



# **Nature Conservation Council of NSW**

## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2011**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>  
October, 2011**

**University of Sydney Law School  
New Law School Building (F10)  
Eastern Avenue, Camperdown Campus**

## **MINUTES**

Download extra copies of Minutes at:  
<http://www.nccnsw.org.au/events/ncc-annual-conference-2011>

## **EXECUTIVE 2010-2011**

**Chairperson:** Prof. Don White

**Vice-Chairperson:** Jim Morrison

**Hon. Secretary:** Anne Reeves

**Hon. Treasurer:** James Ryan

**Public Officer:** Robert Pallin

### **Executive Members:**

Sally Castle

John Hibberd

Megan Kessler

Jim Morrison

Robert Pallin

Anne Reeves, OAM

James Ryan

Mark Selmes

Bev Smiles

Haydn Washington

James Whelan

Prof. Don White

# LIST OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTIONS

## DAY 1: SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER

### A. Council Affairs

1. Admission of New Member Societies  
*Submitted by the Executive*

### B. Planning, Development & Government Policy

1. Huntlee development  
*Submitted by the Sweetwater Action Group*
2. Public Board and Committee Minutes  
*Submitted by the Community Environment Network*

### C. Biodiversity Conservation

1. Moratorium on flying-fox dispersals  
*Submitted by the NSW Wildlife Council*
2. NSW Koala Summit  
*Submitted by the NSW Wildlife Council*
3. Funding for eradication of feral plants and animals  
*Submitted by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia*
4. Roadkill conference  
*Submitted by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia*

### D. National Parks, Wilderness, Protected & Natural Areas

1. Renewing the Wurrumbirra Sanctuary lease  
*Submitted by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia*
2. Protect Ben Bullen and Wolgan State Forest from open-cut mining  
*Submitted by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society*
3. Ban commercial accommodation in wilderness areas  
*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness*
4. Mutawintji wilderness should not be cut in half  
*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness*
5. Newnes Swamps must be protected  
*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness*
6. The Sandon, Wooli and Moors Wilderness Areas  
*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness*
7. Key requirements for Travelling Stock Routes  
*Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW*
8. Eradication of feral horses from Blue Mountains National Park  
*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness*

9. Peat Island lands  
*Submitted by the Community Environment Network*
10. First National Park  
*Submitted by Sutherland Shire Environment Centre*

## **DAY 2 – SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER**

### **E. POLICY SESSION**

**(PLEASE NOTE: The policies passed at the Annual Conference are printed SEPARATELY in the POLICY PAPERS SUPPLEMENT)**

1. Review of Education for Ecological Sustainability Policy  
*Submitted by the Sydney Environmental Education Network*

#### **POLICIES:**

2. Intrinsic Value of Nature and the Earth Charter
3. Ecologically Sustainable Population and Nature Policy
4. Forest Policy
5. Draft Water Policy  
*Submitted by the Executive*

### **F. Mining and Coal Seam Gas**

1. No open-cut coal mining in State Conservation Areas  
*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness*
2. Protected areas and Coal Seam Gas mining and exploration  
*Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW*
3. Coal Seam Gas Petition  
*Submitted by Sutherland Shire Environment Centre*

### **G. Water Conservation**

1. Implementing an environmentally sustainable Murray-Darling Basin Plan  
*Submitted by the National Parks Association & the Central West Environment Council for the Inland Rivers Network*

# ATTENDANCE LIST

## MEMBER SOCIETY DELEGATES & OBSERVERS

### **Aust Assoc of Environmental Education NSW**

Fiona McCrossin

### **Australian Conservation Foundation – Central Coast Branch**

John Wiggin

Norman Harris

### **Australian Plants Society**

Marjorie Street

### **Castlecrag Conservation Society**

Mark Crew\*\*

### **Central West Environment Council**

Bev Smiles

### **ChipBusters**

Noel Plumb\*\*

### **Community Environment Network**

John Asquith

Jane Smith

Avril Lockton (O)

### **Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW**

Jim Callaway

Pam Campbell (O)

### **Friends of the Berowra Valley Regional Park**

Bob Salt\*\*

### **Friends of Tumblebee**

James Ryan

### **Goulburn Field Naturalists Society**

Mark Selmes

### **Great Lakes Environment Association**

Janusz Haschek

### **Green Shareholders**

Prof. Don White

### **Hunter Environment Lobby**

James Whelan

**Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society**

Nancy Pallin (Sat)

Rob Pallin

**Lake Wollumboola Protection Association**

Frances Bray

**Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society**

Doug Stuart (Sat)

Ron Gornall (Sun)

**Linnean Society of NSW**

Mike Augee

Bruce Welch

**Lithgow Environment Group**

Julie Favell (O-Sat)

Chris Jonkers (O-Sat)

Thomas Ebersoll (Sun)

**Mosman Parks & Bushland Association Inc.**

Sue Halmagyi

Anne Cook (O)

**National Parks Association of NSW Inc.**

Anne Reeves

Graeme Wiffen

**NSW Teachers' Federation**

Janine Kitson

**NSW Wildlife Council Inc.**

Lorraine Vass

Ilona Roberts (O)

**North Coast Environment Council**

Jim Morrison\*\*

**Oatley Flora & Fauna Conservation Society Inc.**

Alan Fairley (O-Sat)

**ORRCA**

Megan Kessler

**ParraCAN (Parramatta Climate Action Network)**

Annie Nielsen

Phil Bradley (O)

**Parks and Playgrounds Movement Inc.**

Doug Lithgow

**Ryde Environment Group**

Jenny Minifie

**Ryde-Hunters Hill Flora & Fauna Preservation Society**

Cathy Merchant (Sun)

Val Nelson (Sun)

**South East Region Conservation Alliance**

Bronte Somerset (O)

**STEP Inc**

Jill Green

Barry Tomkinson

**Sustainable Population Australia Inc - NSW Branch**

Nola Stewart

**Sutherland Shire Environment Centre**

Jenni Gormley\*\*

**Sweetwater Action Group**

Chris Parker

**The Coastwatchers Association Inc.**

Chris Kowal

**The David G. Stead Foundation**

Dr. David Murray

**The Colo Committee**

Haydn Washington\*\*

**Willoughby Environment Protection Association**

Lorraine Cairnes

**Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia**

Patrick Medway

Peter Hardiman

**Wolli Creek Preservation Society**

Judy Finlason

**Delegates with Proxy Votes**

Mark Crew - *Willoughby Environment Protection Association*

Jenni Gormley - *The Colong Foundation for Wilderness*

Jim Morrison - *PACTEC Inc.*

Noel Plumb - *South East Region Conservation Alliance*

Haydn Washington - *The Colong Foundation for Wilderness*

Bob Salt - *Hornsby Conservation Society Inc.*

**Executive Councillors**

John Hibberd  
Megan Kessler\*  
Jim Morrison\*  
Robert Pallin\*  
Anne Reeves\*  
James Ryan\*  
Mark Selmes\*  
Bev Smiles\*  
Haydn Washington\*  
James Whelan\*  
Prof. Don White\*

**Other Observers**

Lorraine Bower - Forestmedia Inc  
Dr. Judy Messer, AM – NCC representative & committee member (Sat)

Notes:

(\*) Indicates an Executive Councillor who is attending as a delegate for a member society  
(\*\*) Denotes delegates who held a proxy vote for their own or another member society

**GUESTS & SPEAKERS**

The Hon. Luke Foley, MLC, NSW Shadow Minister for the Environment  
Tim Moore, Co-Chair, Independent Planning Review Panel  
Justin Field, Policy Advisor The Greens NSW  
Penny Figgis, AO  
Justin McKee, Blue Mountains Conservation Society  
John Millard  
Kathy Ridge

**STAFF**

Paula Brown  
Pepe Clarke  
Jane Garcia  
Kathie Hewitt  
Anne Miehs  
Trieu Nguyen (Intern)

**VOLUNTEERS**

Bruce Diekman  
Charlotte Eriksson  
Judy Pincus



# Minutes for Annual Conference 2011

## Conference Opened

Saturday 29 October, 9:30am

## Welcome

Acknowledgement of country

## Apologies

The Premier, Barry O'Farrell

The NSW Minister for the Environment, Robyn Parker

The NSW Leader of Opposition, John Robertson

The Hon. Cate Faehrmann, MLC

## Member Group Apologies

Nepean Action Group

Columbian Mission Institute Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice

Alpine Riverkeepers

Friends of Pilliga

## A. Council Affairs

### Motion No: 11/A1

#### Admission of new Member Societies

*Submitted by the Executive*

**THAT** the Annual Conference confirm the admission to membership of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, the organisations listed below, whose membership applications were accepted by the Executive during 2010/2011 (up until September 2011):

- Chipbusters
- Ryde Environment Group
- Australian Association for Environmental Education
- Friends Of The Koala Inc.
- Lithgow Environment Group
- Capertee Valley Alliance Inc.
- Friends of Berowra Valley Regional Park Inc.
- NSW Teachers' Federation (Associate membership)
- The Wilderness Society - Newcastle

**AND THAT** the Annual Conference confirm the admission to membership of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, the organisation listed below, whose membership applications was received by the Executive during October 2011:

- Hunter Environment Lobby

## **ANNUAL REPORTS**

The following annual reports were presented to the Conference:

- Chairperson: Prof. Don White
- Hon. Treasurer: James Ryan
- Chief Executive Officer: Pepe Clarke

For detailed reports, please refer to the Nature Conservation Council of NSW Annual Report, available on our website.

All reports including the audited accounts, for 2010-2011 presented by the Hon. Treasurer were accepted by the Annual Conference.

The Conference also thanked Chief Executive Officer Pepe Clarke for his work during 2010-2011.

## **EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS**

Nominations were invited for the 2011-2012 Executive, until 2.00pm Saturday 29 October.

The following delegates were nominated:

- Megan Kessler
- Jim Morrison (Northern)
- Annie Nielsen
- Robert Pallin
- John Perkins (Southern)
- Anne Reeves, OAM
- James Ryan
- Bev Smiles (Western)
- Jane Smith
- James Whelan
- Prof. Don White

The number of nominees not being greater than the number of available positions (12), Returning Officer Geoff Lambert declared the above candidates to be duly elected.

# Business Motions

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## B. Planning and Development

**Motion No: 11/B1**

**Huntlee development**

*Submitted by the Sweetwater Action Group*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW lobby the NSW Minister for Planning to have the Huntlee development removed from the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** As per the motion

**Motion No: 11/B2**

**Public Board and Committee Minutes**

*Submitted by the Community Environment Network*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the Premier to require that all minutes of public boards and sub-committees, once confirmed by the respective body (this usually happens within six weeks of the meeting), be promptly posted on relevant government and agency websites.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** As per the motion

## C. Biodiversity Conservation

**Motion No: 11/C1**

**Moratorium on flying-fox dispersals**

*Submitted by the NSW Wildlife Council*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call upon State and Commonwealth governments to declare a moratorium on forced evictions of flying-foxes from their camps until:

- (a) a vaccine against Hendra virus (HeV) becomes available and/or
- (b) until sufficient evidence is gathered to establish conclusively the transmission pathways of HeV which includes:
  - identifying any other vectors of the virus: mammals, birds, reptiles or insects; and
  - improved and more accurate methods and processes of testing for HeV.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** That the NCC writes to the appropriate State and Federal Ministers informing them of the Council's decision and requesting that any planned

disturbances of Flying Fox colonies be suspended until more complete research and knowledge is available, and at least until a vaccine for the HeV (predicted to be available in 2012) is within our grasp.

**Motion No: 11/C2**  
**NSW Koala Summit**

*Submitted by the NSW Wildlife Council*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Minister for the Environment to expedite as a matter of urgency holding a state Koala Summit to examine current koala conservation issues, taking into account the findings and recommendations of the recent Senate Inquiry Report. The Summit would also evaluate the success and failure of various initiatives and propose and develop options for effective koala management in NSW.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** That NCC write to the NSW Minister for the Environment informing her of the Council's decision and requesting that she expedite as a matter of urgency holding a state Koala Summit.

**Motion No: 11/C3**  
**Funding for eradication of feral plants and animals**

*Submitted by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the NSW Minister for Primary Industries to request she establish an "Invasive Species Coordinating Committee" along the lines of the successful "Bushfire Coordinating Committee" to develop state wide strategies for control of invasive plants and animals.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Write to the Minister requesting she establish an "Invasive Species Coordinating Committee".

**Motion No: 11/C4**  
**Roadkill conference**

*Submitted by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW request the NSW Minister for Environment to organise and host a state-wide conference on the reduction of roadkill of native animals on the roads of NSW.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Write to the Minister and ask that a budget of \$15,000 and a departmental representative be allocated to plan and organise a state-wide conference on the reduction of roadkill of native animals on the roads of NSW.

## **D. National Parks, Protected & Natural Areas**

### **Motion No: 11/D1**

#### **Renewing the Wirrimbirra Sanctuary lease**

*Submitted by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the National Trust (NSW) and request that they issue a new lease to manage Wirrimbirra Sanctuary to the 'David Stead Foundation' to operate the Sanctuary as they have been doing for the past 30 odd years.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Write to the CEO of the National Trust of NSW and ask that a new lease be issued to the Stead Foundation to continue to manage the Wirrimbirra Sanctuary.

### **Motion No: 11/D2**

#### **Protect Ben Bullen and Wolgan State Forest from open-cut mining**

*Submitted by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Premier of NSW to place all of Ben Bullen State Forest and Wolgan State Forest in a state conservation area reserve as a matter of priority; and require the reserve to exclude any option of open-cut mining.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** That NCC implement this decision of the Conference.

### **Motion No: 11/D3**

#### **Ban commercial accommodation in wilderness areas**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- (a) oppose commercial accommodation in wilderness areas, including the use of historic huts such as those in the Green Gully section of the Macleay Gorges Wilderness; and
- (b) call on the Minister for the Environment to reinstate the previous advice given to remote wilderness visitors requesting that they should always carry a tent, even if intending to visit a remotely located hut.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the NSW Minister for Environment asking that she implement this decision of the Conference.

**Motion No: 11/D4**

**Mutawintji wilderness should not be cut in half**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the Minister for the Environment opposing the excision of the Cymbric Vale 4WD road from the Mutawintji Wilderness Area.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** That the NCC implement the decision of the Conference.

**Motion No: 11/D5**

**Newnes Swamps must be protected**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Premier of NSW and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment to take the steps necessary to protect all nationally endangered Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone in the Gardens of Stone Reserve proposal from subsidence damage due to intensive underground coal mining.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** That the NCC implement the decision of the Conference.

**Motion No: 11/D6**

**The Sandon, Woolli and Moors Wilderness Areas**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW again call for the expedited assessment and protection of the Sandon and Woolli wilderness areas in the Yuraygir National Park and the Moors wilderness in Myall Lakes National Park nominated by the Colong Foundation on 12 October, 2006. That the Minister take the necessary steps to expedite all other wilderness nominations that are overdue for assessment.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the Minister for Environment pointing out the two year statutory time period in which a wilderness nomination must be determined. NCC to request the Minister to adequately resource assessment and review all overdue wilderness nominations.

**Motion No: 11/D7**

**Key requirements for Travelling Stock Routes**

*Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW endorse the five key requirements for effective management of the Travelling Stock Route network as recommended at the second Travelling Stock Routes and Reserves Conference in Orange on the 28th July, 2011:

1. An authority with oversight of TSRs that has stable and adequate resourcing for the task. (This could build on existing institutional arrangements such as the Livestock Health and Pest Authorities).
2. Accessible data, providing more information than is currently available and in a more co-ordinated and streamlined format.
3. Representative management that brings together the various values and interest groups and facilitates networking and information sharing.
4. Educational programs to raise awareness of the wide importance of TSRs and help recognise and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage.
5. An assessment of the economic significance of TSRs using a framework such as Total Economic Value, to recognise the full range of values including non-use values.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to:

- The Hon Andrew Stoner, MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services
- Hon Katrina Hodgkinson, Minister for Primary Industries
- Hon Robyn Parker, Minister for the Environment
- Mr Nigel Milan, CEO, Livestock Health and Pest Authorities State Management Council

**Motion No: 11/D8**

**Eradication of feral horses from Blue Mountains National Park**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Minister for the Environment to fully implement the 'Wild' Horse Management Plan for the Warragamba Special Area within Blue Mountains National Park, including ground shooting to remove the last few remaining feral horses following the completion of the mustering program, so that Plan's aim of achieving removal of all horses within five years is achieved. Any shooting would be conducted by professional shooters engaged by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** That the NCC implement the decision of the Conference.

**Motion No: 11/D9**

**Peat Island lands**

*Submitted by the Community Environment Network*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the Minister for Planning to:

- a) endorse protection of the aesthetic value and environmentally sympathetic use of Peat Island and associated lands near Brooklyn on the Hawkesbury River;

- b) require formal, transparent and wide ranging public consultation on future uses of the land, bearing in mind the environmentally sensitive nature of the site; and
- c) prepare a plan of management under the Crown Lands Act.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the Minister for Planning.

**Motion No: 11/D10**

**First National Park**

*Submitted by Sutherland Shire Environment Centre*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW support the First National Park campaign by Sutherland Shire Environment Centre for World Heritage Listing of Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park, and Garawarra State Conservation Area.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to contact SSEC to find out best ways it might assist the campaign.



## **E. POLICY SESSION**

*For full policies endorsed by the 2011 Annual Conference, please refer to the Conference Policy Supplement.*

*Nature Conservation Council of NSW policies are available on-line at:  
<http://nccnsw.org.au/policies>*

### **Motion No: 11/E1**

#### **Policy on the Intrinsic Value of Nature and the Earth Charter**

*Submitted by the Executive*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW approve the draft policy on the Intrinsic Value of Nature and the Earth Charter.

### **Motion No: 11/E2**

#### **Ecologically Sustainable Population and Nature Policy**

*Submitted by the Executive*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW approve the draft Ecologically Sustainable Population and Nature Policy as amended by the Conference.

### **Motion No: 11/E3**

#### **Forest Policy**

*Submitted by the Executive*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW approve the draft Forest Policy as amended by the Conference.

### **Motion No: 11/E4**

#### **Water Policy**

*Submitted by the Executive*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW approve the draft Water Policy and that Frances Bray of Lake Wollumboola Protection Association negotiate with the Water Group to fine tune the text regarding coastal lakes, estuaries and wetlands.

## **F. Mining and Coal Seam Gas**

### **Motion No: 11/F1**

#### **No open-cut coal mining or coal seam gas extraction in State Conservation Areas**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW oppose open-cut coal mining and coal seam gas extraction in state conservation area reserves.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The NCC write to the Premier and the Minister for the Environment asking that they implement the decision of the Conference.

### **Motion No: 11/F2**

#### **Protected areas and Coal Seam Gas mining and exploration**

*Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, concerned at the apparent inadequacy of protection for national parks and other protected areas with regard to the exploration and exploitation of coal seam gas in NSW, call upon the NSW Government to protect national parks and other protected areas:

(a) from any impact from new exploratory licences over holdings in National Parks and other protected areas, particularly from more intensive access;

(b) by providing adequate buffer zones around national parks and other protected areas; and

(c) by restricting mining upstream from any protected areas.

#### **PROPOSED ACTION:**

NCC to write to:

- The Hon Barry O'Farrell, Premier
- The Hon Robyn Parker, Minister for the Environment
- The Hon Andrew Stoner, MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services
- The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson, Minister for Primary Industries

**Motion No: 11/F3**

**Coal Seam Gas Petition**

*Submitted by Sutherland Shire Environment Centre*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW support the petition by Sutherland Shire Environment Centre to the NSW Legislative Assembly to:

- Call a Royal Commission into all impacts of CSG mining;
- Implement a moratorium on CSG mining until the outcome of the Royal Commission;
- Ban the extraction technique known as hydraulic fracturing.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the Premier calling for the three points of the petition, and urge members groups to do so as well.

## **G. Water Conservation**

**Motion No: 11/G1**

**Implementing an environmentally sustainable Murray-Darling Basin Plan**

*Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW & the Central West Environment Council, for the Inland Rivers Network*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the NSW Government to co-operate with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) by supporting the implementation of an environmentally sustainable Basin Plan.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** That NCC write to the Premier and Minister for Water outlining the issues and considerations needed for improved river health in the Murray-Darling Basin and call for co-operation with the Basin Plan process.