



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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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'.

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