

MURRINDINDI CLIMATE NETWORK
Questions for candidates in the Eildon Electorate



Answers by Sally Brennan (Labor)

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?*

Climate change is the most important issue facing the world today.

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

Yes, without doubt.

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 I am aware of this.

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, that is my position.

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

Yes. Either a carbon tax or an emissions trading scheme.

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

By encouraging projects that support the reduction of emissions and promote renewable energy

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?*

I don't know about it, and I can't find any information on it. If you have any I would like to see it.

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?*

I don't know enough about this to provide a considered answer.

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

No. but I can offer support, encouragement and my commitment.

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?*

I support action to protect our native species, but in relation to the proposed GFNP solution see my answer below.

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.greatforestrnationalpark.com.au/>)*

I wouldn't be supportive of a plan that prevented people from using the forests for recreation and hunting as they are currently used. I wouldn't be supportive of a plan that destroyed jobs in the Timber Industry. As a person who has worked in the community for most of my life, I always take a consultative approach. In respect to the GFNP, I support the position of Jacinta Allen our Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Development when she said "My view is that any future decisions about Parks, Reserves or changes to the resources needs to be taken following, and only following, a genuinely consensus based approach" I support a process where all stakeholders are included in the consultation.

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?*

I will work with the industry to ensure that jobs are secure, that effective strategic planning supports a sustainable and viable industry into the future.

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?*

Melbourne Rail Link Tunnel. Of greater use to more people, creates a fairer spread of public funds for the greater good. The cost of the tunnel, the lack of a business case