



# Cleaning up our ACT

Leadership on Climate Change.



Canberra**liberals**

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## Leadership on Climate Change

The Canberra Liberals have an ambitious plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change. The plan features strong targets to reduce greenhouse emissions, reduce per capita energy use and increase renewable energy. Unlike the Stanhope Government plans, the Liberal commitment includes strong interim targets.

### *Solar Power Plant and Renewable Energy Park*

The cornerstone of the policy will include the immediate commencement of a project to develop of Solar Power Plant at the heart of a Renewable Energy Park. A Canberra Liberal Government will go out to the market for expressions of interest in developing a solar power station. We will commit \$13.4 million to establish the roadworks and the utility connections to the power grid, to make a centre viable for investors.

### *Energy and Emissions Savings – Public and Private*

The Canberra Liberals will also establish Climate Change Canberra, a climate change taskforce based on a UK model, that will drive efforts to identify energy and emissions savings in government and the private sector. The UK experience has shown such bodies have cut greenhouse gas emissions by more than 75% by identifying poor practices in resource use and building design.

### *Green Loan Fund*

The new agency Climate Change Canberra will be backed up by a \$ 5 million Green Loan Fund to finance innovation and environmental improvement by ACT government agencies and community groups.”


### *Strong Interim and Long-Term Targets*

The Stanhope Government has set a distant greenhouse target for 2050 – but no short term targets. By contrast the Canberra Plans have policies to achieve reductions and have clear interim targets for 2020 on Greenhouse emissions and 2014 on energy, with biannual reports against which our performance can be assessed.

### *Investments in Greenhouse Gas Reduction*

Unlike the Stanhope Government we have concrete plans to cut our energy consumption so we can make strides as a community towards our targets on greenhouse gas and energy. And unlike the Stanhope Government we will report regularly on our progress so we may be held accountable.

- Our policy of Home Insulation for Those Who Need It will save 37,904 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e in the first four years alone, while saving low income households over 290 million Megajoules in energy.

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- Our plans to introduce Green Bins and a high-tech composting plant will reduce the amount of methane put into the atmosphere from landfill waste.
  - The Solar Power Plant will help reduce Canberra's reliance on dirty coal energy supplied from interstate grids.
  - Our investment in practical solutions like cyclepaths will save 1,600 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e per year, while our promise for more bus services will get cars off the road, reduce resource consumption and also help to cut into emissions.

The Canberra Liberals are the only major party in this election with well developed and ambitious plans to make our city a green Canberra.

# The Challenge of Climate Change

Climate change is a major threat to the balance of our ecosystems, to the future of many species, to some of the natural resources that society relies upon and to the health of our economy. Over many years, an increasing weight of scientific evidence has confirmed that human activity is contributing significantly to climate change.

If we are to pull our weight as a community in combating climate change, then we must begin to get as serious about energy use and emissions, as we have been about water.

The Stanhope Government claims that its last Budget allocated \$100 million to climate change. However in actual fact less than \$8 million actually addressed emissions reductions.

- \$68 million has been allocated outside the 4 year budget cycle (it won't be spent until at least five years from now), and \$40 million of this is not allocated to any program or policy.
- Of the remaining \$32 million, \$24 million was allocated to a variety of tree planting and maintenance programs and protection of high conservation areas – good initiatives in themselves -, but not aimed at preventing or reducing greenhouse emissions.
- In fact less than \$8 million was provided for renewable energy targets, energy efficiency, urban renewal and recycling – initiatives that will actually reduce our carbon emissions.

## The Canberra Liberals' Position on Climate Change

The Canberra Liberals have long believed that as a community we should be working to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

In 1996, under a Canberra Liberal Government, the ACT Legislative Assembly resolved that it should set its own greenhouse gas reduction targets.

In 1997 (shortly before the Kyoto Conference on Climate change) the ACT became the first government in Australia to sign up to Kyoto-like targets for greenhouse gas reduction. The then Minister for Environment announced that we would work towards greenhouse gas emission targets of 1990 levels by 2008 and a 20% reduction on those levels by 2018.

The Canberra Liberal government set about a project of quantifying the ACT's emissions and developing strategies for reducing them.

In 2004 the Stanhope Government abandoned all work on the ACT's Greenhouse Strategy, and in 2005 threw out the strategy.

In 2007 the Stanhope Government released a new greenhouse strategy which sets one target - 60% of 2000 levels by 2050. This in itself is a significant weakening as previously, in the ACT and elsewhere, targets had been set in relation to 1990 levels. Since then Stanhope Labor steadfastly refused to set interim targets or to adopt any meaningful strategies or initiatives to reduce our long-term greenhouse emissions.

The Canberra Liberals will recommit to addressing greenhouse gas emissions, as we did in government more than 10 years ago. Our spending commitments in this election have been towards practical policy solutions that will help achieve immediate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. These policies – on home insulation, cycling, park and ride and green bins – are about going beyond symbolic target setting and ensuring our community actually meets serious targets.

## Setting Serious Targets

A Canberra Liberal Government will legislate targets for greenhouse gas reduction by passing the *Climate Change (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Targets) Bill*. The Opposition introduced the bill in July 2008 but was prevented from debating the bill.

**A Canberra Liberal Government will set a long term target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 60% of 1990 levels by 2050. We will also set an interim target of a reduction to 30% of 1990 levels by the end of 2020.**

The Stanhope Government has paid lip-service commitment to the Kyoto targets. The ACT has failed to achieve milestones along the path to meeting our obligations under the Kyoto protocol. The current State of the Environment Report tells us that the ACT has increased its per capita emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> by 10% since 1990 and that the trend will continue to increase unless significant action is taken<sup>1</sup>.

The Canberra Liberal policy for *Home Insulation for Those Who Need It* is an essential centrepiece policy aimed at helping the whole ACT community achieve its obligations under the Kyoto agreement. This is the most significant environmental policy ever introduced in the ACT and a major effort to reduce the damage that is being done by excessive consumption of fossil fuels to heat and cool our homes.

**A Canberra Liberal Government will also set targets for at least 20% of all electricity used in the ACT to be from renewable sources by 2014, as well as a target for a 20% reduction in the per capita use of energy by 2020.**

We will report annually to the public on progress toward these targets and to review the targets every two years.

# Climate Change Canberra

By the end of 2009 the Canberra Liberals will establish a climate change taskforce – *Climate Change Canberra* - to implement our climate change policies. Based on the models in the United Kingdom developed by Woking Borough Council and the City of London, the agency will undertake energy reduction strategies and reduce Canberra's CO2 emissions.

## *Background*

Under the leadership of Allan Jones MBE, Woking Borough and now the City of London have established agencies to deliver projects to cut the cities' greenhouse gas emissions radically. Woking reduced its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 77.5% between 1990 and 2004, and reduced expenditure on energy by more than £4m. Woking Borough is a local government area with a population of just under 100,000. The City of London is now attempting to emulate this approach, and has set stringent targets and established the London Climate Change Agency to drive the serious reforms needed to achieve the targets (See [www.lcca.co.uk](http://www.lcca.co.uk)).

The key to the achievements of Woking Borough has been a shift towards more efficient systems for energy production and consumption. The major vehicle for delivering programs is a joint venture energy service company (ESCO). ESCO designs, finances, builds and operates decentralised energy systems for both new and existing developments which concentrate on cogeneration and trigeneration and the transmission of power around the city by a decentralised grid.

*Climate Change Canberra* will become the taskforce which delivers the bulk of the ACT's climate change policies and will develop innovative energy use initiatives aimed at helping the whole community reduce its energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

It will administer programs for Home Insulation, Water Audits, and other energy and water efficiency measures.

Start-up funding will be provided of \$1.5 million over four years.

	2008-09 \$000	2009-10 \$000	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000
Climate Change Canberra	0	200	500	800

The Canberra Liberals' aim is for Climate Change Canberra, like the London Climate Change Agency, to become a self-funding entity over a ten-year period. Offsets will come from energy savings across government agencies.

Climate Change Canberra would draw together some staff from existing areas working on climate change and energy policy and will be supported by additional funding for seven net additional staff.

## Revolving Green Loan Fund

The Canberra Liberals will create a \$5 million Revolving Green Loan Fund to provide loans to community groups and government agencies to undertake environmental works which will cut their running costs. The ACT Government currently has a considerably smaller fund, that is only open to government departments.

We will augment the existing fund and allow community groups to apply for loans from the fund. The loan recipients will repay loans using money saved through reduced energy bills. This is done by Penrith City Council, the Greater London Authority, Woking Borough Council, just to name a few. Loans will need to be securitised against property.

The fund will be capitalised with an initial injection of \$4 million in 2009-10. The capital adequacy of the fund will be periodically reviewed by Climate Change Canberra.

	2008-09 \$000	2009-10 \$000	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000
New Green Loan Funds		4,000		
Consolidation from existing fund		1,000		

## Solar and Low Energy Hot Water

**A Canberra Liberal Government will require the installation of solar or other low energy hot water systems on all new dwellings (gas, solar or five star electricity).**

We will commission *Climate Change Canberra* to introduce low energy hot water into multi-unit complexes in co-operation with energy service companies which may enter the ACT market. *Climate Change Canberra* will provide advice, to building owners and managers, on the savings that can be achieved in both public and private multi-unit complexes.

Energy service companies in other states have achieved considerably energy savings multi-unit complexes, such as aged care homes. The investment can be fully privately sourced, with repayments coming from savings in water bills.



# Solar Canberra

## Creating a Centre for Excellence in Renewable Energy in Canberra

Canberra is well placed to make use of solar energy, with its environmentally-aware population, regular hours of year-round sunlight, and access to expertise second to none in the world.

The Canberra Liberals will establish Canberra as the solar capital by developing a world class centre of excellence in research, commercialisation, manufacture and power generation from renewable sources, especially solar. We will build on the strong research base at the Australian National University and the CSIRO, and the growing willingness to invest in renewable energy.

## Background

Canberra is a city blessed with high levels of sunshine all year round. We have, on our doorstep one of the finest research units into solar energy in the world at the ANU's Canberra Renewal Energy Systems (CRES) as well as private companies keen to invest in solar technology.

Canberrans are enthusiastic early adopters of new technology, and there is a great opportunity and increasing desire for us to take a leadership role in the development of renewable technologies.

Stanhope Labor has paid lip service to the importance of solar energy, but has not delivered anything substantive. The Stanhope Government claims that it will invest in solar, but all that it has actually done is call for a recently released pre-feasibility study – a study that was substantially overdue.

By contrast, the Canberra Liberals have been out in the community and talking to business and we understand the potential for Canberra if we adopt a leadership role.

## Vision

Our vision is to establish a renewable energy centre of excellence – the ACT Renewable Energy Park - with a large solar power plant at its heart.

A Canberra Liberal Government would partner with leaders in the field to support the development of a solar power plant, preferably a base load plant, which would provide renewable energy for a substantial proportion of Canberra's energy needs. A Canberra Liberal Government will invest in common-use infrastructure and provide appropriate land, in return for agreement from private investors to establish major solar-related facilities.

This will be more than a solar power plant. It would also be a centre of excellence for research and development, teaching, commercialisation and manufacture, as well as for export of renewable energy technologies.

This centre of excellence would allow Canberra to benefit from the world-wide boom in investment in new and emerging technologies in renewable energy. We have heard from investors who would be prepared to invest in excess of \$300 million in private sector and institutional funds in low carbon technologies. Creating up to 600 jobs in research and manufacturing in the ACT, onsite and offsite, the Renewable Energy Park would make a substantial contribution to the diversification of the ACT's economy. It would also have spin offs in the tourism market, especially educational tourism.

With the Renewable Energy Park, Canberra would be in a position to attract companies which wish to set up manufacturing plants based on renewable energy, and provide a hub that would help to attract back to Australia the many researchers who were trained in Australia and who currently work in Europe, China and America.

## Costings

A Canberra Liberal Government will invest up to \$13.4 million in the establishment of the Renewable Energy Park, to ensure companies investing in the Renewable Energy Park have reassurance of access to the ACT road network and connection to power networks and other utility supply services.

Part of the ACT Government support for the project will include facilitating the selection of suitable leasehold land, in consultation with the consortium and the wider community.

A Canberra Liberal Government will assist with the development of infrastructure such as roads and some grid connections such as electricity, a water tie and natural gas links. This will be developed as public owned infrastructure, to service common uses of tenants and businesses at the Renewable Energy Park.

	<b>2008-09 \$000</b>	<b>2009-10 \$000</b>	<b>2010-11 \$000</b>	<b>2011-12 \$000</b>
Planning Studies		400		
Roadworks and land development			7,000	
Utilities connections			2,000	4,000

## Business Opportunities

A Canberra Liberal Government will use its business schemes to attract compatible businesses to the centre of excellence.