



Nature Conservation Council

The voice for nature in NSW

Nature Conservation Council of NSW

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

**Saturday & Sunday
24th & 25th October, 2015**

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

MINUTES

Download extra copies at:
www.nature.org.au/about/governance/annual-conferences

EXECUTIVE 2014-2015

Chairperson: Prof. Don White

Vice-Chairperson & Minutes Secretary: Megan Kessler

Hon. Secretary: Jane Smith

Hon. Treasurer: John Turnbull

Public Officer: Robert Pallin

Executive Members:

Jamie Hanson

Cilla Kinross (Western representative)

Megan Kessler

Jim Morrison (Northern representative)

Noel Plumb (Southern representative)

Annie Nielsen

Robert Pallin

James Ryan

Jane Smith

John Turnbull

Prof. Don White

Executive Election 2015

The Executive election was held on Sunday 25 October. There were fourteen nominees for twelve available positions. The Returning Officer declared the following nominees duly elected for the 2015/16 period:

Gabrielle Appleby

Jamie Hanson

Megan Kessler

Cilla Kinross

Jim Morrison (Northern Regional representative)

Annie Nielsen

Robert Pallin

Ben Pearson

Noel Plumb (Southern Regional representative)

Jane Smith

Prof. Don White

Graeme Wiffen



2015 Annual Conference Agenda

Celebrating 60 years of protecting nature in NSW

Day 1: Saturday, 24th October

- 8.45 am** **REGISTRATION**
- 9.15 am** **WELCOME TO COUNTRY**
Uncle Ray Davison
- 9.20 am** **ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENING (Chair)**
Welcome & apologies
Call for Nominations for Executive
Admission of new members
- 9.30 am** **CEO REPORT**
- 9.45 am** **ADDRESS BY ENVIRONMENT MINISTER MARK SPEAKMAN**
- 10.05 am** **Morning tea**
- 10.30 pm** **WORKSHOPS (2x facilitated workshops, 1 policy breakout)**
- 1. Marine and Coastal Protection** – How can we ensure stronger protections for our marine and coastal environment from the Government’s reforms? Run by Cerin Loane (NCC Policy and Research Coordinator) and Justin Field (NCC Marine Campaigner)
 - 2. Online Activism** – Tips for growing and better engaging your support base through Facebook, Twitter and email, and how to raise funds online – Run by Daisy Barham (NCC Campaigns Director) and Nagida Clark (NCC Digital Campaigner)
 - 3. Information for new Member Groups** – How to make the most of your membership – Run by Kate Smolski (NCC CEO)
- 11.45 pm** **Presentation by The Hon. Penny Sharpe, MLC,**
Shadow Environment Minister
- 12.00 pm** **LUNCH**

- 1.00 pm** **MEMBER GROUP STORIES**
- 1.15 pm** **PANEL DISCUSSION:**
What does a changing climate mean for NSW, and what we can do about it in the lead up to Paris? – Professor Ian Lowe, Reece Proudfoot (WWF-Australia Earth Hour), Lucy Manne (Climate Action Network Australia)
- 2.15 pm** **WORKSHOPS (2x facilitated workshops, 1 information session)**
1. **Moving beyond mining in our water catchment** - How to protect Sydney’s drinking water catchment from coal mining and set a precedent for other special places in NSW – Run by Isabel McIntosh (Protect Sydney’s Water Alliance) and Daisy Barham (NCC Campaigns Director)
 2. **Creating stronger laws for nature conservation** – What a new *Biodiversity Conservation Act* means for NSW and how we can work together for stronger laws - Run by Rachel Walmsley (EDO NSW Policy and Law Reform Director), Cerin Loane (NCC Policy and Research Coordinator)
 3. **Climate Policy Discussion** – updating NCC’s Climate Policy – Run by Annie Nielsen
- 3.30 am** **Presentation by Dr Mehreen Faruqi, MLC**
Environment Spokesperson for the NSW Greens
- 3.45 pm** **Wrap Up**
- 4.00 pm** **60th Anniversary Celebration and NSW Environment Awards Ceremony**
NCC 60th Video and Drinks
- 6.00pm** **DINNER for Delegates, staff & guests**
At Empire Turkish, 75 Enmore Road, Newtown

* There is no afternoon tea scheduled on either day, but drinks and snacks will be available and participants can help themselves between afternoon sessions.

2015 Annual Conference Agenda

Celebrating 60 years of protecting nature in NSW

Day 2: Sunday 25th October

- 8.45 am** **REGISTRATION**
- 9.00 am** **DAY 2 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENING**
Welcome & apologies
Agenda for the day (Chair)
- 9.20 am** **REPORTS**
Chair, Treasurer - Discussion and Questions
- 9.50 am** **BUSINESS MOTIONS** (Chair)
- 11.30 am** **KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY GEOFF COUSINS**
President, Australian Conservation Foundation
- 12.00 pm** **ELECTION OF NCC EXECUTIVE FOR 2015-2016**
- 12.20 pm** **LATE & CARRIED OVER MOTIONS, & GENERAL BUSINESS** (Chair)
- 1.00 pm** **CLOSING ADDRESS** (CEO)
- 1.15 pm** **OPTIONAL: NETWORKING LUNCH AT NEARBY CAFÉ**

* There is no morning tea scheduled during the day, but drinks and snacks will be available and participants can help themselves between sessions.

LIST OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTIONS

A. Council Affairs

1. Admission of new Member Societies

B. Planning and Development

1. No Western Sydney Airport
Submitted by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society
2. The need for a comprehensive public offsets register
Submitted by the Blacktown and District Environment Group and Friends of Tumblebee Inc.
3. Accreditation for Environmental Consultants
Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

C. Climate Change & Energy

1. Wind farm planning guidelines
2. Federal climate and energy policies
3. Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund
Submitted by Climate Change Australia-Hastings Branch
4. 40-50% cuts to Greenhouse gas emissions by 2025
5. 100% renewable stationary energy (electricity) by 2030
6. Pacific islands plea for no new Australian coal mines
Submitted by the Parramatta Climate Action Network
7. A just transition to clean energy
Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd and the Hunter Community Environment Centre

D. Population & Consumption

1. Federal responsibility for sustainable population
Submitted by the Executive: Sustainable Population Committee
- 1A. Ministerial portfolio for Environment and Sustainable Population
Submitted by Sustainable Population Australia (NSW Branch) Inc.
2. Incentives for sustainable population
Submitted by the Executive: Sustainable Population Committee
- 2A. Family planning advice and assistance in developing countries
Submitted by Sustainable Population Australia (NSW Branch) Inc.
3. Federal strategy for sustainable population and consumption rates
Submitted by the Executive: Sustainable Population Committee
- 3A. Reduction of Net Overseas Migration
Submitted by Sustainable Population Australia (NSW Branch) Inc.
4. Strategies to reduce Australia's high per capita consumption rates
Submitted by the Executive: Sustainable Population Committee

E. Biodiversity Conservation

1. Review of State Environment Planning Policy 44-Koala Habitat Protection
Submitted by the Friends of the Koala Inc.
2. Cumberland Conservation Corridor
Submitted by the Ryde Environment Group and Blacktown and District Environment Group
3. The Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Standing) Bill 2015
Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd
4. Proposed Pine Creek Koala Information and Research Centre
5. Water course protection
Submitted by the Bellingen Environment Centre

F. Forestry Issues

1. Stage 1 of the proposed the Great Koala National Park

Submitted by the Bellingen Environment Centre

2. Unsustainable wood supply quotas in the Pilliga Forests

3. Protecting Native Forest Carbon Storage

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

G. National Parks, Wilderness, Protected & Natural Areas

1. Sports fields and Berowra Valley National Park

Submitted by the Friends of Berowra Valley in conjunction with Hornsby Conservation Society

2. Kanangra to Katoomba Walk

3. Reaffirmation of wilderness values

4. Further protection for the Gardens of Stone

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

5. Restore NSW leadership in marine conservation

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW

6. Expedite Measures to Clean Up the Wollangambe River

7. Wilderness horse riding trial

8. Protection for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

9. Save the Tarkine Wilderness

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

H. LATE MOTIONS

1. Conservation of former Scout land, Spring Gully, Bundeena

2. No new road in the Royal National Park

Submitted by the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre

3. Paucity of large predators in NSW and increased numbers of introduced meso-predators

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW Inc.

4. Protection for North Lismore Plateau

Submitted by the North Lismore Plateau Protection Association Inc.

I. URGENCY MOTIONS

1. Biodiversity funding

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW Inc.

ATTENDANCE 2015

MEMBER SOCIETY DELEGATES & OBSERVERS

Australian Conservation Foundation - Central Coast Branch

John Wiggin (Sat)

Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd

Margery Street

Australian Wildlife Society

Ken Mason

Patrick Medway

Sandra Reynolds (O)

Bathurst Community Climate Action Network Inc.

Tracey Carpenter (Sat)

Bellingen Environment Centre

Leif Lemke

Blacktown & District Environment Group

Antony Lewis

Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Paul Vale

Don Morison (Sat)

Beth Rohrlach (Sat)

Bushwalking NSW

Sierra Classen

Kirsten Mayer (O)

Capertee Valley Alliance Inc.

Mary Thirlwall

Donna Upton (Sat)

Castlecrag Conservation Society

Richard Blacklock (Sat)

Terese Hayward (Sat)

Climate Change Australia - Hastings Branch

Harry Creamer

Community Environment Network

Jane Smith

Community Environment Centre Inc.

John Asquith

Jane Smith*

Cumberland Bird Observers Club

Catherine Goswell (O)

EcoNetwork Port Stephens

Bruce Pease (Sat)

Forestmedia Inc.

Lorraine Bower (Sat)

Friends of Berowra Valley Inc.

Robert Salt

Friends of Lane Cove National Park Inc.

Dana Ghinzel (Sat)

Mike Pickles (Sat)

Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment (FOKE)

Janine Kitson

Friends of the Koala Inc.

Lorraine Vass*

Goulburn Field Naturalists Society

Mark Selmes

Green Shareholders

Prof. Don White*

Hawkesbury Environment Network

Jules Wright (Sat)

Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society

Nancy Pallin

Lake Wollumboola Protection Association

Frances Bray

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society

Ron Gornall

Ruth Neumann (O)

Frances Vissel

Linnean Society of NSW

Michele Cotton

Bruce Welch

Mosman Parks & Bushland Association Inc.

Kate Eccles

Yolande Stone

National Parks Association of NSW Inc.

Bruce Diekman

Kevin Evans (O)

Roger Lembit

Samantha Newton (O)

Anne Reeves

John Turnbull (Sat)

Graeme Wiffen (Sat)

North Coast Environment Council

Jim Morrison*

North Lismore Plateau Protection Association Inc.

Julie Allen

NSW Wildlife Council

Lorraine Vass**

PACTEC (Pikapene & Cherry Tree Environment Centre) Inc.

Jim Morrison

Parks and Playgrounds Movement Inc.

Doug Lithgow

ParraCAN (Parramatta Climate Action Network)

Annie Nielsen*

Phil Bradley (O)

Ryde Community Alliance

Jennie Minifie

Ryde-Gladesville Climate Change Action Group

Jill Hartley

Ryde-Hunters Hill Flora & Fauna Preservation Society

Brigid Dowsett

Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee

Ann Sharp

South East Region Conservation Alliance

Noel Plumb**

STEP Inc

Jill Green

Stop Coal Seam Gas Blue Mountains

Derek Finter (Sat)

Jan O'Leary (Sat)

Sustainable Population Australia (NSW Branch) Inc.

Kris Spike (O)

Nola Stewart

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre

Jenni Gormley

Mark Da Silva (O)

The Coastwatchers Association Inc.

Chris Kowal (O)

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

Keith Muir

Ian Tanner

The Habitat Advocate

Steven Ridd

Wolli Creek Preservation Society Inc.

Judy Finlason (Sat)

EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR DELEGATES

Jamie Hanson

Jim Morrison* (Northern representative)

Annie Nielsen

Robert Pallin

Noel Plumb (Southern representative)

Jane Smith*

John Turnbull

Prof. Don White*

Delegates with Proxy Votes

Jennie Minifie: *Ryde Environment Group*

Jim Morrison: *Pikapene and Cherry Tree Environment Council*

Keith Muir: *Capertee Valley Alliance Inc.*

Noel Plumb: *Chipbusters*

Lorraine Vass: *NSW Wildlife Council*

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.

RETURNING OFFICER

Shaun Gilchrist

GUEST SPEAKERS & PRESENTERS

Geoff Cousins, *President, Australian Conservation Foundation*

Uncle Ray Davison, *Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council:*

Welcome to Country

Dr Mehreen Faruqi, MLC, *NSW Greens spokesperson for the Environment*

Prof. Ian Lowe, *Emeritus Professor of Science, Technology and Society, Griffith*

University, Brisbane

Lucy Manne, *Climate Action Network Australia*

Isabel McIntosh, *Protect Sydney's Water Alliance*

Reece Proudfoot, *WWF-Australia Earth Hour*

The Hon. Penny Sharpe, MLC, *Shadow Environment Minister*

The Hon. Mark Speakman, MP, *NSW Minister for the Environment*

Rachel Walmsley, *Policy and Law Reform Director, EDO NSW*

STAFF

Daisy Barham, *Campaigns Director*

Nagida Clark, *Digital Campaigner*

Gina Dombosch, *Coal & Gas Campaigner*

Justin Field, *Marine Campaigner*

Jonathan Heys, *Outreach Co-ordinator*

Cerin Loane, *Policy Officer*

Queene Ostria, *Accounts & Administration Officer*

Kate Smolski, *Chief Executive Officer*

James Tremain, *Media & Communications Officer*

VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS

Katherine Chen
Bruce Diekman
Nick Dugonics
Keith Hart
Lesley Killen
Trista Liu
Chloe Luo
Isabel McIntosh
William Tsang

NCC REPRESENTATIVES

Adrian Davey

VISITORS, GUESTS & FRIENDS

Inge Arvedsen
Allison Broad
Diane Butt
Koko Clark
Cathryn Dexter
Dof Dickinson
Susan Doyle
Leonard Dowsett
Elisha Duxbury
Margret Egger
Barbara & John Fern
Andrew Fraser
Fergus Fricke
Gavin Gilchrist
Jackeline Giovannucci
Michael Hanratty
Ruth Hardy
Norman Harris
Janet Harwood
Christopher Hill
Kylie Hitchman
Penn Hsiang
Janet Kossy
Brendon Lavot
Margot Law
Madi Maclean
Richard Maguire
Anne Marett
Mora Main
Kaye McCulloch
Nicholas McNulty
Jonathon Milford
Warren Moss
Ben Pearson (Sun)
Liz Power
Laura Precup
Jane Puchner
Kerrie Sebbens

Laura Stebbens
Deidre Stuart
Kai-lin Sze
Jess Walker
Christopher Webber
Colleen Williams

APOLOGIES

Gordon Stevens
Megan Kessler (Executive)
Cilla Kinross (Executive)
Gerry Watt

Motions for Annual Conference 2015

A. Council Affairs

Motion 2015/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 and approved by the Executive from October 2014 to September 2015:

- Capertee Valley Landcare Group
- Carrington Community Council
- Climate Action Newcastle Inc.
- Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle Inc.
- Community Power Agency Co-operative Ltd.
- FROGS Landcare Inc.
- Grandparents for Generational Equity
- The Habitat Advocate
- Kosciuzko to Coast (K2C) Inc.
- Marine Parks Association Inc.
- No Badgerys Creek Airport Inc.
- North Lismore Plateau Protection Association Inc.
- PLACE: Planning, Living, Amenity, Community, Environment (*previously Community Action Alliance*)
- Protecting Your Suburban Environment (PYSE)
- Repower Coffs Community Association Inc.
- Royal Zoological Society of NSW
- Save Cliefden Caves Association
- Tarlo/Middle Arm Landcare Group Inc.
- The Society for Insect Studies Inc.
- Trees of Bateau Bay
- Tweed Climate Action Now Inc.

Moved: Annie Nielsen

Seconded: Jane Smith

Carried

B. Planning and Development

Motion 2015/B1

No Western Sydney Airport

Submitted by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW oppose the construction of a 'second' airport in Western Sydney

Moved: Noel Plumb

Seconded: Paul Vale *Carried*

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Transport, opposing the construction of a 'second' airport in Western Sydney, specifically at Badgerys Creek. NCC should express the opinion that a second airport is not needed or wanted as:

- Kingsford Smith Airport is not running at full capacity;
- High Speed Rail to Melbourne and Brisbane is a superior option.

Motion 2015/B2

The need for a comprehensive public offsets register

Submitted by the Blacktown and District Environment Group and Friends of Tumblebee Inc.

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, noting that the NCC does not support offsets, call on the NSW Government and Ministers for Environment and Planning in particular to:

- (a) Establish, as a matter of urgency, a comprehensive and public register of biodiversity offsets; and
- (b) Defer any deepening or broadening of offsetting as recommended by the *Review of biodiversity legislation in NSW 2014* until such time as a register has been implemented and a robust and transparent review of offsetting policy undertaken.

FURTHER THAT the Offsets Register include details of:

- The real property on which the offset occurs;
- the activity in respect of which the offsets were dedicated;
- When they were dedicated;
- The extent, characteristics and duration of the offsets;
- When and what milestones have been reached;
- Any audit of verification actions regarding the offset; and
- In the case of a monetary payment, the amount, when it was paid, on what (if anything) was the money to be spent, acquittal details, details of the land/ activity/offset which was funded.

Moved: Antony Lewis

Seconded: Jim Morrison *Carried*

Motion 2015/B3

Accreditation for Environmental Consultants

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, noting that the NCC Planning Policy 2014 calls for mechanisms for ensuring the integrity of environmental impact statements, including that environmental consultants be independently appointed, call on the NSW Minister for Planning to establish an independent system of government accreditation for environmental consultants who undertake assessment work for major projects under NSW planning laws.

Moved: Keith Muir

Seconded: Jenni Gormley

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the NSW Minister for Planning and Shadow Minister for Planning as per the motion and also enquire when the provisions making it illegal to provide false and misleading information in relation to a development proposal will be enabled.

C. Climate Change & Energy

Motion 2015/C1

Wind farm planning guidelines

Submitted by Climate Change Australia-Hastings Branch

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the NSW Government to finalise their wind farm planning guidelines, with the distance from houses to wind turbines reduced to 1 km, rather than the 2 km of the current draft guidelines.

Moved: Harry Creamer

Seconded: Jill Hartley

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Prime Minister and Minister in line with the motion.

Motion 2015/C2

Federal climate and energy policies

Submitted by Climate Change Australia-Hastings Branch

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the Prime Minister and Minister for the Environment to adopt a fresh approach to climate and energy policies that will reduce Australia's emissions much more than currently proposed.

Moved: Harry Creamer

Seconded: Rob Pallin

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Prime Minister and Minister in line with the motion.

Motion 2015/C3

Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund

Submitted by Climate Change Australia-Hastings Branch

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the Federal Government not to permit the use of monies from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund to assist the Adani Carmichael coal mine in any way.

Moved: Harry Creamer

Seconded: Annie Nielsen

Carried

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

Motion 2015/C4

40-50% cuts to Greenhouse gas emissions by 2025

Submitted by the Parramatta Climate Action Network

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW demand the Commonwealth and NSW Governments to commit to 50% cuts to Greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 from the 2000 baseline as well as a 80% emissions target by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2040.

Moved: Annie Nielsen

Seconded: Antony Lewis

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to both the Commonwealth and NSW governments in line with the motion.

Motion 2015/C5

100% renewable stationary energy (electricity) by 2030

Submitted by the Parramatta Climate Action Network

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW demand the NSW Government implement 100% renewable stationary energy (electricity) by 2030.

Moved: Annie Nielsen

Seconded: Harry Creamer

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the NSW Government in line with the motion.

Motion 2015/C6

Pacific islands plea for no new Australian coal mines

Submitted by the Parramatta Climate Action Network

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Federal and NSW Governments to heed the plea from Pacific Islands governments that Australia adopt a No New Coal Mines Policy, to help prevent their islands being inundated by sea-level rise and wave surges.

Moved: Annie Nielsen

Seconded: Nancy Pallin

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Federal Government in line with the motion and notify a Pacific Islands spokesperson accordingly.

Motion 2015/C7

A just transition to clean energy

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd and the Hunter Community Environment Centre

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, in view of the urgent need to 'decarbonise' the Australian economy and play our part in avoiding catastrophic climate change, endorse a just and orderly transition in Australia from fossil fuels to renewable energy, calling on:

- Political parties, unions and industry to work together to ensure a just and orderly clean energy transition;
- Political parties to deliver a stable policy environment and active intervention in local economies to ensure exposed communities are not left behind by the inevitable international shift in the energy sector away from fossil fuels;
- Political parties to support structural adjustment strategies and investment for communities impacted by change in the energy sector, that protects workers through a managed and predictable process of change ; and
- Stakeholders and political leadership to work together to deliver investment confidence, optimism and certainty for workers as we shift to a low carbon economy.

Moved Keith Muir

Seconded: Janine Kitson

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write letters in line with the motion.

D. Population & Consumption

Preamble

In line with the Nature Conservation Council's *'Ecologically Sustainable Population and Nature Policy 2011'*, the Executive via the Sustainable Population Committee redrafted several population motions originally submitted to the 2014 Annual Conference.

In addition, Sustainable Population Australia (NSW Branch) has submitted additional motion text, also in accord with that Policy.

Motion 2015/D1

Federal responsibility for sustainable population

Submitted by the Executive: Sustainable Population Committee

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the Federal Government to allocate ministerial responsibility for driving discussions about achieving a sustainable population in Australia. This responsibility should be oriented towards addressing the effects of increasing population, including individual consumption rates, on the environment.

Moved: Annie Nielsen

Seconded: Rob Pallin

Carried

Motion 2015/D1A

Ministerial portfolio for Environment and Sustainable Population

Submitted by Sustainable Population Australia (NSW Branch) Inc.

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Federal Government to re-introduce a ministerial portfolio which includes 'population' by name, through which the Australian public can hold the Federal Government accountable for matters relating to population, and request that such a portfolio be oriented towards addressing the effects of increasing population on the environment.

Moved: Nola Stewart

Seconded: Jenni Gormley

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Federal Government as per the above motions.

Motion 2015/D2

Incentives for sustainable population

Submitted by the Executive: Sustainable Population Committee and Sustainable Population Australia (NSW Branch) Inc.

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the Federal Government to take a lead in the matter of sustainable population as it impacts the environment both locally and globally, by:

- (a) Increasing that component of its foreign aid programme which educates and empowers women and improves their role in decision-making;
- (b) Removing financial incentives which may act to promote the natural increase of Australia's internal population; and
- (c) Giving people in developing countries access to a family planning advice and assistance programme, so they may be more on a par with their counterparts in the developed world.

Moved: Nola Stewart

Seconded: Jill Green *Carried*

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write letters as per the motion (motions D2 and D2A were merged).

Motion 2015/D3

Federal strategy for sustainable population and consumption rates

Submitted by the Executive: Sustainable Population Committee

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Federal Government to develop a strategy that identifies a sustainable population target and associated consumption per capita, and to outline how it will reach this target while continuing to meet Australia's international obligations to support humanitarian immigration as well as develop a timeline for the strategy's implementation.

(Note: The word 'humanitarian' as used here covers refugees, asylum seekers, climate refugees and others taken in for humanitarian reasons.)

Moved: Annie Nielsen

Seconded: Jenni Gormley *Carried*

Motion 2015/D3A

Reduction of Net Overseas Migration

Submitted by Sustainable Population Australia (NSW Branch) Inc.

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the Federal Government to cap Net Overseas Migration (NOM) arrivals to 70,000 per year, while increasing the humanitarian component, over the next 5 years so that

Australia's population can stabilise and hence reduce further degradation to our natural environment through reducing total consumption of resources. At the same time, the humanitarian component of Net Overseas Migration, including Climate Change refugees, should be increased.

Moved: Nola Stewart
Seconded: Noel Plumb *Carried*

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write letters as per the motions.

Motion 2015/D4

Strategies to reduce Australia's high per capita consumption rates

Submitted by the Executive: Sustainable Population Committee

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the Federal and State governments to implement strategies to reduce the high per capita consumption, especially of non-renewable resources, by Australians, while simultaneously supporting a high quality of life and well-being.

Moved: Annie Nielsen
Seconded: Jenni Minifie *Carried*

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

E. Biodiversity Conservation

Motion 2015/E1

Review of State Environment Planning Policy 44-Koala Habitat Protection

Submitted by the Friends of the Koala Inc.

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the NSW Government to undertake a comprehensive review and update of State Environment Planning Policy 44 - Koala Habitat Protection (SEPP 44), specifically to ensure it is retained and that Schedule 2 (Feed Tree Species) and definitions are brought into line with the latest scientific information in respect of koala food trees and habitat usage, removing any legal ambiguity regarding the development and implementation of both Individual and Comprehensive Koala Plans of Management.

Moved: Lorraine Vass
Seconded: Julie Allen *Carried*

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write letters as per the motion and arrange meetings with the Ministers for Environment and Planning.

Motion 2015/E2
Cumberland Conservation Corridor

Submitted by the Ryde Environment Group and Blacktown and District Environment Group

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW make urgent representations to the NSW Ministers for Planning and Environment, requesting that the Department of Planning and Environment include the Cumberland Conservation Corridor in the District Plan for Western Sydney, now in preparation.

Moved: Noel Plumb

Seconded: Antony Lewis

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to urgently write to the NSW Minister for Planning and Environment, with copies to be sent to the Federal Minister for Environment and relevant Local Government Councils. NCC to also consider providing technical support to community and environment groups to help design an ongoing and focused campaign to achieve the Cumberland Conservation Corridor.

Motion 2015/E3
The Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Standing) Bill 2015

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW oppose the removal of the open standing provisions (section 487) from the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999.

Moved: Keith Muir

Seconded: Janine Kitson

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Prime Minister requesting that open standing provisions under EPBC Act be retained.

Motion 2015/E4
Proposed Pine Creek Koala Information and Research Centre
Submitted by the Bellingen Environment Centre (BEC)

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW support the establishment of the Koala Information and Research Centre proposed by Bellingen Environment Centre within Pine Creek State Forest, (Compartment 15, flooded gum plantation), adjacent to the Pacific Highway.

Moved: Leif Lemke

Seconded: Jim Morrison

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the NSW Premier, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Primary Industry, Lands and Water and the Federal

Minister for the Environment, seeking support for the proposed Koala Information and Research Centre.

Motion 2015/E5

Water course protection

Submitted by the Bellingen Environment Centre (BEC)

THAT all public land on steep slopes in NSW greater than 18 degrees be reserved for wildlife conservation.

(Note: 18 degrees is used by both the NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW Soil Conservation Service).

Moved: Noel Plumb

Seconded: Jenni Gormley

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the NSW Government in line with the motion.

F. FORESTRY ISSUES

Motion 2015/F1

Stage 1 of the proposed the Great Koala National Park

Submitted by the Bellingen Environment Centre

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW support the immediate establishment of Stage 1 of the proposed the Great Koala National Park (GKNP) over the area recently withdrawn from the 'IFOA remake' that was proposed for cable logging, noting that it is NCC position that there be an end to native forest logging on public lands.

Moved: Noel Plumb

Seconded: Janine Kitson

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the NSW Premier, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Primary Industry, Lands and Water and the Federal Minister for the Environment, seeking support for the proposed Stage 1 of the GKNP. As a pre-election request from the peak NSW environment groups, NCC to follow up on the GKNP proposal as opportunities arise.

Motion 2015/F2

Unsustainable wood supply quotas in the Pilliga Forests

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, noting that it is NCC position that there be an end to native forest logging on public lands, request the NSW Government to:

- (a) Purchase wood supply quotas under the Brigalow Belt South Integrated Forest Approval so as to remove pressure to over log the Pilliga Woodlands;

- (b) recommit to not logging state conservation areas or national parks; and
- (c) reject the 2014 Natural Resources Commission recommendations to log the Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas.

Moved: Keith Muir

Seconded: Noel Plumb *Carried*

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

Motion 2015/F3

Protecting Native Forest Carbon Storage

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- (a) Oppose the development of stand-alone native forest bio-material power plants and seek regulations that limit the co-firing of forest materials in power plants to plantation and sawmill wastes;
- (b) Request that the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Amendment (Native Forest Bio-material) Regulation, 2013 be amended to make it illegal to burn native forests for electricity generation or the production of biofuels; and
- (c) Urge the Federal Government not to permit the burning of native forest wood under the provisions of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act, 2000.

Moved Keith Muir

Seconded: Jim Morrison *Carried*

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

G. National Parks, Protected & Natural Areas

Motion 2015/G1

Sports fields and Berowra Valley National Park

Submitted by the Friends of Berowra Valley in conjunction with Hornsby Conservation Society

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW insist that the NSW Government reject recent moves to excise land from national parks for use as sports fields managed by local councils.

Moved: Bob Salt

Seconded: Jenni Gormley *Carried*

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Premier and NSW Environment Minister, as well as the Opposition Leader and appropriate Shadow Ministers, in line with the motion.

Motion 2015/G2

Kanangra to Katoomba Walk

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd.

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW oppose development of a Kanangra to Katoomba commercial walk or 'iconic' walk through the Kanangra-Boyd Wilderness with its proposed suspension bridge over the Coxs River, signage within the wilderness and 'sleeping platforms'.

Moved: Keith Muir

Seconded: Anne Reeves

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Minister for the Environment seeking his assurance that the Kanangra to Katoomba walk will be managed without infrastructure development in order to retain the wilderness values of the area.

Motion 2015/G3

Reaffirmation of wilderness values

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, reaffirming the role of wilderness in natural area management, urge that wilderness protection and management be retained as a cornerstone of the NSW reserve system.

Moved: Keith Muir

Seconded: Janine Kitson

Carried Unanimously

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

Motion 2015/G4

Further protection for the Gardens of Stone

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the NSW Government take the necessary steps to:

- (a) protect all heritage values in the Gardens of Stone Region when Government authorities assess and make recommendations in relation to major projects; and
- (b) reserve as soon as possible, the entire Gardens of Stone Stage Two reserve proposal in a State Conservation Area.

Moved: Keith Muir

Seconded: Julie Allen

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Premier of NSW requesting that his administration protect the Gardens of Stone region as per the motion.

Motion 2015/G5

Restore NSW leadership in marine conservation

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW Inc.

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

- (a) restore full protection to the 10 remaining marine sanctuary sites at risk of rezoning as part of the Beaches and Headlands assessment process, recognising that marine sanctuaries are an important tool for preserving marine biodiversity and ensuring fish for the future; and
- (b) restore NSW to a position of leadership in marine protection and management by establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative marine park for Sydney in this term of Government, which will fill one of the important and recognised gaps in marine protected areas in the NSW marine environment.

Moved: Anne Reeves

Seconded: Patrick Medway

Carried Unanimously

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the NSW Premier, Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Environment and respective shadows, in line with motion.

Motion 2015/G6

Expedite Measures to Clean Up the Wollangambe River

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- (a) call on the Minister for the Environment to expedite and rigorously pursue EPA Clean Up Notice 1532719 of August 18, 2015, so that Centennial Coal removes all coal fines from the Wollangambe River in the Wollemi, the largest protected wilderness in NSW; and
- (b) reiterate Annual Conference resolution 2014/H4 that seeks the restoration of the Wollangambe River given the lack of progress on the review of the Environment Protection Licence for the Clarence Mine.

Moved: Keith Muir

Seconded: Sierra Classen

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Minister for the Environment seeking an immediate remedy to serious harm inflicted on the Wollangambe River by Centennial Coal's Clarence Mine.

Motion 2015/G7

Wilderness horse riding trial

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call for the horse riding trial in declared wilderness to be immediately terminated due to its incompatibility with the principles of wilderness and the trial's association with illegal activities.

Moved: Keith Muir

Seconded: Janine Kitson

Carried

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

Motion 2015/G8

Protection for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW urge the Prime Minister and to the Premier of Tasmania to:

- (a) retain, and where possible, expand the current wilderness zone within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area;
- (b) prohibit logging and mining on all public lands in the World Heritage Area; and
- (c) take the steps necessary to include all parts of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area in national parks.

Moved: Keith Muir

Seconded: Noel Plumb

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: As per the motion.

Motion 2015/G9

Save the Tarkine Wilderness

Submitted by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW support national park reservation and World Heritage listing for Tasmania's 450,000 hectare Tarkine region in order to protect its outstanding wilderness values, including those within the Norfolk Range, Mt Bertha, the Meredith Range and the Savage River system.

Moved: Keith Muir

Seconded: Sierra Classen

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition requesting that the Tarkine Wilderness Region be inscribed on the

National Heritage List, as a first step toward World Heritage listing for the region. NCC to also write to the Tasmanian Premier and Opposition Leader requesting that the entire Tarkine Wilderness Region be reserved as a national park.

H. LATE MOTIONS

Motion 2015/L1

Conservation of former Scout land, Spring Gully, Bundeena

Submitted by the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the NSW government to adopt the recommendation of Sutherland Shire Council and acquire the former Scout land, Spring Gully, Bundeena for addition to the Royal National Park.

Moved: Jenny Gormley

Seconded: Anne Reeves

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the NSW Minister for the Environment and the NSW Minister for planning seeking that the NSW government implement Sutherland Shire Council's recommendation that the former Scout land, Spring Gully, Bundeena (Lot 3 DP213924) be acquired for addition to the Royal National Park and that the Sutherland Shire Local Environment Plan 2015 be amended to include the land on the land reservation acquisition map for this purpose.

Motion 2015/L2

No new road in the Royal National Park

Submitted by the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Minister for the Environment to refuse the proposal for road access through the Royal National Park to facilitate development of the former Scout land at Spring Gully, Bundeena.

Moved: Jenny Gormley

Seconded: Anne Reeves

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to write to the NSW Minister for the Environment seeking refusal of the proposal for a new road through the Royal National Park to facilitate a recreation camp development on the former Scout land, Spring Gully, Bundeena and call for public exhibition of the proposal, an environmental impact statement and the required amendments to the Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park and Garawarra State Recreation Area Plan of Management 2000.

Motion 2015/L3

Paucity of large predators in NSW and increased numbers of introduced meso-predators

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW Inc.

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW raise its concerns to the NSW Government about the paucity of the large predators including dingoes in NSW and Australia more broadly, and the flow-on ecological effects including the increased numbers of introduced meso-predators and the overgrazing of native vegetation.

FURTHER THAT in relation to the dingo, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW:

- a) stress that the dingo should be the focus of conservation efforts, not persecution, especially in protected areas;
- b) urge that farmers be assisted in protecting livestock in ways that are non-lethal to dingoes and preserve their pack structure;
- c) support the implementation of the peer-reviewed suggestion that the dingo fence be moved to the south of the Sturt National Park to assess the dingo's ecological role; and
- d) support a trial release of Tasmanian Devils to assess their influence as a potential regulator of introduced meso-predators.

(Note: This motion was referred to the NCC Executive for further work without going to a vote).

Motion 2015/L4

Protection for North Lismore Plateau

Submitted by the North Lismore Plateau Protection Association Inc.

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call on the Minister for Planning and Development to rezone North Lismore Plateau so it is protected from any further building applications by Lismore City Council and/or developers.

Moved: Julie Allen

Seconded: Jim Morrison Carried

(Note: The Conference approved the intent of this motion, but referred it to the NCC Executive for further work on the wording).

I. URGENCY MOTIONS

1. Biodiversity Funding

Submitted by the National Parks Association of NSW Inc.

THAT the Nature Conservation Council of NSW co-ordinate fundraising as soon as possible to enable employment of a Biodiversity Campaign Officer to advocate and raise public awareness for stronger laws for nature conservation, in the light of the proposed new *Biodiversity Conservation Act* .

Moved: Anne Reeves

Seconded: Bruce Welch

Carried

PROPOSED ACTION: NCC to progress in conjunction with the team who are currently working, on biodiversity legislation but lack needed campaign support.

NSW ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2015

The NSW Environment Awards were presented on Saturday 24 October by Prof. Don White, Chair of the Nature Conservation Council, and Kate Smolski, Chief Executive Officer.

Marie Byles Award

For the most outstanding environmental campaign

2015 Winner: The Upper Mooki Landcare Group

The Community Action Award

For the most inspiring community action initiative

2015 Winner: Groundswell Gloucester

The Ziggy Megne Volunteer for the Environment Award

For voluntary contribution to conservation over a long period of time

2015 Winner: Bill Ryan

The Rising Star Award

For the most outstanding new campaigner under the age of 30

2015 Winner: Harrison Burkitt

The Nature Conservation Council Member Group Award

For the most outstanding NCC Member Group

2015 Winner: Bellingen Environment Centre

The Dunphy Award

For most outstanding environmental effort of an individual

2015 Joint winners: Keith Muir, OAM and Mark Selmes

The Allen Strom Hall of Fame Award

For long-standing service and commitment to the conservation movement

2014 Winner: Anne Reeves, OAM

Our heartfelt thanks go to our generous and wonderful sponsors for helping make the NSW Environment Awards such a success.





For more information on this year's awards, go to:
<http://www.nature.org.au/about/governance/annual-conferences/2015-nsw-environment-awards/>

The 2015 Annual Conference Minutes can be downloaded at:
www.nature.org.au/about/governance/annual-conferences/