



Comments on National Platform (Consultation Draft)

LEAN commends all involved in bringing such a substantial document to this point, as well as the commitment to have the Consultation Draft available for discussion with the membership well ahead of National Conference.

There is much to be proud of throughout the draft Platform, and particularly in the draft Chapter on environment, energy and a clean energy economy. We are concerned, however, that the omission from this Chapter of specific commitments regarding climate change targets would be perceived (inside and outside the Party) as a retreat from the level of commitment expressed in the 2011 Platform. Our key recommended drafting changes are on this issue as set out below. We have a number of second order proposals for changes to the Platform that are outlined in full in the attached paper.

Key drafting changes to Platform, Chapter 4

Paragraph 19 (page 66), include the following dot point:

- **Labor will reduce carbon pollution 30% by 2025 on 2000 levels as recommended by the Climate Change Authority. Labor will reduce carbon pollution by 40-60% on 2000 levels by 2030.**

Add the following (in bold) to the existing dot point in Paragraph 19:

- Work to undo the damage that the Liberal Government has done to the renewable energy sector, and be ambitious in growing the renewable sector beyond 2020 **by adopting a target of at least 50% of our electricity generation from renewable sources by 2030.**

We appreciate that numerical targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions may need to be nuanced by reference to further advice, including from the Climate Change Authority, and taking into account further international developments. We submit however that the urgency of the climate challenge and its importance which our Party and its leadership have acknowledged requires no less.

LEAN is concerned for environment issues across the board, but in recognition of the limitations of a voluntary organisation and the importance of remaining focused, our comments relate only to climate change policy. We leave it to others to fully analyse the other environment issues.

Yours for Labor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Felicity Wade".

Felicity Wade
National Co-Convenor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Kiwan".

Mounir Kiwan
National Co-Convenor

Labor Environment Action Network: Recommended changes

Chapter 2: A Strong Economy for All Australians

A Professional Financial Services Industry

We note that there is no reference to issues of disclosure of climate or carbon related risk in the important commitments expressed in the draft Platform regarding finance sector reform.

Paragraph 2.31: Recommended additional text

Labor will consider issues of disclosure of climate and environmental risk in the context of finance sector reform.

Chapter 3: Building Australia's Future

While we acknowledge the importance of the commitment in Chapter 4 (paragraph 4.34) to work with States, Territories, local government and community organisations to assess and climate vulnerabilities we suggest that additional reference within Chapter 3 would be appropriate.

Paragraph 3.15: recommended additional text

Labor recognises that there is also a need for leadership on climate change preparedness of existing infrastructure.

Cities (paragraph 3.12)

We suggest that reference to national leadership on cities in paragraph 3.12 should include specific reference to climate change - including in view of identification by the World Bank of cities as one of the five priority areas for climate change action .

Paragraph 3.12: recommended additional text to conclude:

Labor recognises that national leadership on cities must include supporting the vital roles of cities in minimising and adapting to climate change.

High speed rail, Inland rail (paragraphs 3.54 - 60)

We note that these projects are, appropriately, referred to as transformative projects. We question, however, whether the specific references to infrastructure only for high speed (passenger) rail and inland (freight) rail could be misrepresented by our various opponents to suggest that these specific topics fully describe Labor's past record and future ambition regarding freight rail infrastructure. This would be to do less than justice to Labor's achievements and ambitions in this area. One reason for the importance of these issues is, as noted in paragraph 3.136, relatively low emissions for rail freight.

Paragraph 3.60: recommended additional text at end or in new paragraph following:

Rail freight infrastructure:

Labor will build on its proud record in supporting renewal of Australia's existing freight rail infrastructure.

Chapter 4: A Clean Energy Future

This Chapter should not be able to be read or represented as a step back or a retreat from our policy commitments in the 2011 Platform. Any appearance of retreat would be highly damaging when the imperative for climate action has increased with each year, and when the Party has already nailed its colours to the mast with commitment to a re-legislated ETS notwithstanding the inevitable scare campaign.

Introduction

Paragraph 4.1: recommended additional text in bold

... Labor's policy framework will ensure Australia works cooperatively with our international trading partners **and is not left behind by clean energy developments in other nations.**

Paragraph 4.9: recommended additional text

Add:

Labor will renew support for local conservation groups.

Paragraph 4.11: recommended additional text

Labor will secure the effectiveness of improved environmental law with renewed support for environmental advocacy, including legal advocacy.

Labor priorities

Creating a clean energy future to address climate change

We note that the 2011 platform stated:

To ensure we achieve our commitment to cut pollution to 80 per cent below 2000 levels by 2050, when setting pollution caps Labor will be guided by the latest climate science, Australia's international climate change obligations and the advice of the independent Climate Change Authority.

We further note that the ALP Conferences for NSW, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia have endorsed adoption of the Climate Change Authority's pollution reduction target recommendations: 19% on 2000 levels for 2020 and 40-60% on 2000 levels for 2030.

We also note that in its 2015 report the Climate Change Authority included a recommendation for 30% reduction on 2000 emissions levels by 2025 and a 40-60% reduction by 2030.

Paragraph 4.19: recommended additional text

Labor will reduce carbon pollution 30% by 2025 on 2000 levels as recommended by the Climate Change Authority. Labor will reduce carbon pollution by 40-60% on 2000 levels by 2030.

We consider that the welcome commitment to ambitious policy on renewable energy for Labor in government needs to be made more meaningful and credible by specifying numerical targets.

We note that 50% renewable energy by 2030 is not only consistent with Climate Change Authority Advice but is consistent with targets adopted by Labor in several States - indeed, the South Australian Labor Government aims to achieve 50% renewable energy as early as 2020.

Paragraph 4.19: recommended additional text

- Work to undo the damage that the Coalition Government has done to the renewable energy sector, and be ambitious in growing the renewable sector beyond 2020 **by adopting a target of at least 50% of our electricity generation from renewable sources by 2030.**

Paragraph 4.27: recommended additional text in bold

Labor will work with communities, unions and industry to develop a comprehensive approach that supports the growth of sustainable new industries, technologies and practices **and which secures justice for workers and communities concerned.** Labor will draw on international experience and world leading policies to further enhance clean technology, investment and employment opportunities for Australians.

Building energy capacity

We note that concerns regarding community impacts of CSG are not confined to “landholders”- indeed, this is one of the distinctions between Labor’s position and that of “Lock the Gate” groups. We also note that a position which “calls on” industry to constructively engage may be perceived as having limited force. We suggest amendments to the last sentence of this paragraph as follows.

Paragraph 4.68: recommended amended text.

Labor **will also expect** the industry to constructively engage with affected landholders **and communities.**

Paragraph 4.75: recommended additional text

- **Labor will create one ministry for Climate Change and Energy lead by a senior minister. This will allow for coherent policy making in relation to energy – removing contradictions and delivering dual aims of affordable and clean energy.**

We note that the first of these points is consistent with decisions by the NSW Party prior to the recent election regarding its own proposed Ministerial representation as well as public comments by Shadow Minister Gary Gray.

Chapter 6: New Opportunities for an Ageing Australia

Climate change poses particular threats to vulnerable people, including risks to older people in heatwaves. We suggest that this point should find brief reflection in this draft Chapter.

Paragraph 6.38: recommended additional text

Labor acknowledges the importance of preventive health measures and ongoing vigilance with regard to senior Australians' health, with a view to tackling chronic illnesses, **health risks in heatwaves and other extreme weather events**, and keeping seniors as healthy as possible.

Chapter 9: A fair go for all

Housing

We note and welcome reference in paragraph 9.144 to Labor's achievement in developing the National Affordable Housing Agreement, the principles of which include promoting housing options that minimise adverse environmental impacts. We suggest an additional dot point principle as follows.

Paragraph 9.144: recommended additional text

- **Ensuring access to renewable energy and energy efficiency options in housing, including for public housing tenants, renters and apartment dwellers**

Sport

Paragraph 9.273 : recommended additional text to follow paragraph

Climate change is already having impacts on Australian sport, including through heatwaves and other extreme weather events. In partnership with other levels of government and sporting bodies, Labor will lead development of responses to minimise these impacts.

Chapter 10: Strong democracy and effective government

Government procurement

We welcome the recognition in paragraph 10.21 of consideration of environmental impacts as essential for public procurement decisions. We note that environment and climate impacts are not confined to procurement choices, but also include operational decisions. However, within the structure of the document, paragraph 10.21 may be the appropriate location for addition suggested text as follows:

Paragraph 10.21: recommended additional text

Labor will review, and where appropriate strengthen, existing frameworks for procurement and reporting to ensure that environmental impacts, including energy usage and sources, are taken into account and are publicly accounted for.