

NSW State Election 2015

Environment Policy Comparison



NSW is home to an extraordinary diversity of wildlife, plants, and living landscapes. Our lifestyles are the envy of the world, and our beaches, forests, and bushland are world class, yet this intricate web of life is fraying. Nature is in crisis.

It is in this context that nine leading conservation organisations produced *Our Environment, Our Future: Policies for the 2015 NSW election and beyond*, a report that outlines 25 commonsense policies we believe must be implemented during the next term of government.

The organisations that compiled the report are the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, National Parks Association of NSW, Total Environment Centre, The Wilderness Society, Blue Mountains Conservation Society, Colong Foundation for Wilderness, North Coast Environment Council, Central West Environment Council, and the South East Regional Conservation Alliance.

In this policy compendium, we compare the Coalition, Labor and Greens parties' 2015 state election commitments to the policy prescriptions detailed in *Our Environment, Our Future*.

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDERNESS

OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR FUTURE¹ Policy document of NSW leading environment groups ²	NSW Coalition	NSW Labor	NSW Greens
The reservation of new parks and wilderness areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an Everlasting Swamp National Park and expand the Gwydir Wetlands State Conservation Area and Doodle Comer Swamp Nature Reserve.³ • Will protect The Drip in the Goulburn River National Park.⁴ • Allocate \$8 million in conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Great Koala National Park, combining 176,000 hectares of state forest with 140,000 hectares of existing protected areas.⁸ • Allocate \$150 million over 4 years to the creation of new National Parks⁹ including Paroo Darling NP, seabird nesting areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore Environment as a standalone department, to be a stronger national parks defender.¹⁰ • Fast track all NSW reserves assessed as qualifying for World Heritage Listing, such as including Whian Whian and Mount Jerusalem in the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia

	<p>connectivity funding along the Great Eastern Ranges corridor and an additional \$300,000 over two years to develop long term planning and sustainable funding.⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports conversion of Malabar headland to National Park.⁶ • Announced the acquisition of land at Bambara Road for addition to Brisbane Water National Park.⁷ 	and the NSW National Park Establishment Plan's priorities.	<p>World Heritage area.¹¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reservation of at-risk and high conservation areas that are under imminent threat from CSG and expansion of coal mining, such as the Gardens of Stone near Lithgow, and the Pilliga and Leard State Forests near Narrabri.¹² • Declare all high conservation value State Forests as National Parks.¹³
Fully and timely implementation of the NSW National Parks Establishment Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently seeking comment on a draft Direction Statement for National Park Establishment.¹⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct the National Parks and Wildlife Service to develop funded reserve proposals and a plan for progressing the implementation of the NSW National Parks Establishment Plan.¹⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a National Parks committee with representatives from the community and environmental organisations to establish a priority list for National Park reservations, including a facility for public nomination of protected areas.¹⁶
Management of national parks and wilderness to maintain and where necessary restore ecological integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banned smoking in national parks.¹⁷ • Currently trialling horse riding in wilderness areas.¹⁸ • Currently trialling grazing in National Parks.¹⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a taskforce of experts to consider how to ensure National Parks can most effectively protect their natural values.²⁰ • Not permit commercial logging, amateur hunting or grazing of hoofed animals in the national parks estate.²¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop amateur shooting in National Parks by cancelling the Supplementary Shooting Program and reallocating the more than \$19 million to invasive species control managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.²² • Introduce legislative bans on grazing, logging, mining and other activities inconsistent with the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, within the national parks estate and other protected areas.²³

FORESTS WOODLANDS AND WILDLIFE

<u>OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR FUTURE</u> Policy document of NSW leading environment groups	NSW Coalition	NSW Labor	NSW Greens
Improved protection for forests, woodland and wildlife			
<i>Biodiversity Laws</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will repeal the Native Vegetation Act, Threatened Species Conservation Act, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to strong land clearing law, and in particular the Native Vegetation Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain existing biodiversity laws, including the Native Vegetation Act.²⁹

	<p>Nature Conservation Trust Act, and parts of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.²⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to implement the recommendations of the Biodiversity Review Panel including creating a new Biodiversity Conservation Act.²⁵ • Allocate \$100 million for the Saving Our Species program to protect threatened animals and plants, and reverse species loss.²⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate funding is available to increase compliance and to educate and work cooperatively with farmers.²⁷ • Commits to not take a backward step on environmental protections in Native Vegetation Act, Threatened Species Conservation Act and the Nature Conservation Trust Act.²⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes biodiversity offsetting³⁰ and introduced disallowance of the weakening of Native Vegetation Regulations in 2013.³¹
<i>Steep Slope Cable Logging</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failed to rule out steep slopes cable logging.³² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will ban cable logging in NSW.³³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to cable logging.³⁴
<i>10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced the 10/50 vegetation clearing code in 2014, has made changes to Code in response to community concerns yet has failed to commit to immediate repeal of the Code.³⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports an immediate suspension of the 10/50 vegetation clearing code, in metropolitan Sydney.³⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed the 10/50 code in parliament³⁷ and call for the scrapping of the 10/50 vegetation clearing code.³⁸
<i>Horse riding in wilderness areas</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently conducting trials of horse-riding in wilderness areas.³⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to horse riding in wilderness areas.⁴⁰ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicly raised concerns about horse riding in wilderness areas.⁴¹
<i>Urban Bushland</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will fund an Urban Habitat Renewal grant pool with \$5 million over four years to help preserve bushland from urban sprawl.⁴² • Will establish a Western Sydney 'superpark.'⁴³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announced increased protection for Mrs Macquarie's Chair.⁴⁴ • Committed to protecting Lot 490 in the Tweed.⁴⁵ • Will consider an alternate route for the Pacific Highway upgrade near Ballina.⁴⁶ • The Greater Sydney Commission will work with Councils to identify city wide priority bushlands. Integrated planning across the city will have protection of green spaces as a core principle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaigned against threats to urban bushland including privatisation and/or damage to places such as at Centennial Park⁴⁷, Sydney Park⁴⁸, Ashfield Park⁴⁹ and the Botanical Gardens.⁵⁰ • Commitment to defend urban bushland.⁵¹
Restoration of the prohibition of burning native forests for electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed regulation to allow the burning of biomaterial for power generation.⁵² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstated the prohibition on burning native forests and cleared vegetation for electricity.⁵³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicly opposed to the burning native forests for electricity.^{54 55}
Firm commitment and clear timeline for a transition from native forest logging into sustainable plantations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to work with Federal Government to identify tax incentives for industry to invest in hardwood plantations.⁵⁶ 	<p>Commits to several reforms for managing and improving native forest logging, including⁵⁷:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • banning cable logging in NSW; • ensuring no wind back of Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs); 	<p>The Greens 2015 Forest Package⁵⁸ commits to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End to all logging and mining in State Native Forests by 2016; 2. Immediately transfer high conservation value State Native Forest to the National Park estate;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing penalties for forestry breaches ten-fold and re-introduce third party appeal rights; • opposing the Abbott Government’s attempts to “roll over” the Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) without a full scientific and economic review. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The balance of State Native Forest to be managed by Department of Environment so that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Environmental values are highest priority; b. Wildlife corridors are reforested and protected; c. Recreational activities consistent with environmental values are promoted; and d. Eco-tourism and Aboriginal cultural activities are promoted. 4. An \$80 million 4 year transition package for timber workers and communities impacted by the end of native forestry operations. 5. Invest plantation forestry profits in increased planting for both soft-wood and hardwood timber. 6. Invest \$40 million over 4 years in forestry-related tourism and recreation grant scheme to promote access to, and investment in, the remaining State Forest estate.
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MARINE CONSERVATION

OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR FUTURE Policy document of NSW leading environment groups	NSW Coalition	NSW Labor	NSW Greens
Returning marine sanctuaries to areas protected from extractive activities like fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restored protection to 20 marine sanctuaries, commits to rezone remaining 10 sanctuaries to consider weakening or retaining protection, following community consultation⁵⁹. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to restore marine sanctuaries to full protection, so they again become areas where wildlife and habitats are protected.⁶⁰ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to restore marine sanctuaries to full protection.⁶¹

<p>Improving the network of marine parks by ending trawling in all marine parks and establishing a Sydney Marine Park with a network of no-take sanctuaries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commenced a study to assess the greater Sydney marine region, involving a comprehensive assessment of the Hawkesbury Shelf bioregion, which extends from Newcastle to Wollongong and includes Sydney Harbour, Broken Bay, Botany Bay and Port Hacking.⁶² • Monitoring and research from key sites will be used to inform decision making on the creation of an integrated marine protected area along the metropolitan coast by 2016.⁶³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to create a dedicated Sydney Marine Park, including sanctuaries zones, extending from Pittwater to Port Hacking, will establish an advisory board to design effective management strategies for the park.⁶⁴ • Commits to lift the moratorium on the creation on any new marine parks.⁶⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to create a Sydney Marine Park⁶⁶ • Sought legislative amendments stating that sanctuaries can only be increased and not decreased.⁶⁷
<p>Prohibiting targeted shark fishing, removing shark nets from NSW beaches and establish marine sanctuary zones around Grey Nurse Shark habitat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announced a trial of non-lethal shark control methods to improve beach safety.⁶⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to immediately reinstate protections on the state's mid north coast for the critically endangered Grey Nurse Shark.⁶⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to the removal of shark nets⁷⁰ • Will pursue legislation to prohibit shark fins being prepared in New South Wales restaurants.⁷¹ • Support protections for Grey Nurse Shark Habitat.⁷²
<p>Establish a framework and timeline to implement ecosystem based and precautionary fisheries management and conduct annual Status of Fishery Resource Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not accept a recommendation of a parliamentary inquiry to re-open the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre.⁷³ • Failed to commit to publishing annual Fishery Status Reports, instead implementing Annual Resource Assessment Workshop (RAW) which brings experts together to consider available data and advise on necessary changes. Fisheries information is continuously updated by DPI Fisheries staff.⁷⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed the closure of the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre because it undermined the Government's ability to regularly audit fish stocks.⁷⁵ • Commits to ensure regular Status of Fishery Resource Reports are completed and their data incorporated into policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will introduce legislated targets of a minimum of 30 per cent of each representative marine ecosystem and bioregion being fully protected in no-take sanctuary zones to ensure that a Comprehensive Adequate and Representative (CAR) regime can be implemented across the state.⁷⁶

RIVERS AND WETLANDS

OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR FUTURE Policy document of NSW leading environment groups	NSW Coalition	NSW Labor	NSW Greens
Water management policy that includes the improvement of river and wetland health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announced \$3.2 million for new projects to manage, enhance and protect NSW coasts and estuaries.⁷⁷ Will review the Coastal Protection Act and reinstate the NSW Coastal Council.⁷⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commits to: establishing a Healthy Rivers Commission⁷⁹ to assess the health of NSW rivers and propose solutions for managing them into the future. reviewing all Acts, policies and planning policies relating to river health, coastal health and connections between the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.⁸⁰ Will set up an independent NSW Coastal Council to provide oversight on coastal policy development.⁸¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announced a Darling River Policy Initiative to revive the Darling River.⁸² Will establish a well-funded agency dedicated to the coordinated management, restoration and protection of wetlands; and for the revision and extension of SEPP 14 to include all significant wetlands, such as hanging swamps, including stronger planning controls over developments which impact wetlands.⁸³
Prohibition on coal seam gas exploration and extraction that threatens inland and coastal groundwater systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancelled petroleum exploration licences (PEL) 437 and 476, covering about 15,600 square kilometres in northern NSW.⁸⁴ Cancelled PEL 459 which covers 556,000 hectares between Armidale, Gunnedah, Narrabri and south-east of Moree, PEL 464, covering approximately 78,000 hectares of land south-east of Boggabri⁸⁵, and PEL 5 covering approximately 40,000 hectares on the Central Coast.⁸⁶ Cancelled PELs 454, 444 and 422 covering parts of Sydney's drinking water catchment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will impose an immediate moratorium on all CSG activity in the state. The moratorium will remain in place until all the recommendations of the Chief Scientist have been addressed and there is a consensus that it is safe to proceed.⁸⁷ Will permanently rule out CSG in the core areas of the Sydney and Central Coast Water Catchments and other defined water catchment areas, as well as the Pilliga forest⁸⁹ and the entire Northern Rivers region.⁹⁰ Announced a coal seam gas policy for the Central Coast which includes an immediate moratorium on coal seam gas activity, defined no-go zones surrounding residential areas and national parks and a permanent ban on coal seam gas in core drinking water catchments.⁹¹ Create 1km buffers around National Parks and RAMSAR listed wetlands and 2km buffers, above and below ground around 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will implement a permanent ban all coal seam gas mining.⁹³

		residential areas. ⁹²	
Reforms to water regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announced the merger of the Sydney Water and the Sydney Catchment Authority.⁹⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposed the merger of the Sydney Water and the Sydney Catchment Authority⁹⁵ Opposes privatisation of water management.⁹⁶ Fresh water management will be considered by the Healthy Rivers Commission.⁹⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposed the merger of the Sydney Water and the Sydney Catchment Authority.⁹⁸ Opposes privatisation of water management.⁹⁹

CLIMATE AND ENERGY

OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR FUTURE Policy document of NSW leading environment groups	NSW Coalition	NSW Labor	NSW Greens
<p>Make our economy more competitive and less polluting by implementing proven measures to improve commercial and industrial energy efficiency</p> <p>Reduce pollution and deliver employment in regional areas by providing funding and a stable investment environment for renewable energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announced a \$61.5 million Energy Efficiency Action Plan.¹⁰⁰ Announced a Government Resource Efficiency Policy to reduce the state government's energy and water use, improve waste management and deliver cleaner air.¹⁰¹ Announced a renewable energy action plan that supports the achievement of the national target of 20% renewable energy by 2020 and proposes to attract renewable energy investment, build community support and attract and grow renewable energy expertise.¹⁰² 	<p>Commits to a 10 point plan¹⁰³ that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilitating the establishment of an Australian-first market that allows electricity customers to trade energy savings into the wholesale electricity market, creating downward pressure on peak demand; installing energy efficient lighting to all public hospitals; legislating a 20per cent by 2020 NSW renewable energy target;¹⁰⁴ establishing a Renewable Energy Hub in the Hunter region;¹⁰⁵ removing the Coalition Government's restrictions on approvals for wind farm developments;¹⁰⁶ establishing an Office of Renewables within the department of Premier and Cabinet; initiating a national framework for the decommissioning of obsolete coal 	<p>Commits to a renewable energy package to transition NSW to 100per cent renewable energy¹⁰⁷ that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The creation of public sector energy agencies to provide financial support and technical advice to households and small business and direct assistance to the low income and vulnerable; A new partnership with households to support the transition away from coal-fired electricity and gas and to help finance rooftop solar, energy efficient equipment and intelligent energy trading and management; Investment in a "smart grid" that allows households and businesses to buy and sell clean energy, including roof top solar and regional and state-wide wind power; Maintaining the wires and poles in public hands to allow for the transition to a 21st century grid that is focused on renewable

		<p>generation plants;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing consumer protection for solar households and mandate a fair price for householders' excess solar electricity; • will purchase electricity for NSW Government departments and agencies from renewable sources, where possible. 	<p>energy and local energy trading;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing State legislation to insulate NSW's current and future renewable energy generators against any reduction in the federal government's Renewable Energy Target;¹⁰⁸ • Opposing the Government's draft wind farm planning guidelines and providing a more effective and transparent development assessment pathway;¹⁰⁹ • Phasing out coal fired power stations.
<p>Protect carbon rich ecosystems by strengthening land clearing laws and ending native forest logging</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No clear policy position to protect carbon rich ecosystems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to not weakening environmental legislation including logging regulations.¹¹⁰ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports strengthened land clearing laws.¹¹¹ • Will immediately halt clearing of the Leard state forest.¹¹²

COAL AND GAS

<u>OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR FUTURE</u> Policy document of NSW leading environment groups	NSW Coalition	NSW Labor	NSW Greens
Enforcing coal and gas no-go zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancelled 12 petroleum exploration licences that covered more than 2,941,081 hectares of NSW,¹¹³ including over parts of Sydney's drinking water catchment and in other parts of the state, though others remain.¹¹⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to an immediate moratorium on CSG in NSW. • Will permanently rule out CSG in the core areas of the Sydney and Central Coast Water Catchments and other defined water catchment areas, as well as the Pilliga forest¹¹⁵ and the entire Northern Rivers region.¹¹⁷ • Announced a coal seam gas policy for the Central Coast which includes an immediate moratorium on coal seam gas activity, defined no-go zones surrounding residential areas and national parks and a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will implement a permanent ban all coal seam gas mining.¹²¹ • Will phase out coal mining in NSW.¹²²

		<p>permanent ban on coal seam gas in core drinking water catchments.¹¹⁸</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create 1km buffers around National Parks and RAMSAR listed wetlands and 2km buffers, above and below ground around residential areas.¹¹⁹ • Commit to ban coal mining at the proposed site of the Wallarah 2 coalmine.¹²⁰ 	
Implement ICAC's recommendations for tighter controls on mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to implement, either directly or with alternative methods, the 26 recommendations of the ICAC report on corruption and mining approvals.¹²³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to implement all 26 recommendations of the ICAC report on corruption and mining approvals.¹²⁴ 	<p>Commits to implement all 26 ICAC recommendations and to introduce them as amendments to the Mining and Petroleum Acts.¹²⁵</p>
Impose clear limits on pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict conditions for pollution are included in environment protection licences issued by the Environment Protection Authority.¹²⁶ • Commenced the Dust Stop Pollution Reduction Program for coal mines.¹²⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to implement the Upper House Inquiry's recommendations on EPA governance.¹²⁸ • Will ask the Chief Scientist to investigate coal dust pollution. Will adopt the Chief Scientist's recommendations.¹²⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to a range of amendments relating to pollution control in the Upper House Inquiry into the Environmental Protection Agency.¹³⁰ • Commits to the washing and covering of coal wagons.¹³¹

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

<u>OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR FUTURE</u> Policy document of NSW leading environment groups	NSW Coalition	NSW Labor	NSW Greens
A clear commitment to ecologically sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not support a Greens motion in NSW Parliament for the NSW Government to recommit to ecologically sustainable development (ESD) principles in legislation and decision-making processes¹³² • Subsequently, has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inserted ESD as a key objective in the 2014 Marine Estate Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to ecologically sustainable development. • Supported the Greens motion in NSW Parliament for the NSW Government to recommit to ecologically sustainable development principles in legislation and decision-making processes.¹³⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to ecologically sustainable development. • Moved a motion in NSW Parliament for the NSW Government to recommit to ecologically sustainable development principles in legislation and decision-making processes.¹³⁶ • Will restore a standalone Department of

	<p>Act;¹³³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applied the principles of ecologically sustainable development in the NSW Government's Government Resource Efficiency Policy, Renewable Energy Action Plan and Energy Savings Scheme.¹³⁴ 		<p>Environment, with a focus on addressing climate change and ensuring decision-making processes are underpinned by the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development.¹³⁷</p>
<p>A planning framework that maintains the natural environment and supports community well-being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced a Planning Bill 2013 that was strongly opposed by environment and community groups.¹³⁸ • Abolished Part 3A of the <i>Environmental Planning & Assessment Act</i> and moved approximately 60 pending Part 3A applications to local Councils.¹³⁹ • Doubled the threshold for projects determined by the independent Joint Regional Planning Panels to \$20 million, handing more decision-making power back to local communities through councils.¹⁴⁰ • Introduced provisions to the Mining SEPP that make the economic value of a resource the primary consideration for decision makers.¹⁴¹ • Has failed to sign on to the Community Charter for Good Planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed on to the Community Charter for Good Planning.¹⁴² • Sought and supported significance amendments to the Planning Bill 2013 to improve environmental and community outcomes.¹⁴³ • Would repeal the provisions of the Mining SEPP that give economic considerations of major projects the highest priority about the community and environment.¹⁴⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed on to the Community Charter for Good Planning.¹⁴⁵ • Sought and supported significance amendments to the Planning Bill 2013 to improve environmental and community outcomes. • Launched planning policy focussed on returning planning powers to communities.¹⁴⁶ • Would repeal the provisions of the Mining SEPP that give economic considerations of major projects the highest priority about the community and environment.¹⁴⁷
<p>Clear mechanisms for increased transparency and accountability in environment planning decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has introduced requirements for Minister's diaries to be made public.¹⁴⁸ • Has indicated its intention to implement, either directly or with alternative methods, the 26 recommendations of the ICAC report.¹⁴⁹ • Toughened regulation of election funding and special measures for the 2015 state election.¹⁵⁰ • Petitions carrying over 10,000 signatures can now be brought to parliament, for communities to directly contribute to the parliamentary agenda.¹⁵¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to implement all 26 recommendations of the ICAC report on corruption and mining approvals.¹⁵² 	<p>Commits to a 5 point anti-corruption plan¹⁵³ to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislate for clear statutory offences for bribery, misconduct and corruption; • Provide for the potential seizure of unexplained wealth accumulated by Members of Parliament; • Impose a five year cooling off period before Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and senior bureaucrats can work for companies that operate in the industries they had previously regulated; • Deliver lobbying transparency; all lobbying of ministers, parliamentary secretaries,

			<p>ministerial staff and public servants should be minuted and those minutes made publicly available online;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impose a ban on political donations; • The Greens would also seek to have ecological experts accredited and ensure that consultants brought in to assess environmental impacts of major projects operated "independent of proponents."¹⁵⁴
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WASTE AND POLLUTION

<p>OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR FUTURE Policy document of NSW leading environment groups</p>	<p>NSW Coalition</p>	<p>NSW Labor</p>	<p>NSW Greens</p>
<p>Legislation for a state based container deposit scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to a NSW Container Deposit Scheme by 2017.¹⁵⁵ • Convened a working group to phase out microbeads from personal care products in NSW by 2016.¹⁵⁶ • Called for a national ban on microbeads.¹⁵⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits bi-partisan support for the creation of a Container Deposit Scheme in NSW.¹⁵⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits support for a container deposit scheme and introduced a bill for container deposit scheme in 2012.^{159 160}
<p>Continued regulatory and compliance action against rogue operators in the used tyre and construction and demolition waste areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced requirements for the tracking of waste tyres and asbestos in NSW.¹⁶¹ • Introduced requirements for the tracking of waste travelling interstate.¹⁶² • Reduced licensing thresholds for the storage of waste tyres and waste storage.¹⁶³ • Enacted the 'proximity principle' to address the environmental and human health impacts from the unnecessary transport of waste.¹⁶⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Illegal Waste Disposal) Bill.¹⁶⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Illegal Waste Disposal) Bill.¹⁶⁶

<p>Demand federal government enact regulations for the introduction of the highest emission standards for passenger and commercial motor vehicles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the adoption of current international standards for on road vehicles to support air quality goals.¹⁶⁷ • Committed to improve minimum fuel efficiency standards for new Government light vehicles so that the average Government purchase is at least the market average fuel efficiency by vehicle category by July 2017.¹⁶⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to act constructively in COAG processes to improve national frameworks for emission reductions.¹⁶⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy supports increased uptake of the NSW Diesel Retrofit, Clean Fleet and Smoky Vehicle schemes.¹⁷⁰
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¹ www.nature.org.au/media/2116/our-environment-our-future-revised-february-2015.pdf

² Nature Conservation Council of NSW, National Parks Association of NSW, Colong Foundation for Wilderness, The Wilderness Society, Total Environment Centre, Blue Mountains Conservation Society, Central West Environment Council, North Coast Environment Council, South East Region Conservation Alliance. For more information visit: www.nature.org.au/campaigns/parliamentary-liaison/

³ www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/MinMedia/MinMedia14111201.pdf

⁴ www.mudgeeguardian.com.au/story/2945865/environment-groups-hail-national-park-decision-to-protect-the-drip/?cs=1485html

⁵ <http://nsw.liberal.org.au/8-million-for-great-eastern-ranges-conservation/>

⁶ www.smh.com.au/nsw/nsw-state-election-2015/50hectare-stretch-of-malabar-headland-to-be-converted-to-national-park-20150318-1m1oov.html

⁷ <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/central-coast/the-last-of-the-sensitive-blocks-in-bambara-rd-kariong-have-been-secured-for-brisbane-water-national-park/story-fngr8h0p-1227259458683>

⁸ Labor's Plan For Our Environment, p11

⁹ Labor's Plan For Our Environment, p 5

¹⁰ www.smh.com.au/nsw/nsw-state-election-2015/nsw-state-election-2015-greens-environment-policy-would-halt-whitehaven-mine-shooting-in-national-parks-20150226-13pskp.html

¹¹ <http://nsw.greens.org.au/national-parks>

¹² <http://nsw.greens.org.au/national-parks>

¹³ <http://nsw.greens.org.au/protecting-our-forests-future>

¹⁴ <https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/establishing-national-parks>

¹⁵ Labor's Plan For Our Environment, p5

¹⁶ <http://nsw.greens.org.au/national-parks>

¹⁷ www.smh.com.au/nsw/smoking-banned-in-nsw-national-parks-20141115-11nkf9.html

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¹⁹ www.abc.net.au/news/2013-09-23/nsw-government-trialling-grazing-in-national-parks/4974580

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Authorised by Kate Smolski, CEO, Nature Conservation Council of NSW. Level 2, 5 Wilson St, Newtown, NSW 2042.