

# BEYOND COAL AND GAS

Protecting our land, water, communities and climate

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## Protecting our land, water, communities and climate

The rapid and destructive expansion of mega coal mines and the unconventional gas industry across much of Australia demonstrates what happens when governments put big mining companies ahead of local communities, the environment and our long term future.

## QUICK FACTS

The Greens are fighting for:

- no new coal or unconventional gas approvals or expansions; and in the meantime,
  - a ban on hydraulic

# The Greens' plan to move beyond coal and gas

Only the Australian Greens are prepared to stand up to the big polluters in the coal and unconventional gas (coal seam, shale and tight gas) industries and act to protect our climate, precious farmland and regional communities.

The Greens are fighting for:

- no new coal or unconventional gas approvals or expansions; and in the meantime,
  - a ban on hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”),
  - the right for landholders including traditional owners to say ‘no’ to coal and unconventional gas;
  - extending the ‘water trigger’ to all forms of unconventional gas, including shale and tight gas
- at least 90% clean energy by 2030, creating thousands of new jobs;
- a just transition and new jobs for workers communities, with a \$ 1 billion Clean Energy Transition Fund; and
- full investigation of health impacts of unconventional gas
- independent measurement of climate pollution from unconventional gas;
- an export levy on thermal coal, an end to fossil fuel subsidies, and a price on pollution with no free permits for big miners;
- no new coal or gas ports along the Great Barrier Reef, and no new fossil fuel infrastructure like gas pipelines;
- new national environment laws and a new watchdog, the National Environment Protection Authority

## No new coal and gas

Our Reef and our food producing land shouldn't be subjected to any new coal or gas mines or expansions when we have abundant clean energy that is reliable, creates more jobs and won't worsen global warming.

**The Greens would ban all new coal and unconventional gas mines, including expansions to existing mines.** While we work towards that goal, the Greens are pushing for:

- an immediate ban on fracking
- landholders including traditional owners to have the right to say ‘no’ to coal and unconventional gas on their land
- extending the ‘water trigger’ to all forms of unconventional gas, including shale and tight gas.

The Greens would also ban new coal and gas ports on the Great Barrier Reef, and rule out any new fossil fuel infrastructure like the proposed gas pipeline from the NT to Queensland which would open up even more dirty fracking operations.

## Coal and gas threaten our land and water

- fracturing (“fracking”)
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  - extending the ‘water trigger’ to all forms of unconventional gas, including shale and tight gas

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The Adani Carmichael mega-mine which threatens the Great Barrier Reef and the Shenhua Watermark mine in the fertile Liverpool Plains are the last, desperate, battles of the coal industry.

In Queensland, the Acland coal mine expansion on the Darling Downs threatens to eat up even more prime farmland, and the CSG industry's creeping expansion around Hopeland is threatening our food bowl.

Coal and unconventional gas mining simply cannot co-exist with farming.

## Protecting landholders and regional communities

The Australian Greens stand firmly on the side of Australian farmers and landholders.

Currently, under state, territory and federal laws, most landholders have no right to refuse mining companies access to explore and, then later, mine their land. **The Greens have introduced three separate bills to give landholders including traditional owners the right to say 'no' to coal and gas, and to ban fracking.**

There is growing evidence of alarming health impacts on people living in close proximity to unconventional gas fields including nosebleeds and headaches in Queensland. **The Greens are calling for a full investigation of these health impacts.**

## Clean energy and a just transition for workers

The Greens have a plan for jobs after coal and gas. Our *Renew Australia* plan for at least 90% clean energy by 2030 would create thousands of new jobs, mostly in regional areas.

A \$1 billion Clean Energy Transition fund would help workers and communities adjust to the transition as our coal usage and exports gradually decline.

The Greens have also announced a plan to secure the bonds for mine site rehabilitation up front, before big mining companies flee offshore with their profits.

## Measuring fracking's real climate pollution

**The Greens would immediately commission a rigorous, well-funded independent study of fugitive emissions.**

Unconventional gas could in fact be just as bad for the climate as burning coal. The US EPA is now revising its earlier low estimates for fugitive emissions upwards. There are also serious questions to answer about the carbon footprint of shale and tight gas.

## Ending the free ride for big polluters

The Greens have announced a **thermal coal export levy of \$3 per tonne**. The Parliamentary Budget Office estimates that the levy will raise \$650 million a year from 2017, or \$2.4 billion over the next 4 years. It would not apply to destination countries with an effective price on pollution.

The Greens have also announced for an end to **fossil fuel subsidies to big polluters**, saving \$24 billion over 4 years and a **price on pollution**, with no free permits for mining companies.

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