

# Host a **BIG DEAL** watch party 🌱

A guide for sharing *Big Deal* with  
friends and family



Tuesday 19 October 8.30pm

**TV** | **i**view

# WHY HOST A **BIG DEAL** WATCH PARTY?

Big Deal is a critical exposé of the sobering influence dirty political donations have on our democracy – **including holding back real climate action.**

Yet it is also funny, heart-warming and ultimately a hopeful story of people power.

**Sharing the documentary and talking about the issues with your friends and family, is a great way to help raise awareness about these issues and inspire people to take action.**

## What's in this guide

- ⇒ Ideas for setting up your watch party
- ⇒ Discussion questions
- ⇒ Key facts for your conversations
- ⇒ Ideas for actions you can take

# HOW TO WATCH

Big Deal will be available as a special two-part series on ABC iView beginning **Tuesday 19 October, at 8.30pm AEDT** | <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/big-deal>

That means there are heaps of different ways you can watch it with others:

## Stream and watch together

If you're still in lockdown or more comfortable with remote events, you can watch *Big Deal* together by streaming it with a video conferencing service like Zoom.

Here is a [step by step guide to streaming videos on Zoom](#)

## Host a watch party at home

If Covid restrictions permit, why not get together in person to watch together?

Decide if you'll watch one, or both parts, and make sure to plan some time for a discussion afterwards!

## Watch in your own time then discuss.

If it's hard to find a time to watch Big Deal together, you can set a time for a discussion and let your friends or family watch in their own time.

Setting the time for a discussion creates a deadline for watching, while also giving everyone the flexibility to watch when it suits them.

# WHO WILL YOU WATCH WITH?

Because Big Deal has such a strong and inspiring message of people power, think about the people you know who are concerned about these issues, but cautious about taking action themselves.

You can of course invite people you know who already feel the urgency of, and are active on, these issues. But if we can activate those who are almost there, even better!

Photo: Doug Gimesy







# Conversation starters

# CONVERSATION STARTERS

What most surprised you from the doco?

How do the issues highlighted in the film relate to Australia's climate policy?

How do donation laws in your state or territory compare to those at the federal level?

When a coal company donates \$100,000 to a political party, what impact does it have?

What is the impact of some people being able to pay for access to politicians?

Should donations be capped? If so, what should the cap be?

Where do you think your local Member of Parliament stands on these issues?

What actions could we take to support a healthy democracy?

# NOT SO FUN FACTS

FROM THE DOCUMENTARY

Lobbying is a billion-dollar industry in Australia

Over the past two decades, \$1 billion of donations to political parties have been from undisclosed sources.

Actually, Australia has one of the worst sets of political donation laws in the developed world.

Dr Lindy Edwards, UNSW

Some lobbyists in the documentary report payments of \$100,000 to have access to politicians.

Almost every state and territory in Australia has stronger laws regulating money in politics than at the federal level



# NOT SO FUN FACTS

FROM AUSTRALIA TALKS

**72%**  
of Australians

Do not think that politicians in Australia are usually held **accountable**

**56%**  
of Australians

Agree that “**Australian politicians are often corrupt**”

Photo: Annette Ruzicka

The Museum for Australian Democracy **Democracy 2025** study found that:

**73%**  
of Australians

**believe political parties and candidates should be limited in how much they can accept from donors.**



# NOT SO FUN FACTS

## ABOUT FOSSIL FUEL INFLUENCE

Between 2016-2019, donations from the fossil fuel industry to major parties **more than doubled.**

In the year leading up to the Morrison Government's 'gas fired recovery', **the gas industry gave \$698,339 to the major parties.**

Photo: Alf Manciangli



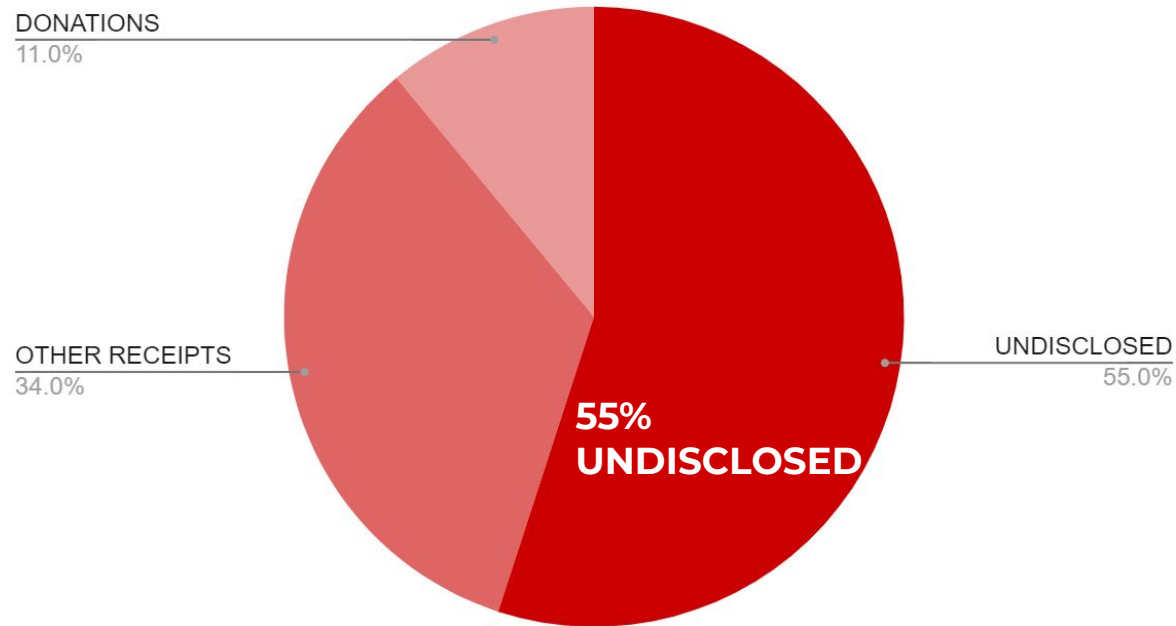
**Woodside Energy was the biggest fossil fuel donor in 2019/20**, giving \$197,750 to the Liberal and National parties, \$137,665 to Labor

**32% of the total income declared by political parties was 'dark money'** (it has no identifiable source).

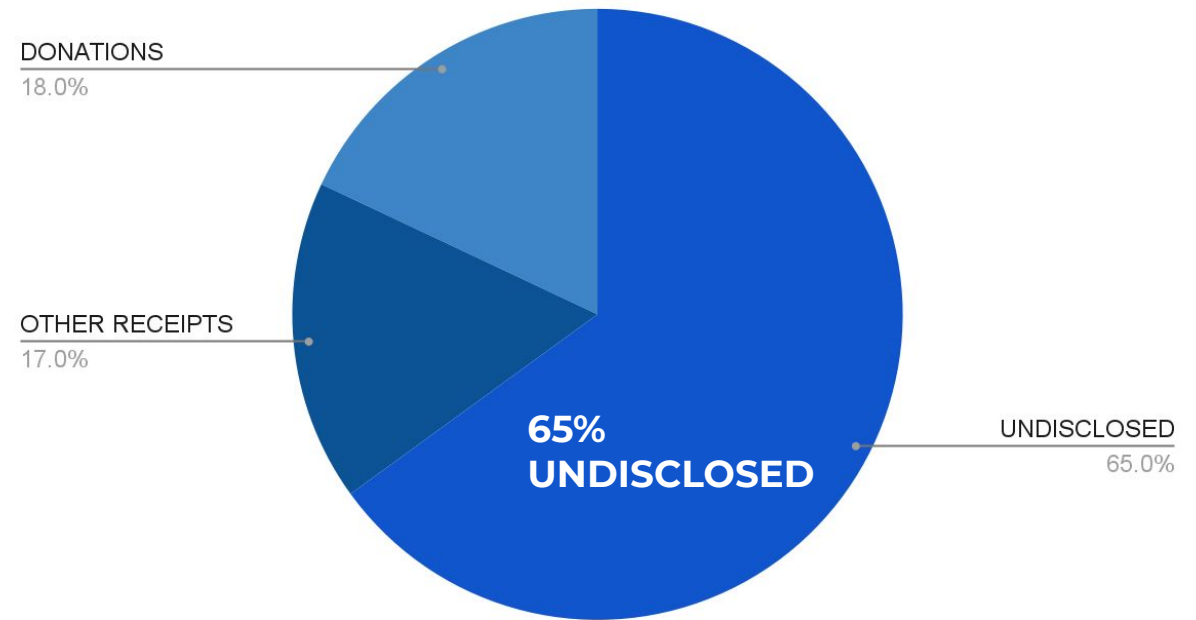
In 2019, the fossil fuel industry donated **\$708,000 to the Coalition**, and **\$585,000 to Labor**

# UNDISCLOSED INCOME BY PARTY

LABOR PARTY: Private Income 2016-2017



LIBERAL PARTY: Private Income 2016-2017



More info and 2019/20 data: [Political donations data reveals unfair influence](#)





**TAKE ACTION**



“You actually have to  
**engage with  
democracy** for  
democracy to work for  
you”



- Christiaan Van Vuuren



# TAKE ACTION!

As Big Deal host, Christiaan Van Vuuren says, **‘You actually have to engage with democracy for democracy to work for you’**. Big coal and gas companies are able to use their deep pockets to buy more access and influence in our democracy. But, while they have money for donations and lobbying--we have people power!

We can put our democracy back into balance if we are all much more active!

**Now that you’ve watch Big Deal and shared it with friends and family, consider taking an action together. Here are some ideas of what you can do ...**

## Write to your MP!

Our MPs are there to represent us, but it’s up to us to communicate to them what we care about. [Visit the Make it a Big Deal website](#) to contact your MP about any of the issues from Big Deal.

ACF has community groups right across Australia. People just like you who are committed to fighting for our planet and our future, and to holding our politicians to account. [Find your local ACF Community group.](#)

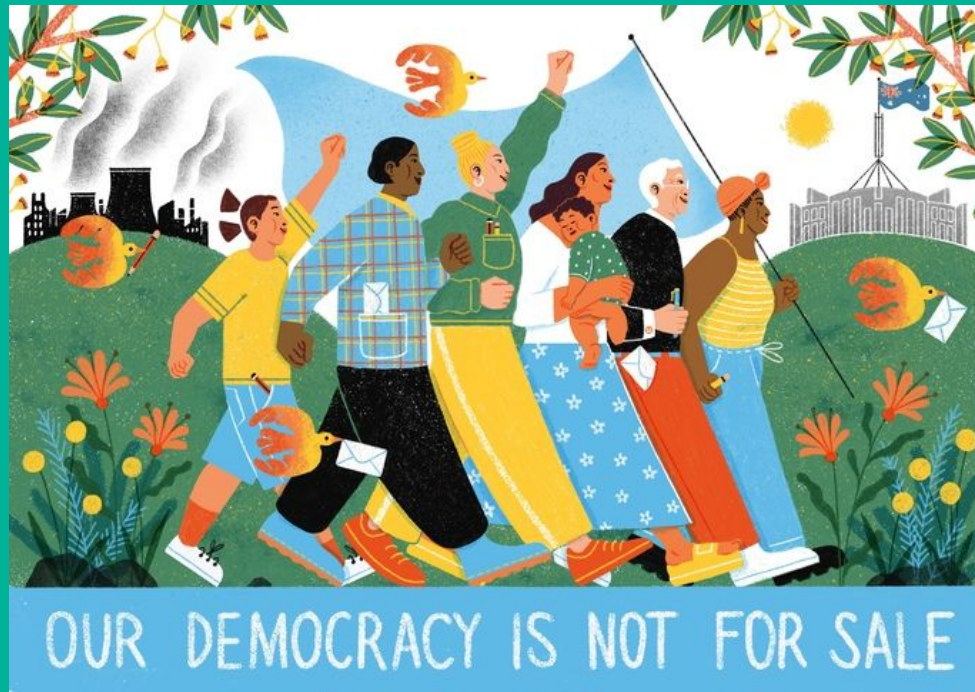
## Join your local ACF community group!

# TAKE ACTION!

Postcard your MP!

We've teamed up with three amazing artists to create postcards depicting a healthy democracy that works for people and the planet. Our MPs will be sure to notice when these beautiful postcards land in their offices, with a message from their constituents on the back.

[See all the designs, and register to get your free pack.](#)





# RESOURCES

ACF Report: [Fossil Fuel Money Distorting Democracy](#)

[Make It a Big Deal website](#) and [watch party guide](#)

ACF [Guide to talking to your MP about political donations reform](#)

Tactics Toolkit: [Guide for taking action to get big money out of politics and protect our planet](#)

## DID YOU HOST A BIG DEAL WATCH PARTY?

Small or large, we'd love to hear how it went and what you and your guests thought of the documentary. Drop us a line at:

[jolene.elberth@acf.org.au](mailto:jolene.elberth@acf.org.au)

Photo: Philip Bell

