



Nature
Conservation
Council
of NSW

**ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
2006**

MINUTES

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL of NSW

MINUTES of the ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2006

Saturday and Sunday 21 to 22 October

At the Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens
Mrs Macquarie's Road
EAST SYDNEY

Chairperson

Prof. Don White

Present

Member Society Delegates and Observers
(see attendance list)

Executive Councillors

(see attendance list)

Guest Speakers

The Hon. Morris Iemma, NSW Premier
The Hon. Michael Richardson, Shadow Minister for the Environment
Greg Ogle, Legal Co-ordinator, The Wilderness Society
Ian McKenzie, Local Government Association of NSW

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ATTENDANCE LIST

MEMBER SOCIETY DELEGATES & OBSERVERS

Alternative Technology Association, Sydney

Barry Yardley (Sat)

Association for Berowra Creek

Bob Salt

Australian Conservation Foundation – Central Coast Branch

Mark Ellis

John Wiggin (Sat)

Paul Burns (Sun)

Australian Conservation Foundation, Shoalhaven Branch

Terry Barratt

Doug Marks (O)

Elle Marks (O)

Alan Stephenson (O-Sat)

Australian Conservation Foundation, Sydney Branch

Paddy Gaul (Sat)

Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.

Don Cameron

Mike Purtell (Sat)

Camphor Laurel Research Centre

Joe Friend

Castlecrag Conservation Society

**Lorraine Cairnes

Mark Crew (Sat)

Matthew Keighery (O-Sat)

Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd.

Keith Muir

**Peter Prineas

Steven Ridd (O-Sat)

Community Environment Network

John Asquith

Norm Harris (O)

Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW

Michael Maack

Jim Callaway (Sun)

EcoTransit Sydney

Roy Howarth

Friends of Currawong

Jo Holder (Sun)

Friends of Old Toongabbie Forest

Annie Nielsen (Sat)

Phil Bradley (O-Sat)

Friends of Quarantine Station

Mary Johnsen

Friends of the Pilliga

**Peter Thompson

Friends of Tumblebee

**James Ryan

Green Corridor Coalition

Brian Purdue

Green Shareholders

** *Don White

Dave West (Sat)

Hornsby Conservation Society Inc.

Gordon Limburg

Lucy Bal (O-Sat)

Carol Nolder (O-Sun)

Hunter Community Environment Centre

Steven Phillips

Simon Fane (O-Sat; Del-Sun)

Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society

Nancy Pallin

Lake Wollumboola Protection Association

Frances Bray

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society

Ron Gornall

Doug Stuart

Linnean Society of NSW

Mike Augee

Peter Myerscough

Mosman Parks & Bushland Association Inc.

Sue Halmagyi

Audrey Lenning

Mudgee District Environment Group

*Bev Smiles
Zoe Wheat (O)

National Parks Association of NSW Inc.

John Macris
Stephen Sainsbury
Roger Lembit (Sat)
Julianne Sandison (O-Sat; Del-Sun)

Nepean Action Group

Caroline Graham

NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service (WIRES)

Merrilee Verhoeven
Stan Wood

North Coast Environment Council

** *Jim Morrison

Parks and Playgrounds Movement Inc.

Doug Lithgow (Sat)
David Horkan (Sun)

Ryde-Hunters Hill Flora & Fauna Preservation Society

Brigid Dowsett (Sat)

South East Region Conservation Alliance

** John Hibberd

Sydney Environmental Education Network

Sue Burton (Sat)
Sarah Whittington (Sun)

The Bush Club Inc.

Mark Weatherley (O-Sun)

The Coastwatchers Association Inc.

*Chris Kowal

The Colo Committee

Haydn Washington

Willoughby Environment Protection Association (WEPA Inc.)

Cotter Erickson
Leone Snowden

Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia

Patrick Medway
Peter Stevens
John Clarke (Sun)
John Robertson (O)

Wolli Creek Preservation Society

Judy Finlason

YHA NSW Ltd.

Graeme Evans

Delegates with Proxy Votes

Chris Kowal

The Coastwatchers Association Inc.

Jim Morrison

PACTEC Inc.

Bev Smiles

Central West Environment Council

Don White

Green Shareholders

Executive Councillors Attending

Lorraine Cairnes**

John Hibberd**

Dr. Judy Messer

Jim Morrison**

Robert Pallin

Peter Prineas**

Anne Reeves

James Ryan**

Peter Thompson**

Prof. Don White**

Notes:

(*) Denotes delegates who hold a proxy vote for their own or other member societies – please refer to the list of proxy votes at the end of the attendance list.

(**) Indicates an Executive Councillor who is attending as a delegate for a member society.

Guest Speakers

The Hon. Morris Iemma, Premier of NSW
The hon. Michael Richardson, Shadow Minister for the Environment
Greg Ogle, Legal Co-ordinator, The Wilderness Society
Ian McKenzie, Local Government Association of NSW

Staff Presentations

Mithra Cox, Media and Communications Officer

Returning Officer

Geoff Lambert

Staff

Cate Faehrmann (Director)
Samantha Newton (Manager)
Bruce Diekman (Office Coordinator)
Sally Northover (Administration Officer)
Anne Miller (Hotspots Support Officer)
Mithra Cox (Media and Communications Officer)
Jaime Hilbert (Biodiversity Policy Officer)
Beck Rush (Coastal Campaigner)
Owen Pascoe (Environment Liaison Officer)

Volunteers

Amity Alexander
Danielle Beaudreau
Alison Evans
Lesley Killen
Tiffanie Nelson

PART A ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2006

GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chair opened the conference by welcoming the delegates and acknowledging the traditional owners of the land, the Gadigal clan of the Eora nation.

Annual Report 2005/6

The Chair, Treasurer and Director made brief presentations on the past year and confirmed that a Special Conference would be held on Friday December 8 to discuss and formally adopt the Annual Report, including the audited financial statements.

Thanks were expressed to Jim Somerville, NCC's recently retired Auditor, for his contribution to the Council over many years.

Elected Councillors 2006/7

New Executive Council (no election required).

Lorraine Cairnes
Brigid Dowsett
John Hibberd
Dr. Judy Messer, AM
Jim Morrison
Robert Pallin
Peter Prineas
Anne Reeves, OAM
James Ryan
Haydn Washington
Dave West
Prof. Don White

PART B ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2006

List of Motions

A. COUNCIL AFFAIRS

1. Admission of new Member Societies
(submitted by the Executive)

B. LEGISLATION, POLICY & LAND USE

2. Supporting the 'Protecting the NSW Environment' Policies 2006
3. Hunting in State Forests
4. AMENDED POLICY: DRAFT ABORIGINAL INTERESTS & NATURE CONSERVATION POLICY 2006
5. 'Guiding Statements on Nature Conservation' to be included in NCC policy relating to Aboriginal Interests and Nature Conservation
(2 & 5 submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd; 3 by Hornsby Conservation Society Inc; 4 submitted by the Executive)

C. WATER RESOURCES

6. Riparian Safety Zones
7. A Sustainable Future for Sydney & a reprieve for the Shoalhaven River
(6 submitted by the Nepean Action Group; 7 by the Australian Conservation Foundation, Shoalhaven Branch)

D. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

8. Saltwatch Program
9. Community Education on Wind Energy
(8 submitted by Friends of Old Toongabbie Forest; 9 by the Alternative Technology Association, Sydney)

E. CLIMATE CHANGE

10. Coal Mining in NSW
(submitted by the Hunter Community Environment Centre Inc)

F. URBAN & TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES

11. Public transport funding
12. Tax concessions for public transport
13. BASIX Building Standards
(11 & 12 submitted by EcoTransit Sydney, 13 by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society)

G. BIODIVERSITY & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

14. Local Councils and the Threatened Species Conservation Act
(submitted by Hornsby Conservation Society Inc)

H. WILDERNESS, HERITAGE & NATURAL AREAS

15. Bellinger Coastal Regional Park
16. Bebo wilderness area nomination
17. Protection of the Giro and Carracabundi Wilderness
18. Celebration of 20th Anniversary of the NSW Wilderness Act
19. Protecting high conservation value lands in Lake Wollumboola catchment
20. Heritage Listed Nobbys Headland and Lighthouse

21. Reservation of the Metropolitan and Woronora Special Area Catchments State Conservation Areas
22. Regulating high impact recreation in national parks
(15 submitted by Bellingen Environment Centre; 16 to 18, 21 & 22 by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd; 19 by Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc; 20 by the Parks and Playgrounds Movement Inc)

I. REMNANT BUSHLAND & NATIVE VEGETATION

23. Priority List for Toxic Woody Weeds
24. Campaign to end woodchipping of the south-east native forests
25. Native Forest Certification
26. Bomaderry Creek Bushland
(23 submitted by the Camphor Laurel Research Centre; 24 & 25 by the South East Region Conservation Alliance; 26 by the Australian Conservation Foundation, Shoalhaven Branch)

J. REGIONAL SUPPORT

27. NCC Regional Staffing
(submitted by the North Coast Environment Council Inc.)

K. LATE MOTIONS

1. Native Wildlife - Speed Reduction Zones
2. Sustainability within a Generation
3. Lower Hunter Regional Strategy – use of Section 3A of the Planning Act
4. Catherine Hill Bay
5. Lower Hunter Strategy
6. Annual Conference Reflections on Premier Iemma's address
7. Reinstatement of the position of NSW Government Botanist
(1&2 submitted by the Australian Conservation Foundation Central Coast Branch; 3&4 by the Community Environment Network Inc; 5 by Friends of Tumblebee; 6 by Ryde-Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society; 7 by the Linnean Society)

L. URGENCY MOTIONS

1. Legislation for protection of public participation
2. Special Conference to resolve the policy on Aboriginal Interests and Nature Conservation
(1&2 submitted by the Community Environment Network Inc)

MOTIONS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A. COUNCIL AFFAIRS

1. Admission of new Member Societies

Submitted by the Executive

Moved: Rob Pallin Seconded: John Asquith

The following motion was carried:

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 2005/2006:

- Marrickville Climate Action Now (Marrickville CAN)
- Picapene & Cherry Tree Environment Centre (PACTEC Inc.)
- Johnsons Creek Conservation Committee

That the above groups be accepted as members of the NCC.

For the information of Annual Conference, the following groups formally ceased their membership of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW during 2005/6:

- Earth Repair Foundation
- Gosford District Wildlife Conservation Society
- Oyster Farmers' Association of NSW

B. LEGISLATION, POLICY & LAND USE

2. Supporting the 'Protecting the NSW Environment' Policies 2006

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd.

Moved: Keith Muir Seconded: Rob Pallin

The following amended motion was carried:

THAT this Conference support the recommendations for political parties described in the report entitled '*Protecting the NSW Environment*' by the Environment Liaison Office; and

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW encourage its member groups to approach their local member(s) of State Parliament, to present the report and seek action and undertakings regarding the report's four critical areas necessary to reverse the current environmental decline, namely:

- Real and sustainable reductions in greenhouse gases in line with the target of a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, starting with a moratorium on new coal mines and coal-fired power stations and a legislated State renewable energy target of 15% by 2012.
- Full delivery of the promised end to broadscale land clearing through closure of loopholes in the Native Vegetation Act and Regulations and rigorous monitoring and enforcement.
- Vigorous protection of our natural environment, by creation of new national parks along the Murray River, the coast and in the South East forests; an end to intensive native forestry operations on lands of all tenure; protection of environmentally significant Crown leases; new wilderness areas and marine sanctuaries and urgent delivery of increased flows to our State's rivers and wetlands.
- Environmentally sustainable plans for the metropolitan and coastal regions which protect all high conservation areas, provide for effective corridors for wildlife and limit the footprint of development. Stop land developers dictating planning decisions to government.

ACTION: NCC to encourage Member Groups to approach their local member(s), seeking undertakings regarding the report's four key issue areas.

3. Hunting in State Forests

Submitted by Hornsby Conservation Society Inc.

Moved: Gordon Limburg Seconded: Bob Salt

The following amended motion was carried (unanimously):

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the NSW Government to urgently repeal legislation introduced in 2006 that allows recreational hunters to shoot in State Forests.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS – Motions 4 & 5

1. A procedural motion was moved to discuss Motion 5 before Motion 4, and accepted.

Moved: Rob Pallin Seconded: Peter Prineas

2. An amendment was moved to amend the wording of Motion 5 and accepted.

Moved: Rob Pallin Seconded: John Hibberd

3. A procedural motion was moved to defer both Motions 4 and 5 to a Special Conference (as allowed under the Constitution) and that Indigenous representatives be invited to attend.

This motion was accepted.

A number of other motions were proposed but not accepted.

Procedural Motion – Motions 4 & 5

Moved: Judy Messer Seconded: Bob Salt

The following procedural motion was carried:

THAT amended Motion 5 and Motion 4 be deferred to a Special Conference (as allowed under the Constitution) and that representatives of the Indigenous community be invited to attend.

4. AMENDED POLICY: DRAFT ABORIGINAL INTERESTS & NATURE CONSERVATION POLICY 2006

Submitted by the Executive

Not debated at this Conference – unchanged from the pre-Conference Business Papers.

5. ‘Guiding Statements on Nature Conservation’ to be a stand alone policy

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd.

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW adopt the following 'Guiding Statements on Nature Conservation' regarding Aboriginal interests in relation to nature conservation and national parks and any other lands or waters with conservation values, these 'Guiding Statements' to prevail over any similar or conflicting provisions as a policy.

A. NCC will continue to support and expand the publicly-owned national parks system, and its care by a dedicated and well-funded nature conservation authority, while also supporting the role of Aboriginal communities in the management of their cultural heritage within national parks.

B. NCC will seek co-operative and mutually beneficial relationships and outcomes for Aboriginal communities, while upholding NCC's constitutional aims and obligations for the conservation of nature, the protection of the environment and the attainment of an ecologically sustainable society.

C. NCC will continue to work towards the establishment and good management of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of national parks and other reserves, reflecting the full range of IUCN categories, including wilderness.

D. NCC will work with Aboriginal communities to find common ground in caring for and managing wilderness areas in accordance with the NSW Wilderness Act, 1987. NCC will continue to support wilderness reservation and management, and protection of wilderness areas from inappropriate uses and from developments such as dwellings, structures, roads and other works.

E. NCC acknowledges the rights of local Aboriginal communities with a traditional connection with the lands within a national park to hunt and gather for cultural purposes. NCC will seek the co-operation of Aboriginal communities in ensuring that cultural hunting and gathering activities in national parks are carried out in accordance with a formally adopted plan of management made under the relevant legislation.

F. Where it is established that a local Aboriginal community has a traditional connection to lands or waters of high cultural significance within a national park or similar reserve, and that local Aboriginal community seeks ownership, NCC may support negotiations for Aboriginal ownership and joint management in accordance with Part 4A of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

G. NCC may support Aboriginal co-management of national parks and forms of participation in park management that do not involve changing the public status and ownership of the land.

H. The needs of Aboriginal communities for land to meet their economic requirements will be assisted by NCC through its support of funding initiatives, including the reinstatement to Aboriginal communities of a share of NSW land tax receipts to be used for land acquisition.

I. NCC recognises the potential for conflict between conservation and Aboriginal interests over claims and development proposals relating to bushland situated on present or former crown lands, and NCC will seek to work with Aboriginal communities in resolving such conflicts.

J. Where lands or waters outside the national park system have both high nature conservation values and high Aboriginal cultural values, and they are claimed by a local Aboriginal community with a traditional connection, NCC may seek their reservation as an Aboriginal-owned conservation reserve under joint management as provided by Part 4A of the National Parks and Wildlife Act and section 36A of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. Where the nature conservation values are of a lesser order, NCC may support the local Aboriginal community's claim subject to conditions to protect the conservation values, while still allowing community use, as provided under section 36(5A) of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

K. NCC will seek the co-operation of Aboriginal communities in applying to any lands of high conservation value owned or controlled by them, appropriate policies for nature conservation and the protection of the environment, including policies on fire management.

L. NCC will seek the co-operation of Aboriginal communities in ensuring that national parks are not subjected to additional financial burdens as may detract from their good management or their capacity to conserve nature and protect the environment.

C. WATER RESOURCES

6. Riparian Safety Zones

Submitted by the Nepean Action Group

Moved: Caroline Graham Seconded: Keith Muir

The following amended motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the NSW Government to legislate a one kilometre safety zone around and under rivers in NSW to protect them from potential damage from mining operations.

ACTION: Continue to lobby the NSW Government, especially the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Planning and other relevant ministers.

7. A Sustainable Future for Sydney & a reprieve for the Shoalhaven River

Submitted by the Australian Conservation Foundation, Shoalhaven Branch

Moved: Terry Barratt Seconded: Brigid Dowsett

The following amended motion was carried:

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

- (a) change its current policy of increasing extractions from the Shoalhaven River, to a policy of progressively reducing extractions from the River; and
- (b) tie this progressive reduction in extractions to an urgent commitment to water conservation and potable re-use through community education and a massive investment in water re-use infrastructure in order to reverse flows to ocean outfalls and eliminate the need for desalination plants.

ACTION: NCC to write to and lobby relevant Ministers.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

8. Saltwatch Program

Submitted by Friends of Old Toongabbie Forest

Moved: Annie Nielsen Seconded: Nancy Pallin

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the NSW Department of Education and Training and Department of Natural Resources to release the Saltwatch Program that was developed by teachers in consultation with scientists from the Department of Natural Resources.

ACTION: NCC to contact the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Natural Resources, asking for an explanation of why Saltwatch Program material hasn't been released and asking that it be released as soon as possible.

9. Community Education on Wind Energy

Submitted by the Alternative Technology Association, Sydney

Moved: Barry Yardley Seconded: Rob Pallin

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the NSW Government to undertake a comprehensive program to educate the community about wind farms and wind energy.

ACTION: NCC to write to and send deputation to relevant Ministers with suggestions of appropriate education. That people affected by coal mining are invited to participate in the deputation.

E. CLIMATE CHANGE

10. Coal Mining in NSW

Submitted by the Hunter Community Environment Centre Inc.

Moved: Steven Phillips Seconded: Gordon Limburg

The following amended motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- (a) oppose the proposed construction of a third Coal Export Terminal at Newcastle Harbour, and the expansion of existing coal export facilities at Newcastle;
- (b) oppose the development of new coal mines in NSW, such as the proposed open-cut coal mine at Anvil Hill, and the expansion of coal mining in the Gunnedah Basin;
- (c) call for the full climate change impacts from proposed coal developments in NSW to be included in the consideration and assessment of the proposal, including the impacts on the NSW environment from the combustion of NSW coal in overseas power stations; and

- (d) make representations on these matters to the Premier of NSW the Minister for Planning and the independent assessment panel.

ACTION: NCC to write to the Premier and Planning Minister.

F. URBAN & TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES

11. Public transport funding

Submitted by EcoTransit Sydney

Moved: Roy Howarth Seconded: Nancy Pallin

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Commonwealth Government to reinstate public transport funding for major cities.

ACTION: Write letters to Federal Transport Minister & Parliamentary Secretary for Transport with copies to the Opposition Transport Spokesman and all members of minor parties in the Senate. Also send copies to Transport Ministers in all states and territories and minor parties in Upper Houses.

12. Tax concessions for public transport

Submitted by EcoTransit Sydney

Moved: Roy Howarth Seconded: Nancy Pallin

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Commonwealth Government to drop the tax concession for company cars and implement tax concessions for public transport periodical tickets.

ACTION: Write letters to Federal Transport Minister & Parliamentary Secretary for Transport with copies to the Opposition Transport Spokesman and all members of minor parties in the Senate. Also copies to Transport Ministers in all states and territories and minor parties in Upper Houses.

13. BASIX Building Standards

Submitted by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Moved: Mike Purtell Seconded: Don Cameron

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW continue to lobby the NSW Minister for Planning, the Opposition Spokesperson for Planning and Independent Members of Parliament to improve the effectiveness of BASIX as a planning tool to raise building standards for all new homes and units, specifically urging the following improvements to the BASIX assessment system to ensure that:

- (a) the target of achieving 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is achieved, and not compromised by 'credits' earned from other target areas or from 'moveable appliances';

- (b) the standard required to 'pass' thermal comfort is raised significantly to be equivalent to the 5 star National Home Energy Rating System (NatHERS) rating, as a minimum;
- (c) the BASIX DIY Thermal Rating Tool be maintained only as an educational tool in the light of its well recognised poor performance;
- (d) the BASIX framework conform to the Building Code of Australia (BCA) Thermal Energy Rating protocol set by industry and expert standards; and
- (e) the target for 40% water reduction is achieved across all of NSW and not compromised.

ACTION: That NCC:

- Further investigate specific changes required to achieve the motion outcomes, using examples from other states; and
- Write to and preferably meet with NSW Minister for Planning, Opposition Spokesperson for Planning and Independent Members of Parliament.

G. BIODIVERSITY & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

14. Local Councils and the Threatened Species Conservation Act

Submitted by Hornsby Conservation Society Inc.

Moved: Gordon Limburg

Seconded: Anne Reeves

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- (a) call on the NSW Government to recognise that Local Councils are not appropriate consent authorities for assessment under the threatened species legislation in relation to development proposals;
- (b) urge the NSW Government to instead, fully invest the Department of Environment and Conservation, as consent authority in relation to development proposals as they relate to the Threatened Species Conservation Act; and
- (c) That adequate funding be provided to DEC to carry out this task.

ACTION:

THAT the NCC regain its position of leadership of the community in nature conservation, by:

- leading the way in a study to identify and reveal the destructive forces that continue to drive changes in environmental legislation, weakening the legislation and making much of it irrelevant to the purpose for which it was originally created;
- leading the way with information and publicity about the importance of protecting the remaining natural environment; and
- calling on governments at State and Federal levels to empower their Environment Protection Authorities with effective legislative instruments that protect the natural environment, as the first priority of land management; and
- refer to the details of the development above as an illustration of the urgency of the situation.

H. WILDERNESS, HERITAGE & NATURAL AREAS

15. Bellinger Coastal Regional Park

Submitted by Bellingen Environment Centre

Moved: Keith Muir Seconded: Lorraine Cairnes

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW support Bellingen Environment Centre's proposal for a Bellinger Coastal Regional Park, as set out in terms of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1979 as amended 1997, as the best option to protect and manage the biodiversity and habitat of crown reserve and vacant crown lands in the coastal zone of Bellingen Shire.

Note: This proposal has the approval and backing of the Bellingen Shire Council, having been passed by the Shire Council in September 2006.

ACTION: NCC to write to the Premier and the relevant NSW Ministers, and arrange meetings with the Minister for Lands and the Minister for the Environment.

16. Bebo wilderness area nomination

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd.

Moved: Keith Muir Seconded: Lorraine Cairnes

The following amended motion was carried:

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

- (a) remove from the Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act, and any provisions which prevent the nomination, assessment and declaration in accordance with the Wilderness Act, 1987, of the Bebo and Pilliga Wilderness area in north-western NSW: and
- (b) allow the Department of Environment and Conservation to process the nomination and assessment of the Bebo and Pilliga Wilderness Area in accordance with the Wilderness Act.

17. Protection of the Giro and Carracabundi Wilderness

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd.

Moved: Keith Muir Seconded: Lorraine Cairnes

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW support the protection of the Giro and Carracabundi wilderness areas in the upper Manning Catchment, jointly nominated by the Colong Foundation and the National Parks Association on May 10, 2006.

ACTION: NCC to write to the Minister for the Environment expressing support for these wilderness nominations, stating that the areas of Crown timber lands within the nominated areas, being either crown leases or special management zones in state forests, should be unavailable for logging.

18. Celebration of 20th Anniversary of the NSW Wilderness Act

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd.

Moved: Keith Muir Seconded: Lorraine Cairnes

The following motion was carried:

THAT this Conference request the incoming Executive to ensure that in 2007 NCC takes appropriate steps to mark and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the NSW Wilderness Act, including promoting the achievements made as a result of the Act and the continuing importance of wilderness reserves in helping to conserve nature and landscape and in providing many other benefits.

19. Protecting high conservation value lands in Lake Wollumboola catchment

Submitted by Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc.

Moved: Frances Bray Seconded: Terry Barratt

The following amended motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- (a) Urge that high conservation value lands in the catchment of Lake Wollumboola and Curley's Bay/Crookhaven River be protected in perpetuity. These lands include:
 - A. The Culburra Urban Expansion Area (CUEA) located immediately north west of Lake Wollumboola and extending north to the Crookhaven River estuary at Curley's Bay.
 - B. Lot 1 East Crescent Culburra Beach vacant private land located on the northern shore of Lake Wollumboola.
 - C. The south-east of the Lake Wollumboola catchment extending to Kinghorn Point on the coast;
- (b) Write to the Premier requesting that the NSW Government take immediate steps to achieve protection of these sites in perpetuity by inclusion in the Jervis Bay National Park or other secure means; and
- (c) Write to the Leader of the State Opposition and to the NSW Greens seeking their commitment to protecting in perpetuity high conservation value lands in the catchments of Lake Wollumboola and Curley's Bay/Crookhaven River, and to retaining the bed of Lake Wollumboola in the Jervis Bay National Park;
- d) In so agreeing the NCC notes that the recommendations of the review of South Coast Sensitive Lands, with respect to the Culburra Urban Expansion Area, support conservation by way of rezoning to national park/nature reserve status for land in the Lake Wollumboola catchment, but not for land in the Curley's Bay catchment.

ACTION: Letter to the Premier with copies to the Ministers for the Environment, Planning and Natural Resources. Letter to the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Peter Debnam and Upper House Member the Hon. Ian Cohen of the Greens.

20. Heritage Listed Nobbys Headland and Lighthouse

Submitted by the Parks and Playgrounds Movement Inc.

Moved: David Horkan Seconded: Keith Muir

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- (a) object to the Newcastle Port Corporation's plans which will virtually privatise Nobbys Headland and construct buildings that adversely impact on the historic Commonwealth Heritage Listed lighthouse; and
- (b) request that the NSW Government arrange the transfer of the headland and Lighthouse from the Port Corporation to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, which has the statutory power to conserve the heritage character of Newcastle's distinctive headland and provide safe access for the people of NSW.

21. Reservation of the Metropolitan and Woronora Special Area Catchments State Conservation Areas

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd.

Moved: Keith Muir Seconded: Haydn Washington

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW support the reservation of an area totalling approximately 97,500 hectares in the Woronora and Metropolitan Special Areas, but exclusive of dam walls and major Sydney Catchment Authority infrastructure, as the Woronora State Conservation Area and Metropolitan State Conservation Area respectively.

ACTION: NCC to write to the Minister for the Environment requesting he commission a report on the feasibility of reserving the Woronora and Metropolitan Special Areas as a state conservation area.

22. Regulating high impact recreation in national parks

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd.

Moved: Keith Muir Seconded: Jim Calloway

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW support the restriction of four wheel drive vehicles, trail bike riding and horse riding in national parks to those park roads suitable for use by two wheel drive vehicles and approved for that use by a plan of management.

I. REMNANT BUSHLAND & NATIVE VEGETATION

23. Priority List for Toxic Woody Weeds

Submitted by the Camphor Laurel Research Centre

Moved: Joe Friend Seconded: John Clarke

The following amended motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the NSW Government to create the first List of Exotic Toxic Woody Weed Species in Australia, with a view to educating the public, and encouraging governments to follow-suit, and to also call on 'Weed Authorities' to take into account toxicity to native fish and wildlife and /or humans, when considering the declaration of weed species as 'Noxious'.

ACTION: NCC to write to relevant Ministers and to health related bodies such as the AMA.

24. Campaign to end woodchipping of the south-east native forests

Submitted by the South East Region Conservation Alliance (SERCA)

Moved: John Hibberd Seconded: Chris Kowal

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- (a) support SERCA's campaign to end the supply of native forest logs to the South East Fibre Exports chipmill at Eden on the environmental and economic grounds specified in the background to this motion;
- (b) agree to lobby the NSW and Commonwealth Governments and Oppositions, the Greens, the Democrats and independent MPs, and key party officials, prior to the 2007 elections, to end woodchipping of the south-east NSW native forests. (This lobbying to involve representatives from SERCA and possibly, Environment East Gippsland when and where appropriate);
- (c) call on its member groups and other environment groups to actively support this campaign at a local and Statewide level, giving it a high level of prominence in the State and Federal election campaigns; and
- (d) support the proposal to hold a major event in Sydney in the lead up to the March 2007 State Election, because of the importance of city participation in the success of this campaign.

ACTION: as per the motion.

25. Native Forest Certification

Submitted by the South East Region Conservation Alliance (SERCA)

Moved: John Hibberd Seconded: Jim Morrison

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- (a) reject the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) as a label of environmental sustainability.

- (b) call on the State Government to reject the certification of any public native forest in NSW under the AFS scheme;
- (c) contact the Nippon Paper Group Incorporated and Itochu Corporation, joint owners of the SEFE chipmill at Eden, to inform them of the NCC's rejection of AFS certification of native forests; and
- (d) urge these Japanese companies to similarly reject the AFS as a form of certification for any Australian native forest timber they purchase.

ACTION: as per the motion.

26. Bomaderry Creek Bushland

Submitted by the Australian Conservation Foundation, Shoalhaven Branch

Moved: Terry Barratt Seconded: Frances Bray

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- (a) urgently campaign during the remaining months before the March 2007 state elections (and beyond if necessary) to prevent the serious compromise of the Bomaderry Creek Bushland by Shoalhaven City Council's proposed link road; and
- (b) seek a commitment from the NSW Government to implement a program of acquisition and dedication of land tenures in Bomaderry Creek Bushland, in the interests of securing its long-term protection within Bomaderry Creek Regional Park.

ACTION: NCC to support the campaign to save Bomaderry Creek Bushland and write to and lobby relevant Ministers.

J. REGIONAL SUPPORT

27. NCC Regional Staffing

Submitted by the North Coast Environment Council Inc.

Moved: Jim Morrison Seconded: Judy Messer

The following amended motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- (a) Note the need for resourcing and staff support based in the regions to facilitate more effective implementation of member groups environmental concerns;
- (b) Aim for an adequate and effective NCC staffing level based in regional NSW to and endeavour to implement this aim by the appointment of at least 1 part time position in each of the three regions the time of the 2007 annual conference;
and
- (c) In conjunction with regional groups, identifying possible funding sources, ie allocation of resources, management issues, desired skills and job description.

Action: Refer to the Executive for consideration and implementation within the capacity of the organisation.

K. LATE MOTIONS

Late Motion 1.

Native Wildlife - Speed Reduction Zones

Submitted by the Australian Conservation Foundation, Central Coast Branch

Moved: Paul Burns Seconded: Stan Wood

The following amended motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- (a) consult with the Road Safety and Traffic Branch of the RTA and the appropriate funding and infrastructure development sectors of State government in regard to the implementation of 'dusk to dawn speed reduction zones' on roads in NSW that experience a disproportionate number of native wildlife fatalities and, once established, research into their effectiveness; and
- (b) urge that the implementation of this system include state government funding for research to identify effective methods of road kill reduction and, public education in regard to the collection and correlation of data and media advertising campaigns in order to inform and engage the public on the importance of the conservation of wildlife on our road systems.

ACTION: NCC to write to relevant Ministers.

The NCC should also engage the executive of WIRES, the NSW National Parks Association, regional animal rescue organisations the RSPCA and local councils throughout NSW in order to promote the development of an interactive approach between front line animal rescue and care groups, and local and state environmental and roads administrative sectors in regard to establishing a data base and identifying the roads that should be targeted.

The NCC through the course of these consultations should encourage each party involved to engage with their affiliates or branches in Tasmania in regard to exploring the successful implementation of a similar system in that state.

Late Motion 2.

'Sustainability within a Generation'

Submitted by the Australian Conservation Foundation, Central Coast Branch

Moved: Paul Burns Seconded: Stan Woods

The following amended motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW liaise with the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) on how they can best support the formation of objectives and the implementation of a ' Ecological Sustainability within a Generation ' concept.

ACTION: NCC to liaise with the ACF.

Late Motion 3.

Lower Hunter Regional Strategy – use of Section 3A of the Planning Act

Submitted by the Community Environment Network Inc.

Moved: John Asquith Seconded: Bob Salt

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- (a) commend the State Government for the vision and scale of the National Parks and green corridors to be implemented under the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy; but however

- (b) condemn the use of Section 3A of the Planning Act to subvert established planning policies and practices to permit development on land where no development rights exist (as at the Wallarah Peninsula) and, which as a consequence, threatens the integrity and application of Coastal Policy and other established State planning policies elsewhere on the coast.

Late Motion 4.

Catherine Hill Bay

Submitted by the Community Environment Network Inc.

Moved: John Asquith Seconded: Bob Salt

The following amended motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- (a) support the National Trust in its complaint to the Minister for Planning, Mr Sartor, that his decision to permit development near the heritage village of Catherine Hill Bay, gratuitously compromises the acknowledged natural and cultural heritage value of the village and surrounding coastal landscape; and

- (b) call on the NSW Government to ensure the listing of the village and immediate visual catchment on the State Heritage Register.

ACTION: NCC to write to the Minister for Planning on both motions.

Late Motion 5.

Lower Hunter Strategy

Submitted by Friends of Tumblebee

Moved: James Ryan Seconded: Frances Bray

The following amended motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, in view of the recently released Lower Hunter Regional Strategy, which is the first of the Regional Strategies planned to be released by the NSW Government and can be seen to have set a precedent the NSW, make the following observations:

- The NSW Government should be thanked for converting 20,000 hectares of publicly owned land to State Conservation Area and National Park.

- However because of the large amounts of bushland earmarked for development under the Strategy biodiversity will not be either maintained or improved.
- The development areas in the Strategy have increased 100% over those exhibited in the draft Strategy (5,000 – 10,000ha).
- There are inadequate provisions for wildlife corridors.
- Approximately 4,500ha of bushland will be lost under the Strategy decided on by Cabinet which, combined with existing vegetated land with development zonings, will result in the Lower Hunter potentially losing 10,000 hectares of bushland over the next 25 years to residential and commercial development. This is unacceptable when adequate cleared land is available.
- By doing deals with large landowners behind closed doors and without consulting other stakeholders the NSW Government has committed itself to supporting a pattern of development in the Hunter Valley which does not suit the needs of the community, has a horrendous impact on biodiversity and will leave the Hunter with a legacy of poorly located unsustainable settlements in perpetuity.
- By doing these 'large landholder deals' behind closed doors with the further stated intention of approving the development under Part 3A the NSW Government has left the community feeling there is a lack of clear and objective criteria for the selection of areas for development, lack of criteria for the assessment of Part 3A development, and an absence of avenues to challenge Ministerial decisions that are clearly based on incorrect information or errors in law.
- The Lower Hunter Regional Strategy has left the community feeling gagged and muzzled.

ACTION: That the NCC write to all Cabinet Ministers expressing concern at the precedent that this will set for the further regional strategies for the Far North Coast, Mid North Coast, South Coast and Illawarra Regional Strategies.

Late Motion 6.

Annual Conference Reflections on Premier Iemma's address

Submitted by the Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna Protection Society

Moved: Lorraine Cairnes Seconded: Anne Reeves

The following motion was carried:

That this Conference resolve to follow up Premier Iemma's address as soon as possible with an appropriate response to the issues raised.

ACTION

1. Copy of the Premier's address to be obtained ASAP
2. That all conference attendees contribute comment to assist NCC Executive and staff to respond appropriately.

Late Motion 7.

Reinstatement of the position of NSW Government Botanist

Submitted by the Linnaean Society

Moved: Peter Myerscough Seconded: Lorraine Cairnes

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW seek the reinstatement of the position of Government Botanist, initially by an approach to the NSW Premier and the Minister for the Environment.

L. URGENCY MOTIONS

Urgency Motion 1.

Legislation for protection of public participation

Submitted by the Community Environment Network Inc.

Moved: John Asquith Seconded: Frances Bray

The following motion was carried:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- (a) adopt the 'Bover Parnell' model for legislation as an interim measure in the run up to the State election;
- (b) conduct a workshop with member groups to refine the model for adoption by the NSW Government; and
- (c) consider such further action as appropriate (e.g. Commonwealth legislation).

ACTION

1. NCC write to the Attorney General proposing the 'Bover Parnell' model.
2. NCC conduct a workshop in conjunction with The Wilderness Society to refine the model in mid-2007.

Urgency Motion 2.

Special Conference to resolve Policy on Aboriginal Interests and Nature Conservation

Submitted by Community Environment Network Inc.

Moved: John Asquith

Seconded: Rob Pallin

The following motion was carried:

THAT in preparing for the Special Conference and in the spirit of Aboriginal reconciliation and in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Nature Conservation Council, the Executive shall:

1. Define an ongoing process leading up to, and for the conduct of, the Special Conference (including background and factual information on what will be debated at the conference) which shall be made available to member societies with the notification at least 8 weeks beforehand;
2. Conduct separate discussion beforehand with relevant Indigenous groups on the principles and objectives of the NCC policy and its implementation;
3. Seek to resolve the policy with Indigenous groups based on the following key features of a partnership:
 - relationship of equals
 - two way relationship
 - equal valuing of contributions
 - mutuality of benefit
 - common endeavour based on trust
 - outcome of shared agreement
 - respect for difference
4. Note separately for consideration by the Special Conference issues identified as not resolvable in accordance with the above principles; and
5. Note that the existing NCC policies stand until such time as they are replaced.