

Methodology of the Final Policy Scorecard

Before the Federal election was announced in May, WWF-Australia set out six priority commitments centred around Threatened Species, Climate Change and the Great Barrier Reef.

You can see those commitments [here](#).

WWF-Australia then surveyed each of the major parties and asked them to respond to those policy asks.

The questions were designed to collect the information necessary to make an assessment across our key policy areas.

WWF-Australia also reviewed public policy and media statements for policy positions relevant to WWF’s priorities, and assessed how close they came to our policy proposals and the related questions.

The assessments considered the clarity of their statements, scale, affordability and whether the party dealt sufficiently with the risks to implementation of their policies.

The responses to each policy have been assigned a score and then given a traffic light rating of “Green” (committed policy), “Orange” (partially met), or “Red” (not met) grading. The final policy assessments are detailed below.

Summary assessments for WWF-Australia Federal election Final Policy Scorecard



ENVIRONMENT SCORECARD 2016

	THE LIBERAL - NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	THE GREENS
STRONG NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT LAWS, POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS			
A THREATENED SPECIES RECOVERY FUND			
CLEAN WATERS FOR THE REEF			
A STRONGER, INDEPENDENT AND BETTER RESOURCED REEF CHAMPION			
A TARGET AND PLAN TO NET-ZERO CARBON POLLUTION			
100% CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN			

COMMITTED POLICY PARTIALLY MET NOT MET

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCALE OF LIKELY ON-GROUND INVESTMENT.

WWF IS A SCIENCE-BASED CONSERVATION ORGANISATION AND IS PROUDLY NON-PARTISAN.
AUTHORISED BY D. O’GORMAN, 1 SMAIL STREET, ULTIMO 2007.

1. Stronger National Environment Laws, Policies and Institutions

<p>WWF Policy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement a new Commonwealth <i>Environment Act</i> within two years, providing national leadership on environmental protection. 2. Expand Commonwealth oversight within 12 months to climate, water and reserves, harmful invasive species, and accountability of states for delivering nature protection objectives. 3. Create an independent <i>Environment Authority</i> to administer national environment law and coordinate national nature conservation strategies. The <i>Authority</i> will be the regulatory body that delivers the new Environment Act through a simpler, more strategic approach. 4. Enshrine accountability, integrity and transparency in decision-making including open standing provisions, extend standing to merits review of decisions and improve protections for costs associated with legal proceedings held in the public interest.
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Interim Assessment:

Threatened Species Recovery Fund	Coalition	ALP	Greens
RED;AMBER;GREEN	RED	GREEN	GREEN

Coalition: Red

WWF notes that that the Coalition has not announced any policies that address WWF’s ask and that the Coalition has continued to commit to policies that undermine key components of this ask. We note that in the Coalition’s election document ‘Protecting Our Environment’ (<https://www.liberal.org.au/our-plan/protecting-our-environment>) the Coalition remains committed to delegating federal powers of approval under One Stop Shop. The Coalition also remains committed to repealing standing rights under section 487(2) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (<https://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/Mediareleases/Pages/2015/ThirdQuarter/18-August-2015-Government-acts-to-protect-jobs-from-vigilante-litigants.aspx>).

ALP: Green

The ALP has substantially committed to WWF’s ask. In particular, we note and welcome commitments to develop new frameworks for national protection and management of Australia’s natural environment. This includes commitments to develop new environment laws, to re-establish the federal government’s responsibility for protection of matters of national environmental significance and to retain federal government powers of approval under federal laws. The ALP has also committed to expanding Commonwealth oversight on matters including land clearing, national parks and water to include shale and tight formation gas projects, and to explore options for an independent environment protection structure. WWF also notes that the ALP has committed to

reinstating the principles of democracy and protection of rights for civil society involvement in environmental matters, including funding for Environment Defenders Offices (EDOs) (http://www.100positivepolicies.org.au/stronger_environmental_laws_fact_sheet).

Greens: Green

WWF notes and welcomes commitments by the Greens to all four components of WWF’s ask, outlined in the Greens’ 2016 election document ‘Protecting our precious places’ (http://greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/20160605%20Protecting%20our%20Precious%20Places_final.pdf). This includes commitments to a new Environment Act, to establish an independent National Environment Protection Authority, to improved rights and access to justice, and to expanded Commonwealth oversight on matters including global warming, water resources, national parks, wetlands and forests.

2. Threatened Species Recovery Fund

WWF Policy
1. A dedicated fund is essential to support the Strategy with a strong focus on protection and restoration of critical habitats and the reduction of pervasive threats.
2. A review of already existing recovery plans demonstrates this requires \$100 million/year for five years to protect critical habitats, deliver landscape-scale threatened species recovery and threat abatement actions, with a priority for enduring reductions in feral cat populations.
3. At a minimum, this program will ‘lock in’ the improved trajectories for the 20 bird and 20 mammal species identified in the Threatened Species Strategy for immediate action.

Interim Assessment:

Threatened Species Recovery Fund	Coalition	ALP	Greens
RED;AMBER;GREEN	AMBER	AMBER	GREEN

Coalition: Amber

The Coalition have developed a Threatened Species Strategy and appointed a Threatened Species Commissioner. They have also directed some funding to indirect programs such as Green Army, 20 Million Trees, National Landcare Program, and the Threatened Species Recovery Hub, however, very little support for direct targeted on-ground conservation action. The Coalition have also committed to a Threatened Species Recovery Fund but have only assigned \$5 million to it.

ALP: Amber

The ALP have not committed to supporting the Threatened Species Strategy or the development of similar, but have committed to supporting the role and function of the Threatened Species Commissioner.

The ALP has committed to protecting and restoring critical habitat through the invigoration of carbon farming and banning broad scale land clearing. They have also committed to the establishment of a biosecurity institute to target invasive plants and animals. However, the ALP has not committed to a Threatened Species Recovery Fund or explicitly assigned funds for threatened species recovery.

Greens: Green

The Greens have committed to re-establish the Biodiversity Fund and have allocated funding of \$2 billion over 6 years. The Greens have also committed \$130 million over 4 years for a Threatened Species Plan, to map and protect critical habitat and fund threatened species recovery plans. These commitments contain all the key elements needed to satisfy WWF's policy ask, including the required funding and a Biodiversity Fund priority to expand protected areas to save wildlife. WWF notes that the Greens have also committed to other actions likely to provide a significant benefit for threatened species, such as a land clearing emissions trigger, a new and stronger Environment Act, and an independent National Environment Protection Authority. Source: <http://greens.org.au/wildlife> and <http://greens.org.au/places>

3. Clean Waters for the Reef

WWF Policy

The next Australian Government can meet its commitment to the World Heritage Committee to deliver clean water for the Great Barrier Reef through:

1. Legislating a cap on pollution entering Reef waters and reduce it over time to achieve the Reef 2050 Plan clean water targets.
2. Establishing a multi-billion dollar fund, through private and public sources, to create incentives for implementing farm practices and catchment repair which reduce water pollution.

Interim Assessment:

Clean Waters for the Reef	Coalition	ALP	Greens
RED;AMBER;GREEN	RED (?)	AMBER	GREEN

Coalition: Red(?)

1. Legislated cap on pollution entering Reef waters

- WWF welcomes the Coalition’s commitment to meeting the science-based 2025 water quality targets that are contained in the joint Queensland and Commonwealth Reef 2050 Plan.
- We are however seeking a legally binding commitment, such as a cap, to these targets - so that the Reef no longer bears the risk of programmatic failure.
- The Coalition Government has funded research into a cap and trade system for nitrogen for cane farms in Reef catchments.
- However, there has been no policy or advice from the Government regarding introducing a cap on pollution in law.
- The Coalition has committed to subsidise new water infrastructure, which if built would significantly increase pollution.
- The Coalition has not committed to control the pollution resulting from these proposals.
- Correspondence was received from the Coalition on 8 June and on 24 June, but did not provide a commitment to place a legislative cap on pollution entering Reef waters.
- Therefore the assessment is red for this aspect of the ask unless further policy is released.

2. Establish a multi-billion dollar fund to reduce water pollution

- The Coalition Government has made a number of statements regarding funding for Reef programs – the issue to assess is whether they have sufficiently increased the amount of funds available for investment from baseline funding.
- In the Government’s Reef 2050 Investment Baseline Report published in 2015 it is stated that there is \$300 million over five years to support improvement in the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef and related actions.

- The 2016 Budget made an increased commitment of \$171 million to extend funding into future years.
- When this new money is added to existing water quality budget funds there is a total of \$196 million over 5 years (with a broader Reef program of \$280 over five years) so there is no increase in base funding for programs.
- A new item of \$150 million through the \$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund was raised in correspondence of 8 June and claimed that it went toward projects that will reduce run-off, but there was no detail to assess the actual outcomes for water quality.
<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/Pages/Emissions%20Reduction%20Fund%20project%20and%20contract%20registers/Project%20register/ERF-Project-Detailed-View.aspx?ListId=%7B7F242924-BF02-45EE-A289-1ABCC954E9CE%7D&ItemID=568>
- The Coalition released on 13 June its policy to Invest in Our Great Barrier Reef which set out:
 - A \$1bn Reef Fund would be set up as part of a plan to protect the Great Barrier Reef.
 - The Fund will be administered by the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and draw on existing funds managed by CEFC.
 - Investment finance will be provided over 10 years for projects in the Reef catchment that deliver clean energy, reduce emissions and improve water quality.
- The \$1 billion from the CEFC was already assigned to clean energy projects and by requiring this money to be spent in Reef catchments the carbon reduction benefits will be no greater – in fact there is a risk that water quality outcomes may be traded off against clean energy ones.
- The current CEFC mandate requires funds to go to projects which achieve either renewable energy outcomes, lower emissions, and energy efficiency. Water quality outcomes would only occur in instances where funded projects were able to address catchment pollution as an addition benefit to these required outcomes
- Due to these mandatory outcomes it is unclear what amount of money will go to reducing water pollution and how much pollution will be reduced particularly as the CEFC mandate requires at least 50% of funds to be spent on renewable energy.
- Clarification was sought on the level of investment and outcomes for water quality but the correspondence received on 24 June did not respond to these threshold issues.
- Even if a large portion of funds went to water quality outcomes it may not provide significant incentive compared to grants, as the additional economic benefit to farmers is not the amount loaned but the difference between the concessional loan rate and current low commercial rates.
- The additional economic benefit for water quality outcomes from the Reef Fund will depend on the concessional rate, the rate of uptake, and the portion of the Fund going to water quality, but appears unlikely to reach our thresholds for additional investment.
- Whether sufficient farmers will identify profitable investments that achieve both clean energy and water quality outcomes, and then be prepared to take up concessional loans is a key unknown factor which the success of the scheme depends on.
- Whilst the Reef Fund headline figure appears significant, the additional economic incentive for key actions which cost-effectively reduce farm pollution will likely be much smaller.
- There are too many unanswered questions to say that there will be sufficient investment in water quality projects to significantly cut farm pollution, and the policy is highly unlikely to meet our increased investment threshold for an amber assessment, and this component is therefore assessed as red.

Based on the lack of a cap on pollution and the uncertainty on investment quantum for water quality the overall assessment is red.

ALP: Amber

The ALP launched its [Great Barrier Reef Plan](#) on 30 May which contains a number of announcements relevant to this ask. Correspondence has also been received from the ALP clarifying their commitments in relation to our policy asks.

1. Legislated cap on pollution entering Reef waters

- The Plan includes a commitment to “work with the Queensland Government and stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the [Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce](#) report”
- Correspondence of 8 June 2016 added that
 - They support the approach of the Water Science Taskforce including the recommended setting of a catchment load limit.
 - They would undertake a proof of concept process to evaluate how to best implement a catchment pollution load limit
 - They would proceed with the recommended cap mechanism unless another legal mechanism is shown to deliver water quality outcomes in a more secure and cost effective way.
- These commitments are sufficient for a green rating for this element of the ask.

2. Establish a multi-billion dollar fund to reduce water pollution

- Labor’s [Great Barrier Reef Plan](#) commits \$500 million over 5 years (new funding of \$377 million) with \$300 million going to cutting farm pollution and other on-ground actions.
- There is \$100 million for Reef science and \$100 million for better management some of which may contribute to Reef pollution outcomes.
- The policy recognised that the funding was a ‘down payment’ on what would be needed to protect the Reef.
- Correspondence of 8 June 2016 added that the ALP understood that the full investment required to address the challenges to the health of the Reef may stretch to multiple billions of dollars.
- There is sufficient increased funding for water quality to achieve an amber rating.
- Labor has fulfilled our policy asks for a cap on pollution but has not committed to a high enough level of increased funding and therefore the overall rating is amber.

Greens: Green

- The Greens announced their Protecting the Great Barrier Reef policy on 9 June 2016.

1. Legislated cap on pollution entering Reef waters

- The policy makes a clear commitment to implement a legal cap on pollution:
We would implement a legal cap on water quality pollution on a catchment basis, which gradually decreases over the next 10 years. This would be delivered by regulation which ramps up gradually, starting by making Best Management Practice in agriculture mandatory, not voluntary. The federal government has the power to legislate a cap on pollution entering the Reef’s waters through under section 66 (2) (e) of the Great Barrier Reef

Marine Park Act. As recommended by the expert Water Science Taskforce, should the catchment-scale caps not produce results within 5 years, we would work with industry towards property-scale caps.

This meets our criteria for a green assessment for this element.

2. Establish a multi-billion dollar fund to reduce water pollution

- As part of a \$2 billion package the Greens policy sets out a number of new investments in Reef water quality:
 - An extra \$500 million over five years to cut pollution through improved farm practices and catchment repair
 - A \$1.2 billion loan fund to help farmers transition to low polluting practices – badged as a Clean Energy Finance Corporation for the Reef
- Correspondence has also been received stating that there will be funding sufficient to achieve the 2025 pollution targets.

These commitments meet our criteria for a green assessment

4. A Stronger, Independent and Better Resourced Reef Champion

WWF Policy

To meet these challenges, GBRMPA should have the following roles, powers and resources:

1. **Independence:** Governed by an independent chair and an expertise based board of international stature who are accountable for GBRMPA's performance under law and report direct to the Commonwealth and Queensland Parliaments.
2. **Strong:** Ensure GBRMPA has approval powers for all developments and activities that are likely to have a significant impact on World Heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef Region, either separately or cumulatively when considered with other existing or likely pressures.
3. **Leadership:** As the government champion for the Great Barrier Reef, GBRMPA should be given responsibility to lead and coordinate the implementation of the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan and the associated investment strategy
4. **Smarter Government investment:** To enable GBRMPA to fulfil its existing and new responsibilities, the Authority's annual budget should be increased by up to \$20 million over the forward estimates. Most current funding for Reef programs in the federal Department of Environment should be reallocated to GBRMPA in line with the change in roles and responsibilities of the two agencies. Government subsidies for port development should be ruled out.
5. **On-ground:** To better protect target and threatened species such as turtle and dugong, increase commercial fishing vessel tracking, resourcing and effectiveness of the field management, permitting and compliance programs in order to eradicate the current high levels of non-compliance with Great Barrier Reef marine park regulations.
6. **Innovative:** Establish a Great Barrier Reef research strategy by 2017 that facilitates coordination and collaboration between the major Great Barrier Reef research institutions, management agencies and investment funds so that the critical research required to underpin effective management of the Great Barrier Reef and adjacent coastal ecosystems is delivered.
7. **Transparent and accountable:** Enhance the independence and credibility of the 2019 Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report, given its crucial role for deliberations by the World Heritage Committee in 2019/2020. GBRMPA should be responsible for reporting on the effectiveness of all major Reef management programs.

Interim Assessment:

A Stronger, Independent and Better Resourced Reef Champion	Coalition	ALP	Greens
RED;AMBER;GREEN	RED	GREEN	GREEN

Coalition – Red

The Coalition has confirmed its commitment to the One-Stop Shop model for environmental approvals which would not provide increased approval powers to GBRMPA ([link](#)).

In a letter to conservation groups (8/6) the Coalition confirmed their intention to maintain the current role, structure and budget of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA).

Media statements by Minister Hunt (for example [Budget media release May 2016](#)) and information contained in the [2015 State Party Report](#) to the World Heritage Committee indicate that the Coalition will maintain current funding for GBRMPA and Reef research over the next term of government, and beyond. But no commitment has been made to increase funding in these areas.

In a letter to conservation groups, a spokesperson for Minister Hunt stated that the Australian Government “has already ruled out funding for Adani as any investment is up to the private company to make”. However, earlier the same week, a spokesperson for the Prime Minister was reported as saying federal government subsidies could still be granted for infrastructure linked to the Abbot Point coal port expansion. The party’s policy is also unclear regarding potential subsidies for other Reef port expansion projects.

In a welcome new move, the Coalition’s letter outlined a plan to tackle illegal fishing by expanding electronic vessel tracking. Initially the project will focus on line and net fisheries, the two fisheries of greatest compliance concern, then the scheme will be evaluated for possible extension to all Reef fisheries. This will enable Marine Park managers to detect if a commercial fishing boat goes into a protected green zone.

ALP: Green

The ALP’s Great Barrier Reef Plan ([link](#)) includes a promise to ‘review, simplify and improve current governance and funding systems’. The structure and powers of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority will be reviewed as part of this process. In a letter to WWF Labor states that “Our aim will be to ensure GBRMPA is governed by an independent chair, an expertise based board of international stature that is accountable for GBRMPA’s performance and a separate and suitably qualified CEO”.

The policy also includes a promise of up to \$100M over 5 years to support ‘new Reef management architecture’ and ‘implement the priorities coming out of that architecture’ ([link](#)). However it is not clear exactly what this money will be spent on, or how much is new money.

Similarly, the policy promises \$50 to \$100M over 5 years for reef and climate research, with half going to CSIRO and half to other agencies, but it is not clear how much is new funding. The review of governance arrangements includes an intention to improve research coordination.

In a letter to WWF, the ALP outlined a plan to address illegal fishing by expanding commercial fishing vessel tracking, which will enable Marine Park managers to detect if a commercial fishing boat goes into a protected green zone. The Party has also committed to increase funding and effectiveness of field management and compliance programs in the GBR Marine Park. This includes funds to increase the number of indigenous Sea-Country rangers, and ensure some are qualified to enforce Marine Park rules.

ALP has promised to review and strengthen Australia’s national environment laws including exploring “how an independent environmental protection structure could be implemented”. This will provide an opportunity to review GBRMPA’s role in the assessment and approval of major projects that could impact the Marine Park.

In a letter to WWF Labor has said it “will not invest tax payer funds into developments that do not have a strong and enduring future” noting that “the transition from fossil fuels is already happening” and “it is not Labor’s policy to intervene in commercial coal developments through the provision of financial or other assistance”.

In [media interviews](#) ALP leader Bill Shorten indicated his Party won’t subsidise Adani’s Abbot Point port-rail-mine project saying “we don’t see the need for taxpayers subsidising Adani and the question is whether their deal is commercial or it is not.”

However, Labor has not ruled out subsidies for Reef port expansions for other purposes, such as dredging for cruise ship access to the Port of Cairns.

Greens – Green

The Greens have promised legal reforms to strengthen the independence of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and increase its budget by \$82.8 million over four years. The Greens would give GBRMPA legal powers over developments that could damage the Reef, and responsibility to lead the government’s Reef protection programs.

5. Target and Plan to Net-zero Carbon Pollution

WWF Policy

In addition to implementing targets and a plan to achieve 100% clean renewable energy:

1. Commit to a target of net-zero carbon pollution before 2050.
2. Commit to milestone carbon pollution reduction targets of: 25% on 2000 levels by 2020; 45-65% on 2005 levels by 2025; 65-85% on 2005 levels by 2030.
3. Price and limit on pollution: A portfolio of policies is required to achieve net-zero pollution including regulation, incentives and market based mechanisms. The centrepiece should include a mechanism that limits and prices carbon, to provide confidence that targets are met. Rather than rely on government budgets, a carbon price can be revenue neutral, with money generated invested to support business, households and communities transition to cleaner technologies. Such mechanisms drive innovation, provide certainty and are scalable to effectively manage tightening carbon pollution caps over time.
Carbon farming and land initiatives to halt landclearing, grow forests and reduce farm emissions:
 - a. Reduce clearing through a greenhouse gas trigger in national environment laws, proactive enforcement of existing laws, COAG reform of existing Native Vegetation Framework potentially linked to financial incentives/penalties to states.
 - b. Establish a Carbon Farming and Land Sector market to maximise co-benefits and prioritise new methodologies, utilizing a mix of existing public funds and private investment.

Interim Assessment:

Target and Plan to Net Zero Pollution	Coalition	ALP	Greens
RED;AMBER;GREEN	RED	GREEN	GREEN

Coalition: Red

The Coalition is recognised as having invested in important carbon abatement projects under the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF). This includes delivering a large number of land restoration projects as part of the 309 carbon abatement contracts awarded to deliver more than 143 million tonnes of abatement. It is also acknowledged that the current design of the ERF and Safeguard Mechanism lends itself to being adapted into a baseline and credit mechanism in the future. The Coalition has also stated its commitment to keeping the Carbon Farming Initiative under the ERF.

However, the Coalition has been scored Red on the basis of commitments to no 2050 target, low 2030 targets, the removal of the carbon pricing mechanism and its replacement with the ERF and safeguards which have failed to limit emissions growth across the economy, and having only one element of the carbon farming and land initiative ask.

Key components of the Coalition's climate policies include:

- Pollution reduction targets of 26-28% by 2030 on 2005 levels.
- The Coalition repealed the price on carbon and replaced it with the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) and supporting Safeguard Mechanisms. The existing design of the Safeguard Mechanism provides little confidence that they will control emissions growth, but could be retrofitted into a baseline and credit scheme. However, no such commitment has been made. Commitments to maintain the ERF to 2030 have been made, ruling out the introduction of a price and limit on pollution. A review of the ERF and other climate policies has been earmarked for 2017. <https://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/emissions-reduction-fund>
- Maintaining the Carbon Farming Initiative within the ERF. This does not include any of the WWF components under the CFI to reduce land clearing or maximise environmental co-benefits. - <https://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/emissions-reduction-fund/cfi/about>

ALP: Green

The ALP has been scored Green on the basis of its commitment to the 2050 goal, pricing mechanism on carbon and the majority of the carbon farming asks. The ALPs 2030 pollution reduction targets fall short of WWFs ask, but remains in-line with the current recommendations of the Climate Change Authority. Details of the ALPs climate change policies can be found in their Climate Change Action Plan <http://www.laborsclimatechangeactionplan.org.au/>

Key policy components relating to the scorecard include:

- Net-zero carbon pollution target by 2050
- Target of 45% emissions reductions by 2030 on a 2005 baseline.
- Commitment to a domestic emissions trading scheme (ETS) that will have two distinct phases, in addition to an electricity market ETS.
- Several carbon farming measures, including
 - "trigger" in federal environmental protection laws to cover Australia's national and international commitments around climate change;
 - adoption of consistent reporting of land and tree clearing across States and the Commonwealth;
 - Reinvigorate the COAG National Vegetation Management Framework; and
 - Reinvigorate the Carbon Farming Initiative.

Greens: Green

The Greens have been scored Green on the basis of a comprehensive set of policies in-line with the WWF asks. The Green's climate and energy policies can be found in the link below, with key details pertaining to the WWF scorecard including:

- Net-zero emissions by 2050
- The Greens would like to see Australia adopt targets of cutting pollution 60-80 percent by 2030
- An equitable transition to a net zero carbon economy through a range of market-based and regulatory mechanisms including a strong, effective price on carbon. <http://greens.org.au/policies/climate-change-energy>

6. 100% Clean Renewable Energy Plan

Key Components

1. Commit to a target 100% renewable electricity by 2035.
2. Commit to targets of at least 50% of total renewable energy (electricity, transport, and industrial process) by 2030 and 100% before 2050.
3. Implement mechanisms to transition out coal-fired power plants before 2035 – Many of our coal-fired power plants are nearing the end of their natural life but lack incentive to close to make way for growth in renewable energy. A measured transition is required to close old inefficient coal power stations and facilitate the transition of workers and regional communities. This could include a mix of market mechanisms for regulated closure and emissions performance standards.
4. Implement enabling policies for renewable energy growth, that include:
 - a. Financing Innovation – Retain and expand grant making under Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and financing under Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC).
 - b. Price certainty – Expand Renewable Energy Target (RET) to 100% out to 2035 to provide a long-term goal. Introduce national renewable energy capacity auctions within the expanded RET to ensure there is a secure mix of different technologies to meet Australia’s energy needs and ensure integrity of the grid.
 - c. Kickstart community renewable power – Resource community efforts to build clean renewable energy in towns and suburbs across Australia.
 - d. Support distributed power generation: Establish a mechanism to reward distributed generators (households and businesses) for the full value of distributed electricity exported to the grid.
 - e. Drive electric vehicle uptake: This includes a mix of targets, emissions standards, tax incentives, government purchasing, and financing for infrastructure.
 - f. Modernize electricity network: Make changes to regulatory environment including the National Energy Market (NEM), network pricing, and network access.
 - g. More efficient and productive economy: Initiatives which promote world-class energy efficiency, including standards on vehicles and fuels, new buildings, and incentives for existing infrastructure retrofits.
5. Phase out fossil fuel subsidies – More than \$7.7 billion a year in taxpayer funds are provided to business which increases the consumption and production of fossil fuels that cause global warming. Polling conducted in April and May show strong public support for phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and investing the revenue in clean renewable energy. WWF is calling for the phase out of these subsidies including the non-agriculture fuel tax rebate, fuel rebate for airlines, and statutory cap on accelerated depreciation for oil and gas companies.

Interim assessment:

100% Clean Renewable Energy Plan	Coalition	ALP	Greens
RED;AMBER;GREEN	RED	AMBER	GREEN

Coalition: Red

In the scoring, we acknowledge the Coalition has retained the CEFC and ARENA, but removed the grant making facility of ARENA. It has also established the Clean Energy Innovation Fund from existing sources of finance which will help finance the development of new renewable energy capacity. An investment fund of up to \$100m/yr has also been established to accelerate the deployment of clean energy, renewable energy and energy efficiency technology in cities, but noting that this comes from existing funding allocated through the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. The Coalition also announced \$5million for Solar Communities as part of its election campaign, and supports the existing Renewable Energy Target out to 2020 of which will deliver the equivalent of more than 23% of Australia's electricity from renewable energy. Through the \$1 billion Reef Fund the Coalition also plans to deliver loans for renewable energy and energy efficiency measures that reduce runoff of pollutants, fertiliser and sediment. However, again this will be delivered using existing CEFC funding and does not extend the existing mandate of the CEFC. The Coalition is also currently investigating options to improve vehicle fuel efficiency in-line with Euro-6 standards.

However, the Coalition has been scored Red on the basis of a lack of commitment across the four components of this asks. The Coalition has committed to keeping in place the existing Renewable Energy Target to 2020, but has not revealed any policy detail around any extension to the target or mechanism. No commitments have been made relating to fossil fuel subsidies or the transition out of coal. These are considered to be major components of any future plan to drive 100% renewable electricity by 2035. Two components of the enabling policies for renewable energy growth have been partially met (e.g. community renewables and vehicle fuel standards), but these alone do not warrant a higher score.

<http://www.malcolmturnbull.com.au/media/turnbull-government-taking-strong-new-approach-to-clean-and-renewable-energy>

<https://www.liberal.org.au/latest-news/2016/05/21/30-million-support-local-parks-and-environment>

<https://www.liberal.org.au/our-plan/protecting-our-environment>

<https://www.liberal.org.au/latest-news/2016/06/13/coalition-deliver-1-billion-boost-protect-great-barrier-reef>

<http://www.malcolmturnbull.com.au/media/the-coalitions-plan-for-smart-cities>

ALP: Amber

The ALP have been scored Amber on the basis of their commitment to achieving 50% renewable electricity by 2030. The ALP have also indicated their intentions to phase-out coal through a market-based approach and also conduct a review of the National Electricity Market to ensure the market is compatible with a more modern energy system. However, no date is specified for when the coal transition will be done by limiting their score against this component of the ask. The ALP have also signalled their intentions to consult on the best mechanism to achieve their 50% target, but have not detailed any preference to a RET and/or auction mechanism (have committed to Government undertaking PPAs to offset Government electricity). The ALP have also committed to keeping the CEFC and ARENA (although not funding the full amount previously allocated to ARENA and said they would review with the Board if in Government) and invest \$98.7m to establish a Community Power

Network and Regional Hubs. ALP has committed to increase energy efficiency by doubling Australia's energy productivity by 2030. In addition to developing light vehicle standards, the ALP has also pledged to put in place policies to promote and encourage the growth of low emissions vehicles such as those powered by electricity or hydrogen. These measures include registration incentives, infrastructure programs and reducing barriers to charging vehicles at home.

However, the ALP is limited to Amber on the basis of not having made a commitment to phase-out a range of fossil fuel subsidies, including the diesel fuel rebate, by 2025, with the phase out starting in FY17/18. The ALPs score has also been limited by not being able to commit to 100% renewables by 2050.

http://www.laborsclimatechangeactionplan.org.au/renewable_energy_economy?_ga=1.241985611.816794286.1463959318

http://www.laborsclimatechangeactionplan.org.au/cleaner_power_generation?_ga=1.79399773.816794286.1463959318

https://cdn.australianlabor.com.au/documents/Climate_change_action_plan_policy_paper.pdf

Greens: Green

The Greens have been scored Green against this ask on the basis of several policy statements which are consistent with the WWF asks, including:

- 100% of stationary electricity in Australia to come from renewable sources as soon as possible, by increasing the renewable energy target (RET) - <http://greens.org.au/policies/climate-change-energy>
- the development of programs to assist coal-dependent communities to make the transition to other more sustainable sources of economic prosperity - <http://greens.org.au/policies/climate-change-energy>
- Plans to accelerate electric vehicle uptake - <http://greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/Electric%20vehicles.pdf>
- Supporting the CEFC and ARENA
- Ending fossil fuel subsidies - <http://greens.org.au/node/4339>
- Increasing solar PV penetration through measures to put solar on every public and community housing rooftop by 2030 - <http://greens.org.au/renew-community-housing>

The Green's 'Repowering our homes and business with clean energy' policy also details a number of renewables-related policies at:

http://greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/20160606_Repowering%20our%20homes%20and%20businesses.pdf