

## Murrindindi Climate Network Survey

### Answers by Marie Sellstrom (the Greens)

1. *Do you accept that climate change is occurring? If not, what specific scientific sources and references do you rely on to justify rejecting the scientific consensus?*

Yes climate change is occurring. The Greens policy recognises that climate change is the greatest threat to our planet and requires urgent local, national and global action. It is essential that climate change is addressed now. The amount of greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere demands urgent and significant mitigation and communities need a change in culture to adapt to climate change.

2. *Do you believe that all politicians have a moral obligation to understand the science of climate change?*

The Greens base climate policy on the best available science. All our policies have an evidence based approach.

3. *Are you aware that over 97% of climate scientists globally, the CSIRO, the Australian Academy of Science and every major national science academy in the industrialised world (whose membership includes climate scientists) agree that the planet is warming, that the observed climate change is mostly human caused, and that if we continue with business as usual, harsh impacts and irreversible changes to the climate system will occur?*

Yes. That is why our climate change policy provides a framework for all our policies. In particular solar, renewable energy, water, forests, agriculture, housing and biodiversity.

4. *Is it your position that Australia needs to urgently adopt policies to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions in line with scientific recommendations? If not, what specific scientific sources and references do you rely on to justify rejecting the scientific consensus?*

Yes. Victoria is one of the world's largest per-capita emitters of greenhouses gases, with 50% of Victoria's emissions coming from the burning of brown coal. Victoria should work towards significant decrease in net emissions by 2020.

5. *Do you think carbon emissions should be priced? If so, how? If not, why not?*

Yes. The price on carbon was a Greens initiative at a federal level and it was successful in reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. Our priority for this state election is to reinstate the renewable energy target to create certainty for new large scale renewable targets. Good for the environment and good for jobs.

6. *If elected, how will you ensure that the State of Victoria reaches its emissions reduction goal for 2020?*

If elected the Greens will create binding Victorian Emissions Targets to achieve a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from all sources by at least 30 per cent from 1990 levels by 2020 and a net zero no later than 2050.

- We will abolish the 2 km wind farm veto
- Ban new coal mines and on shore gas drilling and fracking.
- Create a Victorian solar bank so that solar power is accessible to low income families
- Equalise the 'feed-in tariff' and create guaranteed right of connection into the grid for re-newable energy, to encourage individuals, farms, and businesses to invest in solar and wind power.
- Improve public transport and encourage walking and cycling.
- Store green carbon in our forests by establishing the Great Forest National Park.

7. *Are you aware that the renewable energy sector employs 5 times more people than the coal industry and is the fastest growing industry in Australia? What is your position on the Renewable Energy Incentive Scheme?*

Yes. This is why our policies encourage wind and solar energy in Victoria and this will create jobs in regional Victoria.

8. *Do you believe that financial contributions of the Victorian government to the coal mining sector are compatible with the Renewable Energy Target? If yes, why? If not, why not?*

No. Direct and indirect subsidies for fossil fuel make it harder for renewable energy to compete.

9. *Can you offer residents, businesses and community groups of your electorate incentives to address climate change at a local level? How?*

One of the best incentives is to cut energy bills through the use of renewables. The Greens will reinstate the Victorian Renewable Energies Target scheme to bring energy efficient appliances to all Victorian households and create basic standards for rental accommodation.

10. *The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act requires the Victorian government to actively protect listed species. In our electorate, particularly in the Upper Goulburn catchment, large areas provide habitat to a considerable number of listed flora and fauna species. This habitat has come under additional stress due to the Black Saturday bush fires and continued logging activities after the fires. What actions do you suggest and support to protect endangered species in our electorate?*

Action statements must be developed for all listed plants, animals, communities and processes. This is the most basic description of why the plant or animal is threatened and what needs to be done to save it. It can be used to make decisions on planning, burning, logging and reserves.

11. *Do you support the creation of a Great Forest National Park in our electorate to provide a greater level of protection to the mountain ash forests? (<http://www.greatforestnationalpark.com.au/>)*

The Greens will support the establishment of the Great Forest National Park for the health of the environment and for future generations. It will also support tourism in the region and jobs.

12. *Given that VicForest has not been able to run a profitable operation from its logging operations of public state forest over the last 7 years and has been relying heavily on government subsidies, what is your position on the future of VicForest and on the logging of public state forest in general and in our electorate in particular?*

Clear felling should cease in State Forests. The future of Vic Forests should be independently reviewed with the objective being, improved park management, in particular control of all invasive species.

13. *Given the limited public funding, if only one of the projects could be built - the East-West Tunnel or the Melbourne Rail Link Tunnel - which one would you support and why?*

I would support the Melbourne Rail Link Tunnel as public transport is a Greens priority.