



National Security Election Snapshot

Resilience, Disaster Preparedness, and Environmental Security

National security has been prominent in Australia's 2022 Federal Election campaign. This document is part of a series that intends to provide a snapshot of some priorities and targets from the different political parties in the lead-up to the election.

Australia has experienced major climate-induced natural disasters and extreme weather events in recent years. This trend is expected to continue, challenging the resilience and preparedness of the population and placing significant strain on Australian society during times of crisis. Natural disasters and extreme weather events also impact that stability and prosperity of Australia's neighbours, especially Pacific island countries.

The Australian Liberal Party and Australian National Party Coalition (The Coalition)

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 76 and Senate – 36

- **Supports** net-zero by 2050 target. Its **net-zero modelling** relies on almost one third of emissions to be reduced by future “technology breakthroughs” and “global trends”. A further 20% would be achieved through offsets.
- The Coalition Government’s “Plan to Deliver Net-Zero” is underpinned by a **technology roadmap** which prioritises investment in clean hydrogen, energy storage, low emissions steel and aluminium and carbon capture and storage. Low-cost solar has also been identified as a new priority. The overall investment totals \$20 billion.
- **Established** a set target of 26-28% emission reduction by 2030 in line with the **Paris Agreement**. [**Lowering emissions** is central to reducing the damaging impacts of anthropogenic climate change.]
- **Provided** disaster relief funding to 2022 flood victims in NSW in a joint \$435 million package with the NSW State Government.
- **Declared** a National Emergency in response to the flooding in northern **NSW**, although not in **south-east Queensland**.
- **Purchased** a dedicated vessel for disaster relief operations in the Pacific, for \$90 million.

The Australian Labor Party

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 68 and Senate – 26

- **Supports** net-zero by 2050 to reduce the impacts of climate change. Would **boost** renewable energy production through the Powering Australia plan.
- Has set a **target** of 43% emission reduction by 2030 and boost the share of renewables in the national electricity market. [Note: this is slightly **reduced** from the 45% medium term target that Labor promised at the 2019 election, but **higher** than the Coalition Government’s 2030 target of a 26-28% emissions cut compared to 2005 levels set in 2015].

- **Supports** a significant upgrade to electricity transmission infrastructure to hasten the transition to renewables, invest in solar banks and install 400 community batteries. These measures aim to see renewables, comprise 82% of power generation in Australia's national electricity market by 2030, which sits above 68% based on current projections.
- **Supports** their target of 75% of Commonwealth fleet vehicles to be electric by 2025. Supports tax incentive for electric vehicles to encourage private uptake. Electric vehicles currently make up 0.78% of Australian vehicles according to the Electric Vehicles Council.
- **Proposed** using interest from the Future Fund to improve Australian disaster preparedness and resilience.
- **Considering** the creation of a civilian disaster response organisation to reduce the need for the ADF to respond to natural disasters.
- Would **establish** a Disaster Ready Fund to mitigate the intensifying effects of climate change. This aims to improve the efficiency of disaster recovery processes and repairing damaged infrastructure.
- If matched by State, Territory or local governments, Labor would **provide** up to \$400 million annually for investment in disaster prevention and resilience.

The Australian Greens Party

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 1 and Senate – 9

- **Supports** net-zero or net-negative by 2035 or sooner.
- **Supports** removing all subsidies for the fossil fuel industry. [Note: Existing fossil fuel subsidies were **worth** \$10.3 billion in FY2020-21.]
- Aims to **invest** \$5 million to develop a climate security white paper to guide a coordinated and large-scale response to climate change risks. This is to ensure that the ADF is prepared for humanitarian and peacekeeping missions in the region.
- **Supports** a transition to 100% renewable energy.

Centre Alliance

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 1 and Senate – 1

- **Supports** 26-28% emissions reduction target by 2030 in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement. **Claims** that this would involve a 'smart energy mix' that provides affordable and reliable baseload powers, and electricity grid stability.
- **Supports** an Emissions Intensity Scheme which would increase the price of energy from high-emitting sources and decrease the price of energy from low-emission sources.
- **Supports** research into renewable energy and climate needs and made readily available to Australian industry to ensure competitive advantage in renewables is encouraged.

Katter's Australia Party

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 1 and Senate – 0

- **Does not** support net-zero by 2050 due to the cost of reducing emissions. **Claims** that the Government should instead be eliminating restrictions on coal mining and coal exporting, and on building power stations using zero-emission technology.

The United Australia Party

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 1 and Senate – 0

- **Does not** support net-zero by 2050 as it views binding future governments to climate commitments as "bad policy".

Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 0 and Senate – 2

- **Does not** support net-zero by 2050, citing greater international carbon emitters than Australia and the cost of reducing emissions.

Jacque Lambie Network

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 0 and Senate – 1

- **Supports** climate action.
- **Supports** net-zero target by 2050. Argues that further investment into Hydro Tasmania's network can assist in supporting Australia's transition to renewables.

Rex Patrick Team

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 0 and Senate – 1

- **Supports** net-zero emissions by 2050. **Committed** to developing a specific national plan to achieve this.
- **Supports** greater investment in renewable energy systems arguing that we should leverage South Australia's position as a leader in this field. Claims energy grids in many Australian states and territories require upgrades to maximise the gains for existing smaller scale rooftop solar systems and large-scale renewable sources like wind farms.
- **Supports** recommendation 8.1 of the **Royal Commission** into National Natural Disaster Arrangements that proposes a national aerial fire-fighting capability.
- **Aims** to establish Australia as a producer of electric vehicle (EV) components and encourage the take-up of EVs. Seeks to achieve this by **building** the National EV fast charging network.

Disclaimer: The information presented in this document is sourced from public and readily-available sources. The parties mentioned in this document are formally recognised Australian political parties, with an established voting history. Any contextual and explanatory information on policy stances has been researched by ANU National Security College staff.

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