



Ecological Sustainability - Social Justice - Peace and Non-violence - Grassroots Democracy

**FRIENDS OF THE EARTH AUSTRALIA  
FEDERAL ELECTION 2010**

**1. Does your party have a policy on nanotechnology? (please send)**

Yes, it's covered in our Science and Technology policy (attached).

**Will your party, in opposition or government, advocate and vote to:**

**2. Treat nanomaterials as new chemicals, requiring them to face nano-specific safety assessment before being permitted for use in commercial products, as recommended by the United Kingdom's Royal Society?**

Yes. Clause 27 of our policy states: 'The Australian Greens will regulate to ensure that chemicals which are manufactured in nanoparticle form are treated as new chemicals for the purpose of checking environmental and health safety'.

**3. Base safety assessments on the precautionary principle?**

Yes. This is captured in the broad language in clause 16 of our policy, which states: 'The Australian Greens want the Government to take a precautionary approach to the application of new technologies'.

**4. Establish a mandatory register of all commercially available manufactured nanomaterials?**

Our policy does not expressly provide for this, but we would certainly support it. Such a register would be consistent with the way we treat potentially dangerous agricultural chemicals, which are all publicly logged on the APVMA's PUBCRIS database. It would be sensible to adopt a similar approach for nanomaterials.

**5. Ensure that Material Safety Data Sheets provide relevant, nano-specific safety information to workers?**

Yes, clause 30 of our policy states: 'The Australian Greens will ensure mandatory notification to all workers who may face occupational exposure to manufactured nanoparticles'.

**6. Introduce mandatory labelling of all nano-ingredients in food, food packaging, sunscreens and cosmetics, industrial and agricultural chemicals, and substances used in workplaces?**

Yes, clause 29 of our policy states: 'The Australian Greens will introduce mandatory labelling of consumer and industrial products that contain free manufactured nanoparticles'.

**7. Support greater funding for nanotechnology risk research?**

Yes, clause 31 of our policy states: 'The Australian Greens will fund research into nanotechnology and its environmental and health impacts'.

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Authorised by Ebony Bennett, Australian Greens, Canberra

**8. Support greater funding for nanotechnology social research, including ethical, socio-economic, human rights aspects?**

Our policy does not explicitly provide for research in this area. However, it does aim 'to support measures that will prevent or mitigate a 'nanotechnology divide' that magnifies existing global socio-economic inequities'. Such 'measures' could include research. In practice we'd certainly support this kind of research.

**9. Support a greater role for public participation in decision making about nanotechnology research, development and governance?**

Yes, clause 32 of our policy states: 'The Australian Greens will involve the community in decisions about the safe development of new technologies'.

10 August 2010