

APRIL-MAY 2025

# THE SPARK

SHASA NEWSLETTER



## 2025 FEDERAL ELECTION SPECIAL EDITION

Vote for parties and candidates  
that will speed up the  
clean energy transition!



**CLIMATE CHAOS IS COSTING US !**

**Our climate needs you this election**  
**Your vote can make a difference!**

# I'M JUST ONE PERSON BUT MY VOICE MATTERS IN THIS UPCOMING AUSTRALIAN ELECTION!



Find out who your local representatives are and what they stand for



Refresh your knowledge on our voting system (we have a post on this!)



Know which election issues matter to you (Eg. climate is one of them for us!)



Meet with your representatives to discuss the issues you care about



Talk to your friends and family – are they aware of how to vote?



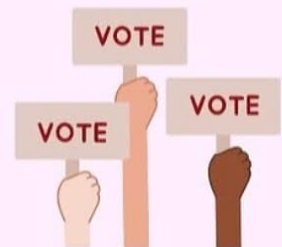
Share your stories about the issues you care about (they matter!)



Diversify your news sources when retrieving info about the election



Check your enrolment details — are they up to date? Encourage everyone around you to do the same



Get involved in campaigns mobilising people to vote (like ours!)

1m♀ #SheVotes

# Federal Election 2025—A personal message

On 3 May Australia will vote for its next Federal government.

While the issue of greatest concern to the electorate is the cost of living crisis, what is lost in discussions is the link between the climate crisis and the cost of living crisis.

The massive increase in extreme weather events in Australia and around the globe is resulting in dramatic increases in insurance premiums. People in areas bearing the brunt of extreme weather events can't even get insurance—too great a risk for the insurance industry.

Then there is the increasing cost of food. The highly variable climate is making it much harder for commercial producers of food. Think floods in the Northern Rivers, Northern Queensland and now Western Queensland and northern South Australia. Think heatwaves in WA and SA.

Climate scientists warned that a warmer world would promote the spread of pathogens that cause disease. Avian flu is decimating chicken flocks, resulting in a significant increase in the price of eggs.

Climate change has a big impact on health. Bushfires are health risks because of smoke and heat and their impact on people's mental wellbeing. Heatwaves are also a serious risk. If you're elderly, very young, pregnant, breastfeeding, have a disability or are living with a chronic health condition, climate really matters to you.

The number and severity of extreme climate events continues to grow, but awareness shrinks as no one dares to talk about it and it has been virtually absent from this election campaign.

Please consider candidates' climate action policies before you vote.

*Kathryn Maxwell,*





# DON'T WASTE YOUR VOTE!

Preferential voting is an Aussie superpower! (Since 1918! See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1918\\_Swan\\_by-election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1918_Swan_by-election) )

The choice is yours, you decide who to put first, and last. Read the ballot paper instructions to find out how many boxes to number.

## How does preferential voting work?

Preferential voting means you rank the candidates in order of who best aligns with your values.



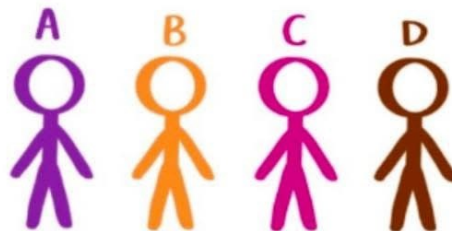
To be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority (more than 50% of total votes cast). If no candidate has an absolute majority, preferences are distributed until a majority is reached.





This diagram might clear things up more.

# PREFERENTIAL VOTING

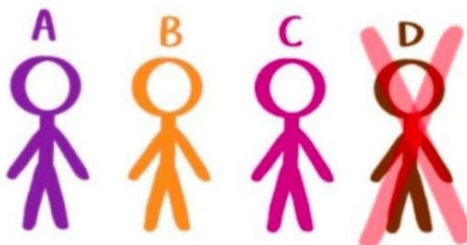


FIRST COUNT

42 38 12 8

**NO MAJORITY**

So candidate D's votes are distributed according to voters' next preferences.



FIRST COUNT

42 38 12 8

1 5 2 ←

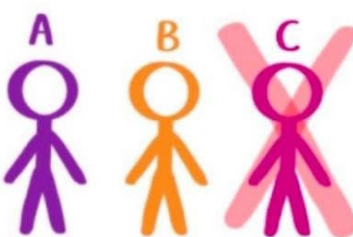
SECOND COUNT

43 43 14

eg. Everyone who put candidate D as No. 1 will have their votes redistributed to their No. 2 candidate.

**STILL NO MAJORITY**

Candidate C's votes will be redistributed according to voters' next preferences.



SECOND COUNT

43 43 14

4 10 ←

THIRD COUNT

47 53

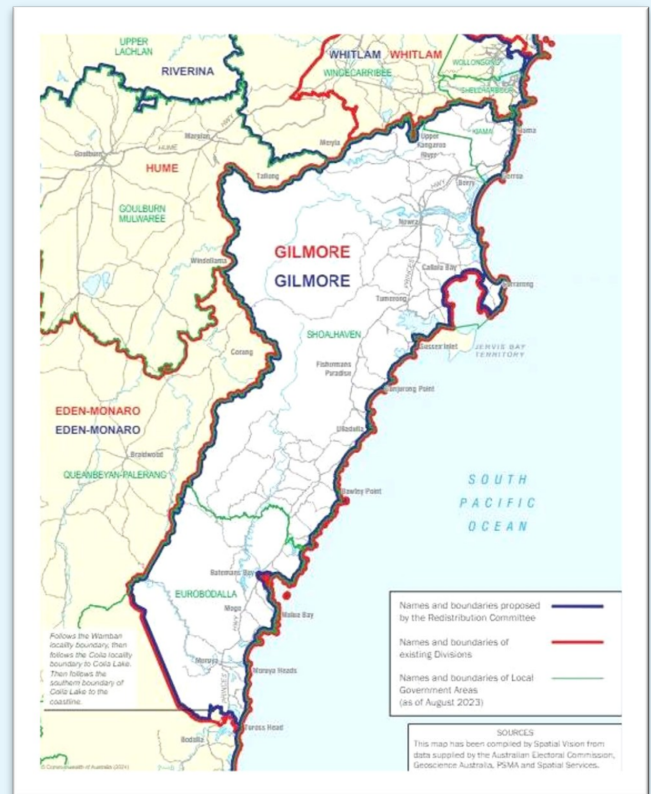
**CANDIDATE B HAS A MAJORITY!!**

So candidate B is elected with 53 votes.

# Gilmore 2025

## Climate Scorecard

The South East Climate Alliance (SECA) has collated promises that the parties have made and rated them on their commitment to important **renewable energy, climate and environmental goals.**



## Climate and Energy Scorecard

Here's how the political parties score on the issues that matter to our climate























Key:



For more info on party scoring:  
<https://tinyurl.com/GilmoreScorecard>



				
RENEWABLES ROLL OUT				
FOSSIL FUEL PHASE OUT				
NATURE PROTECTION				
ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE				

# Current climate-positive actions & policies

**Australia is progressing towards net zero. Your vote will help to determine whether we stay on track:**



- ◇ The Climate Change Act legislates Australia's commitment to reduce emissions below 43% of 2005 levels by 2030 and to reach net-zero by 2050.
- ◇ The Climate Change Authority provides independent advice to Government—the current chair is Matt Kean
- ◇ The Safeguard Mechanism is designed to cut emissions by big companies
- ◇ \$30bn is being invested in green industries, including solar and battery manufacture, critical minerals processing and green aluminium
- ◇ A record 65 large-scale renewables projects have been approved in the past 2 years - enough to power more than seven million homes. In 2024 our grid was powered 42% by renewables. Emissions from electricity fell 2.4%. However, overall emissions have dropped only 0.7%.
- ◇ The government is also building large-scale storage through batteries and pumped hydro.
- ◇ A New Vehicle Efficiency Standard (NVES) was implemented in January 2025 to increase the supply of fuel-efficient and low-emissions vehicles, saving consumers money at the fuel bowser and improving air quality.
- ◇ New fuel quality standards will also be introduced from December 2025 to reduce sulfur levels in all petrol grades and aromatic hydrocarbons in 95 RON petrol. The NVES and fuel quality standards will drive down average CO2 emissions from passenger cars (including most SUVs) by about 17% per year and from light-commercial vehicles (including utes, vans, and some heavy SUVs) by about 12% per year from 2024 to 2029.
- ◇ Fossil fuel subsidies have declined and been redirected to other industries.
- ◇ \$500m has been allocated for energy-efficiency upgrades to 50,000 social houses.





# Matt Kean

advocate for the transition to  
renewables

Matt Kean is chair of the Climate Change Authority, an organisation that helps set the national agenda to fight climate change by shaping federal policies and laws.

Kean wants people to understand that embracing the fight against climate change will create jobs and grow the economy.

**“We’ve got a chance to have some of the cheapest energy bills anywhere in the world by taking advantage of our biggest natural resource, and that's renewable energy. It will drive investment in new jobs and industries, and we can help solve the rest of the world’s climate challenge by providing them with clean fuel, material and supplies, and make a lot of money doing it.”**

Last year, for example, investors poured \$3.2 trillion into global renewable energy projects, twice as much as was invested in fossil fuels such as coal and gas according to the International Energy Agency.

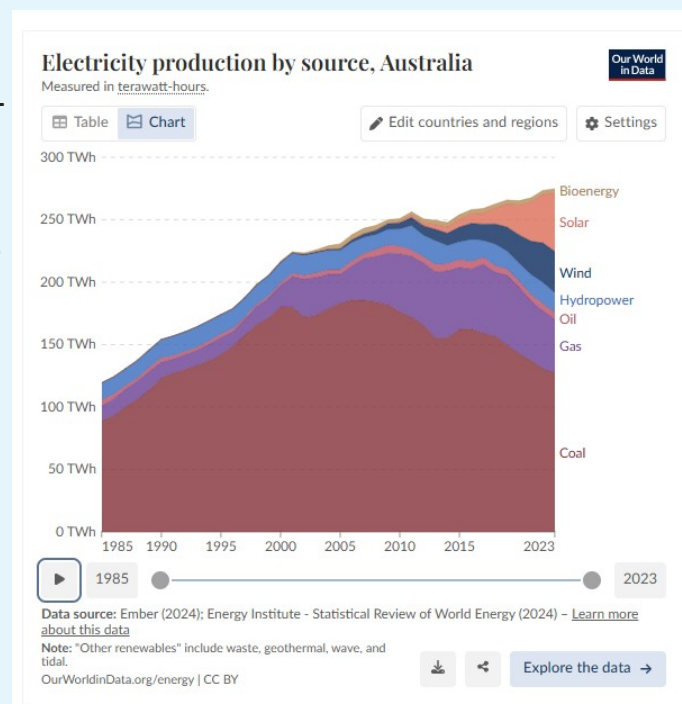
There’s further evidence to support Kean’s argument, including the rise of the so-called “net-zero dads”. The net-zero dad is a typical middle aged man with kids who—according to surveys and opinion polls—shouldn’t care about climate change. Contrarily, however, he’s interested in solutions such as rooftop solar, electric vehicles and heat pumps if they save him money.

It doesn’t matter what people’s political views are, whether they’re climate deniers or true believers, people are taking up rooftop solar because it makes economic sense. Rooftop solar is the largest generator of electricity in our system.

In the final quarter of 2024, almost half of Australia’s national electricity grid was powered by renewables.

Let’s get on with the technologies we have available to us, which will benefit households and businesses through lowering electricity prices—that's renewables backed up by storage and firming, ensuring enough energy is always available.

*(Force of Nature, SMH Good Weekend, 22 March 2025)*



Source: <https://createdigital.org.au/australias-energy-renewable-sources/>

**ELECTORAL MATERIAL**  
**FROM SHASA'S PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**



# 1. THIS ELECTION IS A CRITICAL TURNING POINT

Every decision made in the next term of Parliament will determine whether we secure a safer future for all Australians.

We have analysed the election policies of the biggest parties, and voters have a clear choice between those who have a credible plan to cut climate pollution and policies that put more of us in harm's way.



## 2. LABOR HAS MADE CLEAR PROGRESS ON CLIMATE

The Albanese Labor Government has overseen **a 180-degree turn on climate policy**, cutting Australia's expected 2030 climate pollution by **39 million tonnes**.

But they're still approving new coal and gas projects which **undermines gains made elsewhere**.

Labor Party's rating: **RIGHT DIRECTION**.

## 3. THE COALITION RANKS WORST ON CLIMATE

The Liberal-National Coalition has a woeful record on climate change. In the past three years they **voted against every single law to cut climate pollution**.

Their election policies will **increase climate pollution by at least 6.3 billion tonnes**, driving more frequent and damaging extreme weather.

Federal Coalition's rating: **HARMFUL**

## 4. THE GREENS CHAMPIONED CLIMATE ACTION

The Australian Greens **supported every single climate action law** and secured a number of important amendments.

This includes placing **a hard cap on climate pollution from big polluters**, preventing certain public funds from supporting coal and gas projects, and **protecting clean energy investment** from future government rollbacks.

The Greens' rating: **STRONG**

## 5. INDEPENDENTS STRENGTHENED CLIMATE PROGRESS

Pro-climate independents secured key amendments to **strengthen the Climate Change Bill 2022**, which legislated Australia's climate pollution reduction target, and advocated for greater household electrification support.

A pro-climate crossbench could further **strengthen Australia's climate policy** in the next parliament.



# OUR CLIMATE NEEDS YOU THIS ELECTION

## YOUR VOTE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Call on candidates and political parties to

**Go  
faster  
bigger  
bolder  
on renewables**

67% of Aussies support clean energy ✓

40% energy from renewables in 2024 ✓

4 million roofs with solar panels ✓

**Let's sprint  
not stroll!**

Net zero carbon emissions by 2035

Phase out dirty coal, gas, oil

Electrify everything!

By 2030, the all-electric home will save \$3,500 per year



**Vote for parties and candidates that will speed up the clean energy transition!**



**VOTE FOR CLIMATE ACTION**

Find more information at [climateactionmonaro.org.au](https://climateactionmonaro.org.au)

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# **SUSTAINABLE HOUSE DAY** 4 May 2025



Sustainable House Day is an annual event run by Renew that provides the opportunity to explore some of Australia's most inspiring homes, and learn from the people who designed them, built them, and live in them. a membership non profit that has been working to transform Australian homes for climate and energy resilience since 1980. Renew's early membership newsletters have evolved into *Renew* and *Sanctuary* magazines, both great resources for living and building sustainably.

The best way to see which properties are featured in an area is to [check the map](https://sustainablehouseday.com/2025-featured-homes/). (https://sustainablehouseday.com/2025-featured-homes/) There are three houses open in Eurobodalla:

[Low-energy Sustainable House](#) – Jeffery Place

[Moruya House, Redwood Park](#) – Turnbull Lane house (Graham and Carole)

[The Anchorage Strawbale House](#) – Anchorage Lane (Paul Cooke)

Kathryn Maxwell, SHASA President, and Thomas Schild will be running tours of their house in Jeffery Place from 10am – 3pm. This house has very low embedded energy in its construction and was much cheaper to build than it would have been using standard materials.

To sign up for a tour go to <https://sustainablehouseday.com/listing/low-energy-sustainable-house/> A small donation is requested, which goes towards Renew's costs in running the event. There will be a SHASA stall on site .

Authorised by Kathryn Maxwell, 2 Jeffrey Place, Moruya