

Election 2019 – Energy

WHY IS THIS AN ISSUE FOR WOMEN?

- Energy prices have risen significantly in the last decade and low-income households are hardest hit. Women are over-represented at lower income levels and are over half of lone householders (ABS 207.1 2016 census). Higher poverty rates for women reflect the lower incomes of female-headed households, including sole parent families (the vast majority of which are headed by women) and older women living alone (who outlive men on average and have lower private savings, including superannuation)([ACOSS, 2018, p.42](#)).
- The means of energy production is also a significant issue for women. Health-related impacts of air pollution and associated climate events specific to women include negative birth outcomes, including intrauterine growth, congenital defects and premature mortality. A high proportion of women are informal carers for the sick, children and elderly. Pollution and associated climate events add to care responsibilities, due to increased respiratory deaths in the neonatal period, childhood asthma and heart disease, and premature mortality particularly in the elderly and children.
- On a macro level, energy infrastructure projects have the potential to impact not only on energy costs but also on women's workforce participation. Women are underrepresented in the energy sector workforce – 80% of workers in the sector are male ([Women in Energy](#)). Energy infrastructure projects offer smart short cuts to increasing women's workforce participation and removing at design stage, gendered impacts from infrastructure.

ELECTION COMMITMENTS

The table below sets out how fully parties’ current election commitments address NFAW recommendations: Full implementation Partial implementation No or negative response

NFAW RECOMMENDATION		
Reduce pollution and engage with NFAW’s climate change goals, while addressing energy costs of low-income women.		
PARTY COMMITMENTS		
ALP	LNP	GREENS
	The Energy Assistance Payment (\$285m) while a welcome one-off payment does not replace an energy policy or address substantive energy poverty.	
NFAW RECOMMENDATION		
Reduce pollution and engage with NFAW’s climate change goals, while increasing women’s workforce participation in non-traditional sectors.		
PARTY COMMITMENTS		
ALP	LNP	GREENS
	\$3.5m allocated to developing the program design for <i>Underwriting New Generation Investments</i> program does not come to grips with the intersection of energy generation, climate change and pollution nor does it include specific objectives to increase participation of women in the energy workforce (p78 budget paper 2).	
NFAW RECOMMENDATION		
Infrastructure investment contracts should support greater participation of women at all levels in the infrastructure sector and its supply chain.		
PARTY COMMITMENTS		
ALP	LNP	GREENS

OTHER ELECTION COMMITMENTS		
Commitment	Party	Comments
	Choose an item.	
	Choose an item.	
	Choose an item.	

Authorised by Kate Gunn, Sydney.