



Nature Conservation Council of NSW

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009 MINUTES

**Saturday 31st October &
Sunday 1st November, 2009**

Motions for Annual Conference 2009

A. Council Affairs

Motion No: 09/A1

Admission of new Member Societies

Submitted by the Executive

MOTION:

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 2008/2009:

The Sweetwater Action Group

The Western Sydney Conservation Alliance

Moved: Don White

Seconded: Anne Reeves

Carried

Nominations were called for the Executive

Chairperson's Report

Don White presented his report.

Motion: That the Chairperson's report be accepted.

Moved: Rob Pallin

Seconded: Anne Reeves

Carried

The Minister for Climate Change, the Environment and Water, John Robertson, addressed the conference during the proceedings.

B. Biodiversity Conservation

Motion No: 09/B1

Reducing native animal road kill

Submitted by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia Inc.

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the NSW Minister for the Environment and Minister for Roads, requesting their departments to investigate means to reduce road kill of native animals on the roads of New South Wales.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Write to the Ministers and seek their advice on how to motivate their departments to seek ways to reduce the road kill of native animals on our roadways. More funded research into this problem could be the answer.

Moved: Patrick Medway **Seconded:** Clive Williams **Carried**

Motion No: 09/B2

Protecting Regent Honeyeater & Swift Parrot habitat in the Tomalpin Woodlands

Submitted by Friends of Tumblebee

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the Premier, Planning Minister and Environment Minister requesting the conversion to National Park or nature reserve of 747ha of industrially zoned land in the Hunter Employment Zone near Kurri Kurri in the Hunter Valley, in order to protect nationally significant Regent Honeyeater (*Xanthomyza phrygia*) breeding habitat and Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) winter foraging habitat and to protect the EEC of the Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark forest in the Tomalpin Woodlands.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Written points of concern to the Minister for Planning, Minister for the Environment and the Premier followed by a meeting.

Moved: James Ryan **Seconded:** Chris Parker **Carried**

C. National Parks, Protected & Natural Areas

Motion No: 09/C1

Firewood clearing in Mount Rae Forest

Submitted by the Goulburn Field Naturalists Society

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

1. oppose the State Government's granting of approvals for the purpose of commercial-scale firewood clearing in Mount Rae Forest;
2. lobby members of NSW Parliament, particularly relevant Ministers concerning this approval;
3. bring to relevant Ministers' attention the intent of those supporting this proposed firewood operation to use the same legislation, the Private Native Forestry Act, to open up 1.5 million hectares of remnant vegetation on private lands in the Southern Tablelands to supply Canberra and surrounding areas with firewood; and
4. oppose any attempt under proposed new legislation to remove the need for dual consent where it currently exists.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Write to and lobby members of both Houses of Parliament.

GFNS will provide draft letters and ancillary relevant material as well as representatives available for meetings with members of the Legislative Council and Assembly. We have already initiated several leafleting campaigns concentrating on the electorate of the Environment Minister, though this portfolio has become quite liquid over the past few months.

It is our hope that the NCC and others of its member groups (which to date have included the Wilderness Society and the local branch of the NPA) will assist in actively campaigning and establishing meetings with relevant bodies and people. We would like other member groups to join in where this insidious legislation is likely to affect local vegetation communities.

Moved: Mark Selmes

Seconded: Jim Morrison

Carried

Motion No: 09/C2

NO to native forest wood for electricity generation or biofuel

Submitted by the South East Region Conservation Alliance

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW recognise the vital role of public and private native forests in storing and sequestering carbon from the atmosphere and therefore reject any use of native forest wood and other products, whether described as waste or otherwise, for the generation of electricity or production of biofuels.

PROPOSED ACTION:

NCC to:

- apply this policy across all its existing relevant campaign activities;
- convey details of this policy to the Parliamentary Liaison Officer to be applied in all future relevant discussions with Government representatives; and
- write to the Ministers for the Environment, Planning and Forests to advise them of this policy decision (SERCA will supply a draft letter to the Ministers once this motion has been passed).

Moved: John Hibberd

Seconded: Noel Plumb

Carried

Motion No: 09/C3

Keep our National Parks safe from commercial exploitation

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

1. oppose the NSW Government's plans to expand commercial tourism development in National Parks, in particular construction of new accommodation facilities within National Parks, and its plans to amend the National Parks and Wildlife Act and the Wilderness Act to facilitate such developments;
2. support improved, low-key facilities for National Park visitors, and better promotion to encourage more public use, off-park accommodation and other services which will support local economies, while avoiding more negative impacts on National Parks; and
3. call on the Premier Nathan Rees and the Leader of the Opposition, Barry O'Farrell to continue the tradition of low-key, low impact visitor management and use for an adequately funded NSW national parks estate.

PROPOSED ACTION:

NCC to write to the Premier and Leader of the Opposition, outlining the terms of the resolution.

Moved: Keith Muir

Seconded: Tara Cameron

Carried

Motion No: 09/C4

Recognising the potential of the Gardens of Stone Stage 2

Submitted by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society and the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW support the accelerated reservation of the 40,000 hectare Gardens of Stone Stage 2 reserve proposal, given:

1. the ongoing and increasing threat to the area's heritage values from inappropriate use and poor management; and
2. the significant benefits to the local community from reservation, including regional economic returns of between \$3 to \$4 million a year from an estimated 50,000 visits per year.

PROPOSED ACTION:

NCC to write to the Premier outlining the terms of the resolution and seeking an accelerated timetable for reservation of the proposal area.

Moved: Tara Cameron

Seconded: Keith Muir

Carried

Motion No: 09/C5

Stop mining damage in the Gardens of Stone Stage 2

Submitted by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society & the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW support adequate protection zones for the upland swamps, cliffs and pagodas within the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 reserve proposal, to prevent damage resulting from surface subsidence due to underground longwall coal mining.

PROPOSED ACTION:

NCC to write to the Premier outlining the terms of the resolution and seeking adequate protection zones for the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 region.

Moved: Keith Muir

Seconded: Tara Cameron

Carried

Motion No: 09/C6

Great Eastern Ranges Initiative

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the NSW government to increase the protection of large natural areas by incorporation in the public owned conservation reserve system, as the backbone of connectivity conservation for the Great Eastern Ranges initiative. This would include identifying and protecting remaining wilderness areas, core habitats and potential refuge areas along the ranges and associated environments.

PROPOSED ACTION:

NCC write to the Premier, encouraging commitment to protecting the aforementioned areas of land as part of the Great Eastern Ranges initiative.

Moved: Bev Smiles

Seconded: Anne Reeves

Carried

Motion No: 09/C7

World Heritage & Regional Forest Agreement

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW request the NSW and Commonwealth governments to recommit to the Regional Forest Agreement obligations for World Heritage assessment of forested areas.

PROPOSED ACTION:

NCC to write to the NSW Premier and Commonwealth governments ensuring recommitment to the Regional Forest Agreement obligations for World Heritage assessment of forested areas.

Moved: Bev Smiles

Seconded: Gordon Limburg

Carried

D. Planning & Development

Motion No: 09/D1

The NSW State Plan

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW request that the new State Plan is amended to specifically commit to the creation of a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative reserve system which includes terrestrial, marine and freshwater reserves, and to the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive Biodiversity Strategy.

PROPOSED ACTION:

NCC to request the Premier and Environment Minister to amend the new State Plan accordingly.

Moved: Bev Smiles

Seconded: Anne Reeves

Carried

Motion No: 09/D2

Lake Macquarie State Government Infrastructure Projects

Submitted by the Community Environment Network

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the Ministers for Planning and the Environment to ensure that State Government Infrastructure Projects in the City of Lake Macquarie are properly revegetated and rehabilitated.

PROPOSED ACTION:

NCC to write to the Minister for Planning to ensure rehabilitation of the aforementioned developments.

Moved: John Asquith

Seconded: Jane Smith

Carried

Motion No: 09/D3

A new Lower Hunter Regional Strategy

Submitted by the Sweetwater Action Group Inc. (SWAG)

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the Premier and Planning Minister and request that the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy be rescinded and the Government begin consultation on a new strategy which is based on an objective assessment of potential development land, which has least impact on our environment and genuinely meets the needs of the community as opposed to property speculators.

Amendment: In addition the government proceed with its written commitment to secure the dedication of regionally significant vegetation to complete the Watagan to Stockton Green Corridor.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Written points of concern to the Minister for Planning and the Premier followed by a meeting if necessary.

Moved: Chris Parker

Seconded: James Ryan

Carried

Motion No: 09/D4

Protection of Urban Bushland in Local Environment Plans (LEPs)

Submitted by the Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society Inc.

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the Ministers for Planning and the Environment and Climate Change to protect urban bushland by specific inclusion in E2 Environmental Conservation zoning in the standard Local Environment Plan (LEP) template.

PROPOSED ACTION:

NCC to write letters to the Minister for Planning and the Minister for the Environment and their Departments urging urban bushland to be specifically protected through inclusion within the E2 Environmental Conservation zoning in the standard LEP template.

Moved: Doug Stuart

Seconded: Shauna Forrest

Carried

Motion No: 09/D5

Bomaderry Creek bushland

Submitted by the Australian Conservation Foundation – Shoalhaven Branch

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW re-assert its past opposition to any roads through the Bomaderry Creek Bushland and, in addition, support the expansion of the Bomaderry Creek Regional Park.

PROPOSED ACTION:

That NCC:

1. Write to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts (Peter Garrett), and the NSW State Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water (John Robertson) and Planning (Kristina Kenneally) opposing the road and seeking expansion of the regional park; and

2. Seek advice from the Environmental Defender's Office regarding the validity of making a planning decision to allow construction of a road through a high conservation value environment (and revocation of part of a regional park) to permit implementation of this planning decision, in return for transfer of adjacent land owned by the road construction proponent.

Moved: John Wiggin **Seconded:** Terry Barratt **Carried**

Motion No: 09/D6

Bushland affected by RTA road reservations

Submitted by the Western Sydney Conservation Alliance Inc.

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW seek from its member groups particulars of any parcels of land known to those groups which contain a road reservation by the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority in order to protect the conservation values in the long term.

PROPOSED ACTION:

That NCC email member groups for details of land affected by a RTA road reservation which doesn't seem that it will eventuate in a road project.

Moved: Noel Plumb **Seconded:** David Murray **Carried**

Supplementary Motion

Mining Inquiry Panels of Experts

Submitted by the Nepean Action Group (NAG)

THAT the Nature Conservation of NSW demand that the Minister for Planning commit to ensuring that Panels of Experts appointed to officiate at inquiries into mine plans, or into the impacts of mining on the environment, be required to have a proper balance of interests, with experts who work for the mining industry complemented by experts who have no industry associations.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Letters from the NCC requesting balanced panels where mine approvals are concerned, to the Minister for Planning and the Director-General of the Department of Planning, with copies to all NSW Ministers and to the Premier.

Moved: Caroline Graham **Seconded:** Bev Smiles **Carried**

E. Wilderness

Motion No: 09/E1

Kakadu tourism & wilderness management

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

1. oppose those aspects of the Draft 2008 Tourism Master Plan for Kakadu National Park that would impose tourist precincts upon the park's Broken Stone Country Wilderness;
2. call for a new Tourism Master Plan that restricts tourist facilities to existing developed areas and encourages construction of new tourist facilities beyond the park's boundaries; and
3. call on the Commonwealth Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts to take the steps necessary to reinstate wilderness management over the Broken Stone Country in Kakadu National Park.

PROPOSED ACTION:

NCC to write to the Federal Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts asking that he implement this decision of the Conference.

Moved: Keith Muir **Seconded:** Ian Tanner **Carried**

Motion No: 09/E2

Protecting Sandon, Wooli & the Moors Wilderness Areas

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call for the expedited assessment and protection of the Sandon and Wooli 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.

PROPOSED ACTION:

NCC to write to the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water:

- noting that the two year statutory time period in which to determine a wilderness nomination has now lapsed; and
- asking what steps the Minister will take to expedite the determination for these three overdue wilderness nominations.

Moved: Keith Muir

Seconded: Ian Tanner

Carried

F. Marine Conservation

Motion No: 09/F1

Sydney Marine Parks

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW actively support the creation of a Sydney Marine Park.

PROPOSED ACTION:

NCC to work with NPA and other groups to:

- lobby at the Ministerial level for establishment of a Sydney Marine Park; and
- engage NCC Member groups and supporters in lobbying their local members for a Sydney Marine Park.
- Educate and raise public awareness regarding the importance of marine sanctuaries

Moved: Bev Smiles

Seconded: Jim Callaway

Carried

Motion No: 09/F2

Solitary Islands & Jervis Bay Marine Parks

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW continue to actively support strengthening the conservation provisions of the zones and extend sanctuary zones in the Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay Marine Parks.

PROPOSED ACTION:

1. NCC to continue to work with NPA and other ENGOs:
 - to push for strengthened zonings for marine ecosystem conservation in NSW marine parks;
 - to seek a commitment to strengthened zonings by the Marine Parks Authority and Ministers;
 - to help influence improved rezoning outcomes for the purpose of marine ecosystem conservation; and
 - to ensure that Sanctuary Zones remain as no-take and no-disturbance zones, consistent with their purpose as permanent reference areas,
2. NCC to encourage submissions from its Member Groups and networks should the process go to a public consultation stage.

Moved: Bev Smiles

Seconded: Jim Callaway

Carried

Amendments to Aboriginal & Marine Policies

Submitted by the Executive

AMENDMENTS TO:

Aboriginal Interests and Nature Conservation Policy, 2007

SECTION 2. INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Amend to (changes in italics):

- 2.1 This policy is to be interpreted and implemented in accordance with NCC's constitutional aims and objects and with NCC's other relevant policies. In this policy the term 'lands' includes 'waters'; the term 'national parks' includes other categories of protected area of similar standing, *including Marine Protected Areas (i.e. Marine Parks, Marine Reserves, Aquatic Reserves and similar).*

SECTION 6. NCC WILL WORK WITH ABORIGINAL INTERESTS TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES

Amend to (additional text in italics):

- 6.11 NCC will seek the co-operation of Aboriginal communities in ensuring that hunting and gathering activities in national parks are carried out in accordance with formally adopted plans of management made under the relevant legislation. NCC hopes that Aboriginal hunting and gathering in NSW national parks will be limited to essential cultural purposes. NCC does not support hunting and gathering in national parks for economic or other purposes.

NCC also does not support hunting and gathering in 'no-take' Marine Protected Areas or in 'no-take' zones within multi-use Marine Protected Areas. It is important to maintain such areas as scientific reference areas where all extractive human activity is removed and ecological processes are allowed to proceed with minimal direct human impact.

AMENDMENT TO:

Marine Policy, 2004

Add a new section to:

SECTION 3. Objectives

- 3.2.10** 'No-take' or Sanctuary Zones should provide the highest level of marine protection available where the fishing of, the removal of or harm

to any plants or animals, whether for commercial, recreational or cultural reasons, is prohibited. See the *Aboriginal Policy* for further details.

Moved: Megan Kessler **Seconded:** Rob Pallin **Carried**

G. Climate Change

Motion No: 09/G1
Walk Against Warming
Submitted by ParraCAN

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW continue to:

1. organise Walk Against Warming and/or as many other climate action events as possible and maximise the publicity surrounding these events; and
2. expand community engagement and continue to lobby politicians.

PROPOSED ACTION:

As per motion.

Moved: Annie Nielsen **Seconded:** Brigid Dowsett **Carried**

The Nature Conservation Council Bushfire Policy

The Bushfire policy as tabled and amended was accepted.

Moved: Rob Pallin **Seconded:** Frances Bray **Carried**

H. Local Government

Motion No: 09/H1
Community input into Local Government proposals
Submitted by the Dubbo Field Naturalist & Conservation Society Inc.

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW make representations to the NSW Government and the Local Government and Shires Association to ensure that:

1. effective and transparent, two-way communication processes are in place when Local Governments are seeking community input into Draft documents such as Plans of Management; and
2. Councils report back to the community throughout the 'consultation' process.

PROPOSED ACTION:

NCC to write letter to the NSW Premier, with copies to the Minister for Planning and LGSA.

Moved:

Seconded:

Executive Election

The executive election was held and as there were thirteen nominees, Geoff Lambert, the Returning Officer, coordinated the election. The new executive members are:

James Ryan

Don White

Megan Kessler

Robert Pallin

Judy Messer

Kalina Koloff

Jason Coombes

Bev Smiles

Anne Reeves

Jim Morrison

John Jeayes

John Hibberd

LATE OR URGENCY MOTIONS

MOTION No: 1

Proposed changes to the planning legislation including environmental protection commitment

Submitted by Friends of Tumblebee

MOTION:

That: The NCC write to all political parties and ask them to specify **before the election** what changes they will make to the Planning legislation (if elected to Government in NSW) . In addition the NCC seeks a commitment in writing from the NSW Opposition that key environmental protection contained within TS Act NV Act, WM Act, NPW Act, will be reinstated.

Reinstate third party merit appeals throughout the planning process

(Julie – request all political parties that the maladministration and the failure to act that is contributing to the corruption in the process is also addressed.)

Amendment 2

Motion become three part;

- 1) That the executive of the NCC, in consultation with member groups, develop a platform of required planning law reforms which will be distributed to all political parties in the run up to the NSW Election.
- 2) The NCC write to all political parties early in the new year seeking detailed commitments to reform of the NSW Planning System based on the platform developed.
- 3) That the NCC executive initiate the formation of a Coalition for Community Planning Reform covering conservation and heritage groups to campaign for reform of the NSW Planning System.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Letter from NCC to NSW Opposition.

Moved: James Ryan

Seconded: John Hibberd

Carried

MOTION No: 2

Protection of River Red Gum forests

Submitted by the National Parks Association

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW strongly urge the NSW Government to act quickly to protect all of the remaining River Red Gum forests of the Murray, Murrumbidgee, Lachlan Rivers and tributaries by:

- Allocating a just business exit package to the Red Gum timber industry immediately
- Dedicating large areas in secure new connected National Parks
- Gazetting new National Parks no later than March 2010

PROPOSED ACTION:

NCC write a letter to Minister for the Environment outlining this Annual Conference motion to be presented by NPA at a meeting on Wednesday 4 November.

Moved: Bev Smiles

Seconded: Roger Lembit

Carried

Motion No: 3

Lord Howe Island rodent eradication program

Submitted by

MOTION:

THAT the NCC applauds the Lord Howe Island Board for its proposed program to eradicate introduced rodents from Lord Howe Island, and seeks the NSW and Commonwealth Governments' practical support of the Board in its thorough and scientifically-based plan to finally rid the island of rodents, which continue to threaten the survival of many native and endemic species.

BACKGROUND:

- Lord Howe Island and its surrounding waters is a World Heritage Property with many endemic species
- Decades of attempts to eradicate the rodents (introduced mice and rats) have failed, and they continue to threaten such species as the Lord Howe Island Woodhen and the Lord Howe Island Currawong, and prevent the reinstatement of the Lord Howe Island Stick Insect.
- The proposal of the LHI Board is scientifically-based and thorough and has been independently reviewed and supported by scientists including Professor Tim Flannery.
- The program will require the co-operation and substantial inconvenience to the residents of the Island, but without the

eradication program, the cost and risk of conserving the species and ecosystems of the Island must remain in doubt.

- References:
 - a. article in the Sydney Morning Herald 31st October 32009
 - b. Rodent eradication Plan 2009 DECC / LLHI Board

PROPOSED ACTION:

Letters to

- Lord Howe Island Board
- NSW Minister for Environment and Climate Change
- Commonwealth Government Minister Garrett

Moved: Rob Pallin

Seconded: Noel Plumb

Carried

MOTION No: 4

Alps and South East Forests World Heritage Nomination

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

MOTION:

THAT further to the 2005 Annual Conference resolution concerning support for the Alps and South East Forests ('sea to snow') World Heritage nomination, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on New South Wales to join with Victoria and the ACT in supporting the addition of this proposal to Australia's Tentative World Heritage List.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Write to the Premier asking NSW to support the addition of the Alps and South East Forests to Australia's Tentative World heritage List.

BACKGROUND:

1. Australia is now in the process of expanding its Tentative World Heritage List and is consulting the States and Territories concerning the areas which should be added. This provides NSW with the opportunity to join with Victoria and the ACT in adding the long standing Alps and South East Forests nomination proposal to the List. It was not included in the first round of Tentative List additions announced by the federal Minister on 22nd May, 2009 and while Victoria and the ACT have both nominated their parts of the 'sea to snow' proposal for addition to the Tentative List, NSW has not yet done so.
2. The proposal for this World Heritage nomination has a long history and has been supported by the NSW Government for years. The World

Heritage Expert Panel which carried out a part of the Comprehensive Regional Assessments leading to the Regional Forestry Agreements (RFAs) identified the World Heritage potential of this 'sea to snow' proposal and provision was made in the relevant RFAs for its further investigation, but very little has been done to advance this matter. The Regional Forest Agreements identified a number of CAR Reserves (Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative) which would be expected to form a key part of the nomination, but in an answer to Parliament the Commonwealth Environment Minister made it clear that under its World Heritage Convention obligations other areas could be included. Examples of this would include the extension of the Alpine National Park into East Gippsland (now imminent).

3. If NSW does not act urgently now, it runs the risk of missing the boat. It is time for NSW to join the Governments of Victoria and the ACT in having the area placed on Australia's Tentative List and NCC urgent action in promoting this would be consistent with its resolution of 2005.

Moved: Keith Muir

Seconded: Rob Pallin

Carried

MOTION No: 5

Environmental Protection Licensing in NSW

Submitted by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society

MOTION:

THAT NCC supports the Blue Mountains Conservation Society in addressing pollution of the upper Coxs River and pursuing reform of Environmental Protection Licensing in NSW. This reform specifically involves setting licence limits that reflect the sensitivity of the receiving environment and improved monitoring of licence conditions by DECCW.

BACKGROUND:

1. BMCS volunteers have tested water in the upper Coxs River finding high levels of salinity.
2. Independent testing performed by Dr Ian Wright found levels of metals such as arsenic, aluminium, boron and copper above those recommended for the environment.
3. The testing results have been verified by Sydney Catchment Authority which has also completed testing.
4. BMCS informed DECC of the results but are not aware of any action to improve the situation.
5. BMCS has taken Court action against Delta Electricity in respect to alleged pollution of a section of the upper Coxs River. The Land and Environment Court has awarded a 'Protective Costs Order' of \$20 000 for the case.

6. Delta Electricity is appealing the 'Protective Costs Order' which increases the Society's exposure to significant costs.
7. BMCS wants to address the broader water licensing issues through dialogue with the NSW Government.

PROPOSED ACTION:

That the NCC writes to the Minister for the Environment urging DECCW to improve its performance in relation to the following Environmental Protection Licensing (EPL) concerns in NSW:

- 1) Licence limits do not appear to be set with reference to the sensitivity of the receiving environment, or established environmental values, despite the latter being a matter that DECCW is required to consider in undertaking its licensing functions. The licensing process should ensure that established environmental values are protected.
- 2) Licence limits do not appear to be set with reference to the existing levels of pollutants within a waterway or the potential cumulative impacts of all facilities holding EPLs (or any other sources of pollutants) within a catchment or waterway. Individual facilities appear to be considered in isolation.
- 3) Licence limits are not set for all pollutants being emitted from facilities holding EPLs.
- 4) DECCW largely relies on self monitoring of licence conditions and appears to undertake only limited auditing of whether facilities are complying with licence conditions.
- 5) There is limited opportunity for public participation in the licensing process.

Moved: Tara Cameron **Seconded:** Michael Maack **Carried**

MOTION No:6

New power stations in NSW

Submitted by ParraCAN

MOTION:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW demand that the new power stations proposed for NSW not be powered by coal or wood but be gas fired as an interim measure or even more desirable that it be wind and solar. NSW cannot possibly meet their commitments to green energy if new power stations are powered by coal.

PROPOSED ACTION:

A letter be written to the Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Water and also the Minister for Energy expressing the incongruity of building coal fired power stations when most countries are trying to reduce their

greenhouse gas emissions. If the power stations are built by private industry the government must make it part of the contract that they cannot be coal fired.

BACKGROUND:

If the federal and state governments are serious about reducing greenhouse gas emissions there should be no more coal fired power stations built. NSW must take a lead and show that they are taking action to reduce the emissions of NSW residents and businesses. ParraCAN is lobbying state members of parliament and we feel this action needs to be supported by all other climate action groups and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. If this is done the government will realize that the community is very concerned about the future of generations to come.

Refer to Executive

Proposed: Anne Reeves

Seconded: Bob Salt

Carried