

GET COAL AND GAS MONEY OUT OF POLITICS

Our plan to ban coal and gas corporations and billionaires from corrupting politicians

In Australia, coal and gas corporations and billionaires have too much power over politicians. In return they get too much special treatment.

Coal and gas corporations and billionaires are polluting our air and water, destroying farmland and culturally significant sites, and fuelling the climate crisis. We need to get their money out of politics, because it is corrupting politicians from the major parties.

The Greens will ban all political donations from the fossil fuel sector. We will close the revolving door between politicians and the coal and gas industry and we will establish a strong, independent National Integrity Commission to crack down on corruption.

Cracking down on donations from coal and gas corporations and other dirty industries will benefit our whole community by improving our confidence in government.

THE GREENS WILL:

- ▲ **Ban all political donations from the mining and resources sector (and other dirty industries) and cap all other donations at \$1000 per year**
- ▲ **Stop Resource Ministers and advisers from working for the fossil fuel industry within five years of leaving parliament**
- ▲ **Publish a register of meetings between Ministers and mining lobbyists**
- ▲ **Deliver a strong, independent national corruption watchdog**
- ▲ **Deliver a Code of Conduct for all politicians and senior staff**

PAYING FOR OUR PLAN

By making billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share of tax and winding back handouts to big polluters, we can build a better life for all of us.

1 in 3 big corporations pays no tax and many big corporations and billionaires send their profits offshore tax free.

The Greens will tax billionaires with a new 'billionaires tax', require big corporations making excessive profits to pay a 'corporate super-profits tax' and axe billions of dollars in handouts to the coal, oil and gas giants that are driving the climate crisis.

These measures have all been costed by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office.

When big corporations and billionaires pay their fair share, everyone can have the services they need for a better life.

ENDING THE INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL DONATIONS

The disproportionate influence of political donors on government decisions has stopped Australia from taking strong action to address the climate crisis, respect First Nations communities, or strengthen environmental laws.

Worryingly, the source of many donations remains hidden because they are below the disclosure threshold or fall into a category that is not counted as a 'donation'. In 2018-2019 alone, more than \$100 million of donations made to political parties were undisclosed, allowing influence to be peddled under the radar.¹

¹ Centre for Public Integrity. 2021. "Hidden Money in Politics: What the AEC disclosures don't tell us". <https://publicintegrity.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Briefing-paper-Hidden-money-in-politics-2019.pdf>

To curb this influence, the Greens will ban *all* political donations from the mining, development, tobacco, alcohol, gambling, banking, defence and pharmaceutical industries.

The Greens will also cap all other donations at \$1,000 per year, require timely disclosure of donations, introduce truth in political advertising laws, and limit the amount that political parties and associated entities can spend on elections to prevent well-resourced parties and lobby groups skewing election outcomes by out-spending minor parties and not-for-profit advocacy groups.²

These policies will help to ensure that elections are more democratic and representative and that elected governments will work for the people, not the highest bidder.

² See [Cleaning Up Politics. Reviving Democracy](#)

STOPPING THE REVOLVING DOOR

Hiring or employing people with the right connections is another way to 'buy' influence. The 'revolving door' between policy and lobbying roles is a growing feature of the Australian political landscape.³

Nearly 40% of all lobbyists have previously been politicians, advisers, or government officials, and at least 70% of lobbying firms employ former politicians or advisers.⁴

Politicians and their staff securing cushy jobs post-Parliament should never come at the cost of the community and the planet.

The Greens will stop the revolving door between politics and industry by preventing politicians and advisers taking on post-politics for-profit work for industries they previously regulated, for five years.

SHINING A LIGHT ON DODGY DEALS

Despite recommendations from the Australian National Audit Office to strengthen oversight of lobbyists⁵, the government continues to make

³ Grattan Institute. 2018. "Who's in the room? Access and influence in Australian politics". p20 <https://grattan.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/908-Who-s-in-the-room-Access-and-influence-in-Australian-politics.pdf>

⁴ Grattan Institute. 2018. *Who's in the room? Access and influence in Australian politics*. p22 <https://grattan.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/908-Who-s-in-the-room-Access-and-influence-in-Australian-politics.pdf>

⁵ Australian National Audit Office. 2020. *Management of the Australian Governments Lobbying Code of Conduct: Follow-up Audit* <https://www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/management-the-australian-government-lobbying-code-conduct-follow-up-audit>

deals with the mining industry behind closed doors.

The Greens will expose these dodgy deals by:

- ▲ requiring in-house lobbyists to be included on the Lobbyists Register
- ▲ making it easier to access details of registered lobbyists and who they've been meeting with
- ▲ requiring Ministers to regularly publish details of their meetings with for-profit lobbyists
- ▲ strengthening the Lobbying Code of Conduct to improve transparency and stop political favours being repaid with cushy mining industry jobs.

STOPPING CORRUPTION AND DODGY CONDUCT

The Greens will establish a National Integrity Commission to hold politicians and public servants to account and to stop fossil fuel billionaires buying the political outcomes that favour them.⁶

The Greens Bill to establish a strong corruption watchdog has already passed the Senate and could be in place within 6 months if the government just brings it on for a vote in the House.

Unlike the government's weak model, our corruption watchdog will have a broad scope to investigate corrupt behaviour and will have extensive investigation powers. Importantly, it

⁶ See Cleaning Up Politics policy for more detail

will be able to act on tip offs from the public, hold public hearings, and offer strong protections for whistleblowers and journalists.

'Corruption' doesn't capture every misuse of power or inappropriate behaviour by public officials. The Greens will establish a statutory code of conduct requiring all politicians and senior staff to behave respectfully, to perform their roles seriously and with care, and avoid conflicts of interest and profiting from their positions.

Compliance with the Code would be overseen by an Independent Parliamentary Standards Commissioner, with the support of an Independent Parliamentary Adviser to provide confidential advice to politicians and staff who suspect the code may have been breached.

HOW THE GREENS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR YOU

The Greens will always put the public interest ahead of corporate greed.

In the last parliament, it was the Greens who:

- ▲ Passed through the Senate our bill for a National Integrity Commission: a strong, independent corruption watchdog, after ten years of moving for such a body
- ▲ Consistently spoke out against the corrupting influence of donations from the fossil fuel sector and policy favours done for donor mates
- ▲ Introduced a bill to ban dirty donations from the fossil fuel and other sectors to

political parties, to stop democracy being for sale

- ▲ Introduced a Parliamentary Standards Bill for an enforceable code of conduct for all politicians
- ▲ Called for reform of lobbying rules, tightening of the Register of Interest disclosure rules, and genuine consequences for politicians and lobbyists who breach the rules.

FIND ALL OUR POLICIES:

greens.org.au/platform