum. Their platform places an emphasis on defence and national security, but are strangely fence-sitting on how to deal with climate change. Fossil fuels are absent from their energy plans and they are strong supporters of

nuclear power. Their strategy includes the offsetting of emissions, plus capture and conversion initiatives.

We wouldn't place the AVP in the top six for climate policies. Potential voters would be well advised to consider the full range of their policy platform.

