

HEMP Party

2014 WA By-Election Party Survey Responses



3. **Environmental Sustainability**

7. Would you support increasing Australia's emissions reductions target to at least 19% by 2020, as recommended by the Climate Change Authority earlier this year?

Yes

Comments: As long as the figures represented actual carbon emission reductions and not offsets.

8. Would you support a price and limit on greenhouse gas emissions for the biggest polluters?

Yes

Comments:

9. Would you support Australia committing to immediate ratification of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol?

Yes

Comments:

10. Would you support policies that prepare Australia for the impacts of between 2 and 4 degrees of global warming scenarios, by establishing and disclosing a national plan of action?

Conditional yes

Comments: May be greater or lesser and the periodicity of change is a matter of conjecture. However the change is coming.

11. Would you support policies that rule out cuts to the current 2020 Renewable Energy Target (of 41,000 GWh)?

Yes

Comments:

12. Would you support strengthening the Renewable Energy Target to at least 50% by 2030?

Yes

Comments: I am not particularly impressed on the way we assess what is and what is not a renewable form of energy as, at the moment, we are failing to focus on a broad enough range of energy sources and also failing to develop[a low voltage industry.

13. Would you support Australia's commitment to a target of 100% renewable energy by 2050?

Yes

Comments:

14. Would you support continued funding for large-scale renewable energy and energy efficiency technology through the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)?

Yes

Comments:

15. Would you support policies that prevent unconventional gas mining in drinking water catchments?

Conditional yes

Comments: There are thousands of water catchments. This question is woolly. Mining in a deserted catchment will have different implications to seeking a DA in a closely populated catchment. Approval for a mine in a pristine sandstone eucalyptus escarpment will be different to one in a parched and barren black soil plains environment. Mining is not the enemy - inappropriate development is.

16. Would you support policies that prevent unconventional gas mining in residential areas?

Yes

Comments:

17. Would you support policies that give farmers and other landowners the right to say no to mining on their own property?

No

Comments: The Eureka Stockade was all about establishing the right of every Aussie to own a share of the minerals and resources that reside beneath the surface of the land. Providing a right of veto over the development of common resources, to a very few who happen to own property, seems to me to be not only inequitable but also contrary to the Australian egalitarian ethos and history.

18. Would you support a moratorium on coal seam gas and shale gas mining until a scientific consensus on the environmental and health impacts is reached?

Yes

Comments:

19. Would you oppose funding cuts for public broadcasters, including the ABC and SBS?

Yes

Comments: I have been very vocal on these matters. The ABC represents the majority view of a majority of Aussies. The so-called mainstream press is at the behest of sectional and corporate interests.

20. Would you oppose the partial or full privatisation of the ABC and/or SBS?

Yes

Comments: I will protest against it whether in parliament or on the streets.

21. Would you rule out policies that would increase regulation of Australia's free press?

Yes

Comments: I have recently been in the UK where there is still a reasonably free press. I would love for my fellow Aussies to experience the same. We must avoid any further concentration in press ownership or vertical integration.

22. Oppose the removal and killing of sharks from designated "safe zones" in WA?

Yes

Comments: To set drumlines to win votes is simply sick. Sharks should be considered protected rather than vilified.

23. Would you support greater transparency around global trade deals, like the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement?

Yes

Comments: I would oppose any involvement with the TPPA in no uncertain terms.

24. Would you oppose the inclusion of Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) clauses in global trade deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement?

Yes

Comments:

25. Would you oppose any industrial-scale dredging or dumping of dredge spoil within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area?

Yes

Comments: Sulphide spill from the dredge plume will cause gross and irremediable damage to the great barrier reef, the seagrass beds, and the greater reef ecology. That this proposal was even considered is a gross dereliction of the trust put in the government to look after the assets of the commonwealth. (I am utterly horrified and weep for those who have not yet had a chance to experience the wonder that is the great barrier reef)

26. Would you support implementing the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee to avoid the Great Barrier Reef being listed as 'in danger' by UNESCO?

Yes

Comments:

27. Would you prevent any new port development along the Great Barrier Reef coastline?

Yes

Comments: Not only support a moratorium but also be an advocate for a national reef and wetlands remediation project. The wetlands of our country breed our fish-stock and regulate the intersection between a dry continent and a sometimes abundant sea. Without our wetlands our estuarine ecosystems die.

28. Would you support keeping the Federal Government's power to approve or reject any major developments that affect the Great Barrier Reef?

Yes

Comments:

29. Would you support an end to mandatory offshore detention for asylum seekers who arrive in Australia by boat?

Yes

Comments: I find the current practice of one party goading another into ever further extremes of policy regarding 'boat people' to be sick. I can understand that they are pandering to a 'base' but this comprehension just makes these actions the more despicable. Gandhi noted that the truth is the truth even if it is espoused by a party containing only one individual. I believe that we owe the refugees of this world all the compassion, assistance, and heartfelt welcome that we can possibly muster. The truth is that we are lucky and can afford to be compassionate; moreover it is our ethical and legal obligation that we do so.

30. Do you support the closure of the Manus Island offshore detention centre?

Yes

Comments:

31. Do you think children should be removed from indefinite detention?

Yes

Comments:

32. Would you support maintaining penalty rates for Australian workers?

Yes

Comments:

33. Would you oppose any attempt to get rid of the Unfair Dismissal laws

Yes

Comments:
