

Local environmental and sustainability Issues- How the parties stack up on local issues

A view from the Goulburn Valley Environment Group on local political candidates policies on a sustainable future for the Goulburn Valley region

Only public commitments available on party and candidates websites are included in this table for scoring purposes. Correct as of 17 Nov 2010
The Goulburn Valley Environment Group Inc. does not endorse any party or candidate.
Authorised by Helen Reynolds, Goulburn Valley Environment Group, Shepparton

The natural environment

Labor

- No policy to remove logging from the Eildon water catchment areas (tributaries of the Goulburn)
- Improved funding commitments to pest plant and animal control on public land are welcomed
- Commitment to new Red Gum parks and ongoing management
- Retention of VEAC
- Sneaky deal to allow duck shooting in areas of new Murray River parks

Liberal coalition

- Committed to retaining and strengthening the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
- No policy to remove logging from the Eildon water catchment areas (tributaries of the Goulburn)
- Nationals oppose new national parks and advocates for continued logging of forests and parks
- Policy to overturn CMA mergers

Greens

- Policies to better protect native forests
- Policy to end logging in Eildon water catchments
- Policies to give landholders opportunities to develop farm forestry

Country alliance

- Opposes protection of forests in national parks
- Opposes Red Gum parks
- Wants logging to continue in water catchments
- No positive policies on biodiversity

Rivers and water

The Goulburn and Broken Rivers has been under severe stress for a number of years, with little or no environmental flow allocation.

Labor

- Committed to delivering relatively small quantities of water for the environment for the Goulburn
- No new commitments on river health
- No policy on providing environmental water for Red Gum parks and wetlands

Liberal/National party

- No commitment to improving river health (other than existing schemes)
- No change in addressing over allocated river systems.
- No major announcements regarding long term health of the Goulburn River
- Still unclear over saving relating to Food bowl modernisation
- No policy on providing environmental water for new Red Gum parks and wetlands

Greens

- Policies to improve River health and environmental flows.
- Supports adjustment for irrigation sector to address over-allocation
- Supports more water for Red Gum parks
- Supports improving management of public riparian land

Country Alliance

- Opposes an open water market
- No policy on environmental water for rivers and fish
- No policy on water for new River Red Gum parks and wetlands

Climate Change/ Energy

Labor

- Commitments made to mandatory renewable energy targets.
- Good support for renewable energy and solar regionally
- Commitments to partial phase out of brown coal

Liberal/ National coalition

- No strong commitment to renewable energy for regional Victoria
- Supports a legislated reduction in Victoria greenhouse gas.
- Positive policy on extending access to natural gas for some regional communities, but not locally

Greens

- Committed to reducing our dependence on brown coal.
- Supports greater rebates for solar
- Greater greenhouse targets
- Carbon pollution levy for big polluters.

Country Alliance

- Pro-coal fired power stations
- No specifics on improved incentives for solar
- No policy on feed in tariff for solar panels

Public Transport

ALP

- No specific commitments to improving rail or public transport to the Goulburn Valley

Liberal/ National coalition

- No specific commitments to improving rail or public transport to the Goulburn Valley

Greens

- Policy to manage and integrate all public transport services across Victoria.
- No specific policies for the Goulburn Valley, committed to improving trains to regional Victoria

Country alliance

- No policies on improving public transport for northern Victoria, in fact no public transport policies at all

Summary

Greens have scored well with good policies on forests, rivers, sustainable farming, solar and public transport.

Labor has made some good commitments but lacks in a number of areas, particularly water and rivers

Coalition has very little detail and a number of retrograde policies, such as re-introducing cattle into national parks

Country Alliance environment policies would deliver appalling environmental outcomes. There are no policies in many key areas including public transport.

Based on local issues. Ranked out of 10:

- **Greens** **9 out of 10 –excellent**
- **Labor** **6 out of 10 – can do better**
- **Liberal /nationals** **3 out of 10 -very poor**
- **Country alliance** **0 out of 10-shocking**