

## Failing the grade

Coalition scores an 'E' on the environment after two years. P2-3

## A better way

Groups share their vision for a more sustainable future. P7

## Time to act

Top tips for making your voice heard. P8



Not the usual suspects: Discontent about the O'Farrell Government's environmental performance has galvanised a broad cross section of the community.

# Not happy, Barry

The honeymoon is well and truly over for the O'Farrell Government.

Protests and blockades have become a feature of the first half of Premier Barry O'Farrell's term in office.

The biggest rallies have centred on the rapid expansion of mining and coal seam gas and the decision to allow recreational hunters into national parks. People are also angry at funding and staff cuts to en-

vironment agencies, bans on new marine parks, inaction on climate change, and the failure to prosecute illegal land clearing.

Proposed negative changes to the state's planning laws have also drawn fire.

In May last year more than 4,000 people – a broad coalition of farmers, environmentalists and concerned citizens – rallied outside parliament insisting the government protect communities, productive

lands and wildlife from destructive mining and gas development. Smaller CSG and mining protests have broken out across NSW, from the Pilliga and Leard State Forest to the Northern Rivers, Gloucester, Illawarra and Southern Highlands.

In June and November last year, people appalled by the government's decision to allow recreational hunting in national parks filled Macquarie Street.

## Mining poses major risks

Coal mining exploration licences now cover 22 per cent of NSW while coal seam gas exploration licences cover about 25 per cent.

The industry is expanding at an unprecedented rate, threatening public health, clean air and water, productive farmlands and native wildlife, yet the O'Farrell Government has failed to address community concerns.

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## Danger stalks national parks

The State Government is forging ahead with plans to allow recreational hunting in national parks despite growing public anger at the risks of shooting deaths and injuries.

Premier Barry O'Farrell is considering spending \$19 million to manage the risks of the scheme while at the same time slashing funding for conservation programs and visitor services.

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## Forest wars set to ignite

Conservation groups are gearing up for a major showdown with the O'Farrell Government if it follows Queensland's lead by handing over hundreds of thousands of hectares of protected forests for logging.

Unsustainable wood supply agreements signed by the state's forests manager, the Forestry Corporation, are driving many of the changes.

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## Planning for a better future

A coalition of community groups opposed to the growing influence of the developer lobby has expanded from a handful of organisations to a network of more than 300 in just eight months.

The coalition has formed to ensure the planning reform process now under way results in a fair system that protects natural and cultural heritage and enhances community wellbeing.

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# THE SCORE

NSW Government - Mid-Term Environment Report Card



## CLIMATE CHANGE

Cut solar bonus scheme, introduced restrictive wind farm guidelines and failed to present a credible plan for reducing the state's carbon emissions.

E



## NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Opened national parks to recreational shooters. Cut funding to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Declared Dharawal and Berowra National Parks.

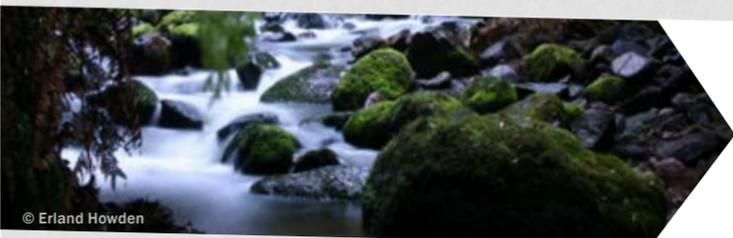
F



## FORESTS AND WOODLANDS

Released proposal to weaken state land clearing laws. Failing to address ongoing breaches of forestry regulations.

E



## RIVERS AND WETLANDS

Undermined national efforts to restore the Murray Darling to health. Withdrew funding for native fish conservation and reduced environmental water allocations.

F



## MARINE CONSERVATION

Rolled back marine sanctuaries in Solitary Islands Marine Park. Weakened protections for the critically endangered grey nurse shark.

F



## GAS AND MINING

Failed to deliver on promise to protect water and farmland. Renewed CSG licences in Sydney's water catchment and approved destructive coal mines.

E



## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Released sweeping proposals to fast track development at the expense of community engagement and the environment.

D



## RURAL LAND MANAGEMENT

Slashed funding for Catchment Management Authorities and Department of Primary Industries, reducing capacity to deliver services and natural resource management outcomes.

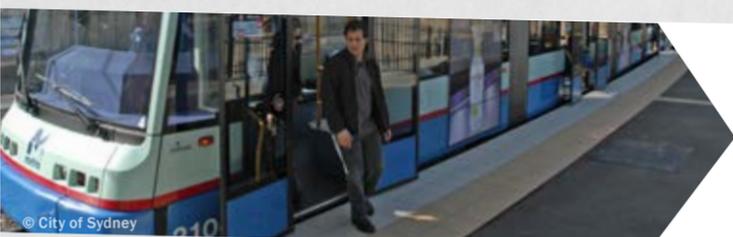
E



## POLLUTION AND WASTE

Increased penalties for failure to report pollution incidents, following Orica incident. Supported investigation of national container deposit scheme.

C



## URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Released plans for light rail and Northwest rail link. Emphasis on development on the urban fringe will exacerbate urban sprawl, traffic and air pollution.

D

**SCORE KEY:** A ≥90% B ≥75% C ≥51% D ≥31% E ≥26% F ≥0%



# Barry's wasted years

## Overview

The O'Farrell Government is failing on environmental protection, according to a mid-term review conducted by the state's leading environmental organisations.

The review (see opposite) found the government's record over the past two years had been characterised by inaction, broken promises and backward steps on important environmental issues.

"To date, the O'Farrell Government has failed to rise to the challenge of charting a sustainable future for our state," said Nature Conservation Council of NSW Chief Executive Officer Pepe Clarke.

The government's modest conservation achievements, such as declaration of Dharawal National Park, have been overshadowed by a succession of environmentally damaging policy decisions.

Since its election in March 2011, the Coalition has slashed funding for conservation programs, rolled back marine sanctuaries and opened the door to hunting in national parks.

"The government's decision to allow recreational shooters into national parks will place the public at risk and divert resources from effective pest control programs," said National Parks Association Executive Director Kevin Evans. "Tens of thousands

of ordinary people from across NSW have spoken out against this outrageous decision. We won't rest until this irresponsible plan is abandoned."

Rapid expansion of mining and coal seam gas have featured prominently on the public agen-

**"The government has comprehensively failed to deliver on its promise to make sensitive areas 'off limits'**

da over the past two years, but the government's policy responses have largely left community concerns unresolved, particularly in regional areas.

"The government has comprehensively failed to deliver on its promise to make sensitive areas off limits to mining and gas expansion, leaving productive farmland, water resources and iconic natural areas at risk," said Central West Environment Council spokesperson Bev

Smiles. While flooding rains have provided a reprieve for thirsty rivers and wetlands, the government has placed their long-term health at risk by reducing environmental water allocations and opposing federal water buybacks in the Murray-Darling Basin.

"The O'Farrell Government has taken every opportunity to obstruct and delay important measures aimed at restoring the Murray-Darling to health, compromising the recovery of wetlands, water birds and freshwater fish," said Wilderness Society NSW Campaign Manager Belinda Fairbrother.

Many conservationists are concerned that more damaging changes are on the way, with the government reviewing environ-

mental protections in the planning system, land clearing laws and forestry regulations.

"There is a real risk that decades of hard-won environmental protections will be lost unless ordinary people stand up now for the protection of our state's precious natural environment," said North Coast Environment Council President Susie Russell.

Leading conservationists are calling on Mr O'Farrell to adopt policies that will protect and restore the state's environment and build a more sustainable society.

"The pressing environmental issues facing our state require leadership and decisive action," said Total Environment Centre Executive Director Jeff Angel.

"It's time for the Premier to step up to the challenge, for the benefit of the people of New South Wales, and the remarkable natural assets of our state."

## Positive steps

Despite the O'Farrell Government's poor environmental performance overall, it has made some positive decisions, including:

- Converting 6,500ha of Dharawal State Conservation Area to national park, protecting creeks and swamps in the area from long-wall coal mining.
- Declaring the 3,000ha Macleay Gorges Wilderness in Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, near Armidale.
- Contributing \$4.4 million to the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative to create a wildlife corridor from the Victorian to the Queensland border.
- Converting the 3,800ha Berowra Valley Regional Park to national park.
- Shutting Munmorah power station, the state's dirtiest, after 45 years of operation.
- Announcing plans to place residential zones, vineyards and horse studs off limits to new coal seam gas drilling.
- Released plans for the Northwest rail link and for extending the light rail network in Sydney.
- Increased penalties for failure to report pollution incidents.
- Supported investigation of container deposit scheme.

## How was the report card prepared?

Before the 2011 election, the state's leading environmental organisations launched *Natural Advantage*, a visionary agenda for positive environmental policy in the 2011-2015 NSW parliamentary term.

It set out nearly 100 recommendations, from improved management of national parks to increased investment in public transport.

Every member of parliament received a copy to help them develop environmental policy over the next four years.

The report card on the page opposite, assesses progress against the *Natural Advantage* agenda by assigning a positive, neutral or negative score for each policy recommendation.

For each policy theme (e.g., climate change) these scores

were added to or subtracted from a starting score of 50%.

The resulting figure was then converted to an overall grade, using the following scale:

**A ≥90%** **B ≥75%**  
**C ≥51%** **D ≥31%**  
**E ≥26%** **F ≥0%**

To download a copy of *Natural Advantage*, visit: [//goo.gl/t8Suu](http://goo.gl/t8Suu)

## vox pop

### Sally Chalmers

There is more and more focus on money and profits to the detriment of the environment. The government should put more resources into renewable energy.



### Mags Raw

Climate change ... is affecting us now and it will affect us more in the future. It is concerning that people are still denying that it is happening.



### Lucy Tremain

It is outrageous that mining companies are allowed to destroy forests and kill native animals just to dig up coal that adds to climate change.



### Ken Saunders

Overall there is just a failure to take environmental issues seriously. The lack of activity on climate change, the negative approach to a carbon cap was counterproductive.



### Emily Walpole

There needs to be an increase in public transport and cycleways and encourage people to not drive their cars. It's not good for the environment and the government should take some proper action.



# Mining poses major risks

**22%** of NSW is covered by coal exploration licences

**3864** mineral production titles in NSW

**205 million** tonnes of coal were produced in NSW in 2010-11

**400 million** tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> were generated by burning that coal

**25%** of the state covered by CSG exploration licences

**259** active wells in NSW (many more planned)

**186 million** litres of waste water produced in NSW since 2011

**500 billion** cubic metres of recoverable CSG is estimated to be held in reserves in NSW



## Uranium mining looms for NSW

The government has ended a 26-year ban on uranium exploration in NSW and is poised to allow mining for the first time.

By December last year, it had received almost 40 expressions of interest from companies including resource giant BHP, Carpentaria Exploration, Marmota Energy and Iluka Resources.

The government is assessing the expressions of interest before inviting companies to explore.

Senior Coalition MP and National Party Whip John Williams told the ABC recently there was “a commitment to progressing uranium mining in western NSW” and if there was “a mining company prepared to make the investment, well, it’ll go ahead”.

Nature Conservation Council CEO Pepe Clarke said the environment movement opposed uranium mining because of its long-lasting environmental and health impacts.

“The current push to allow uranium exploration is a direct threat to workers’ safety and the long-term health of our environment and communities,” he said.

“As history shows, uranium mining makes little economic sense and leaves a lasting radioactive legacy.”

### Mining and gas

The mining and gas industries in NSW are expanding at an unprecedented rate, threatening public health, clean air and water, productive farmlands and native wildlife, yet the O’Farrell Government has failed to adequately address community concerns.

Exploration licences for coal mining now cover a staggering 177,000 square kilometres (22 per cent of NSW) while coal seam gas exploration licences have now been issued over about one quarter of the state.

More than 205 million tonnes of coal were dug up and burned in power stations and blast furnaces here and in Asia in 2010-2011, generating at least 400 million tonnes of greenhouse gases.

More than 75 per cent of NSW’s greenhouse emissions come from burning fossil fuels, primarily coal, and Australia is the world’s largest exporter of coal, accounting for 27 per cent of global trade.

Those figures will soon be dwarfed as many more mines come on line, including massive open-cut and underground pro-

jects in the Hunter, Newcastle, Gunnedah and Illawarra regions.

**“The next Liberal/National Government will ensure that mining cannot occur ... in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense; no ifs, no buts, a guarantee.**

— then opposition leader Barry O’Farrell

To facilitate this growth, the State Government is considering approving a fourth coal terminal

for Newcastle that would massively increase the volume of coal exported from that port. It would also double the dust pollution from coal trains, piles and loaders that people breathe in suburbs stretching between Hunter Valley coal mines and the port.

The CSG industry in this state is

still in its infancy, but with an estimated 500 billion cubic metres of gas available, the damage it could cause to aquifers, farmland and human health is difficult to

imagine. The recent prohibition on new coal seam gas projects within 2km of residential areas and sensitive rural industries is a positive step, but it does not protect drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.

Before the election, Barry O’Farrell promised to protect water catchments (see quote at left) and to return planning powers to the community. He has done neither.

His Strategic Regional Land Use Plans have not protected an extra single square inch of land, and the planning system review he has begun is set to reduce opportunities for community input rather than increase them.

**OVERALL SCORE: E**

## Coalition fiddles while the fossil fuels burn

### Climate change

The rapid reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the transition to a clean-energy future that the climate emergency requires has stalled in NSW.

The O’Farrell Government does not simply lack a plan for reducing carbon emissions, it has actively undermined public support for the carbon price, a key policy response to the problem, by making misleading statements about the financial impact on households and businesses.

Premier Barry O’Farrell has cut funding for energy efficiency programs, ended the solar feed-in tariff, and introduced restrictive guidelines for wind farms.

At the same time, the government has advocated strongly for the rapid expansion of fossil fuel industries, especially coal

seam gas and coal mining, major sources of the state’s carbon emissions.

Despite potentially costing taxpayers \$3 billion, Premier O’Farrell has refused to abandon the Cobbora mine project, which will destroy 2,000ha of wildlife habitat and provide dirty coal to the state’s polluting power stations for more than 20 years.

Closure of the highly polluting Munmorah Power Station and proceeding with the Moree solar farm, which will power 45,000 homes, are the only significant actions the government has taken to address climate change.

Yet even these are principally a product of Federal Government policy.

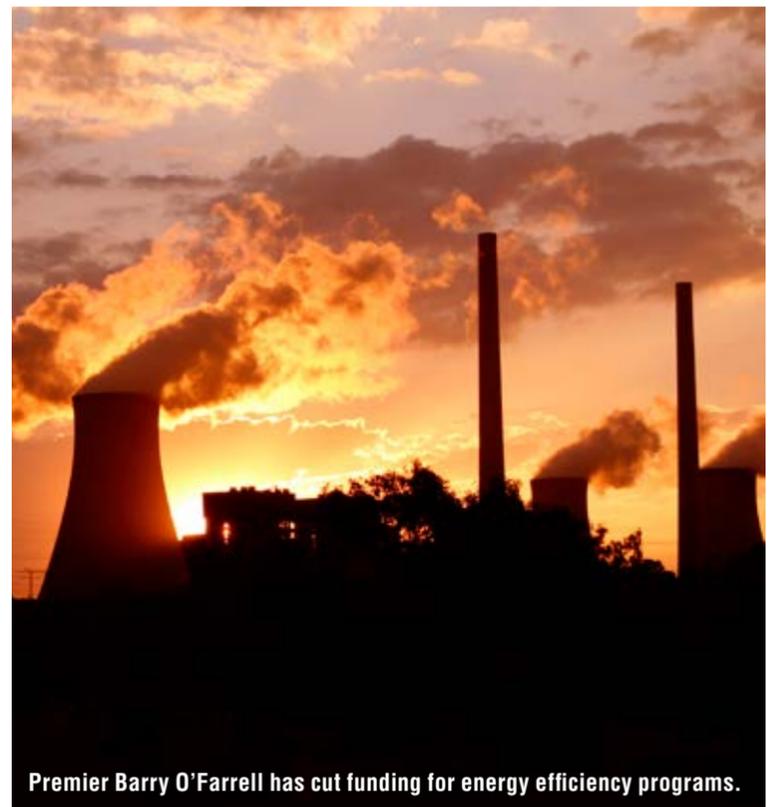
The solar farm was an initiative of the previous State Government and is being funded primarily by the Commonwealth.

Munmorah Power Station, which had been running well below capacity for years, closed because falling demand, the carbon price and obsolete infrastructure had made it unprofitable and redundant.

While the state’s carbon pollution footprint remained at unacceptably high levels, the government continued to heavily subsidise fossil fuel use and coal supply contracts, and has not increased its renewable energy target. Taking action to reduce carbon pollution offers opportunities to modernise the energy sector by encouraging investment in new technologies.

The government has so far failed to demonstrate the foresight or imagination required to seize these opportunities.

**OVERALL SCORE: E**



Premier Barry O’Farrell has cut funding for energy efficiency programs.

# State jeopardises Murray-Darling water reform

## Rivers and wetlands

The State Government has slashed funding for the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) and Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), and hampered efforts to buy water for environmental flows.

“There has been no cooperation

at the state level with the bipartisan Murray-Darling Basin Plan passed in Federal Parliament last November,” said NSW Inland Rivers Network President Bev Smiles.

“NSW is the largest user of water in the basin and has the greatest responsibility to address the issue of over extraction for flood irrig-

ation. Instead, the government has been working to lock in the status quo of water consumption or give the irrigation industry access to more water than in the past. The Commonwealth has been buying water licenses from willing sellers to return more water to environmental needs, but the state is attempting to cap

these purchases, thus restricting environmental outcomes for our rivers and wetlands.”

NSW has some of Australia’s most important inland wetland systems, including the Macquarie Marshes, Gwydir Wetlands and Narran Lakes.

Ms Smiles said cutting the MDBA’s funding by 60 per cent

had caused the collapse of the Native Fish Strategy, a program designed to arrest dramatic declines in inland native fish populations due to years of poor management. “On top of this, the government has slashed funding to CMAs by \$30 million.”

**OVERALL SCORE: F**



## Attacks on national parks

- **Hunting:** Recreational hunting to be permitted in 78 national parks, with many more possible.
- **Logging:** Trials to occur in Murray Valley National Park. The logging industry is also lobbying for access to northern NSW parks.
- **Grazing:** Trials to occur in red gum and cypress forest parks.
- **Budgets:** Parks budgets have been slashed, valuable staff expertise has been lost.
- **Horse riding:** Already allowed in more than 100 parks. Plans to expand into wilderness areas. Causes erosion, spreads weeds.

Photo: No hunting rally outside NSW Parliament, November 2012

# Hunting plan full of holes

## National parks

The government appears determined to press ahead with plans to allow recreational hunting in national parks despite growing public anger and the risks of shooting deaths and injuries.

Premier O’Farrell is now considering spending \$19 million of taxpayer’s money over the next five years to manage the risks of the scheme. This money is being made available at a time when

deep cuts are being made to staffing and funding for the National Parks and Wildlife Service’s conservation and visitor services programs.

“The NSW Government has bargained the safety of park visitors for a few votes from the Shooters and Fishers,” NSW National Parks Association CEO Kevin Evans said.

The starting date for hunting in parks has been delayed repeatedly as the government fumbles to

deal with insurmountable safety issues and the fall-out from a hunting trip scandal allegedly involving personnel from the NSW Game Council, the body set up to licence hunters and monitor their behaviour.

Following fallout from the incident, the government this month ordered an internal review of the Game Council.

The hunter licensing system is also under intense public scrutiny after Game Council chairman

John Mumford admitted on the ABC’s 7.30 report that hunters could be let loose in parks without ever before having fired a shot. Even the senior bureaucrat now overseeing the introduction of the scheme had warned in an internal government memo in 2008 that allowing recreational hunters into parks would compromise wildlife management and damage the state’s environmental credentials.

Mr Evans warned that if a tragic

incident occurred, the O’Farrell Government could not say it had not been warned.

“In Italy, where regulations are as lax as the Shooters and Fishers Party would like, 13 people were killed in hunting accidents and 33 wounded in the first six weeks of the 2012 shooting season,” he said. “For the safety of the public, the Premier must not allow volunteer hunting in parks.”

**OVERALL SCORE: F**

# Sailing into troubled waters

## Marine protection

Within months of his election, Premier Barry O’Farrell banned the creation of new marine parks for up to five years.

At the same time, he wound back new protection measures in two of the state’s jewels: Jervis Bay on the South Coast and Solitary Islands near Coffs Harbour on the mid-north coast.

Fishing trawlers now ply the waters around Solitary Island, which marine ecologists said deserved protection as nurseries supplying other fisheries up

and down the NSW coastline. The O’Farrell Government has also slashed funding for fisheries research, as well as coastal and estuarine habitat protection and restoration.

The Cronulla Fisheries Centre, which was shut by the government in December despite a parliamentary inquiry finding an overwhelming case for its retention, had an international reputation for research excellence.

The scientific staff at Cronulla had more than 500 years of combined experience in fisheries research, and more than 50 science degrees between them.

In March this year the government announced it would turn a blind eye to illegal fishing from beaches and headlands in marine sanctuary zones, undermining conservation and the rule of law in NSW.

The government had assured people when it ordered a review of marine protected areas last year it was taking the politics out of marine management, but it is clear from the results that politics, not good policy, is at the heart of this government’s approach.

**OVERALL SCORE: F**

## In deep water

- Five-year ban on new marine parks.
- Reduced sanctuary zones at Jervis Bay and Solitary Island Marine Parks.
- Allowed trawlers back into parts of Solitary Islands Marine Park.
- Cut funding to coastal and estuarine fisheries habitat protection and restoration.
- Cut funding for fisheries research.
- Reduced protection for grey nurse sharks.
- Turned a blind eye to illegal fishing.

Photo: Attila E Kaszo, Jervis Bay Marine Park





# Scene set for a new forest war

## Forestry

Conservation groups are gearing up for a major showdown with the O'Farrell Government if it follows Queensland's lead by handing over hundreds of thousands of hectares of protected forests for logging.

Queensland's Liberal National Government recently allowed loggers into more than a million hectares of high conservation value forest that had been designated for protection.

Several developments in NSW have aroused suspicion the O'Farrell Government is contemplating something similar.

The government is reviewing conditions imposed on loggers to protect forest streams and important habitats, such as large hollow-bearing trees, from damaging logging activities.

Conservationists are concerned environmental protections will be weakened during the review, threatening vulnerable species and habitats.

Unsustainable wood supply agreements signed by the state's forests manager, the Forestry Corporation, are driving many of the changes.

The corporation has agreed to supply saw millers and wood chippers with more timber than public forests can sustainably produce, so the government is now under intense pressure to find more timber by opening

up national parks and reducing environmental standards to increase yields.

The NSW Forest Products Association is on the record as wanting one million hectares of national parks made available and has been lobbying aggressively to remove or weaken environmental protections, including reducing exclusion zones around streams and sensitive threatened species, allowing logging of endangered ecological communities and opening wildlife corridors for logging.

Meanwhile, recent figures demonstrate the O'Farrell Government has failed to effectively enforce existing protections.

During the 2011-2012 financial year, the Environment Protection Authority found Forests NSW had breached its licences and codes 634 times at the 39 sites the authority inspected.

This was an average of 16 breaches in each logging operation, of which there are hundreds every year.

Despite the high number of breaches, the EPA issued only 17 warning letters and 10 infringement notices.

"This culture of non-compliance won't stop until meaningful penalties for non-compliance are applied," said NSW Nature Conservation Council CEO Pepe Clarke.

**OVERALL SCORE: E**

## Bulldozers are ready to roll

### Native vegetation

Thousands of hectares of native vegetation are at risk from poorly regulated land clearing under draft proposals released by the O'Farrell Government.

In addition to government plans to water down native vegetation regulations, the Shooters and Fishers Party, upon which the government relies to pass legis-

lation through the upper house, wants the Native Vegetation Act scrapped entirely.

Enforcement of the existing laws is also an issue. Last August a landholder near Moree reported illegal clearing of about 1,000ha of koala habitat by another farmer, but by October the incident had still not been investigated.

Native vegetation provides essential environmental, social and economic benefits, including pro-

tecting water quality, maintaining soil health and providing habitat for wildlife.

Before native vegetation laws were introduced about 10 years ago, NSW had one of the worst records in the world for land clearing, which is one of the greatest threats to wildlife, a leading cause of salinity and a source of greenhouse gas emissions.

**OVERALL SCORE: E**

## Community demands voice in shaping the future

### Planning

A coalition of community groups opposed to the growing influence of the developer lobby has in just eight months grown from a mere handful of organisations to a network of more than 300 with thousands of members.

Groups now affiliated with the Better Planning Network (BPN) include precinct committees, residents groups, historical societies, progress associations and environment groups.

These disparate organisations are united by a determination to achieve a fair NSW planning system that enhances community wellbeing and protects natural and cultural heritage.

These groups say that this is something the O'Farrell Government's reform proposals will

**“The government plans to substantially reduce community participation at the development stage and increase developer rights. It's simply unacceptable.**

- Corrine Fisher  
Better Planning Network



deny citizens across the state.

"The planning system has a huge impact on people's lives," BPN spokesperson Corinne Fisher said. "It is incredibly important people have meaningful input into decisions and the right to appeal bad decisions when they are made, as is inevitable."

Ms Fisher helped create the network after attending a talk about the proposed changes last year.

"When I heard the presentation, I couldn't believe it," she said. "I was in total shock. I went home

and couldn't sleep. I thought 'we have to do something about this'. The next day I emailed a lot of community groups I knew and called an urgent meeting."

Concerns range from the introduction of new "enterprise zones" with few controls, to more categories of tick-the-box-style developments that can be approved in 10 days without community consultation. "The Coalition scrapped the hated Part 3A of the Environment Planning and Assessment Act, which stripped

away community rights, but they replaced it with something just as bad," Ms Fisher said.

"Now the government plans to substantially reduce community participation even further at the development stage and increase developer rights and powers. It's simply unacceptable."

The government has tried to brand BPN as anti-development, but Ms Fisher says that is wrong.

"We are not anti-development," she said.

"There is good growth and there is positive development and that's what we want to achieve.

"We don't think the proposed changes will lead to this type of development - it will lead to development at any cost that will be to the detriment of communities."

**OVERALL SCORE: D**

### Proposed planning system changes

- Deny communities a say on many individual developments.
- Expand the range of "tick-the-box" developments that can be approved in 10 days without community consultation.
- Empower the Minister or Planning Department to override local planning controls.
- Introduce "enterprise zones" with few development controls.
- Reduce the role of specialist agencies, like the EPA, in development decisions.
- Reduce binding state-level environmental protections and replace with non-binding policies.



## Our Vision

### Belinda Fairbrother, Campaigns Director, The Wilderness Society NSW



The health and resilience of Australia's natural systems, and the ongoing wellbeing of our society, rely on maintaining core ecological functions. We need conservation planning at geographic and temporal scales never attempted before.

### Kevin Evans, CEO, National Parks Association of NSW



NPA NSW is driven by a vision that foresees a landscape of intact natural areas across the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of NSW, integrated with viable rural and urban communities that respect and nurture the land.

### Tara Cameron, Blue Mountains Conservation Society



Our magnificent natural assets, such as the striking Gardens of Stone, can be protected now by creating new state conservation areas and removing the threat of open-cut coal mining from our unique and precious places.

### Pepe Clarke, Chief Executive Officer, Nature Conservation Council of NSW



We are united by a positive vision of a society living in balance with nature, with healthy forests, rivers and oceans, inspiring wild places, and a clean, sustainable economy.

### Keith Muir, Director, Colong Foundation



All wilderness in NSW must be adequately protected and managed by 2020. The natural integrity of wilderness best protects our beautiful bushland and its biodiversity, water and air from pollution, degradation, fragmentation and exploitation.

### Bev Smiles, Central West Environment Council



Our vision is for a resilient landscape connected by healthy waterways, wetlands, woodlands and grasslands that supports sustainable communities with local renewable energy and food sources, and viable populations of native birds and animals.

### Susie Russell, North Coast Environment Council



Investment — nurturing and healing planet earth is investment. Stripping, gouging, destroying is not. Good government plans long-term: protecting for future generations the forests, water, beaches, unique plants and animals of this land.

### Jeff Angel, Executive Director, Total Environment Centre



No government can ignore the community's desire to protect the environment for now and the future. NSW still has much to do in the cities and across the landscape.

# Our vision: a sustainable future

## Our Vision

There is a better way. We, the leading environmental advocacy organisations in NSW, are united by a vision of a state in which our society lives sustainably and in harmony with nature. We have a vision of a state where:

- clean air and fresh water are valued more highly than the demands of powerful vested interests.
- our leaders' responsibility to protect the health of citizens is not compromised by heartless fiscal calculation and bureaucratic inaction.

- our communities live within natural limits, using precious natural resources wisely and harnessing clean, renewable energy from the sun and wind.
- healthy forests, rivers and oceans are populated by thriving populations of native plants and animals.
- wild nature is valued for its own sake, and for the inspiration and solace that it provides for so many, from all walks of life.

Our generation has a unique responsibility to protect and restore the natural world, to ensure that our extraordinary wild places are safeguarded for the benefit of future

generations. In the broad sweep of human history, our generation is the first to be confronted with a stark choice: take urgent action to reduce carbon pollution and stabilise the earth's climate, or face unprecedented changes to our way of life.

The NSW Government has a critical leadership role to play in responding to climate change, restoring our environment to health, and protecting the health and wellbeing of local communities.

It's time for Premier O'Farrell to chart a new course by adopting a bold, positive vision for environmental protection and nature conservation in NSW.

## Conserving and restoring nature

NSW is home to an extraordinary diversity of wildlife, plants and living landscapes.

From the arid red lands of the interior to the deep blue of our oceans, this intricate web of life is fraying under increasing pressure from unsustainable land use, extractive industries, climate change and over-exploitation of natural resources. It's time to reverse the decline by:

- Protecting our forests and woodlands for their natural diversity, beauty and rich carbon stores.
- Investing in action to restore living landscapes and bring threatened species back from the brink.
- Securing the long-term health of our rivers and wetlands by returning more water to the environment and protecting water catchments.
- Protecting our oceans by expanding marine sanctuaries and improving management of commercial fisheries.

## Making the switch to clean energy

Rapid improvements in technology present fresh opportunities to replace polluting energy sources like coal and coal seam gas with energy from sun and wind.

By using energy more wisely and harnessing the power of renewable energy NSW can create opportunities for new employment, foster regional development, and reduce our contribution to global climate change.

It is time to make the switch to a clean energy economy by:

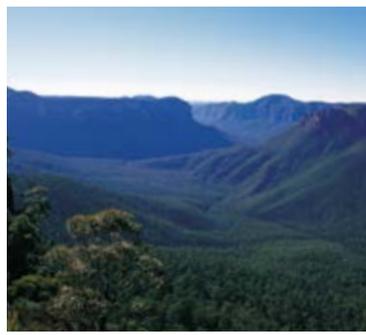
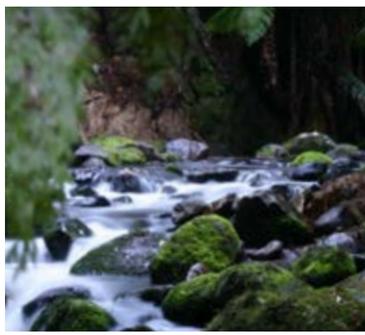
- Driving investment in clean, renewable energy and committing to a timetable for replacing our most polluting coal-fired power stations.
- Committing to an ambitious program for reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency.
- Ending fossil fuel subsidies and putting an end to unrestrained mining and gas expansion.

## Building a sustainable society

With effective political leadership and progressive environmental policy, our state has an opportunity to build a more open, transparent and sustainable society that engages local communities in decisions that affect their environment and way of life. It is time to protect the environment and live within its natural limits by:

- Restoring balance, integrity and legitimacy to the planning and development process.
- Reducing pollution and waste through strong targets and effective policy.
- Making our urban areas livable and sustainable by increasing energy and water savings, and expanding active and public transport opportunities.

**The time to act is now. Tell Premier O'Farrell today that you want a new, positive direction for environmental policy in NSW. For ways to make your voice heard, go to the back page of this report.**



# Concerned about the state of our environment? Make your voice heard

For decades people across NSW have been working hard to protect and improve our environment.

We have made many gains in protecting our clean water, forests and world-renowned national parks. We have strived to reduce waste, live more sustainably and reduce our contribution to

climate change. Yet since coming into office the O'Farrell Government has declared war on our environment.

Attacks range from allowing the reckless expansion of coal mines and coal seam gas fields to weakening forest and woodland protections, slashing funding for

energy efficiency and catchment management, and opening national parks to amateur shooters.

Clean air and water are critical for the health and future of our state. Our oceans, rivers and forests provide critical wildlife habitat and are rich in Aboriginal and European culture. Once these ar-

eaas are destroyed they cannot be replaced. We can no longer allow the government to place vested interests and political deals above clean air, water and iconic natural places. Premier O'Farrell is failing the environment and the people of NSW. Together we must tell the O'Farrell govern-

ment that enough is enough, we will not stand by and watch our environment be destroyed.

If you care about clean air and water for all and are proud of the amazing coasts, bush, and wildlife our state has to offer, call Premier O'Farrell today and scan below to sign the petition.

## SIGN THE PETITION TO BARRY O'FARRELL

Simply scan here:



Or go here:

[www.nccnsw.org.au/take-action/thescore](http://www.nccnsw.org.au/take-action/thescore)

## CALL PREMIER O'FARRELL NOW AND TELL HIM ENOUGH IS ENOUGH – (02) 9228 5239

### Talking points:

1. I am a resident of NSW and I am calling because I am extremely concerned about the government's environmental policies.
2. In just two years you have reduced protections for our forests, woodlands, oceans and national parks.
3. The state is facing an unprecedented and reckless expansion of polluting coal and coal seam gas.
4. We need strong protections for our air, water, land and wildlife, not empty promises and policies that place our environment and communities at risk.
5. I call on this government to change direction. Use the next two years to protect our state's clean air, fresh water and wild places, and chart a more sustainable future for NSW.

