

Responses to a Climate Action Moreland 2013 Federal Election Questionnaire
From: Adrian Trajstman, Australian Sex Party, Candidate for Wills

1. With scientists forecasting substantial sea level rise this century, many people from low lying coastal regions of Southeast Asia and islands in the South Pacific will be seeking asylum in Australia as climate refugees. What should Australia's response be?

Definitely NOT to send asylum seekers off without a second thought to Papua New Guinea! The Australian Sex Party rejects the "PNG solution" - we are a party that believes in upholding human rights.

In Papua New Guinea, male homosexual acts are illegal and carry a penalty of up to 14 years imprisonment.

In Papua New Guinea, two-thirds of women have experienced domestic violence, and fifty percent of women have experienced forced sex.

The "PNG solution" is tragic - it is no real solution at all.

The Australian Sex Party does not pretend to have all of the answers with regards to the issue of asylum seekers, but as a party with a focus on human rights we know that the current plan is not working.

We welcome further discussion surrounding a regional solution and a far more humane approach.

2. The Australian government has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 5% below 2000 levels by 2020. However, under the emissions trading scheme, Australia does not need to reduce local emissions, but can purchase emission reduction certificates from overseas.

β What do you think Australia's emission reduction targets should be by 2020? 2030? 2040?

β Should these targets be conditional on the actions of other countries?

β How would these emission reductions be achieved? Could you please describe how the emission reduction schemes that your party proposes will work in practice?

β What is your position on whether Australia should be required to reduce its local emissions rather than purchasing certificates from overseas?

β How do you propose to reduce emissions produced in Australia?

As a young party with a focus on protecting civil liberties, upholding human rights and promoting equality, The Australian Sex Party does not as yet have an official environmental policy.

That said, The Australian Sex Party acknowledges that climate change is real and is supportive of market-based mechanisms for dealing with this issue.

We know that putting a price on greenhouse gas emissions is crucial and will create a market for new clean energy.

We know that we can gain great insights from actions other nations are taking, however we are a party that basis all of our policies on scientific evidence and any future policies we create addressing this issue would be based squarely on solid scientific evidence.

3. Australia is regarded as particularly vulnerable to climate change. Given the lack of action to date, it is inevitable that Australians will be subject to serious impacts, including adverse health impacts and increased mortality due to rising temperatures and heatwaves, changes in rainfall and water availability for drinking and agriculture. What are your policies to reduce the impact of climate change on Australians?

The Australian Sex Party knows that putting a price on greenhouse gas emissions is crucial and will create a market for new clean energy.

We are supportive of more research and discussion of clean energy options.

We support the revocation of Planning Amendment VC82 which unfairly blocks new wind farm

development.

We would like to see at least a 5-star energy standard for all Victorian homes by 2020.

The Australian Sex Party would like to see the end of logging of Victorian old-growth forests.

I personally believe that Australia's forests and wilderness areas are beautiful, unique and some of our nation's greatest assets.

I personally favor conservation over development.

I applaud the groups and individuals that recognise that our forests are irreplaceable areas worth protecting.

The Australian Sex Party opposes the drastic plans for the East-West tollway and would prefer to see the money used for improving public transport infrastructure instead.

Australian taxpayers currently pay around \$20 billion per annum in order to maintain the tax-exempt status for religious institutions - if our policy of ensuring religious institutions pay their fair share of tax were to be implemented, this would free up billions of dollars that would be able to be directed towards new public transport infrastructure and the improvement of existing public transport infrastructure.

We favour improvements to the public transport system as opposed to the proposed expensive, intrusive and environmentally devastating development that is the East-West tollway.

In addition, we are calling for 24 hour public transport on weekends in Victoria, with appropriate security personnel - this would result in far less people relying on cars and taxis on weekends.

4. Heatwave induced mortality is expected to increase in inner urban areas like the Wills electorate due to the interaction between increasing temperatures caused by climate change and the urban heat island effect. While 173 people lost their lives in the Black Saturday Bushfires, 374 people died in Victoria due to the heatwave according to Victoria's chief health officer, Dr John Carnie. The 2013 State of Australian Cities report found that heatrelated deaths are expected to quadruple in number by 2050. What is your response to this public health threat?

The Australian Sex Party does not as yet have an official policy that addresses this issue.

That said, The Australian Sex Party acknowledges that climate change is real and is supportive of market-based mechanisms for dealing with this issue.

We know that putting a price on greenhouse gas emissions is crucial and will create a market for new clean energy.

We are supportive of more research and discussion of clean energy options.

5. Transport is a large contributor to climate change. What are your policies to transform the transport sector to ensure it is sustainable?

The Australian Sex Party opposes the drastic plans for the East-West tollway - we would prefer to see the money used for improving public transport infrastructure instead.

I would welcome greater emphasis placed on supporting and promoting more environmentally-friendly forms of transport such as bike-riding and public transport.

I have personally chosen to not own or drive a car for a plethora of primarily environmental reasons and utilise public transport myself regularly.

We would like to see focus and funds directed towards new public transport infrastructure and the improvement of existing public transport infrastructure as opposed to the proposed expensive, intrusive and environmentally devastating development that is the East-West tollway.

In addition, we are calling for 24 hour public transport on weekends in Victoria, with appropriate security personnel.

This would result in far less people relying on cars and taxis on weekends.

6. Approximately \$10 billion is paid out each year to subsidize the use of fossil fuels, including

in aviation, which helps to keep the price of flying low. Green groups have proposed that instead of subsidizing activities that contribute to climate change, we should be funding technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions including energy efficiency and renewable energy. What are your policies on these subsidies to fossil fuels? If you propose to remove these subsidies, please describe how you would do so and over what time frame. What are your policies on redirecting these funds to technologies that do not contribute to climate change?

We are supportive of more research and discussion of clean energy options.

The Australian Sex Party recognises that there are places in Australia where coal seam gas exploration and development are clearly not appropriate.

The Australian Sex Party supports the revocation of Planning Amendment VC82 which unfairly blocks new wind farm development.

The Australian Sex Party would like to see at least a 5-star energy standard for all Victorian homes by 2020.

7. The burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) are major contributors to climate change leading to a substantial carbon bubble in conflict with emission reduction targets, according to the Carbon Tracker Initiative, Grantham Institute, and Australia's Climate Institute. What are your policies regarding the following: coal exports; use of coal for power generation; use of natural gas for power generation? What would be your strategies for phasing these out?

The Australian Sex Party is supportive of more research and discussion of clean energy options and recognises that there are places in Australia where coal seam gas exploration and development are clearly not appropriate.

We support the revocation of Planning Amendment VC82 which unfairly blocks new wind farm development.

We would like to see at least a 5-star energy standard for all Victorian homes by 2020.

8. Households and business can reduce their carbon emissions through increased energy efficiency, solar water heating and generating their own renewable electricity by installing solar panels. Do you support these measures and if so, what are your policies to ensure these measures become widespread? Do you personally use solar hot water and/or solar panels or buy Green Power?

The Australian Sex Party would like to see at least a 5-star energy standard for all Victorian homes by 2020.

I personally buy 100% Green Power in order to minimise my carbon emissions.

9. Some councils, including Moreland City Council, have announced that they are carbon neutral. However, this has been achieved partly through the purchase of offsets from overseas projects. What is your position on councils, businesses etc using offsets to claim carbon neutrality?

The Australian Sex Party does not have an official position on this issue.

There are plenty of direct ways that individuals and groups are able to minimise their carbon emissions without needing to resort to the purchase of offsets.

I believe that it is preferable for individuals and groups to deeply consider the basic, everyday ways that they can have a direct effect on minimising their own personal carbon emissions.

I applaud community groups for raising awareness on issues relating to climate change, liaising with elected officials and encouraging individuals and groups in our community to live a more eco-friendly existence and minimise their carbon footprint.

I think it's fantastic that Wills is clearly an environmentally-conscious electorate and I applaud community groups such as Climate Action Moreland, Moreland Energy Foundation, Sustainable Fawkner, Green Renters and others for drawing community attention to direct ways that individuals and groups are able to live a more eco-friendly existence.

The Australian Sex Party is a party borne out of small business and is a party that supports small business - we would seek to equip businesses with adequate information regarding everyday ways they are able to directly reduce their carbon emissions.

10. Food waste is a major source of carbon and methane emissions. What are your policies to reduce food waste and reduce emissions from food waste? Do you personally compost waste food?

Unfortunately, I do not have a compost bin or garden to call my own - that said, I make sure I finish all of my leftovers. I always eat my Greens.

11. Do you know that in Wills we have platypus in Merri Creek? Eastern Grey Kangaroos visit the Fawkner grasslands? We have rare plant species along our creek corridors? Funding for biodiversity has recently been slashed by the federal government. What is your policy on federal government biodiversity funding and species and eco-system conservation?

We are a small but growing party and our policies at present do not explicitly address government biodiversity funding.

That said, we recognise that diversity in all its many forms is one of the things that makes Australia (and for that matter the entire planet) a beautiful and fascinating place.

We love and embrace diversity in all its forms.

Our policy to legalise, regulate and tax cannabis and our policy to tax religious institutions for their non-charitable work would bring billions of dollars back into the budget - this could definitely help address issues such as the slashing of biodiversity funding.