

FEDERAL ELECTION ISSUES – INDUSTRY SPECIFIC ISSUES

Issue	Your Party's Policy Position
Employee relations – unfair dismissals.	<p>The Greens do believe that changes are required to the Federal unfair dismissal system. The present Act is excessively legalistic and technical. Some changes would be beneficial to simplify the process and promote secure employment.</p> <p>The present provisions, particularly ss170CEA, 170CF and 170CFA of the Workplace Relations Act are unnecessarily complex for all parties involved and should be reviewed.</p> <p>In addition, regulations 30B and 30BA are excessively restrictive. The exclusions are too broad and should be removed in so far as they relate to probationary employees and casual employees.</p>
Employee relations – General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS)	<p>The Greens do not support the Employment Advocate limiting the redundancy benefits payable to employees under AWA's. The Employment Advocate's role is to ensure no disadvantage for employees under the AWA and is not to ensure no advantage.</p> <p>The underpayment of employee's entitlements in the event of an employer becoming insolvent is a matter of real concern to the Greens. The Greens believe in the need to create a government backed and administered scheme, funded by compulsory levies on employers, to ensure that 100% of all workers' entitlements are protected in the event of corporate insolvency. Clearly however negotiation and consultation with employers, employees and their representatives will be an important part in the formulation and implementation of any such policy.</p>
Employee relations – maternity leave	<p>All employees have a right to equal access to the labour market regardless of their gender or parental responsibilities. The Greens believe in the need to provide a national parental leave scheme paid at the rate of average weekly earnings for 18 weeks, with a further 34 weeks of unpaid leave and a right to return to work part-time. The scheme would be reviewed within three years with the aim of expanding the paid leave period to 26 weeks and unpaid leave to 18 months.</p>

Taxation – GST - Books	The Greens are the only major party that still opposes the GST – we would definitely take it off books.
Taxation – GST – anomalies	Since the Greens oppose the GST we would support the removal of any tax that amplifies the effect of the GST.
Tax – BAS	The Greens oppose the GST and support any moves to make compliance with it less bureaucratic.
Issue	Your Party's Policy Position
Compliance burden	It is impossible for the Greens to give a general response to this question – it depends on the laws in question. The Greens support small businesses as an essential creator of employment in Australia but we also support the rights of the underprivileged and believe business should be transparent.
Australian made	All other things being equal, The Greens strongly support fair trade and local purchasing. But at present there is little or no post-consumer recycled office paper produced domestically.
Environmental labelling	The Greens strongly advocate environmental labelling for paper and paper products, including the source of the fibre (especially plantation versus native forests and post-consumer recycled content), processing technology (particularly whether chlorine is used), and other information on solvents, fillers etc such as you suggest.
Issue	Your Party's Policy Position
Corporations Law – insolvency	The Greens strongly support the guarantee of employee entitlements. Our policy is that they should be guaranteed through a scheme administered by the federal government. The Greens believe satisfaction of amounts owing to creditors should be in accord with common practice amongst other OECD countries.
Industry Development	The Greens believe that a more balanced structure to Australian industries requires more actively interventionist industry policies and would therefore support an government printing industry development plan backed with government funding.

Issue	Your Party's Policy Position
Industry Rationalisation	This should be considered as part of the interventionist government policy mentioned above.
Industry Research and Development	The Greens support government-backed enhanced R&D as part of interventionist industry policies.
Full restoration of Tariff Concession System	The Greens generally support fair trade and a bias towards local production where this is possible. We would only support this move if we were satisfied the materials in question could not be produced in Australia.
Industry Training	The Greens support a return to full employment in the Australian labour market. Greater apprenticeships and training would be an integral part of this.

FEDERAL ELECTION ISSUES – GENERAL ISSUES

Issue	Your Party's Policy Position
Taxation - general	The Greens support a simplification of the Australian tax system but we do not support a lowering of the overall tax burden.
Taxation – bracket creep	The Greens believe everyone should pay their fair share of tax, we do not have a view on whether bracket indexation should be part of that.
Taxation – personal tax rates	The Greens believe the Australian economy should be less influenced by overseas economic influences, not more influenced and would therefore not support this alignment.
Tax – superannuation surcharge	The Greens believe superannuation should be more progressively taxed and as part of that believe the surcharge should stay.

Bank fees	The Greens believe banks should be more socially conscious and would support a government inquiry into the fees they charge which may lead to greater government fee regulation.
Australian constitution	We support fixed terms for both houses of parliament. We are strongly committed to seeing Australia become a republic with an Australian head of state, and to an ongoing broad-ranging consultation to revamp our constitution and other democratic structures.