



# **Nature Conservation Council of NSW**

## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013**

**Saturday & Sunday  
19-20 October, 2013**

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

## **MINUTES**

Download extra copies at:  
[www.nccnsw.org.au/events/ncc-annual-conference-2013](http://www.nccnsw.org.au/events/ncc-annual-conference-2013)

## **EXECUTIVE 2012-2013**

**Chairperson:** Prof. Don White

**Vice-Chairperson & Public Officer:** Robert Pallin

**Hon. Secretary:** Jane Smith

**Hon. Treasurer:** James Ryan

### **Executive Members:**

John Asquith (to May 2013)

Mike Augee (Western Representative)

Megan Kessler

Chris Kowal (Southern Representative)

Jenny Minifie

Jim Morrison (Northern Representative)

Annie Nielsen

Robert Pallin

Anne Reeves, OAM

James Ryan

Jane Smith

Prof. Don White

## **Agenda for 2013 NCC Annual Conference Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

- 8.45 am**                    **REGISTRATION OPENS**
- 9.15 am**                    **WELCOME TO COUNTRY** *Donna Ingram, Cultural Representative of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council*
- 9.20 am**                    **ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENING** (Chair)  
Welcome & apologies  
Call for Nominations for Executive  
Admission of new members
- 9.30 am**                    **CEO REPORT**
- 9.45am**                    **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
Don Henry, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Conservation Foundation
- 10.15 am**                    **NSW ENVIRONMENT AWARDS CEREMONY**  
Presented by Don Henry (CEO, ACF) and Don White (Chair NCC NSW)
- 11.00 am**                    **Morning tea**
- 11.30 am**                    **PANEL DISCUSSION: POLITICAL LEADERS**  
The Hon. Robyn Parker, MP, *Minister for the Environment*  
The Hon. Luke Foley, MLC, *Shadow Minister for the Environment*  
Dr Mehreen Faruqi, MLC, *Greens spokesperson for the Environment*
- 12.30 pm**                    **LUNCH**
- 1.15 pm**                    **PANEL DISCUSSION: 30 years since the Franklin River Campaign**  
Lyndon Schneiders, National Campaigns Director, *The Wilderness Society*  
Paul Oosting, Campaigns Director, *GetUp!*  
Cate Faehrmann, former Member of the *NSW Legislative Council*
- 2.15 pm**                    **WORKSHOPS**  
(2x facilitated workshops, plus open space for motions)  
1. Coal and Climate  
2. Successful Online Campaigning
- 3.30 pm**                    **WORKSHOPS**  
(2x facilitated workshops, plus open space for motions)  
3. Forests and Wildlife  
4. Powerful Community Organising
- 4.45 pm**                    **Wrap up**
- 5.00pm**                    **Drinks and Networking**  
Launch of *Icons Under Threat* Video

## **Agenda for 2013 NCC Annual Conference Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

- 8.45 am**            **REGISTRATION OPENS**
- 9.00 am**            **DAY 2 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENING** (Chair)  
Welcome & apologies  
Housekeeping  
Agenda for the day
- 9.15 am**            **REPORTS**  
Chair, Treasurer: Discussion and Questions
- 9.45am**            **NCC CAMPAIGN AND PROGRAM PRIORITIES 2013-2014**  
Campaigns and Policy  
Sustainable Living Program  
Healthy Ecosystems Program
- 10.15 am**           **Morning tea**
- 10.45 am**           **ELECTION OF NCC EXECUTIVE FOR 2013-2014**
- 11.00 am**           **BUSINESS MOTIONS, Part 1** (Chair)
- 11.45 am**           **WORKSHOPS** (2x facilitated workshops, plus open space for motions)  
1. Strengthening our Network  
2. Effective Media Skills
- 1.00pm**            **Lunch**
- 1.45 pm**            **BUSINESS MOTIONS, Part 2** (Chair)
- 2.30 pm**            **LATE & CARRIED OVER MOTIONS, & GENERAL BUSINESS** (Chair)
- 2.45pm**            **PANEL DISCUSSION: Building powerful community alliances**  
Sam Cooper, *Australian Youth Climate Coalition*  
Corinne Fisher, *Better Planning Network*  
Jacqui Remond, *Catholic Earthcare*
- 3.45 pm**            **CLOSING ADDRESS** (CEO)

## **LIST OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTIONS**

### **A. Council Affairs**

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

### **B. Planning and Development**

1. New NSW Planning Act and ecologically sustainable development  
*Submitted by the Ryde Community Alliance*
2. Reclassification of Community Lands  
*Submitted by the Community Environment Network Inc.*
3. The NSW lobbyist register  
*Submitted by the Association for Berowra Creek Inc.*
4. Management of Public Lands Inquiry  
*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd*

### **C. Mining and Gas Development**

1. Premier's promise not to mine in water catchments  
*Submitted by the Community Environment Network Inc.*
2. Cessation of mining in drinking water catchments
3. Coal mining under Muggii Murum-ban State Conservation Area
4. Prohibition of coal mining under nationally endangered upland swamps
5. State Environmental Planning Policy for Mining  
*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd*
6. Protect water, land, environment and communities across NSW  
*Submitted by ParraCAN*

### **D. Climate Change & Energy**

1. Native vegetation as biomass  
*Submitted by the North Coast Environment Council*

### **E. Biodiversity Conservation**

1. Eradication of pest horses  
*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd*
2. Koala populations threatened by logging in North Coast forests  
*Submitted by Bellingen Environment Centre*
3. Protecting koala habitat under the Private Native Forestry Code
4. Commonwealth guidelines and recovery plan for koala protection  
*Submitted by the Friends of the Koala Inc.*
5. Canary Island palm  
*Submitted by the Hornsby Conservation Society Inc.*

### **F. National Parks, Wilderness, Protected & Natural Areas**

1. Mountain bike trail in Garigal National Park  
*Submitted by STEP Inc.*
2. Advocacy for urban bushland  
*Submitted by the Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society Inc.*
3. National Wilderness Act
4. Horse riding in declared wilderness
5. Protect the Gardens of Stone
6. The Gardens of Stone Alliance  
*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd*

### **G. Bushfire Management**

1. Hazard reduction burns in NSW  
*Submitted by the Central West Environment Council*

## **H. LATE MOTIONS**

1. Berowra Valley National Park

*Submitted by Hornsby Conservation Society Inc.*

2. Sustainable population

*Submitted by Sustainable Population Australia (NSW)*

3. Sustainability curricula and DEC Sustainability Advisor position

*Submitted by Australian Association for Environmental Education (NSW)*

4. Avoiding too frequent Hazard Reduction Burns

*Submitted by the Colo Committee*

5. The Private Native Forestry Code

*Submitted by Forestmedia Inc.*

6. Private Native Forestry Code hunger strike

*Submitted by the Colo Committee*

## **ATTENDANCE LIST 2013 MEMBER SOCIETY DELEGATES & OBSERVERS**

### **Association for Berowra Creek Inc**

Ailie Bruins  
Adriaan Bruins (O)  
Leonie Kemp (O)

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

John Wiggin

### **Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd**

Margery Street

### **Australian Wildlife Society**

#### **Ken Mason**

Patrick Medway

### **Berowra & District Community Association**

Gabriel Lomas  
Ann Lomas (O)

### **Better Planning Network**

Corinne Fisher

### **Blue Mountains Conservation Society**

Tara Cameron

### **Capertee Valley Alliance**

Mary Thirlwall

### **Castlecrag Conservation Society**

Mark Crew (Sat)  
Richard Blacklock (Sun)

### **Community Environment Network**

Jane Smith  
Keith Vallard (Sat)

### **Cumberland Bird Observers Club**

Catherine Goswell

### **Forestmedia Inc**

Lorraine Bower\*\*

### **Friends of Berowra Valley Inc**

Bob Salt\*\*

### **Friends of Lane Cove National Park Inc**

Mark Cachia (Sun)  
Dana Dowd (Sat)  
Mike Pickles (Sun)

**Friends of the Koala Inc**

Lorraine Vass\*\*

**Friends of Tumblebee**

James Ryan\*

**Green Shareholders**

Prof. Don White\*

**Hornsby Conservation Society Inc**

Gordon Limburg (O-Sat)

Ken Fox (Sun)

**Hunter Community Environment Centre**

James Whelan (Sat)

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

Nancy Pallin

**Lake Wollumboola Protection Association**

Frances Bray

**Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society**

Ron Gornall (Sun)

Graham Holland

Frances Vissel

**Linnean Society of NSW**

Mike Gray

Bruce Welch

**Mosman Parks & Bushland Association Inc.**

Anne Cook (Sun)

Kate Eccles

Yolande Stone (O)

**National Parks Association of NSW Inc.**

Kevin Evans (Sat)

Anne Reeves (Sat)\* \*\*

Roger Lembit

Samantha Newton (Sun)

Graeme Wiffen (Sun)

**NSW Teachers' Federation**

Janine Kitson

**North Coast Environment Council**

Jim Morrison\*

**ParraCAN (Parramatta Climate Action Network)**

Ireen Allanson (O-Sun)

Richard Boulton

Michael Rynn (O-Sat)



**Ryde Community Alliance**

Jenny Minifie\*

**Ryde Environment Group**

Jill Hartley (Sun)

**Ryde-Gladesville Climate Action Group**

Shaun Gilchrist (O)

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

Brigid Dowsett (Sat)

Cathy Merchant (Sun)

Valerie Nelson (Sat)

**Rylstone District Environment Society**

Chris Pavich

**STEP Inc**

Jill Green

Helen Wortham

**Sustainable Population Australia (NSW Branch) Inc**

Nola Stewart

**Sutherland Shire Environment Centre**

Jenni Gormley

**Sydney Environmental Education Network (SEEN)**

Sue Burton

**The Coastwatchers Association Inc**

Keith Joliffe

**The Colo Committee**

Haydn Washington\*\*

**The Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd**

John Robens

Ian Tanner (Sat)

**Delegates with Proxy Votes**

Lorraine Bower: *South East Region Conservation Alliance*

Anne Reeves: *Hunter Community Environment Centre (Sun)*

Bob Salt: *Hornsby Conservation Society*

Lorraine Vass: *NSW Wildlife Council Inc*

Haydn Washington: *Sutherland Shire Environment Centre*

**Executive Councillor Delegates**

Mike Augee

Megan Kessler

Jenny Minifie\*

Jim Morrison\*

Annie Nielsen

Robert Pallin

Anne Reeves\* \*\*

James Ryan\*  
Jane Smith\*  
Prof. Don White\*

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

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

Sam Cooper, *Australian Youth Climate Coalition*  
Cate Faehrmann, former Member of the *NSW Legislative Council*  
Dr Mehreen Faruqi, MLC, *Greens spokesperson for the Environment*  
The Hon. Luke Foley, MLC, *Shadow Minister for the Environment*  
Don Henry, Chief Executive Officer, *Australian Conservation Foundation*  
Donna Ingram, *Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council: Welcome to Country*  
Paul Oosting, Campaigns Director, *GetUp!*  
The Hon. Robyn Parker, MP, *Minister for the Environment*  
Jacqui Remond, *Catholic Earthcare*  
Lyndon Schneiders, National Campaigns Director, *The Wilderness Society*

**OTHER GUESTS & OBSERVERS**

Michael Campbell, *Australian Coal Alliance*  
Conny Harris, *Garigal Landcare*  
Dr. Judy Messer AM, *NCC Biodiversity Committee*  
Kath Robinson, *Rivers SOS*  
Ann Sharp, *Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment*  
Mike Thompson, *NatureNet, Joint NCC-NPA rep Gulaga National Park*  
Julienne McHenry, Michael Bianchino, Jenny Houlihan, *No Third Track Action Group*

**STAFF**

Daisy Barham, *Marine Campaigner*  
Pepe Clarke, *Chief Executive Officer*  
Steve Clarke, *Philanthropy Manager*  
Bill Jarvis, *Database Programmer*  
Louise Kiddell, *Outreach Officer*  
Cerin Loane, *Policy Officer*  
Neha Madhok, *Community Organiser*  
Kate Smolski, *Campaigns Director*  
James Tremain, *Media & Communications Officer*  
David Winterton, *LIEEP Program Officer*

**VOLUNTEERS**

Bruce Diekman, Sanchia Scott, Saskia Wilson, William Tsang

**APOLOGIES**

John Asquith, *Community Environment Network*  
Chris Kowal, *Executive, The Coastwatchers Association Inc*  
Bev Smiles, *Central West Environment Council*

# Motions for Annual Conference 2013

## A. Council Affairs

**Motion No: 13/A1**

**Admission of new Member Societies**

*Submitted by the Executive*

**THAT** the 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 2012/2013:

Bathurst Community Climate Action Network  
Better Planning Network Inc.  
Caldera Environment Centre Inc.  
CANWin (Wingecarribee Climate Action Network)  
Climate Change Australia - Hastings Branch  
Earth Learning Inc.  
ECCO (Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange)  
Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc.  
Friends of Lane Cove National Park Inc.  
Friends of the Mongarlowe River Inc.  
Great Lifestyle of Wickham  
Ironstone Community Action Group Inc.  
Islington Village Community Group  
Lock the Nambucca Valley  
Natural Areas Ltd.  
Northern Inland Council for the Environment Inc.  
NoW Public Transport  
Stop Coal Seam Gas Blue Mountains  
Wingecarribee Landcare Bushcare Network Inc.

*NoW Public Transport's membership admission was confirmed at the Annual Conference.*

*Moved: Don White*

*Seconded: Rob Pallin*

*Carried*

## **B. Planning and Development**

### **Motion No: 13/B1**

#### **New NSW Planning Act and ecologically sustainable development**

*Submitted by the Ryde Community Alliance*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the Premier and Minister for Planning, urging the NSW Government to withdraw the *Planning Bill 2013* and *Planning Administration Bill 2013*, because:

- the legislation is unbalanced and unfair, placing the interests of developers and industry ahead of local communities, heritage and the environment;
- the legislation represents a significant move away from the established principles of ecologically sustainable development;
- the legislation will dramatically reduce the role of local communities and councils in development decisions, contrary to the NSW Government's promise to 'return planning powers to the community';
- the legislation and associated policy proposals represent a serious threat to existing environmental and heritage protections, and will undermine progress in addressing pressing environmental challenges; and
- the legislation fails to address concerns about corruption, accountability and the rule of law raised by the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the NSW Law Society.

Further, **THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW request the Premier to publicly report on the 5,000 stakeholder submissions and to table a copy of the report in Parliament.

*Moved: Jennie Minifie*

*Seconded: Jill Hartley*

*Carried*

### **Motion No: 13/B2**

#### **Reclassification of Community Lands**

*Submitted by the Community Environment Network Inc.*

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

- a) write to the NSW Premier, Planning Minister and Minister for the Environment calling for an immediate halt to the process of reclassification of community land;
- b) request an urgent review of the community land reclassification mechanism in consultation with stakeholders; and

- c) insist that this review include consideration of the environmental and social impacts of reclassification, the history of attribution of the land, the relevance of bio-banking mechanisms and the introduction of safeguards to protect such land.

*Moved: Jane Smith*

*Seconded: Rob Pallin*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write letters as per the motion.

**Motion No: 13/B3**

**The NSW lobbyist register**

*Submitted by the Association for Berowra Creek Inc.*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge that the NSW lobbyist register include major property development lobby groups.

*Moved: Ailie Bruins*

*Seconded: Bob Salt*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the NSW Premier and Planning Minister.

**Motion No: 13/B4**

**Management of Public Lands Inquiry**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Premier of NSW to publicly repudiate the recommendations of the Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 inquiry into the Management of Public Lands that was chaired by The Hon. Robert Brown of the Shooters and Fishers Party.

*Moved: John Robens*

*Seconded: Haydn Washington*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the NSW Premier and encourage member groups to do so as well, expressing concern regarding the serious threat these recommendations pose to the nature conservation purpose of national parks.

## **C. Mining and Gas Development**

### **Motion 13/C1**

#### **Premier's promise not to mine in water catchments**

*Submitted by the Community Environment Network Inc.*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the NSW Premier calling on him to adhere to his pre-election promise of "No Mining in Water catchments".

*Moved: Jane Smith*

*Seconded: Jim Morrison*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the NSW Premier as per the motion.

### **Motion 13/C2**

#### **Cessation of mining in drinking water catchments**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Premier of NSW to take the necessary steps to ban all new mining and gas proposals and phase out all existing mining and extraction, in drinking water catchments managed by the Sydney Catchment Authority and Hunter Water.

*Moved: John Robens*

*Seconded: Haydn Washington*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the NSW Premier.

### **Motion 13/C3**

#### **Coal mining under Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Premier of NSW to take the necessary steps to ensure that the percentage of coal extraction at the Airly Mine from any given area be limited to existing levels under the Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area, and that under no circumstances should coal production rates be increased from 1.8 million tonnes to 3 million tonnes per year as previously proposed by Centennial Coal.

*Moved: Haydn Washington*

*Seconded: John Robens*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the NSW Premier.

**Motion 13/C4**

**Prohibition of coal mining under nationally endangered upland swamps**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Premier of NSW to ban all coal mining under nationally endangered uplands swamps (threatened highland peat swamps on sandstone) on Newnes Plateau and elsewhere.

*Moved: Haydn Washington*

*Seconded: Rob Pallin*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the NSW Premier.

**Motion 13/C5**

**State Environmental Planning Policy for Mining**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Premier of NSW to strike down State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Resource Significance) 2013 (the Mining SEPP).

*Moved: John Robens*

*Seconded: Jennie Minifie*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the NSW Premier.

**Motion 13/C6**

**Protect water, land, environment and communities across NSW**

*Submitted by ParraCAN*

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

- a) express extreme concern about the potential for coal and gas mining to cause unacceptable damage to our water, land, air and biodiversity and communities across NSW, as well as contribute to dangerous climate change; and
- b) advise the government that there is a need to preserve our natural heritage for its intrinsic value and for potentially more valuable use by future generations and conduct extensive research including baseline studies that comply with the principles of ecological sustainable development including the precautionary principle.
- c) reiterate that it opposes the expansion of coal and gas exploration and development in NSW drinking water catchments, sensitive environmental lands, productive farmland and within two kilometres of residences; and

d) call on the NSW Government to adopt, implement and enforce legislation to:

- **Protect our water** by prohibiting the expansion of mining and gas activities in drinking water catchments and ensuring no damage or loss of water in rivers, streams, wetlands and groundwater.
- **Protect our environment** by prohibiting mining and gas development in areas of high conservation value and by increasing protections for state conservation areas, state forests and travelling stock routes.
- **Protect farmland and rural industries** by prohibiting the expansion of mining and gas operations on productive agricultural land and into areas where it will have a negative impact on existing business.
- **Protect public health** and reduce our contribution to climate change by setting rigid limits on cumulative air, noise, water, and carbon pollution from coal and gas developments and prohibiting new coal export terminals.
- **Protect community rights** by giving landowners the right to refuse access to their land, allowing local councils to disallow mining and gas operations and restoring the legal right for community members to appeal assessment decisions in the courts.
- **Put in place an independent, transparent and rigorous assessment** of mining and gas projects by requiring compliance with existing laws, ensuring independent assessment, mitigation of cumulative negative impacts and placing strict standards on rehabilitation with enforced penalties for breaches.

*Moved: Megan Kessler*

*Seconded: Jennie Minifie*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the NSW Premier, the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Energy and Resources asking that they implement this decision of the Conference. This statement should be promoted widely to policy makers and the broader public as appropriate.



## **D. Climate Change & Energy**

**Motion No: 13/D1**

**Native vegetation as biomass**

*Submitted by the North Coast Environment Council*

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

- a) continue to play a lead role in co-ordinating an ongoing statewide campaign against the use of native vegetation for the production of biomass energy; and
- b) over the next twelve months, undertake research and develop a policy position on the production and use of materials such as native vegetation, timber from plantations and agricultural crops as bioenergy.

*Moved Jim Morrison*

*Seconded: Lorraine Vass*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** As per the motion.

## **E. Biodiversity Conservation**

**Motion No: 13/E1**

**Eradication of pest horses**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Premier of NSW to acknowledge that a more effective and humane means of pest horse removal is required so that national parks become feral horse free.

Recognising that, under previous management regimes, many horses were either sent to the abattoir if not valued for human use (a far less humane outcome than on site shooting under strict protocols) or released back into bushland:

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council urge the government to adopt ground and aerial shooting under strict protocols (e.g. FAAST protocols for aerial shooting) in combination with other methods as a humane and effective means of eradicating pest horses from national parks.

*Moved: Haydn Washington*

*Seconded: John Robens*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the NSW Premier and the Minister for the Environment expressing the concern that horse management programs are resulting in the introduction of pest horses to new areas of NSW and that aerial shooting, a more humane and effective form of pest horse management is required.

**Motion No: 13/E2**

**Koala populations threatened by logging in North Coast forests**

*Submitted by Bellingen Environment Centre*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW request that the NSW Government instruct the Forestry Corporation of NSW not to log Compartments 26 and 27 of Pine Creek State Forest scheduled for late 2013 because of the area's importance as Koala habitat.

*Moved: Lorraine Vass*

*Seconded: Jim Morrison*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the NSW Premier and Environment Minister as per the motion.

**Motion No: 13/E3**

**Protecting koala habitat under the Private Native Forestry Code**

*Submitted by the Friends of the Koala Inc.*

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

- a) urge the NSW Minister for the Environment to urgently impose a moratorium on private native forestry property vegetation plan approvals until the Environment Protection Authority has developed a scientifically robust method of identifying and protecting koala habitat under the Private Native Forestry (PNF) Code; and
- b) develop a campaign to raise public awareness of the impact of private native forestry on koala habitat and of the urgency for finalising koala management issues in the PNF Code.

*Moved: Lorraine Vass*

*Seconded: Jim Morrison*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write letters as per the motion and develop a campaign to raise public awareness of the impact of private native forestry on koala habitat and of the urgency for finalising koala management issues in the PNF Code.

**Motion No: 13/E4**

**Commonwealth guidelines and recovery plan for koala protection**

*Submitted by the Friends of the Koala Inc.*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW ascertain as a matter of urgency the Federal Minister for the Environment's commitment to and time-frame for:

- a) releasing the long-awaited referral guidelines for the vulnerable koala for public comment; and
- b) developing the proposed recovery plan for the combined koala populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian

Capital Territory, to commence following completion of the National Koala Conservation and Management Strategy 2009-2014.

*Moved: Lorraine Vass*

*Seconded: Jim Morrison*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write letters as per the motion.

**Motion No: 13/E5**

**Canary Island palm**

*Submitted by the Hornsby Conservation Society Inc.*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the NSW Premier, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Primary Industries, Leader of the Opposition, Member for Hornsby and Member for Castle Hill, calling on them to:

- a) recognize that the plant species called *Phoenix canariensis* Hort. Ex Chabaud Arecaceae, introduced from the Canary Islands and classed by several responsible local government authorities as a dangerous environmental weed, known to cause serious injuries to people forced to work with it and to members of the public, continues to be planted, cultivated and protected by State government instrumentalities at considerable public expense, in locations where it presents a threat to public health, occupational health and safety and to the natural environment;
- b) require each existing plant carry a conspicuous sign that warns of the danger of contact with the plant and advises urgent medical attention to any injuries that result from contact with it, until the palm can be removed and destroyed; and
- c) support declaring the Canary Island palm a noxious weed.

*Moved: Gordon Limburg*

*Seconded: Bob Salt*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the Premier; cc Minister for the Environment, Minister for Primary Industries, The Leader of the Opposition, the Member for Hornsby and the Member for Castle Hill as per the motion.

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

### **Motion No: 13/F1**

#### **Mountain bike trail in Garigal National Park**

*Submitted by STEP Inc.*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the NSW Minister for the Environment and the Chief Executive, Office of Environment and Heritage:

- a) endorsing the June 2010 STEP Inc Position Paper on Bushland Tracks and Trails;
- b) urging the adoption of the approach and standards laid out in the Paper, particularly:
  - i) item 3.1 (Appropriate Recreational Activities on Tracks and Trails)
  - ii) item 3.2 (Construction and Maintenance of Tracks and Trails)
  - iii) item 3.3 (Monitoring)
  - iv) item 3.4 (Tracks and Trails in Different Bushland Categories); and
- c) expressing opposition to the proposal to construct a single track mountain bike track in Garigal National Park on the grounds of the potentially damaging consequences as outlined in item 3.5 in our Position Paper.

*Moved: Jill Green*

*Seconded: Bob Salt*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write letters as per the motion.

### **Motion No: 13/F2**

#### **Advocacy for urban bushland**

*Submitted by the Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society Inc*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urgently convene a meeting of interested member group representatives to discuss mechanisms for increasing NCC advocacy for urban bushland protection.

*Moved: Ron Gornall*

*Seconded: Jennie Minifie*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to organise and convene a meeting of interested member group representatives to discuss mechanisms for increasing advocacy for urban bushland protection.

**Motion No: 13/F3**

**National Wilderness Act**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW work with its counterpart organisations in other states and the Colong Foundation for Wilderness, including other alliances such as the *Places You Love* campaign, to support the push for a National Wilderness Act that would enable the following actions:

- a) The Federal Government undertaking a review of the national wilderness inventory. (As an interim measure, all wilderness identified by the national wilderness inventory and within the National Reserve System would be deemed to be a 'matter of national environmental significance'); and
- b) The Federal Government entering into an agreement with the states and territories to:
  - i. Manage in accordance with the provisions of the National Wilderness Act those lands identified in existing reserves and considered suitable for inclusion in a national system of wilderness reserves;
  - ii. Negotiate for inclusion in the National Wilderness System and to manage in accordance with the provisions of this legislation those lands identified as unreserved public lands that are determined suitable for inclusion in a national system of wilderness reserves;
  - iii. Enable negotiations for the purchase or lease of private lands identified as being suitable for inclusion in a national system of wilderness reserves;
  - iv. Enable negotiations for private lands to be identified as being suitable for inclusion in a national system of wilderness reserves and for those lands to be subject to wilderness management;
- c) Recognition of the right of the respective state or territory to nominate the authority responsible for the management of each individual wilderness unit in accordance with the intergovernmental agreement on wilderness; and
- d) Citizens, community groups, state and territory governments and the Federal Government to have standing to enforce the provisions of the National Wilderness Act.

*Moved: Haydn Washington*

*Seconded: John Robens*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to work with other Conservation Councils, the *Places You Love* campaign and other conservation groups to achieve a National Wilderness Act.

**Motion No: 13/F4**

**Horse riding in declared wilderness**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd*

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

- a) support efforts of its member groups to prevent horse riding in declared wilderness areas of NSW (except in emergency situations) in the development of the case against riding in wilderness areas; and
- b) write to the Premier of NSW, explaining the Council's total opposition to horse riding in declared wilderness.

*Moved: Haydn Washington*

*Seconded: Anne Reeves*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the NSW Premier and work co-operatively with other conservation groups as per the motion.

**Motion No: 13/F5**

**Protect the Gardens of Stone**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Premier of NSW to:

- a) secure public trust in planning processes by ensuring that the Planning Assessment Commission inquiry into the Coalpac open-cut mining proposal near Cullen Bullen is allowed to proceed as intended in an open and transparent manner and without political interference; and
- b) immediately reserve the Ben Bullen and Wolgan State Forests as a State Conservation Area.

*Moved: Haydn Washington*

*Seconded: John Robens*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the NSW Premier, Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Minister for Resources and Energy and the Minister for the Environment expressing our concern that arm's length decision-making appears to have become corrupted with respect to the Coalpac proposal and that the NSW Government should instead create a new Gardens of Stone Reserve.

**Motion No: 13/F6**

**The Gardens of Stone Alliance**

*Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW invite its member groups to consider supporting the Gardens of Stone Alliance.

*Moved: John Robens*

*Seconded: Tara Cameron*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Sign Up! Member groups who support the reservation of the 2005 Gardens of Stone Stage 2 reserve proposal and oppose the Coalpac open-cut mine within it should join the Gardens of Stone Alliance (GoSA). Joining permits GoSA to demonstrate broad community support for this proposal. Members of the GoSA agree to the use of their name and logo at the announcement of the Alliance and on the GoSA website. GoSA members will receive an invitation to sign up for occasional email updates and may also wish to like our facebook page, if they choose to do so.

## **G. BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT**

**Motion No: 13/G1**

**Hazard reduction burns in NSW**

*Submitted by the Central West Environment Council*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW request a report from the Rural Fire Service on monitoring carried out on the effectiveness of hazard reduction burns in NSW.

*Moved: Mike Augee*

*Seconded: Rob Pallin*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the Environment Minister, the Rural Fire Service and the Bushfire Coordinating Committee as per the motion (draft letter supplied).

## H. LATE MOTIONS

### **Motion No: 13/L1**

#### **Berowra Valley National Park**

*Submitted by Hornsby Conservation Society Inc*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW draw the attention of its members to the Draft Plan of Management for the recently gazetted Berowra Valley National Park soon due to be released for public comment and recommend support for the Park's primary use for conservation outcomes.

*Moved: Gordon Limburg*

*Seconded: Anne Reeves*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC with advice from the National Parks Association of NSW to publicise the Berowra Valley National Park Draft Plan of Management's period of public comment when it becomes known, to maximise public support for conservation outcomes.

### **Motion No: 13/L2**

#### **Sustainable population**

*Submitted by Sustainable Population Australia (NSW Branch) Inc*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the NSW Government to curb the continuing growth of the human population of NSW overall, and Sydney in particular. The protection of our natural heritage and biodiversity is made very difficult with an increasing population, as noted in the NCC's *Ecologically Sustainable Population Policy (2011)*, which was passed unanimously by member groups.

*Moved Nola Stewart*

*Seconded: Haydn Washington*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** As per motion.

### **Motion No: 13/L3**

#### **Sustainability curricula and DEC Sustainability Advisor position**

*Submitted by Australian Association for Environmental Education (NSW)*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the State government to strengthen its commitment to sustainability education including:

- Sustained resourcing of the development and implementation of a sustainability curriculum across all education service providers in NSW; and
- Allocation of resources to maintain a permanent Sustainability Advisor position within the NSW Department of Education and Communities.

*Moved: Jane Smith*

*Seconded: Sue Burton*

*Carried*



**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the Minister for Education, the Minister for the Environment and the Director-General of the Department of Education and Communities as per the motion.

**Motion No: 13/L4**

**Avoiding too frequent Hazard Reduction Burns**

*Submitted by the Colo Committee*

**THAT**, given the push developing for 'more frequent' Hazard Reduction Burns, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- a) urge the Rural Fire Service (RFS) to maintain its commitment that every Hazard Reduction Burn (HRB) be based on sound ecological science that protects our native biodiversity; and
- b) further call on the RFS to remind the community that HRBs will not necessarily stop a crown fire under 'catastrophic' fire conditions and that all property owners must take steps to protect their assets regardless of recent HRBs.

*Moved: Haydn Washington*

*Seconded: Rob Pallin*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC Bushfire Committee to consider and respond appropriately to current calls for increased Hazard Reduction Burns.

**Motion No: 13/L5**

**The Private Native Forestry Code**

*Submitted by Forestmedia Inc*

**THAT** the Nature Conservation Council of NSW strongly urge that the Private Native Forestry Code require mandatory, effective and professional pre-logging threatened species surveys and site specific prescriptions to be developed to ensure their protection.

*Moved: Lorraine Bower*

*Seconded: Lorraine Vass*

*Carried*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** NCC to write to the NSW Premier, the Minister for Primary Industries Resources and Minister for the Environment.

**Motion No: 13/L6**

**Private Native Forestry Code hunger strike**

*Submitted by the Colo Committee*

**THAT** the 2013 Annual Conference express its appreciation and respect to former Executive member Mark Selmes who is on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of a hunger strike outside NSW Parliament in protest against the grossly inadequate private native forest code of practice that does not protect all threatened species.

*Moved: Haydn Washington*

*Seconded: Lorraine Bower*

*Carried*

## **NSW ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2013**

The NSW Environment Awards were presented on Saturday 19 October by Don Henry, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Conservation Foundation and Prof. Don White Chair of the Nature Conservation Council.

### **Marie Byles Award**

*For the most outstanding environmental campaign*

**2013 Winner:** Better Planning Network

### **The Community Action Award**

*For the most inspiring community action initiative*

**2013 Winner:** Gardens of Stone campaign

### **The Ziggy Megne Volunteer for the Environment Award**

*For voluntary contribution to conservation over a long period of time*

**2013 Winner:** Mark Wilson

### **The Rising Star Award**

*For the most outstanding new campaigner under the age of 30*

**2013 Winner:** Emma Horsburgh

### **The Nature Conservation Council Member Group Award**

*For the most outstanding NCC Member Group*

**2013 Winner:** The National Parks Association of NSW

### **The Dunphy Award**

*For most outstanding environmental effort of an individual*

**2013 Joint Winners:** Corinne Fisher; Dr Brian Marshall

### **The Allen Strom Hall of Fame Award**

*For long-standing service and commitment to the conservation movement*

**2013 Winner:** Bev Smiles

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**[www.nccnsw.org.au/events/ncc-annual-conference-2013](http://www.nccnsw.org.au/events/ncc-annual-conference-2013)**

