



Newsletter May 2025

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1. Only two days to go until election day!

JAGAJAGA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Vote Climate Scorecard



You are required to NUMBER EVERY BOX. For an effective vote on climate and integrity, put ALL the stronger candidates before the others.

	✓ Good policy	✗ Fair policy	✗ Poor/ No policy	Chris Kearney INDEP'T	Chris Parr LIBERAL	Leslie Ralph PHON	Rae Rancie FAMF'ST	Jy Sandford GREENS	Kate Thwaites* LABOR
Strong leadership on the climate emergency	✓		✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Ambitious emissions reduction targets	✓		✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Rapid move to fully renewable (not nuclear) electricity	✓		✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Generous support for solar/battery home electrification	✗		✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
No new fossil fuel mining (thermal coal, gas or oil)	✓		✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Abolition of all fossil fuel subsidies	✓		✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
End native forest logging/support replacement industries	✓		✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗

We are in a climate emergency. Vote for faster, stronger climate action!

Candidates' policies are rated across seven policy areas relating directly to climate change. Scores are based on published policies as at 11 April 2025. No related policies were evident for Abdi Mohamed. Prepared by Nilumbik Climate Action Team.

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VOTE CLIMATE VIC. SENATE



#CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Prepared by Vote Climate, a non-partisan network of community climate groups.

You are required to number at least 6 boxes above the line, but it is more effective to **NUMBER AT LEAST 12**.

FIRST number these in any order. They have strong climate emergency policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q The Greens C Animal Justice Party F FUSION Planet Rescue Whistleblower Protection Innovation L Australian Democrats M Victorian Socialists N Sustainable Australia Universal Basic Income 	NEXT number these in any order. They have some positive policies but significant weaknesses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I Australian Labor Party E Australia's Voice 	NEXT number these in any order. They have few or no climate or energy policies, but may support stronger climate action. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B Legalise Cannabis D Indigenous - Aboriginal Party of Australia G Group G [Socialist Equality Party] 	FINALLY you may want to number the Coalition 12th. They have some positive policies, but many negative policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Liberal/ The Nationals 	NO NEED to number remaining groups unless you prefer some over others. 
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Major parties are placed at the top of their categories. Others in ballot paper order, not order of merit.
Authorised by J.Morton 12 Auburn Ave, Northcote 3070. Based on policies at 12/4/25. Find out more: VoteClimate.net.au.

As we countdown to the election, it's time to make our voice heard above the distracting chatter around cost of living, defence spending, 'tough on crime' rhetoric etc. and focus on the **stronger and faster climate action** needed to pull our planet back from the brink of irreversible catastrophe and make our planet liveable for future generations.

Above are the scorecards for **Jagajaga** and **the Senate**, and you will find scorecards for McEwen and Casey on our [website](#).

If you haven't already voted at pre polling, use our climate scorecards to guide you in the direction of **voting choices that will put climate first**.

The scoring was based on detailed analysis of **seven key aspects of candidates' climate policies**. You can find full details of the **scoring methodology** on our [website](#), as well as the **detailed candidate policies** that informed the candidates' scores.

NCAT has been active over the past week getting our scorecards out there at pre polling locations, and into the community. **Many thanks to all our supporters** who have helped with this, or have offered donations to assist with the printing of scorecards.

2. Climate Cafe 2025



Last Thursday we heard from **David Collis** on the topic of **Why Transport Matters**. The topic drew a large crowd, and the audience entered readily into a vigorous discussion afterwards.

David delved into the issue of **sustainable transport**, with a particular focus on **active transport and public transport**. While he was able to provide a broad global context for sustainable transport initiatives, he also zoomed in on the local situation in Nillumbik, investigating how transport systems influence other aspects of sustainability in the outer 'burbs, such as **land use** and **consumption habits**. He pointed out the challenges in Nillumbik of prioritising modes of transport that are not car-centred, but drew attention to the benefits of infrastructure and timetabling/routing improvements, sometimes quite small, that can increase the uptake of active and public transport. He concluded the presentation with tips on how we can **push for stronger change at the governmental level**.

A summary of David's talk is available [here](#).

For our **next climate cafe**, we will hear from Eltham local and RMIT academic, **Lily Van Eeden**. Lily will present on the topic of **It's all about us: understanding people to protect the planet**.

People often ask the question, why can't I make everyone care for nature in the same way I do? Society is diverse, so not everyone has the same perceptions and priorities for environments and their management. Lily applies social psychology and systems-thinking to understand how people shape, and can solve, nature conservation issues. In her talk, Lily will describe examples from her research in human behaviour change and human-wildlife conflict that illustrate how social factors underpin environmental problems, demonstrating how an understanding of how and why people do what they do should inform design of conservation interventions. In doing so, she encourages you to realise that when it comes to changing someone's behaviour, you have to see the world through their eyes.

Bio: Dr Lily van Eeden is an interdisciplinary scientist with expertise in conservation biology and behavioural psychology. She's interested in how people interact with nature, and what factors cause them to act in ways that protect or harm the natural environment. This can include a variety of things, from exploring people's beliefs about nature through to industry practices and environmental policy.

Lily has a PhD from the University of Sydney in human-wildlife coexistence. Her research there explored the human dimensions of conflict between livestock producers and dingoes in Australia, with a foray over to the United States as a Fulbright scholar to draw comparisons with management of wolves, cougars, and coyotes. She's now a lecturer at RMIT University and works in partnership with the state environment department. She is a third generation Nillumbik resident and grew up in Panton Hill.

The program for the following three months is as follows:

May 29

It's all about us: Understanding people to protect the planet
- Dr Lily Van Eeden (RMIT)

June 26

The State of the Forests: Where are we now?
- Kinglake Friends of the Forest

July 31

Gardens for a Warming Climate
- Peter May (Environmental services professional and horticulturalist)

Where: Platform 3095 Cafe, 965 Main Rd, Eltham

When: 7:30pm last Thursday of the month February to November

As always, you are welcome to join us earlier for a meal from 6pm onwards if you can, or come at 7.30pm for the speaker event.

nillumbikclimateactionteam.org/ncat-climate-cafe/

3. Citizens Assembly on Nuclear Power for Australia by Mitzi Tuke



Image: [Conversation at the Crossroads](#)

Elizabeth and I participated in an [online citizens assembly](#) which is an initiative of [Conversation at the Crossroads](#). Quite co-incidentally it comes on the heels of our last Climate Cafe in March, where **Sonia Randhawa** from the **Sortition Foundation** spoke on deliberative decision making and participatory democracy.

The topic for this assembly was **nuclear power for Australia** as proposed by the Liberal party. In the first session, a number of small groups met separately, online, over a period of several days, for one hour each group, and we were asked to have input to questions relating to:

- our position on the proposal to establish seven nuclear power plants,
- the issues raised in establishing a nuclear power industry and benefits or risks
- considering the energy policies proposed by the various parties in the election campaign and whether they were an appropriate response to climate change
- appraising the public conversation around these issues and whether they were being adequately considered in terms of democratic deliberation and decision making.

We were provided with reading material covering the cases for and against nuclear power. The sessions were very tightly moderated, with participants being allocated one minute for each contribution. We could have a few contributions to the discussion before we were moved to consider the next question. Our responses needed to be very focussed and directed to the question.

The small group session was followed by a one and a half hour online plenary session with 100 participants. There were two brief presentations covering the cases for and against a nuclear industry. We had break out discussions where we further considered our positions and any future of nuclear energy in Australia.

Participating in a citizens assembly is a stimulating and inspiring experience, and I would recommend it. In order to participate, people do not need to be experts in the field. Rather, anyone can volunteer to register and people need to be willing to read some preparatory material, engage in a group discussion, and be prepared to be concise in their answers in order to allow everyone to have their say.

This assembly is a pilot project for Conversation at the Crossroads, with the intention of contributing to the democratic process and strengthening the national narrative. The group intends to convene more assemblies to encourage a diverse range of people to share ideas on issues of national importance and concern.

The intention for this citizens assembly is to discover how the community is engaging on the issue of nuclear power in Australia, the range of views held, and how perspectives have been shaped during the course of the assembly. The results of both the small group sessions and the plenary will be collated, published and conveyed to decision makers, whoever is in government after the imminent election.

When we receive further details from Conversation at the Crossroads, we will include them in the Newsletter. Watch this space!

4. Pushing the needle: As climate protests gather force around the country, what is driving a wide range of people from despair to direct action?



Photo: The Monthly

A recent article in The Monthly, [Pushing the Needle](#), looks at why people turn to direct action as an antidote to the despair we all frequently feel at the direction the world is taking, politically, environmentally and climatically.

It follows **a day in the life of two 'Knitting Nannas'**, locked on to a massive logging machine for ten hours, chunky D-bolts around their necks, until the bolts are sawn off with angle grinders and they are carted off in a paddy wagon to the nearest local town.

'Author Alice Walker famously proclaimed that **"Resistance is the secret of joy."** In these bleak times it's that dopamine hit sustaining this pair of nannas in the Bulga State Forest; luring thousands – young, old, families – to Newcastle to take up their kayak paddles and join Rising Tide's record-breaking "people's blockade of the world's largest coal port"; inspiring fresh recruits to the frontline defence of Tasmania's Tarkine wilderness.

Such actions are not merely salves. At scale, they become **juice for the social movements** necessary to drive the "rapid, disruptive and transformative changes" that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says are imperative.'

To read the full article, click [here](#).

5. Where do the major parties stand on climate change?

As the election campaign draws to a close, it's safe to say both major parties have been quiet on climate change.

Energy policies have featured prominently, which of course carry consequences for climate change, but beyond generalities, climate has been under-represented.

The last election was dubbed by many "the climate election", which saw the teal independents ride a wave of climate frustration into parliament, and a promise from Anthony Albanese to "end the climate wars".

Once again, the independents and Greens have been advocating for stronger climate action, and in the event that Australia has a minority government after May 3, climate change would be a key focus of any negotiations.

During its last term, Labor passed a number of significant reforms, especially focusing on speeding up the transition to renewables.

Many of these policies are under threat if the Coalition wins the next election, promising to scrap or weaken them significantly.

For the [full article, visit the ABC website](#)

6. What's happening with the planet? A short update for 2025, plus A New Venture



Photo: [ANIRUDH](#) on [Unsplash](#)

'What might the next few years of climate change and response bring? While hard to be certain, it is possible to track some of the important trends. These matter if we are interested in planetary reality because our ability to prepare for the future lies not in what we want to happen but in what is happening.'

Simon Kerr gives us a run-down of the current global and national trends in the climate space - the good, the bad, and everything in between...

Read about those trends [here](#).

A New Venture

Simon is in the process of setting up a cooperative called the Biodiversity, Arts and Music Cooperative (BAM), which will support projects and arts/science collaborations to tell the story of our bio-diverse world and the need to protect, restore and return land to nature.

One of these projects, Symbiotica, will in time replace Music for a Warming World, which some of you may remember from NCAT's end of year celebratory event last November.

Simon has this to say about Symbiotica:

'Human life is inescapably entangled with the rest of the living world. This reality is increasingly being understood by individuals, communities, governments and the international community, resulting in initiatives and actions to regenerate biodiversity and where possible restore and return land and oceans back to nature.

This project is an artistic celebration of this broad ambition.

Grounded in collaborations with science and scholarship, it involves a live performance with a narrator/actor, music and state of the art visual projections.

Restoring nature is now a major focus and art and music can help with this.

Simon is inviting people to support the establishment of BAM by becoming a member. Visit the [Music for a Warming World/BAM webpage](#) for more information about this exciting new development from the creator of Music for a Warming World.

7. New resource illustrates dangers of climate change for Australian families



Illustration: Cecilia Humphrey

The Australian Climate Accountability Project has released a new information resource for community-based and climate groups, illustrating the dangers of **climate-driven harms to Australians posed by our huge fossil fuel exports**.

The fictionalised case studies of 'Lisa' and her family in Logan, Queensland explore how our worsening climate can raise weather-driven risks for ordinary people in eastern Australia, **making life more uncertain, more stressful and more costly**.

Lisa's story, with its striking visuals by illustrator Cecilia Humphrey, draws upon the scientific data on **escalating risks from climate change in Australia**, especially from heat, to the lives of ordinary families and communities.

Australian Climate Accountability Project lead and Gillian Moon said "In preparing Lisa's Story, we worked closely with climate scientists, public health experts and social demographers, always making sure Lisa's story stood on solid facts and scientific projections, but that it was also presented in **plain, non-technical language** that would be meaningful to the general public."

Lisa's family are like many in eastern Australia, where more than 80% of the country's population lives – **families living with financial and other challenges that mean climate change is more likely to hit them hard**.

"These families often rent, have fixed budgets, and have family members with common medical conditions, like asthma or diabetes, or who work in outdoor or heat-exposed jobs," said Ms Moon.

"Public transport in suburbs is often below standard, and houses — especially rental properties — are often poorly insulated and close together, meaning they stay hot long into the night."

Opportunities for **further reading and information on how to start discussions about climate change within local communities** is also provided within the resource.

The Australian Climate Accountability Project is part of the Australian Human Rights Institute at UNSW Sydney. This is the project's second major release following 2024's [Escalation](#) report, which revealed **Australia is the second-largest climate polluter when calculated by total carbon emissions from its massive fossil fuel exports**.

Visit the [Australian Climate Accountability Project's website](#) to read Lisa's Story.

8. Honest Government Ads - 'Our Nuclear Plan'



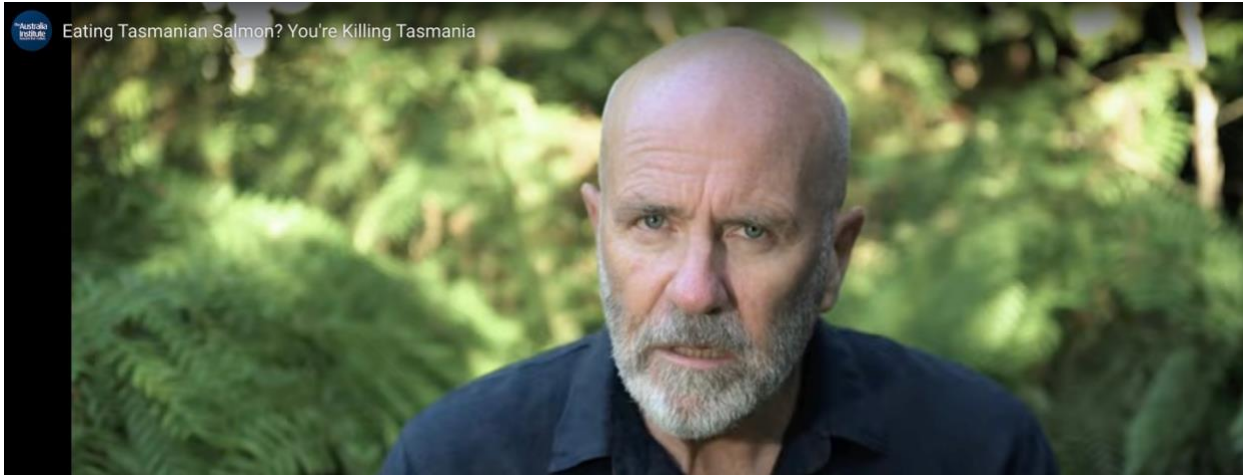
Just in case you were still in any doubt about the Coalition's nuclear plan...watch this [explanatory video from The Juice Media](#).

9. Get Grill'd off Gas

Sign this Friends of the Earth petition to get burger chain Grill'd off gas. Grill'd burger chain has 54 stores across Victoria, the heaviest gas using state in Australia and claims that sustainability is "in (their) DNA". But Grill'd stores use polluting fossil gas to grill their burgers which is bad for the climate, their energy bills and the health of their workers.

Sign the petition [here](#).

10. Petition: Fix our broken environment laws



The Australia Institute is asking for your help to pressure the government to **fix our broken environmental laws**.

Just weeks after Labor and the Coalition teamed up to allow the salmon industry to bypass Australian nature laws, it's been confirmed that **salmon from diseased commercial pens in Tasmania is being sold for human consumption**. Not only is the salmon industry threatening irreplaceable ecosystems, but it's also keeping Australian consumers in the dark about what they are eating.

This issue extends far beyond Tasmania. All Australians deserve to know that Tasmanian salmon is not only killing Tasmania's environment - **the industry cannot rule out that infected salmon is not making it's way to your dinner plate**.

Click [here to sign the petition](#) to **protect Australia's environmental laws**, and to watch the video ad, **Eating Tasmanian Salmon? You're Killing Tasmania**.

11. Atlas strikes again...

How Atlas Network amassed a global network of free market think tanks and reached into Australia and New Zealand.

Australia is now in the thick of a federal election cycle, the United States just came out of one and in New Zealand, the fallout from the last national election has brought into focus a part of the political machine often out of view.

To a voter's naked eye, the impact of think tanks and so-called research centres on public policy and any public vote might be imperceptible.

In New Zealand, there is now a conversation about an organisation called Atlas Network and whether or not it has influenced the right-bloc government's agenda.

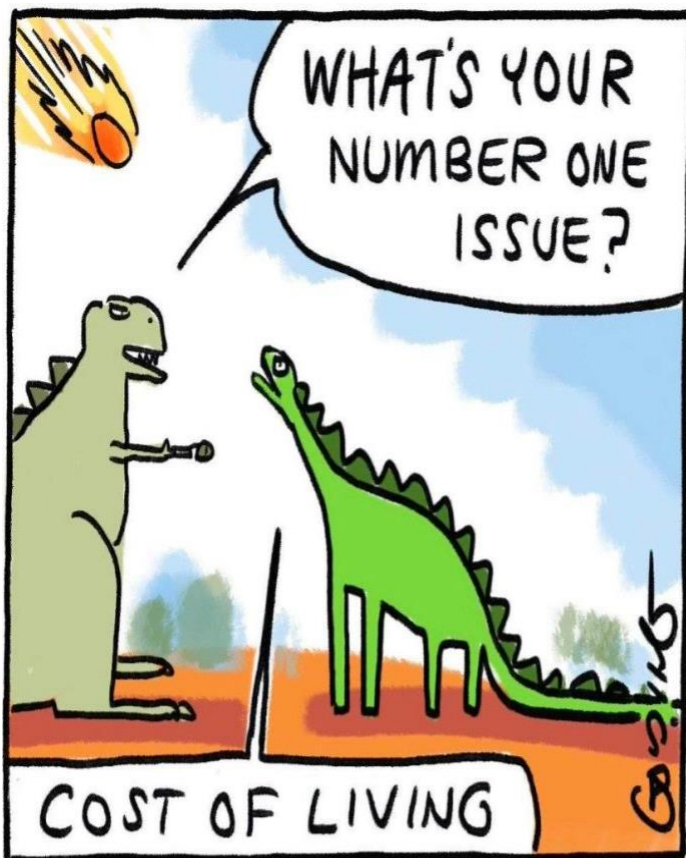
To read the full article, reprinted from the ABC website, click [here](#)

12. Correction to Election Messaging

In our piece on Election Messaging last month, we stated 'Nelli Stevenson from [Solutions for Climate Australia](#) has put together this quick and easy messaging package that covers nuclear, gas and renewables.'

Nelli Stevenson is not from Solutions for Climate, but is a self-employed communications and engagement consultant who has collaborated with Solutions for Climate and other climate groups on election messaging. We apologise for the error.

13. Cartoon of the Month



Cartoon: Matt Golding, The Age, 31March 2025

14. Videos - The Benefits of Home Electrification

Power Up Nillumbik has produced three short videos featuring Nillumbik households that have taken the plunge and committed to electrification projects around their homes.

Householders enthusiastically describe their experiences with split system home heating, solar panel and battery installation, the switch to an EV, installation of hot water heat pumps and induction cooktops.

To watch the videos, click [here](#).

15. CANA membership approved

NCAT is now a member of the national climate umbrella group, Climate Action Network Australia (CANA).

CANA provides the coordination for members to build relationships, collaborate on strategy and campaigns, and develop and share resources and capacity to build a stronger, more effective social movement advocating for action on climate change.

As a member of CANA, NCAT will have access to online platforms, regular working groups, conferences and more.

We are very excited to be part of this influential climate network!

16. Upcoming Events

Rethink Nillumbik and Going Green Solutions: All Electrification events program

A comprehensive lineup of electrification events to cover all your electrification needs!

[Click here](#) for more information and bookings.

Electric Vehicle Webinar Wednesday 21 May, 7-8pm

Join EV expert Bryce Gaton for the latest information on electric vehicle models, running costs, charging, running appliances from your car, undertaking long road trips and much more!

Register [here](#) for this webinar.

Energy and Sustainable Living Advice

Nillumbik Council offers a personalised advisory service for Nillumbik residents and businesses, on how to navigate the confusing world of energy and sustainable living.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Support us

[Nillumbik Climate Action Team \(NCAT\)](#) is a small volunteer organisation. We rely on donations to support our work, and thank you to everyone who has donated to date. [Further details here](#). We'd be very grateful if you are able to support us, even in a small way.

Note: you can now [donate online](#).

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people as the traditional owners of Nillumbik and its environs, and that this land was never ceded. We thank them for their custodianship of the land over millennia.

We acknowledge that we are in a climate emergency; there can be no climate justice without First Nations justice.

We support First Nations peoples in their striving for complete recognition, truth-telling, treaty and justice, and we are sorry for the hurt and injustice we have caused.
