

With the 2016 Federal Election day approaching, HSI has contacted major and minor political parties to establish their views on a series of conservation and animal welfare issues. Their responses are listed in the table below which we hope will assist you to make an informed decision when you cast your vote. It will be sent to our 65,000 members, our Facebook, our website and to the general media.

**Political Party responses to Humane Society International’s Conservation and Animal Welfare election policy requests:**



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**

	Coalition (Liberal Party & National Party)	Australian Labor Party	Australian Greens Party	Animal Justice Party	Australian Sex Party	Nick Xenophon Team (NXT)
<b>CONSERVATION POLICIES</b>						
1) Maintain Commonwealth environment powers, upgrade EPBC Act and commit to “next generation” environment laws	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Will retain Commonwealth powers
2) Prohibit any development on EPBC listed critically endangered or endangered species habitats and ecological communities	No response	No <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No response
3) Establish a program to provide landholders resources to protected listed EPBC Act habitats	No response	No <sup>2</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No response
4) Develop bilateral arrangements with Indonesia and PNG to protect “in-tact” forests)	No response	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No response
5) Instigate a Global Program on Forests and Climate Change	No response	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No response
6) Establish a Regional Biodiversity Conservation Program to benefit neighbouring states	No response	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No response
7) Support current UN Oceans treaty negotiations, domestic and high seas MPAs and an <i>Australian Oceans Act</i> .	No response <sup>3</sup>	Yes <sup>4</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No response
<b>ANIMAL WELFARE POLICIES</b>						
1) Supports the establishment of a ‘Ministry of Food’	No response	Partly <sup>5</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No response
2) Supports change to recent decision on free range egg definition to reduce maximum stocking density from 10,000 to 1,500 hens per hectare	No response	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No response
3) End cosmetics animal testing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No response
4) Supports an end to live animal export	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No <sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The ALP written response stated: “Labor will improve protections for critically endangered species and habitats through a strengthening of environmental law outlined in question one.”

<sup>2</sup> The ALP written response stated: “A Shorten Labor Government will consider how landholders can be encouraged to continue, or build on their conservation work in the long-term.”

<sup>3</sup> The Coalition Government supports the current UN Oceans treaty negotiations.

<sup>4</sup> The ALP written response stated: “Labor will also investigate the possibility of an Oceans Act with a National Oceans Commission.”

<sup>5</sup> The ALP has announced they would establish an independent Office of Animal Welfare, but they have not confirmed whether it would be independent of the Department of Agriculture so its benefits are unclear at this stage.

<sup>6</sup> The NXT policy on live animal export is: “It is important that strict controls are placed on live animal exports to ensure animals are treated in accordance with Australian animal welfare standards. However, our preference is to have Australian processing and the exporting of chilled meat.”