



Katter's Australian Party National Website
A Vote for Us, Is a Vote for You!



Bob Katter
Party Leader



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Climate and Environment

The reality is that we borrow the world from our children and grandchildren and we should strive to leave it in as good or better condition than we found it. KAP is strongly committed to the philosophy of being "honorable ancestors" in the context of being climatic and environmental stewards.

Science is our best tool for understanding the world around us.

Science is responsible for the knowledge that has produced the technology we rely on in the modern world.

At this time, 97% of published scientific papers support the view that human activity is warming the climate, largely through the extraction of stored fossil fuels and that such warming has a high likelihood of resulting in adverse consequences. This high level of scientific agreement is very unusual and other debates that have ultimately been resolved into widespread agreement have generally achieved a considerably lower level of scientific consensus.

The world has been warmer before, but not within the timeframe that we have built our global civilisation. This is cause for considerable concern because our civilisation depends on climate stability in order to support the current global human population.

Peter Mailler, Senate Team Leader speaking about climate.

Global atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are now higher than at any time during the last 3 million years. These high levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide are also impacting on carbon dioxide levels dissolved in sea water with resultant impacts on pH and likely dramatic ramifications for the entire oceanic food chain.

In view of the above points, KAP adopts the precautionary principle and agrees that global carbon dioxide emissions will ultimately need to be constrained to some degree. Those constraints on emissions should remain in place unless or until such time that it can be reliably and scientifically demonstrated that unconstrained carbon dioxide emissions are unlikely to result in costly climatic disturbances.

In regard to the development of new power generation infrastructure, the cost of wind and solar energy systems will be no greater than fossil fuel generation systems. Bloomberg New Energy Finance notes that wind is already cheaper than new coal or gas fired generation and solar soon will be. These are critical points because renewables are often painted as expensive when compared to fully depreciated forty plus year old fossil fuel plants, but this simplistic cost comparison is not borne out when we fairly compare the cost of renewables against capital cost of new fossil fuel systems required to replace the ageing fleet or meet new demand.

There is, however, an ongoing demand for fossil fuels and KAP is committed to responsibly exploit the current energy market to maximise Australia's competitive advantage in the provision of cleanest possible fossil fuels to meet the ongoing demand for as long as it persists to ensure the best possible economic outcome for Australia and to extend the jobs in the current energy sector.

More broadly the same precautionary principles should be applied to other areas of environmental stewardship in relation to mining and extractive industries as well as other areas of human intervention on the land.

However, KAP does remain fully committed to the necessary development of natural ecosystems to pursue sustainable production systems to grow the economic prosperity of the nation. In relation to climate and environment KAP will pursue policies that:

- prevent the extraction of coal seam gas within three kilometres of an aquifer;
- support and extend the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target;
- mandate the use of ethanol;
- provide direct and meaningful support to land managers in delivering ecoservices; and
- support the right of farmers and other citizens to manage their resources and live without uninvited interference.

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