

2013 Federal election candidates

ENVIRONMENT SCORECARD

Electorate of Leichhardt



Billy Gordon **Johanna Kloot** **Warren Entsch, Member for Leichhardt**

Australian Labor Party **Australian Greens** **Liberal National Party**



Do you support ending dredge spoil disposal in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?	No*	Yes*	Yes*
Do you support prohibiting construction of new ports in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area?	No*	Yes	No*
Would you commit at least \$500 million over the next four years to programs aimed at reversing the decline in water quality in the Great Barrier Reef?	No*	Yes	No*
Do you support the proposed Abbot Point Coal Terminal expansion?	Unsure*	No*	Unsure*
Do you support retaining Federal powers of assessment under the EPBC Act (rather than devolving powers to State governments as suggest at recent COAG meetings)?	Yes*	Yes*	No
Do you support the recently established marine reserve in the Coral Sea?	Yes*	Yes	No*
Do you support continued investment in Indigenous land and sea management?	Yes*	Yes	Yes
Do you support the creation of a national network of climate-specific habitat refuges to protect species at risk from climate change impacts?	Yes*	Yes*	Yes
Would you provide adequate funding to address biosecurity risks in the Wet Tropics such as tramp ants?	Unsure*	Yes	Yes
Do you believe that water conservation and efficiency measures should be implemented prior to sourcing additional water supplies for the region (such as the use of the Mulgrave aquifer)?	Unsure*	Yes*	No*
Would you provide support for agricultural sectors to implement sustainable agricultural practices?	Yes*	Yes*	Yes
Would you ensure that water management provides sufficient environmental flows to support ecosystem health?	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*
Would you increase Australia's greenhouse gas emission reduction target beyond the current target of 5% below 2000 levels by 2020?	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*
Do you support investment in large-scale renewable energy generation in our region?	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*
Do you support keeping Australia's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)?	Yes*	Yes*	No
Do you support higher priority being given to regional investment in sustainable transport over investment in road infrastructure?	Yes*	Yes*	No

* See additional comments in following pages



HERE'S WHAT WE THINK ARE THE MAJOR ENVIRONMENT ISSUES TO CONSIDER THIS ELECTION

1. Healthy Great Barrier Reef

A healthy reef is vital for a healthy economy and healthy communities in our region. Is the candidate going to work to protect the reef from port development, shipping and the impacts of decreasing water quality?

2. Strong environmental laws

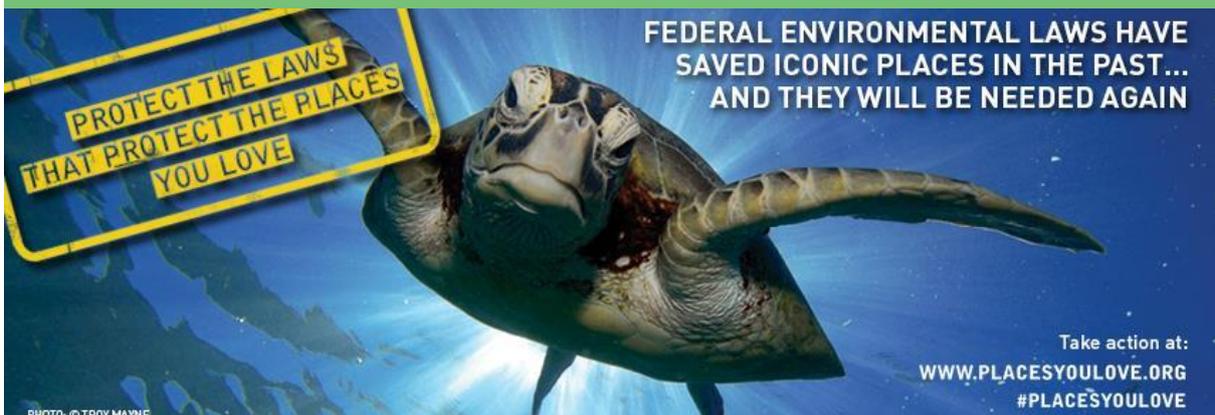
Retaining Federal environmental protection powers under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act is vital. Handing these powers over to state governments would significantly weaken our environment protection laws and could result in loss of protected species and communities.

3. Taking action for a safe climate

We're heading towards a low carbon future. Will the candidate work to ensure Australia leads the way in reducing carbon emissions and planning for a sustainable future?

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SAVED ICONIC PLACES IN THE PAST...
AND THEY WILL BE NEEDED AGAIN**

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Detailed responses from candidates

Candidate name	Billy Gordon	Johanna Kloot	The Hon. Warren Entsch, Member for Leichhardt
Party	Australian Labor Party	Australian Greens	Liberal National Party
Do you support ending dredge spoil disposal in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?	<p>No</p> <p>Federal Labor understands community concerns regarding the disposal of dredge spoil in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Marine Park is one of nine matters of national environmental significance listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act. This means that any project that may have a significant impact on the Reef is rigorously assessed under the EPBC Act. It is worth noting that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Dredging and Spoil Disposal policy requires that any disposal site provides the best overall environmental outcome, recognising the high conservation value of the Marine Park. Consistent with Australia's National Assessment Guidelines for Dredging, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's preference is that the disposal of dredge material at sea is only considered once all other disposal alternatives have been exhausted. However, it is recognised that in some circumstances the disposal of dredge material in the Marine Park is the only feasible option.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>It should never have started in the first place</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>A far more sustainable idea is to deposit the dredge spoil at a site like East Trinity, which would serve to seal the acid sulphate contaminated land and open up opportunities for future use.</p>
Do you support prohibiting construction of new ports in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area?	<p>No</p> <p>The construction of new ports is primarily a State Government issue. Where the Federal Government becomes involved is where a proposal is likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is one of nine matters of national environmental significant listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act. This means that any project that may have a significant impact on the Reef is rigorously assessed under the EPBC Act.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Any proposals for new ports will undergo rigorous environmental impact assessments and the resulting EIS will guide whether State and Federal Governments approve the development. The Coalition also supports the simplification of the process. Instead of taking up to five years, with a real sovereign risk element where people overseas are looking at Australia and seeing irregular decisions, we want to create a simple approach where there is a one-stop shop, joint federal and state approvals process, with set completion timeframes.</p>

Candidate name	Billy Gordon	Johanna Kloot	The Hon. Warren Entsch, Member for Leichhardt
Party	Australian Labor Party	Australian Greens	Liberal National Party
Would you commit at least \$500 million over the next four years to programs aimed at reversing the decline in water quality in the Great Barrier Reef?	<p>No</p> <p>Since taking office, the Rudd Labor Government has invested \$200 million in Reef Rescue to improve the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef. This support is ongoing with Federal Labor recently committing to the second phase of Reef Rescue which will provide an additional \$200 million over the next five years to improve the Reef's resilience to climate change, run-off and natural disasters.</p> <p>Since its introduction in 2008, the program has stopped approximately 1,094 tonnes of nitrogen, 222 tonnes of phosphorus, 318,000 tonnes of sediment and nearly 2,237 kilograms of pesticides from leaching into the Reef.</p> <p>The 2011 Great Barrier Reef Report Card demonstrated solid progress towards key targets including land management practice, with 34 per cent of sugarcane growers, 17 per cent of graziers and 25 per cent of horticulture producers adopting improved management practices.</p> <p>As a result, nitrogen levels have been reduced by 7 per cent, pesticides by 15 per cent and sediment by 6 per cent, while dissolved nitrogen, the key pollutant of concern due to its influence on Crown of Thorns starfish outbreaks, also reduced by 13 per cent.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Committing to a figure of \$500m is arbitrary. The Coalition has a comprehensive blueprint for improving the health of the Great Barrier Reef, our Reef 2050 Plan, details of which will be released prior to the election. It does include commitments to provide funds for the eradication of the Crown of Thorns pest and to provide incentives for canegrowers to reduce run-off into reef waters. It also includes \$5 million for the protection of dugongs and turtles, a policy I released with Greg Hunt last week.</p>

Candidate name	Billy Gordon	Johanna Kloot	The Hon. Warren Entsch, Member for Leichhardt
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Do you support the proposed Abbot Point Coal Terminal expansion?	<p>Unsure</p> <p>On 9 August 2013, the Minister for the Environment, Mark Butler, announced that Federal Labor would take further time to consider the application for dredging at Abbot Point, Queensland.</p> <p>This extra time will be used to seek public comment on the Report of the Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone, available at www.environment.gov.au/coasts/gbr/gladstone.</p> <p>Federal Labor encourage stakeholders and the community to provide a submission and have their say. The Abbot Point development is a big part of the economic future of the region, but it needs to be considered alongside the potential environmental impacts on the Great Barrier Reef.</p> <p>The application requires that some 3 million cubic metres be dredged at Abbot Point and disposed of within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park area. Extensive work has been done to support the application which was due for decision during the Caretaker period leading to the September 7 election. The Rudd Labor Government has also been conducting studies to support a comprehensive Strategic Assessment of the Great Barrier Reef which is due for submission to the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in early 2015.</p> <p>Federal Labor has recently received a number of reports which potentially impact on the Abbot Point assessment. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial report on findings of the Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone. • Ship anchorage management in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. • Environmental best practice port development: an analysis of international approaches. • Improved dredge material management for the Great Barrier Reef region. <p>Given the significance of the Abbot Point development both in terms of the economic development of the region and the potential environmental impacts on the Great Barrier Reef, Federal Labor have decided to release these reports for public information.</p> <p>In order for these matters to be fully considered, the Minister for the Environment, Mark Butler, has stopped the clock on the assessment of the Abbot Point Capital Dredging proposal for a period of three months. This does not prevent a decision being made earlier if there is sufficient information to make an informed decision. The Rudd Labor Government is conscious of the balance between the economic benefits and environmental concerns associated with any decision on Abbot Point. Rest assured, when considering this application, a re-elected Rudd Labor Government will take full account of the various significant environmental imperatives, as well as the potential for jobs growth, which is vital for communities in the area.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>I do not support any fossil fuel industry expansion, especially when it risks damage to the Great Barrier Reef</p>	<p>Unsure</p> <p>I support what the Newman Government has done in scaling back the proposal, seeking to minimise the footprint along the Queensland coast while protecting economic development. I think that is a far more sensible, far more environmentally responsible approach than the previous state Labor government and the federal Labor Party had supported.</p>

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Do you support retaining Federal powers of assessment under the EPBC Act (rather than devolving powers to State governments as suggest at recent COAG meetings)?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Federal Labor is committed to protecting Australia's unique biodiversity and environment and strongly supports the Commonwealth retaining approval power over matters of national environmental significance, such as the Great Barrier Reef. Federal oversight is essential to ensure that the environment is appropriately protected when considering these developments.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Although with an Abbott government the difference may not remain as stark.</p>	No
Do you support the recently established marine reserve in the Coral Sea?	<p>Yes</p> <p>The Rudd Labor Government is proud to be delivering the world's largest marine reserve network – the comprehensive management plans that have now cleared the Parliament will secure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of Australia's precious oceans. These plans are a culmination of more than 20 years of work that began under the Keating Government.</p> <p>The new marine reserves have added more than 2.3 million square kilometres to the previously existing national system of Commonwealth marine reserves, expanding the overall size of the Commonwealth marine reserve estate to some 3.1 million square kilometres. The number of marine reserves has expanded from 27 (including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park) to 60, covering more than a third of Commonwealth waters. This is the largest system of marine reserves in the world.</p> <p>The Coalition voted against the management plans to establish these marine reserves. In doing so they ignored extensive expert scientific advice and the outcomes of extensive public consultations which resulted in the world's most comprehensive marine reserve network - with only around a one per cent impact on commercial fisheries.</p>	Yes	No
Do you support continued investment in Indigenous land and sea management?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Federal Labor is committed to protecting Australia's precious environment and wildlife in partnership with Indigenous Australians. The Rudd Labor Government established Working on Country recognising that protecting and conserving the environment is a shared responsibility and to provide sustainable employment for Indigenous people.</p> <p>The Working on Country Program, which provides employment and training opportunities for some of the most remote and economically marginalised Indigenous communities. There are now over 700 Indigenous ranger jobs in around 95 ranger teams across Australia</p>	Yes	Yes

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	<p>supported under Working on Country around Australia. An example of this work is funding provided to Indigenous ranger groups for the removal of ghostnets and other marine debris impacting on marine species. The primary aim is the removal of abandoned fishing nets and related debris from the water and beaches of northern Australia which would otherwise pose a threat to the marine environment including protected species such as turtles, dugongs and sharks. This includes leadership and advice on the take of marine turtle and dugong, developing community-based sea country management plans and support of Traditional Owner involvement in the sustainable use of marine resources and compliance training.</p> <p>The Rudd Labor Government is also investing \$6.95 million in Indigenous self-management because this is the best way to ensure the sustainable and appropriate management of dugong and turtle populations.</p>		
<p>Do you support the creation of a national network of climate-specific habitat refuges to protect species at risk from climate change impacts?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Federal Labor supports the existing network of natural reserves that conserve and protect Australia's precious wildlife from a range of risks including climate change.</p> <p>The National Reserve System is Australia's network of protected areas, conserving examples of our natural landscapes and native plants and animals for future generations. Based on a scientific framework, it is the nation's natural safety net against our biggest environmental challenges.</p> <p>Under Labor, the National Reserve System has grown to include more than 9,700 protected areas covering 13.4 per cent of the country - over 103 million hectares. It is made up of Commonwealth, state and territory reserves, Indigenous lands and protected areas run by non-profit conservation organisations, through to ecosystems protected by farmers on their private working properties.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>I also support plant life research in light of the impacts of climate change in terms of food security</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Would you provide adequate funding to address biosecurity risks in the Wet Tropics such as tramp ants?</p>	<p>Unsure</p> <p>Under Federal Labor, the Australian Government is preventing and detecting the entry of tramp ants through import restrictions and inspections, and is involved in eradicating existing incursions. Under the Quarantine Act 1908 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) there are restrictions on importing goods, equipment and live materials into Australia. The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service conducts inspections to detect accidental arrivals.</p> <p>The Australian, state and territory governments have jointly funded tramp ant eradication attempts, including the red imported fire ant and electric ant programs in Queensland. Programs on Commonwealth managed land, such as in Kakadu National Park and on</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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	Christmas Island, are conducted by the Australian Government.		
Do you believe that water conservation and efficiency measures should be implemented prior to sourcing additional water supplies for the region (such as the use of the Mulgrave aquifer)?	<p>Unsure</p> <p>Water use is predominantly an issue for state and local governments. Federal Labor considers that new water resource development should be informed by the best available science and assessment of associated economic and environmental costs and benefits.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Water conservation is immediate. Aquifers can take many years to recharge.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>We should always aim to conserve water where possible, whether homeowners, businesses, farmers or commercial users. However forward planning is vital to ensure that we have an abundant, reliable water supply well into the future.</p>
Would you provide support for agricultural sectors to implement sustainable agricultural practices?	<p>Yes</p> <p>The Federal Labor Government has introduced a number of initiatives to help farmers to protect the environment, enhance biodiversity, reduce carbon pollution and improve farm productivity. The Rudd Labor Government supports environmental management of our natural resources through the ongoing initiative of Caring for our Country (CFOC). CFOC supports communities, farmers and other land managers to protect Australia's natural environment and sustainability, including our productive lands. In the first phase of CFOC (2008-2013) the Federal Labor Government invested more than \$2 billion to protect and build the resilience of our environment. The Rudd Labor Government has committed to a second phase with over \$2 billion in additional funding to continue Caring for our Country for another five years (2013-14 to 2017-18). This includes more than \$600 million to fund the Sustainable Agriculture stream, which will focus on ensuring Australia's agricultural base is sustainable, productive and resilient. The Rudd Labor Government is also assisting farmers and landholders to reduce carbon pollution through the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI). Under the CFI, farmers are able to earn offset credits by reducing carbon pollution or storing carbon in trees and soil, and then sell these to the 370 large businesses that are covered under the emissions trading scheme. The CFI has meant that farmers are able to do their part in helping Australia to meet its international target, while at the same time earning income by reducing carbon pollution. The Federal Labor Government has introduced a number of other initiatives to help farmers to reduce carbon pollution, improve farm productivity and enhance biodiversity. The Federal Labor Government</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Our policies here are very clear on supporting sustainable farming practices.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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	<p>has committed over \$600 million to support projects through the Carbon Farming Futures program, the Biodiversity Fund and the Carbon Farming Skills program.</p> <p>The Carbon Farming Futures program is supporting farmers in Leichhardt to research methods of reducing carbon pollution through biochar. The Carbon Farming Initiative is supporting the Native Conifer Carbon Sink Project, the first environmental planting project to be approved under the Carbon Farming Initiative, which will see around 1,500 hectares of native conifers planted on the southern Atherton Tablelands over a 7-year period to 2020. The trees will also play a vital role in repairing degraded landscapes and waterways, improving soil productivity and providing shelter for stock. The Biodiversity Fund has invested more than \$12.3 million through a number of projects in Leichhardt for revegetation, pest management and biodiversity enhancement programs.</p> <p>The Coalition originally voted against the Carbon Farming Initiative when Federal Labor brought it to Parliament in 2011. Under their Direct Action Plan, farmers would be able to sell offset credits to the Government under a competitive tender, rather than selling them to firms with emissions trading scheme liabilities. The Direct Action Plan will buy offset credits from farmers under a competitive tender and only as far out as 2020. Therefore, the Coalition will be offering the lowest price possible to farmers and will be removing certainty for land sector projects that have a long time-horizon.</p> <p>Federal Labor is committed to providing farmers with support for sustainable agricultural practices in the long term.</p>		
Would you ensure that water management provides sufficient environmental flows to support ecosystem health?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Federal Labor implemented policies to ensure that water use supports agriculture while protecting the environment, such as our historic reforms in the Murray Darling Basin. After more than 120 years of disagreement, the Rudd Labor Government delivered a Murray Darling Basin Plan that restores our rivers to health, supports strong regional communities and ensures sustainable food production. The Plan will deliver up to 3,200 gigalitres (GL) to the Basin's rivers and wetlands.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No ecosystem health, no sustainable human health</p>	<p>Yes</p>
Would you increase Australia's greenhouse gas emission reduction target beyond the current target of 5% below 2000 levels by	<p>Yes</p> <p>The Rudd Labor Government stands by its pledge to reduce carbon pollution by between 5 per cent and 25 per cent on 2000 levels by 2020. Federal Labor have also legislated to reduce carbon pollution to 80 per cent below 2000 levels by 2050, this was opposed by the Coalition.</p> <p>Federal Labor has established the Climate Change Authority (CCA) to provide expert, independent and evidence-based advice on the degree of international</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The world is heading for a carbon economy, as it must to avoid the worst of the impacts of climate change</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The Coalition is committed to unconditionally cutting greenhouse gas emissions by at least five per cent below 2000 levels by 2020. However, it would be sensible to increase</p>

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2020?	<p>action and the scope for emissions reductions in Australia. The CCA will release their draft 'Caps and Targets' Review for consultation in October and will provide final advice to the Government in February 2014. A re-elected Rudd Labor Government will consider that advice and then make a final decision on Australia's emissions reduction target.</p> <p>The world is acting on climate change, and under Federal Labor, Australia will continue to do its fair share.</p>		<p>the target only once we have reached, or are well on track to reaching, the 5%. Ours is a simple, practical approach, which will not only address climate change, but improve our environment, by providing incentives to those who reduce CO2 emissions. It doesn't hurt families and businesses with a \$9 billion a year electricity tax and is based on sound financial management, using a market mechanism to deliver the lowest cost methods of reducing emissions in Australia.</p>
Do you support investment in large-scale renewable energy generation in our region?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Federal Labor considers renewable energy a critical part of our efforts to tackle global warming and move to a more sustainable energy system. The emissions trading scheme, Renewable Energy Target, \$3 billion Australian Renewable Energy Agency and \$10 billion Clean Energy Finance Corporation are all designed to work together to drive significant renewable energy investment in Australia.</p> <p>One of the main policies promoting clean energy investment is the Renewable Energy Target – this will guarantee that at least 20 per cent of Australia's electricity comes from renewable sources by 2020. The Renewable Energy Target has been so successful in driving the deployment of renewable energy and growth in the industry that we are now likely to exceed the 20 per cent target.</p> <p>In fact, the Renewable Energy Target is already supporting renewable energy generation in the region. There are currently three accredited large scale renewable energy power plants in Leichhardt. Just last year, the Barron Gorge power station generated 87,000 renewable energy certificates worth more than \$2.6 million at current market prices.</p> <p>The Rudd Labor Government's policies have helped support Queensland become a leader in solar power. Last month, the Climate Commission released their report The Critical Decade: Australia's future – solar energy. This report showed that Queensland has the highest number of solar PV systems in Australia at over 300,000 and the second highest number of solar hot water systems in Australia. They also find that</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>This is required in Far North Queensland as soon as possible</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Our region currently imports over 90 per cent of its power needs from Central Queensland coal fired stations through transmission lines that lose up to 40 per cent of the power on the way, and which forces the state to pay millions in subsidies so our power prices are reasonably similar to the South East corner of the state. There are opportunities on the table now, such as the Mt Emerald Wind Farm proposal, and in the future in local renewable energy projects, which can create a much greater level of energy self-reliance and limit potential cost increases borne by residents and businesses.</p>

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	<p>Queensland has half of Australia's top 20 postcodes for solar PV installations. (For more information see http://climatecommission.gov.au/report/solar-energy/).</p> <p>Since Federal Labor came to power, employment in the renewable energy industry has more than doubled to over 24,000, wind capacity has trebled to over 3,000 MW and over 1 million solar PV systems have been installed – up from less than 7,500 under the former Coalition Government. Renewable energy now powers the equivalent of over 4 million homes each year.</p> <p>The Coalition intend to weaken the policy framework supporting renewable energy investment in Australia. Their plan to repeal the emissions trading scheme will undermine the competitiveness of renewable energy in our electricity wholesale markets. Their promised review of the Renewable Energy Target is designed as an excuse to scrap or water down the scheme substantially. Their threats to abolish the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and rip up its contracts shows their compete antagonism to this sector. They say they support ARENA, but refuse to be drawn on whether they will maintain its funding.</p> <p>Only Federal Labor can be trusted with supporting the renewable energy policies that are supporting Queensland.</p>		
Do you support keeping Australia's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)?	<p>Yes</p> <p>In less than twelve months the fixed carbon price will end and a market price emissions trading scheme will commence. This will make clean technologies more competitive, and motivate lower carbon actions and decisions at all levels across the nation. Over time, this will bring about profound shifts in business and consumer behaviour and to the way energy is sourced and used in Australia.</p> <p>The emissions trading scheme will continue to drive this transformation into the years and decades ahead – ensuring Australia's economy becomes more competitive and we play our part as responsible global citizens in tackling climate change.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Although I disagree with ending the carbon tax early</p>	No
Do you support higher priority being given to regional investment in sustainable transport over investment in road infrastructure?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Federal Labor recognises that transport makes a major contribution to climate change, accounting for about 15 per cent of Australia's total emissions. The Rudd Labor Government support a sustainable transport system, this involves both investment in things like public transport, making it easier for people to choose to walk or ride as well as measures to make road transport more efficient.</p> <p>That is why the Rudd Labor Government has taken a range of steps to improve the sustainability of our transport sector. Strict emissions standards came into effect two years ago for all new cars, 4WDs and utility vehicles sold in Australia. This is leading to cleaner skies and reduction in the public health bill by more than</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>I believe a rail system should be designed where freight is railed long distance with standard containers able to be loaded/unloaded at stations with standard loading/unloading mechanisms, requiring trucks</p>	No

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	<p>\$1.5 billion over two decades.</p> <p>The tougher standards target pollutants responsible for smog over our major cities and health problems such as respiratory and cardiovascular disease. Once fully implemented in 2018, the new laws will cut a new car's maximum allowable emissions of Hydrocarbons by up to 50 per cent Oxides of nitrogen by up to 70 per cent and Particulate matter by up to 90 per cent.</p> <p>Federal Labor has also invested \$61 million in 'smart' infrastructure to reduce emissions and the need for costly new infrastructure. Electronic ramp signalling, variable speed limits, and signage advice on travel times has been shown to reduce the stop-start behaviour that occurs in crawling traffic, reducing accidents and emissions.</p> <p>To help Australians make informed decisions and choose cars that use less fuel, Federal Labor has also introduced the Green Vehicle Guide (www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au) and fuel consumption labelling.</p> <p>With 90 per cent of all trips still undertaken by car, there is no more important investment in the productivity, liveability and sustainability of our cities than urban public transport. One full bus can take 40 cars off the road, while a full passenger train has the carrying capacity of a ten lane highway.</p> <p>That is why the Federal Labor Government has invested more in urban public transport than all previous federal governments combined since Federation. So far, we have committed \$13.6 billion to improve urban passenger rail infrastructure – this investment provides urban households with a genuine alternative to private car travel.</p> <p>In contrast, Tony Abbott continues to oppose investment in public transport, claiming that the 'priority for infrastructure spending should be major roads rather than urban rail'.</p> <p>There is no healthier or more sustainable form of transport than walking or cycling. The Rudd Labor Government strongly encourages Australians to choose these options for transport and recreation.</p> <p>The National Cycling Strategy 2011-2016 sets a target of doubling the number of people regularly riding bicycles. This is supported by Federal Labor's strategy to encourage people to take advantage of the benefits of walking and cycling as a form of transport. Further information on this strategy can be found at http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure/mcu/urbanpolicy/active_travel/.</p>	<p>for local transport only.</p>	