

SUMMARY COMPARISON

Climate Change Balmain Rozelle asked the local candidates some questions so that voters could compare the answers before deciding on their vote.

By the deadline we set, two candidates (Jamie Parker – Greens, and Verity Firth – ALP) had responded in full, while James Falk (Liberal) advised that his party's policy had not yet been announced. Later we received a response from one independent (Maire Sheehan). Here is a summary of the short answers we received. Fuller answers are shown in the detailed table following this summary.

| SUMMARY COMPARISON | JAMIE PARKER | VERITY FIRTH | MAIRE SHEEHAN |
|--|--|---|------------------------------------|
| | Greens | Australian Labor Party | Independent |
| RENEWABLE ENERGY Do you agree that there is a need to phase out the use of fossil fuels for power generation in favour of renewable energy sources, (Y/N) | YES | YES | YES |
| If so, what targets would you set for this change | 40% renewables by 2020 and 80% 2050 based on 1990 levels | 20% use of renewable energy by 2020. | Ideally 40% by 2020 based on 1990. |
| COAL MINES In the context of state and federal carbon abatement programs, do you feel that the NSW government expenditure on a large new open-cut coal mine near Cobbora is the best use of public funds? (Y/N) | NO | Without a carbon price, coal is always going to be the most affordable way to get baseload power. I support the urgent and immediate introduction of a carbon price so we can move to a coal-free future. | NO |
| Will you support or oppose the mine's development? | OPPOSE | No answer supplied | OPPOSE |
| COAL POWER Would you support a moratorium on approval or construction of all new coal-fired power stations in NSW? (Y/N) | YES | NO | YES |
| LEADERSHIP Do you agree that innovation in the renewable energy sector can provide significant employment growth? (Y/N) | YES | YES | YES |
| Do you see an opportunity for NSW to become a leader in this sector? (Y/N) | YES | YES | YES |
| Should the NSW Government work with, or pressure, the Federal Government to develop international leadership in Climate Change policy? (Y/N) | YES | YES | YES |
| HOUSEHOLDS Is the new domestic feed-in tariff at 20c/kWh at the right level? (Y/N) | NO far too low! | YES | See detailed answer below |

DETAILED COMPARISON

Climate Change Balmain Rozelle asked the local candidates some questions so that voters could compare the answers before deciding on their vote.

We have now received responses from six candidates, though only three have fully completed our questionnaire: here is what each of them said:

JAMIE PARKER – GREENS

Thanks for sending the questions. I am not sure when you are going to release this information. This is our current policy but we are launching our energy policy next week so will be able to provide more details. Obviously our policy will not be watered down(!) but we have a few other announcements. If you will be releasing it after the 28th I can include the policy launch information.

VERITY FIRTH – LABOR

Thank you for your questions.

Let me first say that climate change is the key issue of the 21st century. It is real, it is happening and urgent action is needed.

As a crucial first step we must establish a price on carbon, whether through a market based mechanism or via a carbon tax.

I believe the method matters less than the achievement of a price that properly prices coal so as to recognise the carbon pollution it creates when used as an energy source. Until this happens, a lot of the issues raised below cannot be properly addressed.

JAMES FALK – LIBERAL

As you may be aware, the NSW Liberal & National Parties have not yet released their Climate Change policy, other than the announcements of 20 February where the NSW Liberals & Nationals announced a commitment to reviving the renewable energy sector in NSW, through:

- A Solar Summit to determine the true cost of Labor's bungled solar bonus scheme, and establish a sustainable future for the NSW solar industry.
 - Appointing a Parliamentary Secretary for Renewable Energy.
 - Developing a 2020 NSW Renewable Energy Plan to aim for a 20% renewable energy target by 2020.
- James will be in a position to respond to your survey after the NSW Liberal & National Parties release their Climate Change policy. *(no further information received).*

JON SHAPIRO – INDEPENDENT

Because of the nature of my campaign, which is solely on the issue of constitutional reform (which impacts directly and vitally on all other issues, including climate change) I cannot answer the questions individually. Also, it is consistent with what I say in my vision about the value of deliberation, that I would prefer to discuss my response in person, at a meeting (for example, below I raise a couple of issues in relation to climate change which do not appear on your list of questions). *(extracted from a longer email message)*

JANE WARD – INDEPENDENT

Please start by reading my Domain site *(link provided to CCBFR)*.

MAIRE SHEEHAN – INDEPENDENT

No additional comments.

And here is how they answered our questions (with answers truncated where responses ran over the 150 word limit we specified.)

| DETAILED COMPARISON | JAMIE PARKER - Greens | VERITY FIRTH - ALP | MAIRE SHEEHAN - INDEPENDENT |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>1. RENEWABLE ENERGY Do you agree that there is a need to phase out the use of fossil fuels for power generation in favour of renewable energy sources,</p> <p>If so, what targets would you set for this change</p> | <p>YES</p> <p>40% renewables by 2020 and 80% 2050 based on 1990 levels</p> | <p>YES</p> <p>As part of the NSW State Plan, we have committed to a target of 20% use of renewable energy by 2020.</p> | <p>YES</p> <p>Ideally 40% by 2020 based on 1990.</p> |
| <p>2. RENEWABLE ENERGY What would you do to encourage the development of renewable energy solutions in NSW?</p> | <p>The Greens have a detailed plan to drive the equitable transition to a low carbon economy through a range of market-regulatory mechanisms reflecting the real costs of greenhouse gas emissions including legislated, binding targets that increase over time as a fraction of the state's electricity generated;</p> <p>Specifically The Greens seek to implement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ government purchasing initiatives including requiring all NSW government agencies to purchase a minimum of 10% Greenpower rising to rising to 50% within four years, or directly install renewable energy capacity on their buildings. ➢ alternative renewable energy market support policies such as MRETs and/or feed-in laws, particularly in the light of the adoption of these mechanisms in other states; ➢ reform of the provisions for the development and implementation of wind farms ➢ a state-wide co-generation target for all industrial power use of 10% within eight years; ➢ a price on carbon pollution | <p>Renewable Energy Precincts have been established across NSW. These precincts are designed to fast track new renewable energy projects.</p> <p>The nature of some forms of renewable energy means that the point of generation is often in a remote location. Renewable energy precincts mean you can connect the precinct to the grid with just one set of infrastructure.</p> <p>The Government has also pledged \$120 million to support NSW solar projects bidding for funding through Commonwealth's \$1.5 billion Solar Flagships Program – the strongest commitment of any state. We recently approved the State's first commercial solar farm.</p> <p>The Government has already approved more than 1,500 megawatts of wind farm projects and 5,000 megawatts are currently in various stages of development – a significant increase in renewable energy.</p> <p>The Renewable Energy Development Program provides funding to projects that demonstrate new technologies or ways of commercialising existing technologies. \$24.8m in projects approved thus far</p> | <p>Greenpower rising to rising to 50% within four years, or directly install renewable energy capacity on their buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ statewide targets for renewable energy in all public buildings and for co-generation for all industrial power ➢ a price on carbon ➢ support the development of an alternative renewable energy market ➢ support emerging alternatives and skills development to ensure the new market has the skills base it need to thrive. |

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|---|--|--|--|
| <p>3. COAL MINES There are plans for a large new open-cut coal mine near Cobarra to feed the power generation industry in NSW. In the context of state and federal carbon abatement programs, do you feel that the NSW government expenditure involved is the best use of public funds?</p> | No | | No |
| <p>Will you support or oppose the mine's development?</p> | Oppose | No answer supplied | Oppose |
| <p>4. COAL POWER Would you support a moratorium on approval or construction of all new coal-fired power stations in NSW?</p> | Yes | No | Yes until we can have a referendum |
| <p>5. TRANSITION Many countries are now moving rapidly towards a renewable energy economy and yet the Australian continues to rely heavily on coal exports. What long-term plans should a NSW government have in place to find new employment for people in the coal industry, as the international market for coal shrinks?</p> | <p>A just transition to a low carbon economy will require a focus on re skilling and investing in 'green skills'. The ACF report "Growing the Green Collar Economy" highlights the important steps that need to be made. http://www.acfonline.org.au/uploads/res/GreenCollar_ExecS_web.pdf</p> <p>The Greens draw their focus from this evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Co-ordinate local state and Federal government in order to co-ordinate skills development and local/regional/state/national transition plans ➢ Identify and stimulate and invest in 'green skills' with incentives and targets ➢ Support a jobs 'guarantee' for sectors specifically impacted by transition ➢ Engage TAFE and the training sector to advance skills required for the low carbon economy ➢ Support the development of 'green teams' in businesses to promote environmental sustainability, products and services | <p>The NSW Department of Planning is in the process of co-ordinating a multi-agency strategy to meet these and other challenges presented by the mining industry in NSW, the NSW Coal and Gas Strategy. A Scoping Paper has been released for public comment, and series of public consultations has recently begun. I look forward to the findings of these consultations.</p> <p>In my capacity of NSW Minister for Education and Training, I am proud that NSW TAFE has a tradition of working closely with industry stakeholders on re-skilling, up-skilling, and addressing areas of skills shortage. The Department has already held consultations with the NSW Business Chamber and individual TAFE Institutes in areas where the mining industry is a major employer remain in close contact with stakeholders to develop ongoing strategies.</p> <p>The NSW Government has given specific commitments to increasing participation and training in Green Skills areas by 2015.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ develop an alternative economic development plan for the renewable energy industry and target the workers and towns that depend on the polluting industries ➢ invest in renewable ideas and work with the federal parliament on a national approach ➢ sell out expertise overseas so Australia becomes a leader in the field instead of our inventors and entrepreneurs having to go overseas for investment ➢ harness the education and training systems to ensure our people are being trained for the jobs of the future not the past. |

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|---|--|---|--|
| 6. LEADERSHIP Do you agree that innovation in the renewable energy sector can provide significant employment growth? | Yes | Yes | Yes if it is planned and supported. |
| Do you see an opportunity for NSW to become a leader in this sector? | Yes | Yes | YES if we can get out together to invest for people and if our political parties work for the community and not their own advancement which is destructive and of no value to the people of NSW. |
| Should the NSW Government work with, or pressure, the Federal Government to develop international leadership in Climate policy? | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| If yes, how would you pursue these goals? | <p>Co-ordinate and campaign with Greens representatives in local, state, national and other national parliaments to drive a climate leadership position</p> <p>Support and promote grass roots activism and advocacy that highlight the importance of action on transition to a low carbon economy</p> <p>Work with community organisations, trade unions and business organisations to promote the science and immediate action on climate change</p> <p>Introduce policies as described above to drive innovation in the renewable energy sector</p> | <p>Renewable energy will be a significant driver of employment and investment opportunities in this state.</p> <p>I believe NSW is already a leader in this sector. Labor, in 1997, created GreenPower - one of the first and most comprehensive voluntary renewable energy accreditation programs in the world – and has since lead by example by mandating a minimum 6% GreenPower purchasing by budget dependent agencies.</p> <p>In 2003, the Government introduced the world's first mandatory emissions trading scheme, the NSW Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme (GGAS). We were also the world's first jurisdiction to recognise carbon rights, today the basis of the multi-million dollar carbon offset market. We have continued to maintain our commitment to a steady transition to a renewable energy future.</p> <p>I believe in working co-operatively the Commonwealth. I do understand that there is some disappointment at the pace of change at a Commonwealth level, particularly over the introduction of a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS).</p> | <p>I would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ work with the progressive independents and progressive members of all parties ➤ support direct community action and grass roots campaigning ➤ support referenda on critical national and state so people can truly have a say. |

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| <p>7. TRANSPORT What steps would you take to encourage sustainable transport alternatives in NSW, and to reduce our dependence on oil as a transport fuel source?</p> | <p>The Greens have a detailed transport policy committing us to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ new public transport projects to reduce private vehicle use including the south west and North west heavy rail project and the extension of the light rail system ➤ a bus reform funding package to improve servicing of light and heavy rail; ➤ investment in a mix of heavy rail, light rail and bus services in built-up urban areas; ➤ no new motorway projects; ➤ maintain and expand the CountryLink Rail service; ➤ design all new roads, bridges and upgrades to be safe for bicycles and reallocate road building funds to the construction of a comprehensive bicycle network; ➤ encourage the shift of freight from road to rail by improvements to the rail system, reopening rail freight branch lines ➤ Strong support for high speed rail to reduce air travel | <p>Recent statistics show that NSW has the nation's highest proportion of commuters who walk, ride or catch public transport to work or study.</p> <p>I will continue my strong and vocal support of public transport. I was delighted at the recent approval of the extension of the Lilyfield to Dulwich Hill Light Rail Interchange. The pedestrian/cycling GreenWay that accompanies this development will further encourage sustainable transport options in my electorate. I have been proud to be involved in the formation of the NSW Bike Plan, the largest program of support and infrastructure for cyclists in the history of the state.</p> <p>Under the Metropolitan Transport Plan, the government will buy 200 new buses this year alone. We have already spent \$275m on replacing older buses with low emissions vehicles, which now make up nearly 50% of the fleet. We are also currently trialling the use of new diesel/electric hybrid buses.</p> | <p>So who was the person who went to the government in the 1960s and said have we got a deal for you! It was first large scale user pays plan and now we are choking on the results.</p> <p>The ideas was this get people out of the carriages make them buy their own carriages, then pay tax to drive them and then pay a fee for permission to drive them and then pay for using the new shiny tracks for their carriages (freeways, motorways, tunnels). Pretty neat trick. At first it worked as people who could afford it zipped around in their private carriages. Now of course it is just one more pressure with road rage, traffic jams, rising costs, getting up in the middle of the night to get to work.... Governments of course are so addicted that they cannot let go! - And the RTA is the joker in the pack. <cut at 150 wds></p> |

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|---|---|--|--|
| <p>8. HOUSEHOLDS What measures would you support to encourage households and businesses to install renewable energy sources such as solar cells and solar hot water systems?</p> | <p>Commit to a significantly increased feed in tariff for domestic and industry sectors</p> <p>Extending the feed in tariff solar scheme until 2023, guaranteeing access to the tariff rate for seven years regardless of when in that time connection of solar panels was made, and</p> <p>Guaranteeing those generating a credit on their account would be paid cash instead of a credit being held by the retailer.</p> <p>Augment and extend BASIX for both householders and business to reduce energy consumption</p> <p>The skill development and renewable industry incentives will drive down costs support the development of the sector</p> | <p>One of my proudest achievements while NSW Minister for Climate Change and Environment was the introduction of the \$150m Energy Efficiency Strategy. Encouraging more sustainable patterns of energy consumption is an easy way of effecting lasting changes at a grassroots level.</p> <p>The Strategy includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ The Home Power Savings Program, providing free home assessments and resources. ➢ The Energy Efficiency Training Program, assisting businesses to train their staff in sustainable practices; ➢ The Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program <p>We are well on the way to achieving our target of saving 4,000GwH of electricity annually by 2014.</p> <p>To date under the wider Climate Change Fund, \$301m has been allocated or paid to help households, businesses and communities save an estimated: 18 billion litres of water, 724,000 megawatt hours of electricity, 795,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, 75,000 kilowatts peak demand, and \$141 million in water and power bills a year.</p> | <p>I would</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ change the planning codes to make it easier for households to install solar cells and solar hot water systems ➢ extend the feed in tariff scheme and maintain the tariff level so it is long term ➢ have a higher feed in tariff for surplus to use generation. |
| <p>Is the new domestic feed-in tariff at 20c/kWh at the right level?</p> | <p>No, far too low!</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>Depends on whether it is for all power generated or for power returned to grid once the household has consumed for its needs. I would support a higher tariff for surplus.</p> |