

MAKE THEM PAY

A PLAN FOR COMMUNITY LED CLIMATE RECOVERY AND TRANSFORMATION, PAID FOR BY THE COAL INDUSTRY

THE
GREENS

The fossil fuel industry has caused a climate crisis which is driving catastrophic weather events. The floods that have devastated NSW this year follow a string of increasingly damaging climate disasters with bushfires, floods, storms and droughts becoming more frequent and more destructive.

The costs of the damage wreaked by these corporations is enormous. Deloitte has calculated that natural disasters cost the Australian economy \$38 billion per year, rising to \$73 billion by 2060¹ while the university of Melbourne has predicted that climate change will cost Australia \$2.7 trillion.

The recent east coast floods have caused more than \$5 billion in insured losses², with many businesses destroyed, and an estimated 3,800 homes deemed unlivable. Rebuilding Lismore is estimated to cost close to \$1 billion³. In a community that was already facing a housing crisis, many have been left homeless, forced to live in cars, caravans, or even return to damaged homes.⁴

The fossil fuel industry has known for decades that burning coal and gas is the leading cause of climate change but has actively opposed all moves by governments to transition to renewables. It's time that those industries which have knowingly contributed to the climate crisis be made to pay for them, not the community who are already bearing the brunt of more frequent and extreme weather events.

Not only should they pay, but communities should be empowered to decide how those funds will be used to prepare them for an uncertain future. That's why the Greens have a plan to transform our towns and cities so that they can better withstand future climate disasters, led by the community and paid for by the coal industry that has caused the climate crisis.

THE GREENS WILL:

- ▲ **Introduce a Climate Disaster Levy on coal exports to raise over \$7 billion per year towards a Climate Recovery and Transformation Fund**
- ▲ **Establish a Climate Recovery and Transformation Authority to assist communities at risk of climate disasters**
- ▲ **Empower communities to prepare for climate change through Citizens Climate Assemblies**

¹[Deloitte, Special report: Update to the economic costs of natural disasters in Australia, 2021](#)

²[McKell Institute, The Cost of Extreme Weather, September 2022](#)

³ <https://lismore.nsw.gov.au/news/council-releases-2022-flood-response-report>

⁴[ABC News, 4/04/22, People left homeless by northern NSW floods say they have 'fallen through the cracks'](#)

CLIMATE DISASTER LEVY

Coal companies are making record profits, with coal exports for Australia forecast to reach \$120 billion in earnings in 2022–23⁵. NSW is the the 4th largest exporter of coal⁶ in the world yet the state is only forecast to receive \$2.2 billion in royalties in 2022/23⁷. Far less than the \$6.6 billion in grants, loans and subsidies the federal government granted to fossil fuel companies last year⁸.

It's criminal that coal companies are able to reap mega-profits, feeding the world's fossil fuel addiction and fueling climate disasters, while leaving the people of NSW to pick up the tab.

NSW exports around 155 to 160 megatonnes of coal annually⁹. This is predicted to decline over the next decade as global demand for coal decreases. The Greens will place a levy of \$20 per tonne of carbon on coal exports in NSW, producing at least \$7 billion in revenue per year over the first 2 years¹⁰. Revenue from the levy would be dedicated to the Climate Recovery and Transformation Fund.

SPENDING THE CLIMATE RECOVERY AND TRANSFORMATION FUND

- ▲ **Establish the Climate Recovery and Transformation Authority (CRTA)**
- ▲ **Allocate \$1 billion per year in the first two years for flood recovery and climate adaptation in Lismore to be directed by a Citizens Climate Assembly.**
- ▲ **Directly compensate those who have been or will be impacted by the climate crisis including relocations, buybacks, land swaps and retrofitting**
- ▲ **Expand funding for NSW emergency services and Rural Fire Service**
- ▲ **Support volunteer and community groups at the frontlines of the climate crisis**
- ▲ **Assess communities around NSW to determine their risk of future climate disaster**

CLIMATE RECOVERY AND TRANSFORMATION AUTHORITY (CRTA)

The fund will be used to establish the Climate Recovery and Transformation Authority. The Authority will assess communities across NSW that have been impacted by climate disasters or are predicted to be impacted in the future and assist those communities to develop co-designed Community Transformation Plans.

⁵ [Australian Government, Australia's resource and energy exports forecast to reach \\$450 billion](#)

⁶ In 2021 Indonesia exported 435MT, QLD 243 MT, Russia 211 MT and NSW 184MT

⁷ [NSW Mining, NSW Budget Update: Record Mining Royalties driving Economic Recovery](#)

⁸ [Windfall profits: time to fix loopholes and subsidies to serve Australians better, Tim Buckley, Director, Climate Energy Finance August 2022](#)

⁹ [Resources and Energy Quarterly, September 2022, Office of the Chief Economist](#)

¹⁰ Based on the IPCC (2006) IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, 2.67t CO₂ / MET Tonne & 2.44 T CO₂ / Tonne Thermal Coal,

A portion of the Climate Recovery and Transformation Fund will be allocated to communities on the basis of their current and predicted climate impacts to help communities develop and implement co-designed Community Transformation Plans. These plans will be developed through Citizens Climate Assemblies empowering communities to address the threats they face from climate change and develop large scale solutions, including house relocations and land use changes that limit development, and ensure that those decisions are endorsed by the community.

The CRTA will also proactively offer voluntary buybacks, house relocations, land swaps and retrofitting of homes not only to residents already impacted by climate change but also to residents in areas that are likely to experience climate disasters in the future.

CITIZENS CLIMATE ASSEMBLIES

The realities of the climate crisis mean that many climate affected communities will have to make decisions that will radically transform their community to remain safe in the face of future climate disasters. It's important that these decisions are made with the consent and approval of the people who live there. Lismore and other climate affected communities across NSW have been left in the dark about what their future holds under the Government's reconstruction plans, with little consultation and no guarantee that their community will not be split apart.

An analysis of over 400 planned relocations found that a well coordinated approach that involves local residents in decision making is far more likely to lead to sustainable solutions than a top-down directive¹¹. co-designed Community Transformation Plans, developed by the community through Citizens Climate Assemblies, will ensure these transformations are guided by the community and empower them to decide their future.

Citizens assemblies have been successfully used in Barcelona since 2004¹² to guide decision making by the city council. In Ireland, Citizens Assemblies have been used since 2013¹³ to successfully make decisions on amending the constitution, climate change, fixed term parliaments and gender equality.

Citizens Assemblies will be conducted by the Climate Recovery and Transformation Authority to develop co-designed Community Transformation Plans for communities impacted by or under threat from climate disasters. The first assemblies will be trialled in Lismore and the Hawkesbury and will be expanded to other disaster affected communities across the rest of NSW.

Assembly members will make decisions and develop a plan using consensus decision making, requiring at least 75% agreement + the agreement of the representatives of the traditional

¹¹ [LEAVING PLACE, RESTORING HOME ENHANCING THE EVIDENCE BASE ON PLANNED RELOCATION CASES IN THE CONTEXT OF HAZARDS, DISASTERS, AND CLIMATE CHANGE, By Erica Bower & Sanjula Weerasinghe March 2021](#)

¹² [Barcelona. The Municipal Council Assembly, the city's highest participatory body](#)

¹³ [Irish Citizens Assembly, Previous Assemblies](#)

owners. The assembly will make decisions in the short term such as the allocation of some funds to the community and long term decisions about planning, adaptation and relocation.

In the next parliament, the Greens will introduce legislation so that the Climate Assembly's decisions are binding and must be enacted by the Government, funded by the Climate Recovery and Transformation Fund.

HOW WOULD A CITIZENS CLIMATE ASSEMBLY FOR LISMORE WORK?

- ▲ **An independent oversight panel and coordinating group will be appointed by the CRTA including representatives of local traditional owners.**
- ▲ **Representatives from the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation and the Lismore City Council will contribute but be unable to vote.**
- ▲ **Assembly members will be paid a wage to participate for 3 to 4 days per week.**
- ▲ **Public notices will call for Lismore residents to apply to be a member of the assembly.**
- ▲ **100 assembly members will be selected by the coordinating committee based on ensuring the assembly reflects the demographics of the Lismore local government area and a further 10 participants nominated by local traditional owners.**