

Key coastal management issues for the 2007 Federal Election

Responses from Political Parties

Table 1: Key coastal management issues for the 2007 NSW Federal Election responses from political parties

Party	An independent coastal advisory body for Australia	A strategy for managing the impact of climate change on the coastal zone including issues associated with sustainable water management for regional and urban areas	Funding for Local Government and community coastal programs and initiatives	Public participation in the strategic planning and major development assessment in the coastal zone	Maintenance of public ownership and public access in the coastal zone
<p>The Australian Labor Party</p>	<p><i>National consultation</i> Labor will embark on a national consultation with coastal councils, coastal Natural Resource Management Councils, capital city mayors, academics, community groups and State and Territory Governments to develop a blueprint for coastal cities and towns to meet current and future climate challenges.</p> <p><i>National approach to coastal policy</i> A Rudd Labor Government will work closely with State and Territory Governments and local councils to develop a coordinated, national approach to coastal policy. This will allow for the development and sharing of best practice coastal management across local communities to preserve our natural heritage, protect biodiversity and secure our way of life. In this context,</p>	<p><i>Responding to climate change</i> The 2007 PMSEIC report Climate Change in Australia: Regional Impacts and Adaptation – Managing the Risk for Australia makes three major recommendations on climate change adaptation in coastal communities. In response to these recommendations, a Rudd Labor Government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission the Australian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation to assess the socioeconomic impacts and consequences of climate change for our coastal communities and the benefits of adaptation. • Labor will embark on a national consultation with city and coastal community leaders, Federal, State and Territory Governments, local councils and experts to develop a blueprint for meeting the current and future climate challenges in a coastal context. • Establish a climate change adaptation communication campaign to focus attention on practical measures that coastal 	<p><i>Protecting our precious coastal communities</i> Climate change will add to the many pressures facing coastal environments, including those identified in a recent report from the National Sea Change Taskforce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss and fragmentation due to urban development and tourism. • Loss and degradation of coastal wetlands. • Change in hydrological systems and marine habitats. • The introduction of pests and exotic species. • Coastal erosion and damage to dunes. <p>These challenges need to be addressed at a national level – through better planning and strategic focus, and at a local level, through the active engagement of community</p>	<p>Labor will embark on a national consultation with coastal councils, coastal Natural Resource Management Councils, capital city mayors, academics, community groups and State and Territory Governments to develop a blueprint for coastal cities and towns to meet current and future climate challenges.</p>	<p>Climate change will add to the many pressures facing coastal environments, including those identified in a recent report from the National Sea Change Taskforce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss and fragmentation due to urban development and tourism. • Loss and degradation of coastal wetlands. • Change in hydrological systems and marine habitats. • The introduction of pests and exotic species. • Coastal erosion and damage to dunes. <p>These challenges need to be addressed at a national level – through better planning and strategic focus, and at a local level,</p>

	<p>Labor will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish national principles for the improved management of coastal Australia and a more sustainable use of coastal natural resources. • Use best practice monitoring and evaluation programs to implement consistent, long-term reporting on government, industry and community investments in coastal management. • Engage with representatives of the insurance industry to assess industry responses to the impacts of climate change on coastal communities. • Ensure that the Australian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation makes emerging knowledge and information on the impacts of climate change in coastal Australia available to coastal councils and coastal communities so that adaptation and mitigation strategies can be developed appropriate to local conditions. • Implement relevant recommendations of the PMSEIC report Climate Change in Australia: Regional Impacts and Adaptation – Managing the Risk for Australia. 	<p>communities can take to adapt to climate change.</p> <p>A Rudd Labor Government will ensure a national focus on climate change adaptation for coastal communities through the Australian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation, and will provide region specific information to coastal councils on the impact of climate change on their communities.</p> <p>Labor will also ensure that around \$25 million over five years from funding already provided to the Australian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation is directed to addressing the impact of climate change on coastal communities. With the national leadership of a Rudd Labor Government, working in partnership with State and Territory Governments, coastal councils and coastal NRM groups, we can develop strategies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update building codes to take account of changing climate conditions. • Develop consistent planning measures (for example, setback lines, planned retreat, dune management, building designs, regulation of new structures) and introduce siting requirements that account for sea level rise. • Manage urban sprawl in climate sensitive areas through zoning and regulation. • Inform and educate the public about the impact of climate change. • Encourage early planning for 	<p>groups, local businesses and local councils.</p> <p>A Rudd Labor Government will establish a new \$100 million, five year Community Coastcare Program to better protect our precious coastal environment through unallocated Natural Heritage Trust Phase Three funds.</p> <p>The Community Coast Care Program will provide grants of up to \$50,000 for community groups to undertake coastal restoration and preventative work in such areas as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat protection; • Restoration of coastal waterways; • Removal of invasive weeds and pests; • Dune restoration and prevention of coastal erosion; and • Preparing for extreme climate-related events and storms. 		<p>through the active engagement of community groups, local businesses and local councils.</p> <p>A Rudd Labor Government will establish a new \$100 million, five year Community Coast Care Program to better protect our precious coastal environment using unallocated Natural Heritage Trust Phase Three funds.</p> <p>With the national leadership of a Rudd Labor Government, working in partnership with State and Territory Governments, coastal councils and coastal NRM groups, we can develop strategies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update building codes to take account of changing climate conditions. • Develop consistent planning measures (for example, setback lines, planned retreat, dune management, building designs, regulation of new structures) and introduce siting requirements that account for sea level rise. • Manage urban sprawl in climate sensitive areas through zoning and regulation.
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	<p><i>National principles for coastal management</i> Labor will work with the National Sea Change Task Force and other stakeholders in developing broad, national principles for coastal management, consistent with its commitment to sustainable development. A Rudd Labor Government will also establish an independent Commonwealth statutory authority, Infrastructure Australia, to assess the adequacy, capacity and condition of Australia's infrastructure assets; and to plan and develop nationally significant infrastructure in a coordinated and objective way.</p>	<p>development of long term infrastructure adaptation strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and replant wildlife corridors to facilitate migration of species under future warming. • Revegetate and manage developed land to maximise the north-south connectivity between national parks and other reserves. • Reduce local stresses (water quality, fishing pressure) on coral reef systems to encourage recovery and reduce mortality. • Assist dispersal of species that become 'stranded' as their bioclimatic zone moves. <p><i>Disaster mitigation</i> The Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability report called for the Australian Government's Disaster Mitigation Australia Package to be informed by climate change risks, but this has not happened. That is why a Rudd Labor Government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and improve the disaster mitigation plan – taking into account the increased likelihood of severe weather and storms due to climate change. • Set up an expert scientific panel to advise Federal, State and Territory Governments and local councils on how to prepare for more severe climate change-related natural disasters. • Provide region-specific information to local councils on the impact of climate change on their community through the Australian Centre for Climate 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform and educate the public about the impact of climate change. • Encourage early planning for development of long term infrastructure adaptation strategies. • Protect and replant wildlife corridors to facilitate migration of species under future warming. • Revegetate and manage developed land to maximise the north-south connectivity between national parks and other reserves. • Reduce local stresses (water quality, fishing pressure) on coral reef systems to encourage recovery and reduce mortality. • Assist dispersal of species that become 'stranded' as their bioclimatic zone moves.
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		<p>Change Adaptation.</p> <p>This plan will ensure assistance and information on long-term planning for construction and residential building in low-lying coastal areas affected by increased sea levels as well as other areas where extreme weather could impact such as low and heavy rainfall.</p>			
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The Coalition	No response provided	<p>Since 1996 the Coalition Government has invested around \$3.5 billion to address the climate change challenge and is ensuring that Australia reduces its greenhouse gas emissions at least economic cost. Local Government is a key partner in this agenda.</p> <p>Future activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support of the Cities for Climate Protection. • Assisting local Governments through the Local Greenhouse Action (LGA) measure, a \$13.8 million programme over 4 years. • An investment of over \$170 million on climate change adaptation including \$126 million for the national Centre for Climate Change Adaptation. • Development of a Digital Elevation Models to support decision making in the coastal zone. 	No response provided	No response provided	No response provided

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The Greens	<p>The Greens believe a national approach to coastal management is required to deliver clean and healthy environments, integrated ecosystems and sustainable coastal communities. Therefore we advocate the establishment of a statutory National Oceans Authority, reporting to the parliament, and enforcing ecosystem-based regional management plans and targets.</p>	<p>The Greens Marine and Coastal Policy, acknowledges the reality that sea level rise, ocean warming, acidification and increased severity and frequency of storms as a result of climate change pose grave threats to marine and coastal ecosystems. The Greens believe that these issues can best be dealt with through the establishment of the proposed National Oceans Authority and through the implementation and proper funding of the National Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management.</p>	<p>The Greens believe that funding of Local Government and community Groups through the Coasts and Clean Seas program and through Coastcare grants to undertake on-ground projects to protect and repair the coastline around the nation has been very successful. This initiative needs to be given long term commitment by the Commonwealth Government and substantial funding dedicated to this critical area.</p>	<p>The Greens are committed to the proper implementation and funding of the National Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management and implicit in that is our commitment to proper community involvement in decision making. Our policy on community to a range Participation in Government also clearly spells out our broad commitment to a range of initiatives that improve the community's access to information about government and to improve community involvement in decision making process.</p>	<p>The Greens Marine and Coastal and Marine Areas Policy states that we want a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) system of marine reserves in Commonwealth, State and Territory waters to adequately conserve and protect Australia's unique marine, coastal and estuarine biodiversity. In addition, the Greens believe that proper funding of the National Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management will assist in developing consistent policies and guidelines for public access to coastal and foreshore areas.</p>