



Responding to the tough questions and objections

When you're talking about the election in your workplace, there are almost sure to be tough questions and objections. Keep your cool, acknowledge what you're hearing, and try some of these responses.

What you're hearing	Responses to try
"My pay hasn't kept pace with the cost-of-living – I need a pay rise." "Things are tough financially at the moment, the Coalition are better managers of money."	• The Liberals crashed the economy when they came to power in 2013, and it has never recovered from their policies of austerity. • This means that we are far poorer than we should be, owing to their years of failure. Their policies led to corporate profits going up, and wages remaining stagnant for 10 years! They even said that these low wages were a deliberate design of their policies. • The Coalition don't manage money in a way that helps working class people like you or me! Can you really trust them to improve your pay or make things better for you financially?
"All politicians are the same – does it really make a difference?"	• When you look at what happened to working conditions and wages under the last two governments, they do actually look pretty different. • The current government has listened to workers and their unions, and passed numerous new laws to improve our pay and conditions. • On the other hand, the Coalition have said that they will unwind these changes and even boasted about how when they were last in government, they deliberately kept wages low. That's a pretty big difference. Our pay and working conditions are too important to risk a Coalition government.
"Our wages haven't gone up – just look at our pay rise from the last round of negotiations!"	The best thing we can do for our jobs and being able to pay our electricity bills is to make sure the government invests in our industries and our wages keep going up – that's why I'm voting to protect my working rights from the Coalition, who wants to send them backwards. It's fair enough to be angry about that but we're in for an even worse deal next time if we lose our rights to bargain or the Coalition gives more power to the bosses. I don't want to risk an anti-union government messing with our rights to organise, strike and fight for a pay rise – that's why I'm not voting for them.
"I'm thinking I'll vote for [insert conservative minor party candidate]."	It can look tempting to send a message about how you feel by voting for a minor party. With our preferential voting system, it can mean that when you vote for a minor party that looks OK on their advertising material, your vote can actually end up somewhere else - sometimes supporting parties that you really disagree with. For me, this stuff is too important to leave to chance. That's why I'm voting directly for a candidate/party who I think give us the best chance in continuing to build on our hard fought rights and conditions.



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"The Coalition will lower our electricity bills by building nuclear power capability." "The Coalition plan for nuclear looks like a good way forward for jobs in our community."	• There's really compelling research and analysis demonstrating that nuclear power isn't actually cheaper and will probably cost us more. • Nuclear energy could cost between \$141–\$233 per megawatt hour, while renewable options can be as low as \$22 per megawatt hour. The other thing is that nuclear takes 10–15 years to build. • Also, the Coalition is talking about nuclear but there is no actual plan for local manufacturing jobs. And when you look at their record, even if there were jobs, they wouldn't have the pay rates, workplace rights and conditions that we've fought for.
"Pollies don't keep their promises and no one is on the side of workers."	The thing is that politicians are only as honest as we keep them. I'm much more confident that we'll have someone in power who will listen to working class people if we have a Labor government. If we knocked on Dutton's door he'd lock it. That's why I'm voting for who I think is our best hope at having a say over things that affect us.
"The current government hasn't done enough to ease the cost-of-living or lower interest rates."	Yes – that's an important one. That's why, through our unions, we've been calling on the reserve bank, the independent body that sets the interest rates, to lower rates and give us a break. The Coalition has flagged a bunch of policies that will drive up inflation and add to the pressure on interest rates. That doesn't sound good to me. They are also the party that has already said they will wind back our working rights and for me it's just not worth the risk.

