

1.

Will you stop the Adani coal mine and the exploitation of the Galilee coal basin, as a first step in a moratorium on new coal mines and expansions?

Uncommitted

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

The following text explains my responses to the Survey.

I am the Convenor of the Democratic Reform Alliance (DRA). The DRA is an incorporated association that will be applying for party registration later in 2019. I am running for the ACT Senate as a DRA aligned Independent along with a second DRA aligned Independent running in the seat of Fenner.

The DRA is committed to reforming Australian politics, and through that, to achieving progressive reform of Australian society. We are critical of the major parties and the levels of corruption in the political system and have a set of strategies aimed at achieving reform in this key area. We focus on this one issue of political reform but are not a single issue party.

Our concern is to make politics more transparent, address the conflicts of interest in the system, restrict the flow of corporate money into the major parties, and create better ways for people to participate in the political system. Our view is that until political corruption is addressed and campaign funding laws amended it will continue to be difficult if not impossible for progressive organisations including Get Up and the Greens to achieve the outcomes they are pursuing. Once the system is reformed and people are better able to participate in national decision making, more progressive agendas will prevail.

We invite you to visit our website and review our Platform and Platform Principles:
<https://www.democraticreformalliance.org.au/>

While our Platform reflects the Greens "Clean Up Politics" campaign and Get Up's "Democratic Integrity" campaign, our strategy for achieving these outcomes are different.

To be an electoral success the DRA takes no formal positions on issues outside of our transparency and anti-corruption

Platform. We believe that to win seats in Parliament the DRA and negotiate the passage of our transparency reforms we must attract votes from people across the political spectrum. We are specifically seeking votes from the centre and from the right including people who have voted for Pauline Hanson and Clive Palmer, disaffected Liberals and Nationals and ALP voters. These people, not all of whom are racist, are equally concerned at the conflicts of interest in the system but will never vote for the Greens or progressive parties or necessarily fall within the reach of Get Up campaigns.

The strategy is twofold, to pull votes away from right wing parties, and apply those votes to a useful purpose. For this reason, the DRA Platform is limited and strictly non-controversial, meaning we do not and cannot take sides on particular issues in a way that will compromise the ability of people across the political spectrum to vote for the DRA.

More fundamentally, our Constitution commits us to allowing DRA members to use the Internet to vote on legislation before the Parliament through our elected DRA representatives. This proposal represents a major advance in the model of representative democracy in Australia, and puts the DRA in advance of the Greens and any other progressive party in the world in providing a mechanism through which party members can participate in the life of the nation.

Moving forward, on many issues our policy positions will be determined by the democratic vote of the party membership once legislation is in the Parliament. Until we have DRA representation in the Parliament, it also allows us to defer adopting positions on divisive issues.

That aside, the DRA strongly supports the extension of democracy to the Australian people through binding plebiscites on critical social issues (euthanasia, drug law reform, foreign treaties, and decisions to commit troops overseas) and the direct popular election of the Governor-General by the Australian people within the current constitutional framework.

As an Independent, I have responded to the Get Up Survey based on my values and commitments as an Independent noting that in the future I will be bound by the votes of the DRA party membership.

2. Will you review Adani's environmental approvals and take action if new evidence is available?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Environmental law must be followed and new evidence taken into account in decision making processes.

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

3. Will you rule out any direct or indirect public subsidies to Adani?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Giving subsidies to private companies who may also be donors gives rise to potential conflicts of interest and the corruption of politics.

4. Will you implement policies in line with the Paris Agreement to limit dangerous global warming to 1.5 to 2 degrees, including a process to regularly strengthen these policies when needed in line with independent scientific advice?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

5. Will you rule out counting Kyoto carryover credits towards your emissions reduction target?

Yes

6. Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

7. Do you accept that carbon pollution can and must be reduced faster in the electricity sector than in other sectors of the economy?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

8. Will you implement a national plan for a just and orderly transition away from coal power to clean energy, phasing out all coal-burning power stations by 2030, and establishing a statutory authority to make sure that affected workers and communities are supported in the transition?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

9. Will you establish a new national Environmental Protection Agency and pass a new generation of environment laws that includes binding National Standards on Air Pollution (including from vehicles and coal-burning power plants) to protect the health of all Australians, with sufficient penalties to ensure that requirements are met?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

10. Will you work with the states and territories to ensure Australia's renewable boom continues in your first term of government (i.e. that the roll-out of renewables across the country continues at the rate of at least 6GWs a year)?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

11. Will you unleash investment and jobs in renewable energy by protecting and extending ARENA's mandate beyond 2022, supporting new transmission for renewable energy zones, supporting the development of a clean energy exports industry, and helping businesses seize the benefits of low-cost renewables and energy savings by underwriting clean energy contracts for at least 250 energy-intensive businesses?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

12. Will you ensure that all households, especially low-income households, renters and indigenous communities, can access the benefits of clean energy and energy efficiency, including the establishment of community clean energy hubs

and solar rebates for renters?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

13. Will you support a Commonwealth Integrity Commission with sufficient funding, public hearings, strong investigative powers, a broad scope, and the ability to make public findings of corruption?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Most definitely, along with a whole range of policies to clean up politics and prevent corruption in the political system.

14. Do you support protections from prosecution for whistleblowers who expose government wrongdoing?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Most definitely, along with a whole range of other measures to support transparent government.

15. Do you support caps on electoral campaign expenditure?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Most definitely, along with a range of other measures to restrict the power of money to buy political outcomes

16. Will you cap an individual or corporation's donations to political parties, candidates and associated entities to \$2,000 per year (aggregate) and require donations to be disclosed in real time?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Most definitely. I would also ban corporations and unions (but not shareholders or union members) from donating to political parties.

17. Will you support and commit to implement the 'Medi-vac Bill' which instituted a process to allow detainees offshore to be transferred to the Australian mainland for medical treatment and assessment at the behest of a panel of Australian doctors?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

The politicisation of the asylum seeker issue by the Coalition has been a disgrace. Moving forward, while the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance, the human consequences of the policy must be dealt with properly now.

18. Will you support the full evacuation of all those refugees and people seeking asylum held on Nauru and Manus Island for over 5 years to safety in Australia or an equivalent third country?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

The politicisation of the asylum seeker issue by the Coalition has been a disgrace. Moving forward, while the DRA position on

legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance, the human consequences of the policy must be dealt with properly now.

19. Are you committed to multiculturalism and a diverse community?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

I fully support a tolerant multicultural Australia.

20. Will you oppose attempts to introduce English-language tests and extend the waiting times for Australian citizenship, and ensure that the Home Affairs Department processes all current and future citizenship applications in a timely and transparent manner?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Proposed amendments to the Citizenship legislation and delays in visa processing are politicised attempts by the Coalition to further capitalise on concerns about asylum seekers.

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

21. Will you reverse changes made by the Social Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 that adversely affect migrant communities and oppose any further exclusion of migrants from the social safety net?

Yes

22. Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

I regard changes to this legislation to be another example of the attempt by the Coalition to seek to capitalise on concerns about asylum seekers.

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

23.

Will you ensure that protections against racial discrimination, including Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act, remain intact and that you will consider extending existing protections and policies?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Yes. I support this without reservation.

24.

Will you rule out any preference or political deals with One Nation and similarly racist far right parties or candidates, and will you place them at the bottom of your how to vote cards?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Yes. I seek the votes of people who have voted for these parties previously but will not do deals with parties that have racist underpinnings and run on racist memes.

25. Do you support putting First Nations Affairs in First Nations hands?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

The DRA supports the increased ability of indigenous and all Australians to participate in the political system at all levels.

26. Will you take action on deaths in custody, starting with a comprehensive audit of the implementation of the Royal Commission's recommendations?

Yes

Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

The DRA supports accountable government.

27. Will you end the racist and punitive Community Development Program?

Yes

28. Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

The DRA supports a strong multicultural vision of Australia.

29. Will you restore critical funding partnerships between state and federal governments for remote Aboriginal community housing?

Yes

30. Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

31. Will you reverse all of the budget cuts to health, education and aged care from the 2014 budget onwards?

Yes

32. Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

33. Will you reverse all ABC and SBS budget cuts from the 2014 budget onwards?

Yes

34. Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

I support an independent media that can better report on political issues and maintain high standards of transparency about political decision making.

35. Will you protect the independence of the ABC and SBS, reform the board appointment process and commit to not interfering in board or senior executive decision making?

Yes

36. Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

I support an independent media that can better report on political issues and maintain high standards of transparency about political decision making.

37. Do you agree that Newstart is too low and that it must be raised by at least \$75 per week?

Yes

38. Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

If each Federal vote is worth \$2.75 indexed to CPI every 6 months we believe the Newstart should be raised and indexed.

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

39. Will you take steps to reduce the cost of out-of-pocket medical expenses?

Yes

40. Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Medicare must be maintained.

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

41. Will you reverse cuts to weekend and public holiday penalty rates announced in 2017?

Yes

42. Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

43. Will you make housing more affordable, including by reforming negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount?

Yes

44. Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

45. Will you adopt a full employment target of 2-3% unemployed?

Yes

46. Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

47. Will you trial a Job Guarantee program?

Yes

48. Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

49. Will you abolish Stage 2 and 3 of the income tax cuts in the 2018 Federal Budget?

Yes

50. Would you like to provide any additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.

51. Will you stop unfair tax giveaways to high income earners through avenues like superannuation tax concessions and dividend imputation?

Yes

52. Would you like to provide additional information on this question?

Moving forward, the DRA position on legislation before the Parliament will be determined by the democratic vote of members of the Alliance.