



Nature Conservation Council of NSW

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

27-28 October 2012

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

MINUTES

Download extra copies of the Annual Conference Minutes at:
www.nccnsw.org.au/content/annual-conference

EXECUTIVE 2011-2012

Chairperson: Prof. Don White

Vice-Chairperson & Public Officer: Robert Pallin

Hon. Secretary: Anne Reeves

Hon. Treasurer: James Ryan

Executive Members:

Lorraine Bower

Megan Kessler

Chris Kowal

Jim Morrison

Annie Nielsen

Robert Pallin

Anne Reeves, OAM

James Ryan

Bev Smiles

Jane Smith

James Whelan

Prof. Don White

Agenda for 2012 NCC Annual Conference Saturday 27th October

- 8.45 am** **REGISTRATION OPENS**
- 9.15 am** **WELCOME TO COUNTRY** (*Michael West, Cultural Representative of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC)*)
- 9.30 am** **ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENING**
Welcome & apologies
Call for Nominations for Executive
Admission of new members
- 9.40 am** **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
Imogen Zethoven AO, Director, Coral Sea Campaign, Pew Charitable Trusts
- 10.10 am** **REPORTS**
Chair, Treasurer, Chief Executive Officer
Discussion and Questions
- 10.55 am Morning tea
- 11.25 am** **BUSINESS MOTIONS, Part 1**
- 12.10 pm** **NSW ENVIRONMENT AWARDS CEREMONY**
Presented by Penelope Figgis AO, Director of ACIUCN (Australia Committee for International Union for Conservation of Nature).
- 12.45 pm Lunch
- 1.30 pm** **NCC PROGRAM UPDATES**
Sustainable Living Program
Fire and Biodiversity Program
- 2.00 pm** **NOMINATION FOR EXECUTIVE POSITIONS DUE**
- 2.15 pm** **BUSINESS MOTIONS, Part 2**
- 3.00 pm Afternoon Tea
- 3.30 pm** **WORKSHOPS**
- *NSW Planning Reforms (Cerin Loane, NCC Planning Officer)*
 - *Land Clearing (Pepe Clarke, NCC Chief Executive Officer)*
 - *Winning on-line campaigns (Justine Garcia de Heer, GetUp)*
- 4.45 pm *Close of Day 1 Annual Conference*
- 6.00 pm *DINNER for delegates, staff and guests*

Agenda for 2012 NCC Annual Conference Sunday 28th October

- 9.00 am** **REGISTRATION FOR DAY 2 OPENS**
- 9.15am** **DAY 2 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENING**
Welcome & apologies
Housekeeping
Agenda for the day
- 9.30 am** **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**
Don White, NCC Chairperson
Pepe Clarke, NCC Chief Executive Officer
- 10.00 am** **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
Mr. John Robertson MP, Leader of the NSW Opposition (ALP)
- 10.30 am Morning tea
- 11.00 am** **ELECTION OF NCC EXECUTIVE FOR 2012-2013**
- 11.15 am** **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
Bill Ryerson (Chairman of Population Institute and President of Population Media Centre, USA)
- 11.30 am** **WORKSHOPS**
- *Sustainable population (Bill Ryerson)*
 - *Mining and gas (James Whelan, NCC Executive)*
 - *Successful community organising (Jenny Curtis, 100% Renewables)*
- 12:45pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm** **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
The Hon. Cate Faehrmann, MLC, NSW Greens
- 2.00 pm** **LATE & CARRIED OVER MOTIONS, & GENERAL BUSINESS**
- 2.30pm** **WORKSHOPS**
- *Defending environmental laws (Kate Smolski, NCC Campaigns Director)*
 - *Forest conservation (Lorraine Bower and Jim Morrison, NCC Executive)*
 - *Effective lobbying strategies (James Whelan, NCC Executive)*
- 3.45 pm** **CLOSE OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE LIST

MEMBER SOCIETY DELEGATES & OBSERVERS

Australian Conservation Foundation – Central Coast Branch

Christine Glen (O)
Norman Harris

Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd

Margery Street**

Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Peter Green

Castlecrag Conservation Society

Richard Blacklock (O)
Mark Crew
Terese Hayward (O)

ChipBusters

Noel Plumb

Community Environment Network

John Asquith
Jane Smith

Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW

Jim Callaway

Forestmedia Inc

Lorraine Bower

Friends of Tumblebee

James Ryan

Goulburn Field Naturalists Society

Mark Selmes

Green Shareholders

Prof. Don White

Hunter Community Environment Centre

Annika Dean

Hunter Environment Lobby

James Whelan

Inner West Environment Group

James Tremain

Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society

Nancy Pallin

Lake Wollumboola Protection Association

Frances Bray

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society

Alice Beauchamp (Sat)

Corinne Fisher (Sat)

Ron Gornall (Sun)

Linnean Society of NSW

Bruce Welch

Peter Myerscough

Lithgow Environment Group

Chris Jonkers

Julie Favell (O)

Mosman Parks & Bushland Association Inc.

Anne Cook

National Parks Association of NSW Inc.

Kevin Evans (Sat)

Justin McKee

Samantha Newton

Nepean Action Group

Caroline Graham

NSW Teachers' Federation

Janine Kitson (O)

NSW Wildlife Council Inc.

Ilona Roberts

North Coast Environment Council

Jim Morrison**

ParraCAN (Parramatta Climate Action Network)

Annie Nielsen

Phil Bradley (O)

Ryde Community Alliance

Jenny Minifie

Ryde Environment Group

Chris Barry (O)

Jill Hartley

Ryde-Hunters Hill Flora & Fauna Preservation Society

Cathy Merchant (Sun)

Brigid Dowsett (Sun)

STEP Inc

Jill Green

Sustainable Population Australia Inc - NSW Branch

Nola Stewart

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre

Jenni Gormley

The Coastwatchers Association Inc.

Chris Kowal

The Colo Committee

Haydn Washington**

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

Keith Muir**

Total Environment Centre

David Burgess

Willoughby Environment Protection Association

Gay Spies (Sun)

Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia

Clive Williams

Wolli Creek Preservation Society

Judy Finlason

Delegates with Proxy Votes

Jim Morrison: *PACTEC Inc.*

Keith Muir: *Sutherland Shire Environment Centre*

Margery Street: *Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd*

Haydn Washington: *The Colong Foundation for Wilderness*

Executive Councillors

Lorraine Bower*

Chris Kowal*

Jim Morrison*

Annie Nielsen*

Robert Pallin

Anne Reeves

James Ryan*

James Whelan*

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

Jenny Curtis, *100% Renewables*

The Hon. Cate Faehrmann, MLC, *NSW Greens*

The Hon. John Robertson, MLA, *Leader of the NSW Opposition, ALP*

Bill Ryerson, *Population Institute and Population Media Centre*

Michael West - *Welcome To Country, Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council*

Imogen Zethoven, *Coral Sea Campaign*

OBSERVERS and VISITORS

Karin Bishop, *Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils*

Judith Bruinsma, *Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils*

Rachel Carroll, *Rachel Carroll Studios, Environment Awards sponsor*

Penny Figgis AO, *ACIUCN member, Environment Awards compere*

Ben Hammond, *Environment Awards nominee*

Janet Harwood

Leah Henderson

Terry McBride, *Environment Awards nominee*

Dr. Judy Messer AM, *NCC representative & committee member*

Mike Thompson, *Joint NCC, NPA rep Gulaga National Park*

Bren Weatherstone

Michael Pickles, *Friends of Lane Cove National Park*

Judy Reizes, *Environment Awards nominee*

Phil Vernon, *Australian Ethical Investment, Environment Awards sponsor*

STAFF

Chelsea Bridges, *Intern*

Tamzyn Chapman, *ELO*

Pepe Clarke, *CEO*

Steve Clarke, *Philanthropy Manager*

Shaun Gilchrist, *Outreach Officer*

Kate Hopkins, *Sustainability Program Officer*

Cerin Loane, *Policy Officer*

Waminda Parker, *Hotspots Manager*

Kate Smolski, *Campaigns Director*

VOLUNTEERS

Bruce Diekman

Trieu Nguyen

Charlotte Simpson-Young

Mark Steele

William Tsang

APOLOGIES

The Hon. Tony Burke, *Commonwealth Minister for the Environment*

Luke Foley, *Shadow NSW Environment Minister*

Megan Kessler, *Executive, ORCCA*

Patrick Medway, *Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia*

Jamie Payne, *staff*

Bev Smiles, *Executive, Central West Environment Council*

LIST OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTIONS

A. Council Affairs

1. Admission of new Member Societies
Submitted by the Executive

B. Planning and Development

1. New Planning Act and ecologically sustainable development
Submitted by the Friends of Tumblebee
2. Strengthening Federal environmental powers and law
Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

C. NSW Government Environmental Performance

1. Failure of the NSW Government on the Environment
Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

D. Mining and Gas Development

1. Mining and gas development in designated water supply catchments
Submitted by the Total Environment Centre
2. Mining and gas development in water catchments and on public lands
Submitted by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society
3. Uranium mining and exploration in NSW
Submitted by Green Shareholders
4. Ratifying IUCN resolution on hydraulic fracturing
Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

E. Climate Change

1. Reviewing Renewable Energy Targets
Submitted by ParraCAN

F. Biodiversity Conservation

1. Protection of Flying Foxes
Submitted by the NSW Wildlife Council
2. Maintaining the integrity of the Native Vegetation Act & Regulation
Submitted by the Total Environment Centre

G. National Parks, Wilderness, Protected & Natural Areas

1. National Marine Reserves
2. Solitary Islands Marine Park
3. NSW Marine Audit
4. Travelling Stock Routes
5. Hunting in NSW national parks
Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW
6. Renouncing Shooters and Fishers' Policies for National Parks
7. Upholding the objectives of our national parks and wilderness laws
Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

H. Late Motions

1. Sydney Region Vegetation Mapping
Submitted by the Ryde Environment Group
2. Retaining and strengthening of environmental protection and sustainability measures in the new planning system
3. Protection of the Sydney Harbour Catchment
Submitted by Ryde Community Alliance

4. Murray-Darling Basin Groundwater
5. Coal Seam Gas and Coal Mining in NSW
Submitted by Central West Environment Council
6. Further protection for Koalas under the EPBC Act
Submitted by Bellingen Environment Centre
7. Nature Conservation Council Conservation Policies
Submitted by the Executive
8. Lake Wollumboola and its catchment
Submitted by Lake Wollumboola Protection Association
9. Support for EDO NSW
Submitted by Ryde Community Alliance
10. NCC Representation as a Stakeholder
Submitted by Community Environment Network

The following motions were adopted at the Annual Conference 2012

A. Council Affairs

Motion No: 12/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 2011/2012:

- Capertee Valley Alliance Inc
- Cumberland Bird Observers Club Inc
- Forestmedia Incorporated
- Friends of Malabar Headland
- Hill Road Reserve Action Group
- Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.
- Kalang Land and Environment Action Network (KLEAN)
- Little River Landcare Group
- Northern Illawarra Sustainability Alliance
- Palarang Local Action Network for Sustainability Inc. (PLANS)
- Redgum Bushland Committee
- Ryde Community Alliance
- Ryde-Gladesville Climate Action Group
- The Clean Age Incorporated
- The Wilderness Society Newcastle Inc
- Transition Newcastle Inc.
- Western Sydney Conservation Alliance Inc
- Wombat Protection Society of Australia Ltd

AND THAT the Conference confirm the admission to membership of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, the organisations listed below, whose membership applications were received by the Executive in October 2012:

- Friends of the Mongarlowe River
- Ironstone Community Action Group

B. Planning and Development

Motion No: 12/B1

New Planning Act and ecologically sustainable development

Submitted by the Friends of Tumblebee

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the Premier Barry O'Farrell (cc to Planning Minister), outlining key concerns with the Green Paper on Planning and request that on behalf of his Government he commit to delivering on its commitments to protect the environment, restore public confidence in the planning system and engage the community in planning and development decisions by:

- a) ensuring that Ecologically Sustainable Development is the overarching objective of the planning system;
- b) guaranteeing that existing environmental protections will be retained, not weakened, in the new planning system, including environmental protections in State Environment Planning Policies, regional strategies and Local Environment Plans;
- c) ensuring that only genuinely low impact development be identified as code assessable development;
- d) ensuring that the rights of residents are enshrined in legislation, including the right to be notified of, and make comment on, development applications which can reasonably be foreseen to have more than a negligible impact on the natural, social and economic environment;
- e) ensuring that merit appeal rights are available for all State Significant development and infrastructure proposals;
- f) mandating consideration of environmental impacts, including cumulative impacts during the development assessment phase;
- g) prescribing mechanisms for managing climate change impacts and mitigation;
- h) prescribing a legislative framework for planning instruments, including requirements for processes for effective community engagement, the conduct of environmental studies, consideration of environmental criteria, and for key natural resource management and environmental policies including, for example, Catchment Action Plans and Regional Conservation Plans;
- i) not including the so called 'compatibility certificates' which allow for prohibited (or non-permitted) uses within land use zones; and
- j) prescribing requirements for improved concurrence processes, as recommended in the Planning System Review.

AND THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW develop a draft Planning and Development policy for consideration at the 2013 Annual Conference.

PROPOSED ACTION: As per the motion.

Motion No: 12/B2

Strengthening Federal environmental powers and law

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the Prime Minister, to follow up previous correspondence with respect to the COAG agenda, and to outline concerns with the proposed amendments to the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, and request that on behalf of her Government she will commit to:

- a) rejection of proposals to establish bilateral approval agreements between federal and state governments that would delegate federal environmental powers to the states;
- b) rejection of proposals calling for changes in state and territory laws to accelerate the approval of major development projects, including mining and gas development;
- c) ensuring that legislative amendments to the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act strengthen important and necessary environmental protections, including improvements to:
 - I. make the protection of national parks a national matter;
 - II. ensure the protection of wilderness within the national reserve system is a national matter, to protect these intact ecosystems from development and fragmentation;
 - III. protect ecosystems of national significance;
 - IV. remove the exemption for Regional Forest Agreements;
 - V. regulate the sale and movement or other use of invasive species listed in the Act;
 - VI. be transparent with robust scientific-based decisions which engage the community in an open and honest way and allow decisions to be subject to public interest and merit review by the community via the courts;
 - VII. set high national standards, benchmarks and allow audits around key performance of government agencies, institutions and the environment to ensure Australia is a world leader in nature conservation and protection of the environment;
 - VIII. ensure adequate funding for the national reserve system (particularly for items I, II and III), biodiversity protection and threatened species recovery.
 - IX. ensure strategic assessments performed under the Act are allocated adequate time and resources to ensure the detail and complexity of ecological issues are thoroughly considered, to allow for thorough public comment and review, and enable changes to be made if new information on the ecology of a region emerges;

- X. establish an independent 'Environment Commission', as recommended by the Hawke Review;
- XI. facilitate the protection, restoration and enhancement of habitats subject to development review processes under the Act, so that offsets are not used as a substitute to in situ protection of habitats of national environmental significance.

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC write to the Prime Minister as per the motion (cc to Minister Burke, Premier O'Farrell and Minister Parker).

C. NSW Government Environmental Performance

Motion No: 12/C1

Failure of the NSW Government on the Environment

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the Premier to inform him that 2012 NCC Annual Conference has censured his Government for:

- a) publishing a misleading Green Paper on the New Planning System for NSW that fails to inform the reader:
 - I. of consequences of replacing the development-neutral objectives of the planning legislation with pro-development objectives;
 - II. that nearly all decision-making powers are proposed to be transferred from local government to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure; and
 - III. that the public's statutory rights for public comment and review are proposed to be replaced by non-legislated rights, the so-called Public Participation Charter;
- b) the Strategic Regional Land Use Plan and the Aquifer Interference Policy that fail to protect drinking water catchments, aquifers or high quality agricultural lands as stated in the Coalition's 2011 election promises, and instead establish a gateway process that permits development of these sensitive areas, including coal seam gas fracking in water supply catchments;
- c) making Strategic Regional Land Use Plans that fail to identify high conservation value lands for protection from damaging mining activities;
- d) revoking sanctuary zones for Fish Rock and Green Rock, and the extensions to sanctuary zones in the Solitary Islands;
- e) not protecting in marine sanctuaries the aggregation sites of the Grey Nurse Shark that is listed as a 'critically endangered' species on the IUCN red list, as well as under both state and federal environmental laws;
- f) allowing recreational shooting in national parks, contrary to the Coalition's 2011 election promise;
- g) making road transport and environmentally and socially damaging freeways the priority in its draft NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan;

- h) allowing a trial of horse riding in a wilderness of the Kosciuszko National Park in contravention of the appropriate self-reliant recreation provision in the wilderness management principles of the Wilderness Act, 1987;
- i) legislating to make the Snowy Mountains Cloud Seeding Trial in the Kosciuszko National Park permanent while removing the Natural Resources Commission from the scientific review of this process, and not requiring lodgement of a development application and adequate environmental assessment;
- j) failing to ensure koala habitat is adequately protected from forestry operations and land clearing, particularly in association with residential development;
- k) threatening the protection of national heritage by taking the steps necessary to replace federal environmental assessment processes and regulation with state environmental assessment processes and regulation;
- l) removing consistent state sea level rise policy and associated framework; and
- m) removing the NCC nominated positions to the EPA and SCA Boards.

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to send a copy of the censure motion to the Premier and issue a media statement. NCC to write to each Member of Parliament advising of the motion and expressing the view that the public can have little to no confidence that any land in NSW is actually protected from development or use which is not sustainable and that the NCC is concerned that we are entering a phase of such environmental mismanagement.

D. Mining and Gas Development

Motion 12/D1

Mining and gas development in designated water supply catchments

Submitted by the Total Environment Centre

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- a) oppose the expansion of mining and gas exploration and development in Sydney's designated Special Areas, the Central Coast and Newcastle's designated water supply catchments;
- b) call on the NSW Premier and the Planning Minister to implement binding regulations to halt and exclude coal seam gas exploration and extraction, coal mining or any other mining or extraction activity on or below the land surface, that has the potential to adversely affect the quality and quantity of water from the lands managed by the Sydney Catchment Authority; and
- c) call on the NSW Premier and NSW Minister for Resources to reject all applications for mining and gas exploration in the Sydney drinking water catchment.

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Premier asking how he intends to deliver on his promise.

Motion No: 12/D2

Mining and gas development in water catchments and on public lands

Submitted by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- a) continue to oppose the expansion of mining and gas exploration and development in NSW water catchments and public lands; and
- b) call on the NSW Premier and the Planning Minister to implement binding policies to protect NSW environmental assets, including but not limited to water catchments and high conservation value lands.

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the NSW Premier and Minister for Planning and Infrastructure urging them to implement the motion.

Motion No: 12/D3

Uranium mining and exploration in NSW

Submitted by Green Shareholders

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the NSW Government to uphold the ban on uranium mining and reinstate the ban on uranium exploration in NSW by repealing the *Mining Legislation Amendment (Uranium Exploration) Act 2012*.

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the NSW Premier and Minister for Resources and Energy asking that they implement the motion.

Motion No: 12/D4

Ratifying IUCN resolution on hydraulic fracturing

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the Premier and Prime Minister, requesting that the NSW Government and Federal Government:

“Prohibit hydraulic fracturing unless the following measures to protect human health and the environment are first enacted:

- 1) Unconditional prohibition in the vicinity of major drinking water supplies, in areas of seismic faults, drinking water shortages and high conservation value (HCV);*
- 2) Specifications for pipeline construction and wastewater repositories to prevent leakage of chemical and radioactive materials and methane under all foreseeable contingencies;*
- 3) Disclosure of chemicals used, at least to the regulatory authorities;*
- 4) Prohibiting the transmission of water to treatment plants lacking the ability to remove toxic and radioactive materials;*
- 5) Specifications for road transport of wastewater with adequate safeguards against leakage in the event of accidents or driver negligence, including appropriate training in safe handling of materials;*
- 6) Requirements for regular testing and monitoring of drinking water supplies;*
- 7) Procedures for foreseeable accidents and equipment necessary to handle such events at each site;*
- 8) Repealing exemption of operations from environmental laws;*
- 9) Enforcing regulations with severe penalties for failure to abide while hiring and adequately training enforcers;*
- 10) Strict liability for damages caused by operations while requiring a fund or insurance to compensate all persons and communities that suffer damages resulting from operations;*
- 11) Assistance to developing countries enabling them to adopt and enforce these regulatory measures;*
- 12) Measures paid for by a tax on the revenues from operations.”*

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Premier and Prime Minister requesting that the NSW Government and Federal Government implement the above policy in relation to hydraulic fracturing.

E. Climate Change

Motion No: 12/E1

Reviewing Renewable Energy Targets

Submitted by ParraCAN

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW agree with the existing Renewable Energy Target (RET) of 20% by 2020 as a minimum effort to lower carbon dioxide emissions, but oppose any lowering of this target and strongly support the need to increase the target given the recent physical evidence of the effects of climate change. Further that NCC call on Federal and NSW Governments to increase the RETs to 50% by 2030.

PROPOSED ACTION: As per the motion.

F. Biodiversity Conservation

Motion No: 12/F1

Protection of Flying Foxes

Submitted by the NSW Wildlife Council

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Government of NSW to:

- a) cease issuing permits to disperse flying-foxes and to destroy roosting sites until such time as their population numbers have been assessed;
- b) accept responsibility for the protection of flying-fox camps and actively raise community awareness and understanding of the importance of flying-foxes and the need for their conservation as stipulated by the NSW Camp Management Policy 2007; and
- c) Write to DPI and Environment Ministers seeking assurances that flying foxes, being native animals and already having established policies for camp and orchard management, are exempt from being declared "emergency pests".

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the NSW Premier and the NSW Environment Minister urging that the Government recognize the importance of flying-foxes and their camps and the contribution made by these animals to native forests. The Government must become active in the education of the general public and cease to issue permits to disperse camps.

NWC to write to the NSW Premier and protest the Primary Industries Minister's power to declare any animal an emergency pest because of the implications this may have for flying-foxes. NCC to insist that consultation with experts precedes any such declaration.

Motion No: 12/F2

Maintaining the integrity of the Native Vegetation Act & Regulation

Submitted by the Total Environment Centre

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- a) oppose the weakening of laws that protect native vegetation in NSW through changes currently proposed by the NSW Government in the review of the Native Vegetation Regulation (2005) and review of the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice; and
- b) call on the NSW Premier and the Environment Minister to commit to the Native Vegetation Act (2003) and commit to the critical role played by the Act in stabilising the loss of native vegetation in NSW.

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the NSW Premier and Minister for the Environment asking that they commit to maintaining the Native Vegetation Act.

G. National Parks, Protected & Natural Areas

Motion No: 12/G1

National Marine Reserves

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW writes to the Federal government and the Federal Environment Minister to:

- a) congratulate it on its landmark announcement to establish the largest national network of marine reserves in the world, one of the most significant advances for marine environmental protection in Australia's history; and
- b) urge the Federal Government to proclaim the network of marine reserves immediately.

PROPOSED ACTION: As per the motion.

Motion No: 12/G2

Solitary Islands Marine Park

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the NSW Government to:

- a) reinstate the scientifically supported zoning plan for the Solitary Islands Marine Park that was introduced on 1 March 2011 and subsequently repealed;
- b) establish 1,500m marine sanctuaries around all listed Grey Nurse Shark critical habitat zones in NSW, including those in the Solitary Islands Marine Park; and

- c) re-establish the Solitary Islands Marine Park Advisory Committee, as required by the *Marine Parks Act 1997*, to ensure that volunteer stakeholders can continue to seek common values that will lead to better protection of the marine environment in the Solitary Islands area.

PROPOSED ACTION: As per the motion.

Motion No: 12/G3

NSW Marine Audit

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the NSW Government to act rapidly on the recommendations of the NSW Marine Audit, informed by the submissions of the many stakeholders who have responded in detail to those recommendations, to improve sustainable management of NSW oceanic and estuarine waters by a range of means including the development of a more comprehensive, adequate and representative network of marine parks in NSW.

PROPOSED ACTION: As per the motion.

Motion No: 12/G4

Travelling Stock Routes

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW support the campaign to protect NSW Travelling Stock Routes for their outstanding biodiversity values, and call on the NSW government to:

- a) recognise that travelling stock routes can and must be retained and maintained in public ownership and not sold;
- b) develop plans to expand community partnerships to assist in the ecological and economic sustainability of TSRs across the state to harness public enthusiasm and reduce government's expenditure; and
- c) nominate the entire TSR network as a national wildlife corridor under the Federal Wildlife Corridors Plan.

PROPOSED ACTION: As per the motion.

Motion No: 12/G5

Hunting in NSW national parks

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW support the campaign against amateur game hunting in NSW national parks and reserves, and call on the NSW Government to:

- a) repeal the amendments made by the Game and Feral Animal Amendment Act 2012; and

- b) increase investment in the National Parks and Wildlife Service's professional and strategic integrated pest management programs.

PROPOSED ACTION: As per the motion.

Motion No: 12/G6

Renouncing Shooters and Fishers' Policies for National Parks

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the Premier of NSW, requesting that the NSW Government repudiate the public land management policies of the Shooters and Fishers Party, and in particular that the NSW Government publicly commit to not weaken the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974 so as to allow, cause or permit:

- a) forestry activities, including thinning, in NSW national parks and reserves;
- b) mining or exploration activities in NSW national parks and reserves, except state conservation areas;
- c) grazing of domestic stock in NSW national parks and reserves;
- d) the collection of firewood in NSW national parks and reserves;
- e) redefinition of fire management practices to include grazing by domestic stock or firewood collection;
- f) reclassification of any existing or future national park or reserve or legislation to create additional park or reserve categories to allow for forestry activities, mining and exploration activities, grazing of domestic stock or collection of firewood under the Act; and
- g) duck hunting.

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Premier.

Motion No: 12/G7

Upholding the objectives of our national parks and wilderness laws

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the Premier of NSW, requesting that the NSW Government uphold the objectives of the National Parks and Wildlife Act and the Wilderness Act by:

- a) not weakening the Wilderness Act, 1987 to allow recreation activities that are not considered appropriate self-reliant recreation, such as mountain bike riding and horse riding, so as to retain the ecological integrity of wilderness declared under the Act;
- b) not weakening the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974 by:

- I. weakening the provisions that require sustainable visitor use, enjoyment and tourism undertaken in protected areas to be compatible with the conservation of natural and cultural heritage values; or
- II. weakening the heritage compatibility provisions for adaptive reuse of buildings, or
- III. weakening the natural and cultural values compatibility provisions for leases or licences issued in parks and reserves protected under the Act; or
- IV. removing the requirement to achieve ecologically sustainable development from the objects of the Act; or
- V. removing the prohibition on the issue of leases and the granting of development consent in wilderness areas under this Act; or
- VI. permitting hunting in wilderness areas.

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Premier

H. Late Motions

Motion No: 12/L1

Sydney Region Vegetation Mapping

Submitted by the Ryde Environment Group

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW make representations to the NSW Minister for the Environment and Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, requesting that the draft vegetation mapping for the Sydney Region (October 2009), be finalised and endorsed by the NSW Government prior to December 2012; noting that the mapping provides critical scientific input for strategic planning and development assessment. And further, that the mapping be made publicly available by means of an electronic platform updated and maintained by government agencies in consultation with the NSW Scientific Committee.

PROPOSED ACTION: As per the motion.

Motion No: 12/L2

Retaining and strengthening of environmental protection and sustainability measures in the new planning system

Submitted by the Ryde Community Alliance

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW make urgent representations to the Premier, Minister for Planning and Infrastructure and Minister for Environment, urging the NSW Government to ensure that the new planning system retains or strengthens existing environmental protections and sustainability standards contained in environmental planning instruments and policies, including, but not limited to:

- State Environmental Planning Policy No 14—Coastal Wetlands
- State Environmental Planning Policy No 19—Bushland in Urban Areas
- State Environmental Planning Policy No 26—Littoral Rainforests

- State Environmental Planning Policy No 30—Intensive Agriculture
- State Environmental Planning Policy No 33—Hazardous and Offensive Development
- State Environmental Planning Policy No 39—Spit Island Bird Habitat
- State Environmental Planning Policy No 44—Koala Habitat Protection
- State Environmental Planning Policy No 50—Canal Estate Development
- State Environmental Planning Policy No 52—Farm Dams and Other Works in Land and Water Management Plan Areas
- State Environmental Planning Policy No 55—Remediation of Land
- State Environmental Planning Policy No 71—Coastal Protection
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Rural Lands) 2008
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011
- Sydney Harbour Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005 (deemed State Environmental Planning Policy).

This list is not intended to be exhaustive, and does not include all relevant environmental planning instruments or policies, including Regional Environmental Plans that have been deemed to be State Environmental Planning Policies.

Where existing planning instruments create legally binding environmental protections and sustainability standards these should be maintained and strengthened in the new planning system.

PROPOSED ACTION: As per the motion.

Motion No: 12/L3

Protection of Sydney Harbour Catchment

Submitted by Ryde Community Alliance

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW make urgent representations to the Prime Minister of Australia, the NSW Premier, and the respective Federal and State Ministers for Environment and Heritage calling for an immediate halt to proposals for high-rise development that exceed existing gazetted statutory controls within the Sydney Harbour catchment; and to endorse the existing statutory planning and development controls provided by State Environmental Planning Policy-Sydney Harbour Catchment and the accompanying development control plan.

PROPOSED ACTION: As per the motion.

Motion No: 12/L4

Murray-Darling Basin Groundwater

Submitted by Central West Environment Council

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- a) send a strong message to the Federal Government that the proposed increase in available groundwater licences in NSW for coal and gas extraction is unsustainable;

- b) communicate that there is widespread opposition to the NSW Government's demands through the Ministerial Council to increase groundwater availability as a trade-off for co-operation with the Basin Plan negotiations; and
- c) communicate to the NSW Government that the proposed increase in groundwater licences in inland NSW is unacceptable.

PROPOSED ACTION: That an urgent letter be sent to the Prime Minister, Federal Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Community, NSW Premier and NSW Minister for Primary Industries, outlining the issues with increased access to groundwater sources in inland NSW through the Basin Plan for coal seam gas and mining.

Motion No: 12/L5

Coal Seam Gas and Coal Mining in NSW

Submitted by Central West Environment Council

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- a) call on the Commonwealth and state governments take action to immediately implement the recommendations of the Federal Senate Inquiry's [Interim Report on the impact of coal seam gas](#) on the Murray-Darling Basin, to protect Australia's water resources, iconic natural places and our most valuable farmland;
- b) support the inquiry's call for approval of coal seam gas activities to be halted in the Namoi catchment until regional water studies are completed and for places of high conservation value such as NSW's Pilliga forest to be protected irrevocably from destructive gas development;
- c) advocate for a precautionary, scientific approach, rather than gambling with a so-called 'adaptive' approach to CSG regulation;
- d) call for meaningful improvements in industry regulation by the NSW State Government, and Federal funding for research and assessment of the impacts of coal seam gas and coal mining; and
- e) call for robust strategic planning, rigorous approval processes and strict enforcement of environmental conditions to control the impacts of massive coal and gas expansion in NSW.

PROPOSED ACTION: A continuing and sustained campaign by NCC with its member groups, focused on the issues and principles above, and partnering with other like-minded organisations, including Farmers' organisations where there is common ground opposing expansion of CSG exploration and mining.

Motion No: 12/L6

Further protection for Koalas under the EPBC Act

Submitted by Bellingen Environment Centre

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the Commonwealth Government to protect all koala populations and their habitat in addition to their recent EPBC Act listing of the koala as a threatened species.

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Federal Minister for the Environment as per the motion.

Motion No: 12/L7

Nature Conservation Council Conservation Policies

Submitted by the Executive

The NCC Executive, noting that many Conservation Policies are long standing and in need of review, recommends **THAT:**

- a) NCC policies 2,6,10,13,16,18, 23,25,28,29 in the list below be considered *Advisory* rather than *Binding*, pending completion of the current policy review and updating;
- b) priority in review and updating be given to the above;
- c) that a consistent template be developed for all new and revised policies; and
- d) that expressions of interest be invited from Member Groups and interested individuals to help with the review of individual policies on the above basis.

PROPOSED ACTION: The Hon. Secretary to continue to work with the ELO to complete the preliminary evaluation and develop a suggested template, possibly modelled on the Marine Policy, with the intention of improving consistency and 'easy to read' content, hopefully by the end of the calendar year.

Working Groups, Member Groups and interested individuals are asked to register their willingness to help in the task of detailed revision of specific policies with a view to bringing them to the 2013 Annual Conference.

It is understood that the Mining and Gas Working Party will be reviewing the Mining Policy during the course of the year given the emergence of coal seam gas exploration and extraction as a matter of major significance.

Topic in alphabetical order	Year
1. Aboriginal Policy	2007
2. Aquaculture and Fisheries Policy	2000
3. Bushfire Policy	2009
4. Climate Change Policy	2008
5. Coastal Policy	2002
6. Crown Lands Policy	1989
7. Ecologically Sustainable Agriculture Policy	1998
8. Ecologically Sustainable Population Policy	2011
9. Education For Ecological Sustainability Policy	2005
10. Feral and Introduced Plants and Animals Policy	Undated
11. Flying Fox Policy	2010
12. Forest Policy	2011
13. Genetic Engineering Policy	1992
14. Greenhouse Policy	1992
15. Intrinsic Value of Nature Policy	2011
16. Kangaroo Policy	1980
17. Marine Policy	2009
18. Mining and Uranium Policy	1984
19. Mining Policy	2000
20. Native Veg Policy	2005
21. Population and Environment Policy Additional	2008
22. Resource Use and Population Policy	1986
23. Soil Conservation Policy	Undated
24. Sustainable Transport Policy	2002
25. Tourism Policy	1987
26. Urban Bush and Policy	2002
27. Water Policy	2012
28. Western Division Policy	1988
29. Zero Waste Policy	2003

Motion No: 12/L8

Lake Wollumboola and its catchment

Submitted by Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure to seek assurances from his Department that:

- a) E2 "Environment Conservation" zoning for the Lake Wollumboola Catchment will be a condition of the section 65 certificate for the Draft Shoalhaven Local Environment Plan re-exhibition, to ensure protection of the high biodiversity and catchment values of Lake Wollumboola, especially the North West catchment;
- b) It will negotiate with the applicant for an alternative site on cleared land outside the lake catchment for the proposed golf course at Long Bow Point, given that the current site has been identified as biodiversity offset for the Part 3A West Culburra Mixed Use Development; and
- c) The Director General's requirements for the Part 3A West Culburra development will be adhered to, to ensure that no part of the development will be located in the Lake Wollumboola catchment.

AND THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the NSW Minister for the Environment to ensure that the Office of Environment and Heritage has sufficient resources to progress the Ramsar listing of Lake Wollumboola, to provide for consultation with the Aboriginal community and completion of the Ecological Character Description.

PROPOSED ACTION: As per the motion.

Motion No: 12/L9

Support for EDO NSW

Submitted by Ryde Community Alliance

THAT on behalf of its member groups, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- a) write an open letter to EDO NSW expressing support for EDO NSW, particularly in their role as the only community legal centre in NSW providing independent legal advice on public interest environmental issues; and
- b) write to the NSW Premier, Barry O'Farrell asking him to express his government's support for the work of EDO NSW.

PROPOSED ACTION: As per the motion.

Motion No: 12/L10

NCC Representation as a Stakeholder

Submitted by Community Environment Network

THAT the Nature Conservation Council, as the peak member based organisation for environment non-government groups in NSW, write to the Premier:

- a) highlighting the positive outcomes to be achieved by engaging expertise, including environment non-government stakeholder group expert nominees, to committees, boards, advisory committees and other consultation processes;
- b) highlighting governance issues, including transparency and equity, by failing to include expert nominees endorsed by NCC and its Member Groups, and
- c) requesting that his government reflect the above concerns so as to ensure relevant breadth of expertise in appointments to committees, boards, advisory committees including through the NCC as a representative stakeholder.

PROPOSED ACTION: As per the motion.

NSW Environment Awards 2012

This year's winners announced at the Annual Conference were:

Marie Byles Award

For the most outstanding new environmental campaign

Coal Terminal Action Group

Community Climate Action Award

100% Renewables Campaign

Rising Star Award

For the most outstanding new campaigner under the age of 30

Ben Hammond

Dunphy Award

For the most outstanding environmental effort of an individual

Justin McKee

Nature Conservation Council Member Group Award

Friends of the Koala and Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society (joint winners)

Allen Strom Hall of Fame

For long-standing service and commitment to the conservation movement, and the courage to challenge Government and non-government decision-makers

John Hibberd (1945-2012)

Ziggy Megne Volunteer for the Environment Award

Terry McBride